

their wharves and buildings at New Plymouth on the Acushnet River. Early in 1779 they helped take Elizabeth Town across the river from New York and went on an expedition down the Chesapeake to Portsmouth, Virginia.

That same year General Wayne and his Americans took Stony Point, about 20 miles below West Point on the Hudson River, and proceeded to attack a stronghold across the river. He heard the 42nd was on the way, so he retreated giving up the area to the Highlanders. The winter of 1780 was spent by the 42nd in New York City, and they did not participate in any engagements after that. During the War the Americans held out allurements to British soldiers, and there were desertions from some groups but not from the 42nd.

Robert Sutherland and the McLeods

One of the 42nd Foot of the Royal Highlanders was Pvt. Robert Sutherland. He had enlisted on December 6, 1775. Going by the age given on his discharge paper he was then 18, therefore was born in 1857. He came from the market town of Wick in northeast Scotland, a shoemaker by trade.* Also serving in the 42nd were Roderick McLeod and his son, Roderick McLeod, Jr.

Roderick McLeod

Robert Sutherland married Elizabeth

Roderick McLeod, Jr

Robert Sutherland, Jr. married c 1805 - - - - - Nancy Ann McLeod

When Robert Sutherland was discharged from service he and Elizabeth had two children, Robert, Jr. and George. This indicates Robert Sutherland, Jr. probably was born in New York or New Jersey during the Revolution, and it is likely that his future wife, Nancy McLeod was born at that time in the same general area.

What was the maiden name of Elizabeth Sutherland? Who were the wives of the two McLeods? These facts are not known. If the senior McLeod had been in service for many years his wife might have come with him to America since it was customary to allow a portion of the long-serving men to bring their wives with them. As for the two young men, perhaps their wives were daughters of Loyalist parents who had fled to the New York area.

In that historical period women were essential to an army. Large numbers of women worked at army camps as laundresses, storekeepers, assistant cooks, etc. Nursing the sick, even bringing in the wounded from the field was done by women, there being few doctors in service. The wives of these young soldiers may have been occupied in some of this work.

Loyalists in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution

Unlike the government of Nova Scotia which tread softly and avoided exacerbating sympathies for the American Revolution, the governments of the Thirteen Colonies showed little flexibility, and divisions among groups of people grew more and more serious. It has been estimated that about a third of the population were American Patriots, a third United Empire Loyalists, and a third neutral or indifferent. Loyalists were most numerous in New York, New

* Donna Fostveit, researcher in Waseca, MN, learned about the Sutherland ancestry from Bob Sutherland of N.B. (not known to be related). Carolyn Harris found more facts about the Sutherlands and also about the McLeods.