

"Morehouse, Daniel, of Connecticut, a member of the Reading Association. He became an officer in the Queen's Rangers, and retired at the close of the war on half pay. He went to New Brunswick and was a magistrate and major in the militia. He died in the County of York in 1835, aged 77."

### **Provincial Regiments**

The Queen's Rangers -- The King's American Regiments -- The New York Volunteers

Many of the Loyalist corps that have seen active service in the revolutionary war, at the peace in 1783 went to Upper Canada and became the pioneer settlers in what is now the noble province of Ontario; others found an asylum in the peninsula of Nova Scotia and in Prince Edward Island. Of those that came to New Brunswick all but two corps were disbanded on the river St. John; these two were the King's Orange Rangers, commanded by Major Samuel Bayard, who settled at Quaco Head in the parish of St. Martins, and the Royal Fencible Americans, commanded by Lt. Col. Joseph Gorham, who settled at St. George, in the county of Charlotte. Some twelve corps in all came to the St. John river and were the pioneer settlers on that part of the river above Fredericton.

The task that lay before them on their arrival in the wilds of New Brunswick was no light one, but the spirit that in the past had animated them manfully to uphold the principles in which they believed and in the end to sacrifice their all in the fruitless endeavor to maintain the unity of the empire, nerved them to begin life anew in the land of their adoption, and to spend the residue of their lives in laying the foundations whereon their children were to build. The descendants of these sturdy old pioneers are numerous throughout the counties of York, Carleton and Victoria, and such of them as are readers of **The Dispatch** will be interested in a brief description of the Loyalist regiments in which their forefathers did such gallant service.

### **The Queen's Rangers**

This celebrated loyalist corps in efficiency and discipline equalled any regular regiment of the British line. It was organized by Col. Robert Rogers of New Hampshire, a veteran officer of the old French wars. The men were enlisted chiefly in New York and western Connecticut, a large proportion of the rank and file being of Irish nationality while the majority of the officers were of Scotch descent. The corps at first consisted of ten companies which later on were increased by the addition of another company of infantry, five troops of cavalry and a battery of artillery. Under the distinguished leadership of Lieut. Col. John Simcoe who commanded it after the battle of Brandy wine the corps became noted for discipline and bravery. It was usually the van guard of the attacking and the rear guard of the retreating army. Under all circumstances it could be relied on to give a good account of itself. Perhaps the hottest fight in which the Queen's Rangers ever

engaged was the battle of Brandy wine where the British gained a victory which, if it had been energetically followed up by General Howe, would have resulted in the annihilation of Washington's army. At Brandy wine the Queen's Rangers lost 72 killed and wounded, 11 of whom were officers. Among the wounded were Captain John Saunders, afterwards Chief Justice of New Brunswick, Captain John McKay, who married Chief Justice Saunder's sister and was for years a prominent magistrate in what is now the parish of Southampton where he died in 1822; Lieut. Stair Agnew, who lived at "Moncton Point" opposite Fredericton and was for 30 years a member for York County in the House of Assembly; and an Ensign Hugh McKay, who settled at St. George and was for over 30 years a member for Charlotte in the House of Assembly, for more than 50 years colonel of militia, and at the time of his decease in 1848 aged 97 years, the oldest magistrate in the province.

Throughout the revolution the Queen's Rangers were actively employed. One of their most noted achievements was a raid on the 29th October 1778 in which they marched some fifty miles into the heart of the enemy's country in the teeth of the American forces. The corps, led by Colonel Smicoe, in the course of the expedition destroyed a large number of boats and military stores at one point, released a number of loyalists imprisoned in Somerset court house which, with a quantity of stores there collected, they burned, and finally after a sharp encounter with a considerable body of the enemy whom they charged and dispersed, returned to their head quarters. The boldness of the stroke created a sensation at the time in both the British and American Camps.

The Queen's Rangers in 1781 accompanied General Benedict Arnold in his raid on Virginia where they quite maintained their reputation. Afterwards they served under Lord Cornwallis in the unfortunate campaign in the south ending in the capitulation of Yorktown, October 19th 1781. At the close of the war they came to New Brunswick and received grants of land in parish of Queensbury which derives its name from the Queen's Rangers. In all, three tracts of land were laid out for the accomodation of the corps, one on the Main river above Bear Island in Queensbury, another above the mouth of the Nackawick, and a third on the opposite side of the St. John between the Meductic rapids and Eel River.

Among the settlers near Bear Island were Capt. Daniel Morehouse and Capt. Eveas Shaw; near the Nackawick were Major Richard Armstrong, Capt. John Whitlock, Sergeant Roger Tompkins, Sergeant John Tompkins and William McLaughlan. Further reference will be made to those settled below Eel river when we come to speak of the early days of Woodstock.