

Census of Quaker Families in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 1787

By Sandra McCann Fuller

With a couple of exceptions, the first Quaker settlements in Canada were established in connection with migrations of families displaced after the American War of Independence (1776-1783) to the British Atlantic colonies.

The eastern part of the North American continent became British after the French colony of Quebec had been conquered by Britain in the Seven Years War (1756-1763). However, by 1774, the British colonies began to suffer a new upheaval. In 1776, the Thirteen Colonies in the southern portion of North America declared their intention of becoming independent from Britain. Although it was soon after the close of the previous war, *Canadiens* in the Quebec colony did not wish to join the Americans in rebellion against British authority, and they did not wish to fight them off.

The Thirteen Colonies were divided between those who supported the new Continental Congress and those who remained loyal to Britain. It was difficult to gauge loyalties. In the countryside, farm communities were torn apart. Under the revolutionary fever, the rule of law was discarded, and those who were not in favour of the war were badly abused. American rebels terrorized those Quakers and others who stated their neutrality, torturing persons, destroying their possessions, and confiscating homes and farms.

In order to escape being persecuted, Loyalists were forced to flee from the Thirteen Colonies in a large mass migration. Some went to England, but most sought refuge in the colonies in the northern portion of British North America. During and after the War of Independence, approximately 35,000 Loyalists settled in the Maritimes, among them several thousand Blacks who had escaped from slavery. Many found new homes in Nova Scotia, Cape Breton Island, with a few to Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland. A great number of

Loyalists gathered at New York were transported to settle in the St John River valley in the portion of Nova Scotia which soon became New Brunswick.

The British government promised to provide settlers with land, provisions, tools, seed, and livestock. However, government supplies were not always on hand when required. It was a huge undertaking for any government to supply the many thousands of refugees who had been suddenly transplanted into a wilderness. It was difficult to reach families who had settled farther up the river, especially in winter. In the next few years, many hardships were endured and, without proper food and shelter, many died from famine or exposure. In the first ten years of settlement, the Atlantic Colonies were almost completely unable to fill the role expected of them in 1783 of supplying the British Indies with foodstuffs and raw materials. In spite of almost insurmountable problems, British North America began to benefit economically from the Napoleonic Wars between England and France. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the main industries were fishing, lumbering, ship-building, and maritime trade. In 1791, Britain passed the Constitutional Act which divided the colony of Quebec into Lower Canada and Upper Canada.

The first Quaker settlements were established in the British Atlantic colonies, principally Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. A summary of their locations and names of Quaker families involved in establishing Friend's communities follows.

The settlement in Barrington Township at the southern tip of Nova Scotia near the Gulf of Maine, was one of the exceptions, as it was settled earlier than 1783. It was settled in 1762 after the Seven Years War by a small group of Quakers from Nantucket Island who earned their living in the whaling industry. When the

Revolutionary War broke out in 1776, most families returned to Nantucket, leaving only about a dozen Quaker families in Nova Scotia. Among the surnames of Quaker families who remained in Barrington were Coffin, Gardner, Chapman, Swain, Pinkham, and Covel.

In 1784, Governor Parr of Nova Scotia offered inducements to make Dartmouth Harbour, across from Halifax, the base of their whale fishing industry, and in 1786 lands were taken up in the names of Samuel Starbuck and Timothy Folger on behalf of the incoming Nantucket Quakers and their families. Continuing problems with the whale fishery forced Nantucket whalers to leave Nova Scotia again in 1792. When Joshua Evans, a minister from Newtown, New Jersey, and his traveling companion, Timothy Rogers, visited Dartmouth in 1795, they found between 50 and 100 houses and membership reduced to about a third of their original number. Seth Coleman and Thomas Green were the leading Friends at Dartmouth.

Because of feelings of isolation and discouragement, in 1796 Thomas Green and family moved to Annapolis NS on the Bay of Fundy. Seth Coleman later moved to Nantucket where he died in 1822. A remnant of the Annapolis group survived for a number of years in the vicinity of what later became Bridgetown NS. Among the leading Quaker families were the Hicks, Randolphs, and Greens. Other members were James Davies, Jethro Mitchell, Joseph Wing, William Rotch, as well as Job Young, Andrew Crawford, and Ellen Thaynes/Haynes. Friends living in the vicinity were Benjamin and William Grosvenor, Samuel Moore, and Robert Randolph. There was also a small group of Friends in Pictou NS; the leading member was James Kitchin, a watch maker.

The settlement at Pennfield, New Brunswick is important because its designation as 'Loyalist' is a contradiction in Quaker terms, and because the Quakers who established the settlement in 1783 were pioneers in their stand against slavery. Pennfield was the first avowed anti-slavery settlement in North America. Joshua Knight, the leader of the Pennfield

colonists, was assisted in his responsibilities by Benjamin Brown, John Gill, John Loofbourough, Joseph Tomlinson, Anthony Woodward, and Elias Wright. Other members were Richard Mead, John Horner, Jacob and Richard Buffington, John Dennis, Daniel Registrar, and Gideon Vernon.

Another exception was an early settlement of Quakers from England established in 1773 by Robert Clark of London who purchased a large acreage on the Island of St John, later called Prince Edward Island. Some Quakers from the New England colonies were attracted to this location after the Revolution.

Historian Arthur Dorland was of the opinion that many of these people could not have been Friends, and states that a number were probably Loyalists who had been disowned by the Society because of their active partisanship in the war."

After news of the difficulties encountered by the colonists reached their friends in the American Republic, the settlers began to receive assistance from Friends in the New England states. In 1785 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting sent up books and provisions. Motivated by reports of dire need, several Friends, Joseph Moore, Abraham Gibbons, and John Townsend, decided to pay a visit to the settlers the next year. On his way north, in June 1786, John Townsend attended New England Yearly Meeting at Newport, Rhode Island, where Shubad Coffin and Thomas Robinson Jr were appointed to accompany him. The following spring, in March 1787, the three Friends presented a report of their trip before Philadelphia Yearly Meeting for Sufferings, advising that the Yearly Meeting needed to render the necessary assistance. Joseph Moore offered to make another journey, and William Wilson offered to accompany him. Their offers were accepted with instructions that they not only take supplies of food but also that they obtain a list of members of the Society and the meetings from which they came, those who had been disowned, and other pertinent information. In July 1787, the two Quaker gentlemen embarked from New York and arrived in August at St John NB with sufficient

provisions to save many settlers from starvation. The two Friends traveled over 500 miles, and in the course of their tour assisted families at St John River, Beaver Harbour, Digby, St Marys Bay, Dartmouth, and other places. They reported their findings in the fall of 1787.

Agreeable to the desire of the Meeting for Sufferings we herewith produce the Names of most of the Members of our religious Society who went from within the limits of our Yearly Meeting of Pennsylvania & New Jersey to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Names of the People in religious profession with the People call'd Quakers in the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, taken by Joseph Moore and William Wilson in the summer 1787.

ALLWOOD, wife of Oswald Allwood, near Grand Lake NB. professes with Friends

BANE, George, wife Mary (dtr of Jacob Bindelo) & 3 children, from Gloucester NJ

BOUCHER, John, farmer, from Blockley. at St Marys Bay. not member

BROWN, Asher, farmer, wife & 1 child, from Crosswicks NJ, disowned by Chesterfield MM 1778.03.12 for having married out of the Society, and for performing military service

BROWN, Benjamin, schoolmaster, from Falls, Bucks County, concerned in war

BUFFINGTON, Jacob, surveyor & sawmill, from Chester County, disowned by Bradford MM 1780.09.18 for having gone into British army.

BUNKER, Hezekiah. at Yarmouth in good circumstances. Cape Posue [Fourchu], has been there many years, from Nantucket. disowned for marrying out.

BUNNELL, Benjamin, wife, from Rahway MM, disowned for conduct in war

CANBY, Joseph, wife & child, from Bucks, disowned for conduct during War. now at Indian House Village.

CANBY, Thomas, blacksmith. dealt with by Falls MM in 1775 for bearing arms but his acknowledgement was accepted. In 1779, again dealt with for taking a test oath of allegiance; his acknowledgement again accepted. subsequently disowned. living at St Marys Bay

CHAPMAN, David, son of Wm Chapman, concerned in Hills & Farm. his wife Elizabeth Doughty from Long Island. from Wrightstown, Bucks County. DC disowned

CHAPMAN, Amos, son of Abraham Chapman, concerned with his kinsman, David Chapman - from Wrightstown, Bucks County. disowned by Wrightstown MM 1782.01.10 for engaging in war

COMELY, Robert, from Horsham. went out from Friends at time of War. Disowned by Abington MM 1779.07.26 for paying a substitute and muster fines.

COUSINS, [name?] & son, from Gloucester NJ. at St John COWPERTHWAITTE, Hugh, farmer, his wife Sarah & 10 children, from Salem NJ. at Sheffield.

DAKIN, Thomas, farmer, from Oblong, & wife a sober woman not member. TD disowned. at Trout Cove.

DANIEL, Joel - a reputable man, not treated for his outgoing in marriage, possibly disowned - Salem NJ - near Fredericton

DANIEL, Joel, carpenter, from Alloways Creek, his wife Clarissa Winn from Staten Island - married out of unity with Friends. Disowned by Salem MM 1776.08.26 for enlisting in army

DENNIS, John, carpenter & boat-builder, (son of Henry Dennis, formerly of Philadelphia) his wife Martha & 4 children - married contrary to discipline, Bucks County PA. Disowned by Richland MM 1779.01.21 for having gone into the British army.

DUNN, Mary, wife of Benjamin Dunn, farmer, 2 children

FAIRLAMB, Hannah, wife of Samuel F. & children - Chester - Beaver Harbour

FAIRLAMB, Samuel, surveyor, his wife Hannah (dtr of Francis Richardson) & 3 children. member of Chester MM. SF concerned in war; disowned by Chester MM 1775.07.31 for

joining combinations concerning civil government and for military training.

FIELD, George, Philadelphia, old man assists John Gill in brewery. not member

FITZ RANDOLPH, Robert, farmer, distiller, & merchant, at Woodbridge NJ within limits of Rahway MM. wife Phebe & 5 children. Robt member but married out. Township clerk of records in 1776 - refused to give records to rebels. refused to sign the Association against Great Britain. suspected of having given information to British. In January 1777, he escaped to British army at Perth Amboy, later went to Staten Island where he superintended the building of a redoubt. In 1779, Americans confiscated his property in Elizabethtown. After war, British government granted him £575 out of claim of £675. at Wilmot.

GARDINER, Simeon. from Nantucket. at Cape Sable Island.

GARRISON, Sarah, wife of John Garrison. (dtr of Jesse Woodward), married out. JG not member, from Crosswicks NJ

GILL, John, brewer, Philadelphia, not member

HAIGHT/HAYAT, Ambrose, merchant, from New York Govt. married out. disowned by Purchase MM, Westchester County NY 1779.10.14 for being concerned in horse racing and taking arms for defense. At Annapolis Royal

HAMPTON, Abner, - disowned by Plainfield MM 1782.02.21 for joining the British army in New York, and helping the British to take prisoners in NJ. went to St Johns, later moved to Pennfield.

HAMPTON, Andrew, member

HARE, Ann, dtr of Christopher Appleby, wife of Capt Thos Hare from London, of Darlington MM.

HARNED, Eupheme, widow of Nathaniel Harned. from Rahway. resides in the city called Saint John

HARRIS, James, farmer

HARRISON, Priscilla, dtr of Joseph Peddle, wife of Christopher Harrison, & 4 children, from Burlington NJ. at Sandy Cove. Joseph Peddle came from Burlington County NJ.

considered to be a loyalist although he took arms on neither side. his property seized by Americans for non-payment of taxes. J. Peddle went to England in 1786.

HART, Samuel, farmer, from Chester County, never member

HICKS, John, farmer, & wife from Rhode Island about 26 yrs since. not now in membership.

HOLLINGSHEAD, Anthony, farmer, his wife Elizabeth & 3 sons - from near Moorestown. AH disowned

HOOTON, John, farmer, wife Rachel (dtr of Jacob Mott, Long Island), from Gloucester County NJ. JH disowned for bearing arms by Haddonfield MM 1776.09.12. Loyalist, exiled from his state, his property confiscated.

HORNER, John, farmer, his wife Lydia & 4 children. None members

HUTCHINSON, Marmaduke, farmer, from Crosswicks NJ. at Mangerville.

JACKSON, John, clockmaker & farmer, disowned. his wife Susanna & 7 children Rachel, Sarah, Susanna, John, Joseph, Samuel, Thomas. members from London Grove. from about New Garden, Chester County PA - some members of New Garden MM, and mother & other children members of Wilmington Mtg
JONES, Sarah, dtr of Gilbert Griffin, wife of Elisha Jones - from Cortlands Manor New York Government

KNIGHT, Joshua, blacksmith & farmer. his wife Sarah & son Joshua members. Abington MM - Joshua Sr disowned by Abington MM 1777.06.30 for being a committee man and repairing arms. JK to be restored. At Beaver Harbour

KNIGHT, Joshua Jr, son of JK Sr, his wife Eupheme (dtr of John Loughborough), their child Margaret KnightKnight, John, (?) blacksmith & farmer, his wife Eupheme. members

LAND, Joseph, wife Margaret dtr of John Bickham. from Burlington

LEE, John, & wife, from Rahway, professors with friends

LIPPINCOTT, Hester, wife of Richard Lippincott, child Eliza from Shrewsbury MM. at Beaver Harbour

LOUGHBOROUGH, John, blacksmith, his wife Margaret a member from about Abington

MEAD, Richard, disowned, his wife Parneal, children Benjamin, Parneal, & Margaret, members, from Salem MM NJ. RM disowned. at Beaver Harbour

MOORE, Samuel, farmer, & wife & 9 children. SM member of Rahway Mtg. resides on a farm in Granville about 30 miles above Annapolis Royal, at Wilmot

PARKER, Joseph, carpenter, wife Elizabeth, 4 children, from Shrewsbury MM, JP involved in military service. None members.

PARKES, Robert, mason, from Chester County PA

PAUL, Caleb, sawmill, his wife Priscilla (dtr of Joshua Knight) – CP from Bucks County PA.

POWELL, Caleb, farmer, wife, from Westbury, Long Island, CP disowned. living at Gagetown, River St John.

POWELL, James, farmer, son of Caleb Powell

RANKIN, John, mariner, from Warrington, Abigail his wife, 2 dtrs (JR not member)

RANKIN, Rhodes, mariner, son of John Rankin, member

REGISTER, Daniel, carpenter & sawmill, from Chester County. disowned for acting as collector & defrauding township by removing without pay in what he had received. seems disposed to condemn his misconduct but not able to make restitution. Disowned by Chester MM 1779.04.26 for attending a non-Quaker wedding and taking a test oath of allegiance.

SALKALD, John, fisherman, (grandson of worthy Friend John Salkald), from Chester County PA, disowned. at Wolf Island

SMITH, Freeman, carpenter, one dtr

SMITH, Lucy, wife of Jacob Smith & their son from Squan NJ. people of sober character.

SMITH, Samuel, farmer, from NJ. disowned by Rahway MM for concerns in War, gave intelligence to & acted as guide for British army,

but knows his mistake. submitted claim to British government for £1,196 but received £50. at Wilmot

STANTON, James, son of John Stanton, farmer, his wife Sarah, from Egg Harbour. Living at Digby

STITTWEEL, Samuel, innkeeper & carpenter, wife & 1 child. None members. Pennfield

STRICKLAND, Amos, farmer, Bucks County. married contrary to discipline. Pennfield

STRICKLAND, John, shoemaker, Middletown, Bucks County PA

THOMAS, Evan, farmer, his wife Mary & 3 children - Bucks County, concerned in war

THORNE, Joseph, mason, wife Abigail & 2 dtrs Hester & Martha, married out, non-members.

TITUS, Isaac, son of Timothy Titus, wife Jemima, from Long Island

TITUS, Edmund, & wife Mary

TITUS, Jacob, single man. his brothers from same Quarter. all at Trout Cove.

TOMLINSON, Joseph, farmer, his wife Margaret & 2 children, Samuel & Lydia, members. grandson. JT not member. Disowned by Falls MM 1780.06.07 for taking a test oath of allegiance.

TOMLINSON, Joseph Jr disowned by Wrightstown MM 1779.08.03 for paying military fines, and being married by a Protestant minister. from Wrightstown, Bucks County. now at Beaver Harbour.

TUCKER, James, boat-builder & fisherman, wife & 1 child - Shrewsbury MM, JT involved in military affairs, disowned by Shrewsbury MM 1781.02.07 for bearing arms and using bad language. None members

UNDERHILL, William, from New York government. living on Spoon Island.

VERNON, Gideon, farmer, wife Phebe, 5 children - Providence MM, Chester County PA. GV attainted of treason, disowned by Chester MM 1778.05.25 for appearing in arms and assisting in taking several persons from their dwellings in a violent manner, wife & children members - Mackadavy near Beaver Harbour

WALTON, Jesse, farmer, a single man from Buckingham, Bucks County PA. member. at Pennfield

WHITE, Amos, taylor, his wife Ann, 5 children - Bucks County, he military affairs, wife & children members

WILLET, Walter, farmer, from near Middleton, Bucks County. not member, concerned in War

WILLIAMS, Joseph, farmer, from Shrewsbury, involved in military affairs

WINDER, Moses, farmer, an orderly man, from Falls, Bucks County PA, not member - dealt with by Falls MM in 1775 & 1776 for signing Continental Association but acknowledgement accepted; later disowned for paying military fine.

WOODWARD, Abraham, farmer

WOODWARD, Anthony, farmer, wife Kesiah & 1 child - from Monmouth County NJ. his property confiscated by Americans in 1776 on his joining British army. AW disowned

WOODWARD, Jacob, infirm man, farmer, brother of Anthony, from Crosswicks NJ

WOODWARD, Jesse, farmer, wife Mary. he disowned, wife member Crosswicks NJ

WOODWARD, Isaac, son of Jesse & Mary Woodward

WOODWARD, Jesse Jr, son of Jesse & Mary Woodward, came from Upper Freehold Twp, Monmouth Twp NJ. joined British forces at Trenton NJ. examined by colonial forces at Allentown PA on April 10, 1777. Disowned by Chesterfield MM 1777.09.04 for having been active in military affairs.

WOODWARD, Nimrod, farmer, disowned

WOODWARD, Samuel, farmer, disowned

WRIGHT, Elias, merchant & farmer, wife, 2 children. not members (4)

4. Arthur J. Mekeel, "Quaker-Loyalist Settlers in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia", *Bulletin of Friends Historical Association*, Pennsylvania, Vol.36/No.1, Spring 1947 pp26-38

Mekeel includes 4 lists which have been combined here with names in alphabetical order. List I: Joseph Moore 1786 [9 families tsfd to 1787 list]; List II [report given by Joseph Moore to the Philadelphia Meeting for Sufferings in March 1787 on a visit which he and several Friends made to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the summer of 1786 to investigate the condition of Friends who had settled there; List III list of Loyalists who went to Nova Scotia; List IV additional 24 persons [a supplementary list of names contained in an article entitled "A Book of Records of the Transactions and Proceedings of the Society of People Called Quakers who have agreed to settle themselves on the River St Johns in Nova Scotia" by J. Vroom in the New Brunswick Historical Society *Collections*, vol. 2 (1899) pp73-80].

Locations: Annapolis, NS near St Marys Bay; Barrington, NS at the southern tip of NS near Yarmouth and Gulf of Maine; Beaver Harbour, NB on Passamaquoddy Bay; Cape Fourchu, NS on Gulf of Maine near Yarmouth, NS; Cape Sable Island, NS near Yarmouth, NS; Dartmouth, NS across from Halifax, NS; Digby, NS on Annapolis Basin off Bay of Fundy; Fredericton, NB on St John River; Grand Lake, NB on St John River east of Fredericton; Granville, NS north of Annapolis near Wilmot; Indian Village, NB on St John River north; Maugerville, NB on St John River near Fredericton; Pennfield, NB near Beaver Harbour on Passamaquoddy Bay; St John, NB at mouth of St John River on Bay of Fundy; St Marys, NB on St John River across from Fredericton; St Marys Bay, NS off the Gulf of Maine; Sandy Cove, NS on Digby Neck on St Marys Bay; Sheffield, NB on St John River near Grand Lake; Wilmot, NS on Annapolis River near Bridgetown; Wolf Island, NB south of Beaver Harbour in the Bay of Fundy.

Endnotes:

1. Arthur Garratt Dorland, *The Quakers in Canada: A History* (Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1968), 30-38; 42.

2. Sandra McCann Fuller, "The Loyalist Quaker Settlement, Pennfield, New Brunswick, 1783," *The Canadian Quaker History Journal* 74 (2009): 62-79.

3. Dorland, *The Quakers in Canada*, 35 footnote, 42-50.