

the navigable Saint John and its tributaries all with rich timber resources within reach. Additionally, some of the French families who had been driven out returned.

Twenty transport ships sailed from New York City to the mouth of the Saint John in May 1783 carrying 3000 Loyalist refugees, and during the summer another 2000 arrived. Leaders realized that land would have to be made available for the immigrants. Without doubt the Asa Kimballs, the Israel Kenneys, the Francis Shaws and others were watching the influx of people into Nova Scotia with great apprehension and anxiety. Surely they were dismayed when the name of their province was changed to New Brunswick to honor King George! They had demonstrated their support for the American revolutionists and now would face people embittered in their treatment and exile from the United States.

With the arrival of some thousands of Loyalists on the Saint John in 1783 and 1784 conditions changed on the river and trouble began for the early settlers of Maugerville [including those who had moved across the River]. Many of the Loyalists coming from pleasant homes to a wilderness wanted to live in Maugerville, the only settlement north of the Bay of Fundy. They resented the presence of the New Englanders because many had espoused the cause of the rebels in the late war. Lawyers were hired to go to Halifax and look for flaws in the Maugerville grants. . . .¹⁴

In 1783 a survey was made under Major Studhold of the land claim of each man based on the work he had done and on his character and loyalty. Some men were identified as Rebels or persons of bad character, and officials could deny their claim.

Kimballs are mentioned in the "Studholm Report". The oldest sons, Samuel and Richard, together with two others also in the family circle sought to acquire a valid claim to land in Gage Township.¹⁵ One was Moses Clark, who came into the area in 1776; Samuel eventually married Clark's daughter. The other was Simeon Porter; Hulda, the oldest sister, married a Porter. The request for land was denied, the reason given was that the land had not been occupied by the petitioners and no building erected.

Kenney is also in the report. Entry 24 deals with his property in Burton, and it has a negative tone: "Israel Kinney has a log house and framed barn, and about 15 acres of cleared land, which was chiefly done by the French and Indians. Has been on about 15 years and was a committee man."¹⁶ The land was located in what became the town of Oromocto, and he continued to be its owner.

Land Grants to the Soldiers from Scotland

Soldiers were tardy arrivals to Nova Scotia. In late fall 3000 more people came in, most being soldiers of 13 distinct corps stationed in the New York area. Each corps was a fraction of the original because many officers went to Great Britain and many soldiers remained in United States.

The loyalist military regiments, held back to garrison New York City while civilians departed, did not reach New Brunswick until the fall of 1783.

¹⁴ Maxwell in E. W. Bell, op cit, Ch. I, 4

¹⁵ Carroll Kimball, *Descendants of Richard and Sarah Kimball*, Oromocto, 2000, Provincial Archives, p 11

¹⁶ "Brief History of Sunbury County", copied from microfilm of original census returns by G. H. Hayward, 1974 and appended to 1851 Census of Sunbury County, New Brunswick.