

### Susannah Kenney and her Children

In 1791 Susannah undoubtedly had household help from her daughters Susan, estimated age 15 or 16, Elizabeth, age 11, and Eunice, 9. Perhaps this help was not sufficient when she became pregnant at the age of 46. Two older sisters were married and away. In the home were the father, three young men 18 and up, and four young children apparently seven and under. One can imagine that the burdens on Susannah were heavy, and she was seeking a rest when she departed on one of her customary trips to her hometown of Topsfield, Massachusetts. We can only speculate as to the exact circumstances that caused her to travel at that time and extend the trip. While she was away a tragedy occurred in Oromocto.

On Christmas Eve of 1791 Israel Kenney crossed the mile wide Saint John to Maugerville, perhaps to obtain some things from the store for Christmas, but on the way back as he was nearing his home, got into an air-hole in the newly formed ice and was drowned. The previous summer Israel had sold his lot on French Lake, and Susannah his wife had sailed on a trip to her old home in Massachusetts and was still away at the time of her husband's death. Her son Andrew, youngest of the fourteen children, was born while she was still in Topsfield. . . . Israel was buried in the "Old Morrison graveyard" near the present Baptist Church in Oromocto.<sup>21</sup>

Back home with the infant Andrew and with a farm to oversee, Susannah needed help. Sarah and husband Richard Kimball returned from Maine, or had already returned. The oldest sons soon married while Nathaniel and Elijah Kenney continued to live in the homestead, receiving 70 acres of the home farm.

Sarah and Richard Kimball resided on some of the land that had been owned by Israel. The families of Sarah and her brother, Nathaniel \*, apparently became very close. Later Susannah married her widowed brother-in-law, Alexander Tapley.

In 1796 Richard Kimball and his mother-in-law, Susannah, administrators of the Kenney estate, asked to sell land, and presumably they did so. Richard farmed and continued to acquire land. He petitioned in July 1809 for Crown land, about 400 acres of forested land, and it read:

The memorialist of Richard Kimball humbly shewth that he has been a long settler in Burton on purchased land in the grant of "Kinney and others"; where he has raised eight industrious children and has at length, upwards to one hundred acres under improvement.

That neither he nor his family has received lands from government, except the grant of about 40 acres in the property of Horton and others.

That his lots contain back lots a short distance from the River Oromocto, are principally burnt lands and do not therefore afford a sufficient of timbers for the necessary purpose of a extensive farming; that your memorialist is therefore desirous of obtaining the wood lots in the back settlement called "New Niagara" which is about five miles in his rear.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Maxwell in E. W. Bell, op cit, Ch. I, 4

\* Sarah Kenney Kimball and her brother, Nathaniel Kenney, lived in close proximity. On July 13, 1794 Nathaniel married Betsey Mills from a Loyalist family in Boston, recorded in the Church of England Cathedral in Fredericton. Eventually there was a marriage between cousins in these two families. On three or four occasions persons from one family served as witnesses at weddings in the other family.

<sup>22</sup> Kimball, op cit., 12