

Around 1800 many of families in the area of Oromocto began locating future homes further up the Saint John River. Four sons and several daughters of Israel and Susannah Kenney located on both sides of the river in Carleton County. When Asa Kenney (named after his grandfather) married he acquired 200 acres in Wakefield in that county and later took more land. He was married in 1808 at the home of parents of his bride, and in a canoe they paddled and sailed upstream forty miles to a newly built log cabin. On the first day of paddling and sailing they stopped at the home of his sister, Susan Kenney Shaw, and in a few more miles reached the home of Abigail Kenney Shaw. Then the couple docked at the farms of two brothers of the bride. As time went on they made extensive clearings and improvements on their own farm. The youngest, Andrew, married at the age of 23 but did not leave the vicinity of the old homestead until he was well over 30. Then he went far upstream where he acquired a good deal of land.

A Kenney Wedding, Rebecca Kimball and the Newcomer from Boston

In 1812 a daughter of Nathaniel Kenney was married, and Collin Stephenson signed as a witness. Collin had been born November 16, 1786 in Cohasset in Norfolk County, Massachusetts*. This town is on the Atlantic coast fairly close to Boston. Why would Stephenson have been in New Brunswick? Perhaps business activities brought him there. At the wedding mentioned above, John Hazen also signed as witness. This man may have been a merchandiser, perhaps of the family of the John Hazen noted in the "Studholm Report" who operated a trading post on the Saint John River.

Present at the Kenney wedding in 1812 would have been the bride's aunt, Sarah Kenney Kimball, her husband, Richard, and some or all of the Kimball children, Asa, Sarah, Richard, Jr., Samuel, Rebecca, William, Huldah, and Elizabeth. It is hard to imagine that Rebecca Kimball was not there because about six months later on January 21, 1813, she married the man from Massachusetts, Collin Stephenson.

Collin and Rebecca lived in or near the town of Oromocto, Burton Township in Sunbury County. Perhaps Collin was in business in that town, or perhaps he farmed although no large land holdings by him have come to our attention. The four children of the Stephensons were William G. (b. 1815), Hannah Orcutt (b. November 9, 1819), Sarah, and Reuben Richard. These children were named after Rebecca's brother; her parents and siblings; and Collin's parents.

Rebecca Stephenson lost her mother, Sarah Kenney Kimball, probably in the 1820s. Her father, Richard Kimball, married for a second time in 1831.

Meanwhile, Scottish Soldiers Have Become Farmers

Robert Sutherland resided on the land granted by the king, and in 1795 petitioned for more land on the upper Nashwaak River. He died sometime before October 24, 1807 when his widow, Elizabeth, and his sons sold their property, Lot 146, to a John Sutherland, probably the holder of adjacent property. Perhaps he died the year before when he was 49. (This is concluded from the age of 26 on his army discharge paper in 1783, which also indicates he was born in 1757.) The names of only two children are known, Robert, Jr. and George. In his 1795 request for land he stated he had three sons and a daughter. It is said some of his children had typhoid so very likely two children perished.

* See Appendix