

**MORDENS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE, VOLUME 1**

**JOSEPH MORDEN AND LAURANIA HOWELL**

**ANCESTORS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE MORDENS**

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**MORDENS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE**

VOL. 1. JOSEPH MORDEN SR. AND LAURANIA HOWELL, ANCESTORS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE MORDENS

VOL. 2. JAMES MORDEN AND MARGARET PARLIAMENT OF NORTHPORT, SOPHIASBURGH, AND THEIR TEN CHILDREN.

VOL. 3. RICHARD MORDEN AND ANNE WILLIAMS OF FISH LAKE, SOPHIASBURGH AND THEIR ELEVEN CHILDREN

VOL. 4. JOHN MORDEN AND EVE BOWMAN OF AMELIASBURGH, AND THEIR ELEVEN CHILDREN

LUCRETIA MORDEN, JOSEPH MORDEN JUNIOR, AND ALLIED PLUMMER, HUFFMAN AND RUTTER FAMILIES. (See Appendix of vol. 1.)

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INTRODUCTION

This is the first of five volumes in which I am endeavoring to trace the descendants of my Loyalist ancestors Joseph Morden and Laurania Howell. Although Joseph himself did not survive the American Revolution his four sons, James, Richard, John, and Joseph Jr, all settled in Canada in the **Bay of Quinte** area. Their cousins, children of Ralph, George, and Daniel Morden, settled at the west end of Lake Ontario in the Niagara and Hamilton area. This geographical separation is a blessing to the family historian for without it we could scarcely disentangle the several lines. In these books I trace only the Mordens of the Bay of Quinte. The descendants of Ralph and George and Daniel I leave to others. Because of the dramatic circumstances surrounding Ralph's trial as a Tory and death for treason his family has been studied more than any of the others.

Our Morden cousins from the Hamilton area have an older tradition of their origins than we of the Bay of Quinte, beginning with Samuel Morden in England, through his son Thomas and his grandson George, whom they believe to be the settler on the Delaware. This version has been copied and recopied by a number of family historians, - Mrs. Prudence Morden Turner, Mrs. Stanley Tolan, Roy Woodhouse, Miss Sara Crysler, Aletha Arnold, and others who have published it in print or on the Internet. Since the line of descent from Samuel is not supported by hard evidence I look on it as a starting point for further research. To date our proven knowledge of our Morden family starts on this side of the Atlantic; the definitive link to our origins in England remains to be discovered.

There was some movement back and forth between eastern and western Ontario Morden cousins. Sometime a Morden from the head of the lake strayed to the Quinte area at its east end or vice versa. Daniel Morden who first settled at Osnabruck on the St. Lawrence relocated to the Hamilton area so he appeared in the records of both districts. Egerton Morden, a Bay of Quinte man, married a Hamilton Morden cousin and moved west to Niagara, while Eliza Jane Morden of Ralph's line went in the opposite direction when she married Luther Platt of Picton in Prince Edward County. In between were other Mordens who settled in Oakville and Uxbridge, their exact relationship as yet unknown.

*"All Mordens are related"* is a family saying, so let us continue the friendly and fascinating game of proving it true.

Marjorie Swayne Van Damme

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The Family History Library of the LDS church in Salt Lake City, Utah.  
Boston Genealogical and Historical Society Library.  
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Kingston Public Library, Kingston, Ontario.  
LDS Family History Centers, Weston, Mass, and Glenburnie, Ontario.  
Lennox & Addington Historical Society Archives, Napanee, Ontario.  
Loyalist Culture Centre, Allison House, Adolphustown, Ontario.  
Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre, Ameliasburgh, Ontario  
Northampton County Courthouse Archives, Easton, Pennsylvania.  
Prince Edward County Archives, Picton, Ontario.  
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Morden research notes have come from many people, notably:  
Larry Morden of the Morden Information Centre, Calgary, Alberta.  
Gordon Crouse, family genealogist.  
Kenneth G. Morden who loaned Wilson S. Morden's papers.  
Robert Lyle Price Morden of Woodstock, Ontario  
Ron S. Barrons on the Hamilton Mordens.

For the movements of the Colonel's Company of the King's Royal Rifles of New York I have drawn on the meticulous research done by Gavin K. Watt and James F. Morrison.

To many cousins in the various Morden branches, love and gratitude for an abiding interest in our family.

Most of all, this series would not have been possible without the encouragement, perspective and free time provided by my husband, Joe. My heartfelt thanks to him.

In memory of my mother

Grace Morden Swayne

## OVERVIEW OF THE BAY OF QUINTE MORDENS

### Synopsis

**J**oseph MORDEN, born in England, is the forefather of the Bay of Quinte Mordens. Tradition has it that around 1743 while still a child he was brought to North America and grew up in Pennsylvania. There he met and married Laurania HOWELL, daughter of Richard Howell and Anna Daniel of Walpack, New Jersey. Around 1768 Joseph and Laurania migrated to the Mohawk Valley of upstate New York and Joseph was clearing a farm there when the American Revolution broke out. He, along with Moses and Daniel Morden, sided with the British and immediately enlisted in the King's Royal Regiment of New York. Joseph served during Burgoyne's campaign but at its end died of smallpox in the Montreal encampment of the regiment on 24 Nov 1777. His Tryon County property was soon confiscated.

Laurania, his widow, was left to care for a family of six children. After taking refuge with the British in New York City, she was evacuated by sea via Halifax, taking her youngest children on the voyage. After arriving at the refugee camps near Montreal, Widow Morden's name appears on the ration lists in 1782, '83, and '84. When townships on the Bay of Quinte were opened to the Loyalists for settlement the children, by then of age, applied for land grants and began clearing farms on this new frontier. James, as the oldest son, entered claims for his father's losses on behalf of his brothers and sisters. He stated that there were six children, four brothers and two sisters.

Joseph and Laurania's four sons **James, Richard, John and Joseph Jr.**, who settled in the Bay of Quinte are well documented (see page 65). Laurania's Loyalist petitions stated two daughters, girls about whom we know little because they disappeared from view when they married. A century later other family historians added a third. Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte named **Elizabeth, Lucretia and Laurania**. Lucretia is the only one of these whose existence is established beyond a doubt. Our problem is to sift out the extra girl.

Nathaniel Solmes Morden wrote that there were three girls one of whom married a Vaughn and one married a Merkill. It is possible that an older sister whose name does not appear, married a member of the Loyalist Merkill family from the Mohawk valley. The "*sister who married a Vaughan*" appears to be a mistaken reference to a cousin, Mary Anne Howell, b. 1785, daughter of John Howell. She married Robert Vaughn of Sophiasburgh. Reid's Loyalists and Aletha Arnold's Morden Genealogy<sup>1</sup> added a fourth girl, Catherine, but it appears that she was Ralph Morden's daughter Catherine, who married Elias Long (see p.66). The records are scanty and memories faulty so we are left with unanswered questions.

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<sup>1</sup>Aletha P. Arnold and Annie Pearl Morden Tegerdine, Morden Genealogy. Self published. Jan 1964. p.181



## MORDEN NAMES IN ENGLAND

Everyone researching the North American Mordens has attempted to link our family with its English origins but so far as I know no one has yet bridged the Atlantic. Even the family name raises a question, since we find different versions of it: Morden, Mordant, Mordaunt, Mordin, and Mordon.

The account of the Morden family in Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte<sup>2</sup> stated that James Morden came from Yorkshire, England, and this may well be true since the name Morden (Mortun, Mordon, Mordant) occurred there from the ninth century on. The Count of Mortain, half-brother of William the Conqueror, had interests in Yorkshire. There is however another tradition in our branch of the family that the Mordens were Welsh. In census records several of the pioneer Prince Edward County Mordens, i.e. Isaac Morden, son of James; Joseph Wilkinson Morden, son of John, and Joseph Wilkinson's lawyer son Amzi claimed Welsh origin. My own grandfather Taylor Morden told me that the Mordens came from Wales.

A search of English records in Salt Lake City in 1989 showed only one or two stray Morden names in Wales,<sup>3</sup> whereas there were many occurrences in Yorkshire. I spoke to an experienced researcher born in Wales who said, "Oh, Morden is an English name, not a Welsh name." Be that as it may, I have learned of several Morden descendants who wandered through Welsh cemeteries searching for family tombstones. Although we should not eliminate Wales as a possibility it seems remote. Our Bay of Quinte story may refer to the maternal Howell line which was definitely Welsh.

Another rather fanciful story that surfaces from time to time is that North American Mordens were descended from English nobility and that somewhere in the past was a "Lord Morden". Many families have similar tales and I have never put much faith in this one. In North America our people have been decent middle class citizens and very often leaders in their communities, but I doubt that there were baronial estates in our past. A Morden coat of arms is being sold by a rather dubious company. The shield shows three crosses and three bedraggled looking otters, all surmounted by a hawk preying on a pigeon. Possibly the otters represent the Morden family of the Norfolk fen country.

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<sup>2</sup>Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte (Toronto: Rolph and Clark, 1904); rpt Belleville, Mika, 1972.

<sup>3</sup>William Mordant married on 12 June 1708 in Pembroke, Haverford West. LDS mf 8733534-29.

Three or more noble Morden families are recorded in the standard lineage books such as Burke's Peerage, Cokayne's Complete Baronetage, Norfolk Manorial Families, and similar lists of peers. Most of them were interrelated in some degree. The most eminent was Mordaunt of Bedfordshire who became the Earl of Peterborough; his descendants were Earls, Viscounts and Barons through many generations. His youngest son John Mordaunt, was a Royalist who actively supported Charles II and went on secret missions for him. Virgil Scott wrote a novel called I, John Mordaunt based on John's exploits.

Then there was John Morden of Exning, Suffolk, (d. 1556) who was progenitor of several grand lines. Sir John Morden, of Wricklemarsh, Kent, the shipping merchant who founded Morden College, Blackheath, was one of his descendants. Since Sir John had no offspring his baronetage became extinct. Morden of Gunton, Norfolk, also descended from Morden of Exning, was created Baronet of Great Britain in 1745, and assumed the name Harbord. I have reams of photocopies detailing these great families but have found nothing relevant to our hard-working middle class rank.

Some of the lesser orders appeared in Burke's Landed Gentry. Alice, daughter of John Morden of Warwickshire married a member of the Washington family in the sixteenth century and thus became a remote aunt of George Washington. Another of that family was actually named Mordaunt Washington and George Washington's brother built a mansion in West Virginia which he called Mordington. While I am skeptical that there is any connection with our forebears some dreamer could weave lofty fantasies from such stuff.

There were also Mordens who declined a knighthood for financial reasons. In the reigns of Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth, the monarchs were selling knighthoods to raise money, and issued proclamations that gentlemen of £40 a year were to come in and receive their knighthoods; defaulters were fined. At the coronation of Queen Mary [1553] Willimo Mordaunt of Bedfordshire and Rob'to Mordaunt of Essex were among the divers gents fined for refusing the order of Knighthood.

There were plenty of Mordens among the ordinary folk, employed as servants, cooks, cordwainers and shipbuilders, but naturally they were less visible than the wealthy families. Simon Morden was Mayor of London in 1368. Also in London a pitiful group of Huguenot refugees from France and Holland 1568-1582 included John Morden, a "twister of cruell", Peter Morden, a diamond cutter from Antwerp, and Sampson Morden a goldsmith. John and George Morden were in the woollen trade there in the 17th century. Some Mordens were mariners.

## ENGLISH -AMERICAN LINKS

**T**here are tantalizing clues suggesting that Mordens in England had an interest in North America long before our known ancestors emigrated. George Morden or Mordent of North Walsingham, Norfolk County, England, and Oliver Morden of Suffolk County, gent. bought shares in the Virginia Company in 1621.<sup>4</sup> It is doubtful that they ever came to America but a younger member of the family, L'Estrange Morden, was sent to represent them in Virginia. In 1665 L'Estrange bought 450 acres on the south side of the Potomac and sold them to George Washington's oldest brother John.<sup>5</sup>

In 1681 William Mordaunt bought 500 acres from William Penn in the Great Valley, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and in 1683 he acquired a small lot on Walnut Street in Philadelphia.<sup>6</sup> Captain John Morden seems to have taken over the 500 acres, added to them, and sold the total 607 acres in 1714 to John Evans, one-time governor of Pennsylvania.<sup>7</sup> William Mordaunt failed to pay the annual fee on the Walnut Street lot and a Land Office register shows that in 1741 **Thomas Morden** paid the arrears for 57 years' quitrent on the city property.<sup>8</sup> I have not read William Mordaunt's will which might show a relationship with Thomas. The 1741 date is significant because our Mordens are said to have emigrated within a year or two of that time. As already mentioned, Aletha Arnold's Morden Genealogy named Thomas as the grandsire in England (see Appendix p.77). My search of Philadelphia records failed to yield further information but there is reason to believe that our ancestors may have already had relatives in America when they arrived in Pennsylvania.

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<sup>4</sup> The Records of the Virginia Company of London. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1906. v.1, p. 578, p.604

<sup>5</sup> Philip Alexander Bruce. Social Life in Virginia in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Lynchburg VA: Bell, 1927 is a sample of available sources. I have found a number of other references in Virginia histories. George Washington's 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather Walter Washington of Warwickshire, England married Alice Morden, d/o John of Warwickshire.

<sup>6</sup> Old Rights, Philadelphia County 1682-1748. Index. P. 61, Number 1603: Mordaunt, William [purchaser], Warrant, City lot. Date of Warrant: Sept 24, 1683. Date of survey left blank. Survey records: Book D, vol 87, p.30. Book B vol.1, p.63. William left a will in Pennsylvania Land Records 1741, Liber DD.

<sup>7</sup> Chester Co, PA. P17 RG17, Rent Book A, Welsh Tract Rent Roll #1.

<sup>8</sup> Pennsylvania RG17. Land Office Journal, vol. D, 22 Dec 1738 - 24 Mar 1742. Thomas Morden paid £5:14 arrears for 57 yrs. (LDS Microfilm) Walnut St. is in downtown Philadelphia and runs past Rittenhouse Sq. Washington Sq, and Independence Sq.

Because there is a tradition that our Mordens came from Yorkshire many of us have scanned Yorkshire records. The Morden name appeared there before the Norman conquest and was mainly found along the valley of the Derwent River. They were in Settrington in 1654 and in Wintringham in the 1740s and out on the coast at Whitby and Scarborough in the 1740s. James Morden, a Scarborough boat builder, made his will in 1741,<sup>9</sup> leaving his house, gardens, boathouses and shop to his eldest son, also named James. None of the names and dates, however, quite match our particular family of Mordens. Larry Morden of the Morden Information Center has discovered another Morden family at Filey, Yorkshire, on the coast near Scarborough, so the search continues.

Wilson Morden (1864-1937) an Ontario lawyer who did meticulous research of original documents in Record Offices, public libraries, and museums in London, New York and Pennsylvania around 1932 never found any definite proof of our origins. After his death his son Kenneth wrote, *"Father's belief was that the family came from Yorkshire. However, the London Customs House was burned about 1810 and with it all records of immigrants to America up to that time. These records would have shown the name, parish, date of departure, etc. I am enclosing correspondence Father had with various people in England in this connection, and which as you see ends nowhere."*<sup>10</sup>

The definitive link between North American Mordens and their birthplace in England remains to be found. With the increased access to sources our search continues for anything, - a passenger list of the 1740s, a church register detailing the christenings of the Morden children born before the voyage, or a lost will, - that will lead us to our English place of origin. The history of our family remains a work in progress.

The head of the Morden family who decided to leave England would never have given up his settled existence if he could have foreseen the future. America was still a country in formation and the frontier was wild and untamed. Within fifteen years of their arrival three of the boys, George, Joseph and Ralph, were fighting hostile Indians. Twenty years beyond that the whole family was uprooted and most were exiled by the American Revolution. Ralph and Joseph died for the British cause and most of the brothers and descendants who survived were blacklisted, lost their newly acquired property and became refugees. Some of the girls married revolutionaries and were forever separated from their kinfolk. It was a disastrous beginning and its scars remain until this day.

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<sup>9</sup>Yorkshire Deeds, Wills and Conveyances. LDS mf 557482 Vol H. 1740-1742 p.345, no.459.

<sup>10</sup>I transcribed Wilson's research notes and placed copies in the OGS Library, Toronto, and in Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre, Ameliasburgh, Ontario.

## JOSEPH MORDEN AND LAURANIA HOWELL

### ANCESTORS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE MORDENS

Joseph Morden, the forefather of our Bay of Quinte Mordens, is the earliest ancestor whom we can solidly document. The spelling of the name varies. Some records called our ancestor Joseph Morden, some called him Joseph Mordant or Mordent. Among the items bequeathed in a Morden will were "*all spoons marked J.A. Mardaunt*".<sup>11</sup> We also find Mordan, Mordin and Mordon. The name Marden, however, seems to belong to an entirely different group of people.

We are sure beyond a doubt that Joseph was born in England for we have the sworn testimony of his son James,<sup>12</sup> witnessed before a commission:

*"Joseph Morden was a native of England. Came young to America."*

According to more than one account the family came from Yorkshire. Joseph's great-grandson John Benson Morden in his written notes said "*from Yorkshire*" and so did an account in Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte.<sup>13</sup> However, I was told the Welsh tradition when I was a child, I have heard it from three or four different sources, and it has not been disproved.

Try as we may, not one of us has yet established beyond all doubt the name of Joseph's father. The Bay of Quinte tradition is that he was called James. Descendants of Ralph Morden maintain that he was George and they claim a line of descent that goes back two more generations through Thomas and Samuel<sup>14</sup>. (See p.77) A number of us who are delving into Morden history find discrepancies in the statement that Ralph and Joseph were brothers. They may well have been but not only have we differing accounts of our ancestry but there are two conflicting pieces of evidence.

1. In one of her Loyalist claims Laurania Morden stated that Joseph and Ralph were brothers.

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<sup>11</sup>Will of Miriam Clark Morden 1918, widow of James Bentley Morden. Possibly J. A. Mardaunt was James Amit Morden?

<sup>12</sup>Ontario Bureau of Archives Report, 1904. Evidence in the Canadian Loyalist Claims. Claim #1095 of Joseph Morden, Decd.

<sup>13</sup>Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte. Toronto, Rolph and Clark, 1904; rept. Belleville: Mika 1972. pp. 561-572.

<sup>14</sup>Aletha Arnold and Annie Pearl Morden Tegerdine, Morden Genealogy. Self published Jan 1964.

2. Joseph and Laurania's son John Morden stated in a land claim that he was a cousin of Ralph's wife Ann. If his father and Ralph were brothers then Ann was his aunt. His petition read:

Newark (Niagara) 10 July 1795, (Petition to Gov. J. G. Simcoe)  
*John Morden, son of Joseph Morden and cousin to Anne Morden, served in Sir John Johnson's Corps, has only 100 acres of land in Sophiasburgh, Midland District.  
Recommended for full 200 acres of land.*

In those days the term "cousin" was often loosely used to mean "relative". The issue will remain unsettled until we discover some will or birth record that resolves it.

A telling argument in favor of James as the grandfather of the four Bay of Quinte brothers is the order in which their parents assigned names to them. In that society it was customary to call the first boy after his paternal grandfather, and the second after his maternal grandfather. Joseph's oldest son was "James" (for James Morden); the second was "Richard" for Richard Howell. The third son was sometimes named for an uncle, hence "John" for Uncle John Howell. The fourth and last was "Joseph"(Jr.), named for his father. If Joseph (Sr.) and Laurania had named a son George it would have been a strong argument for the George Morden tradition. In the absence of such an indicator I believe that James was our direct ancestor and that George was probably his brother. Families tended to emigrate in groups and it is entirely possible that two brothers, James and George, emigrated with their children about the same time and that the traditions about both are more or less true.

William Canniff in The Settlement of Upper Canada<sup>15</sup> wrote a paragraph that undoubtedly refers to the Morden family. His informant was Marshal R. Morden who was obviously speaking of the Mordens, but Mr. Canniff, writing in longhand and surrounded by stacks of papers, must have put these notes in the wrong pile because he applied them to the Ogden family. *"All of this name are supposed to be related. They were, it is thought, of Welsh origin. It is not quite certain whether this first Ogden died by the banks of the Delaware, or as is thought came to the Bay of Quinte. He had three sons, one of whom died before their removal leaving four sons. They with their uncles, came at a very early date to Hamilton but the four nephews removed to the Bay Quinte about 1790. Their names were James, John, Joseph and Richard. The numerous body living around the bay have all sprung from these four brothers... Mr. James Morden was a private in His Majesty's Provincial Regiment, King's Royal Regiment of New York, Sir J. Johnson Commander. Discharged 1785 at Montreal, at the age of twenty, having served three years."*

Let me rewrite this substituting Morden names for Ogden: *"All of this name [Morden] are supposed to be related. They were it is thought of Welsh origin. One of that name [James or George] settled on the Delaware River previous to the rebellion. It is not quite certain whether this first [Morden] died by the banks of the Delaware, or as is thought came to the Bay of Quinte. He (the*

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<sup>15</sup>William Canniff, The Settlement of Upper Canada. Toronto: Dudley and Burns 1869; rpt 1971. I had hoped to see Mr. Canniff's original notes to check them for other clues but learned that they had been damaged by water.

Morden on the Delaware) *had three sons one of whom (Joseph) died ...leaving four sons. These sons (James, John, Richard and Joseph Jr.) with their uncles came at a very early date to Hamilton, but the four nephews removed to the Bay Quinte about 1790. Their names were James, John, Joseph and Richard. The numerous body living around the bay of this name, have all sprung from these four brothers. (Source Marshal R. Morden). Mr. James Morden was a private etc....*

Now Canniff's account approximates what we know of the Mordens. Both James and George Morden owned land on the Delaware so the "original settler" was either James or George Morden. The Delaware settler had three sons One of these, Joseph, died while serving with the British army leaving four sons who had uncles in Hamilton. These four brothers settled in the Bay of Quinte. Apart from the information contained in the Loyalist claims this muddy oral tradition is the closest to an authentic account of our origins that Bay of Quinte Mordens can hope to find.

Since Ralph Morden was executed in Pennsylvania he never lived in Canada himself. His widow Ann Durham Morden came to the British at Fort Niagara in 1786, was the first settler in the Dundas Valley, and lived with her children in West Flamboro near what is now the city of Hamilton.. The "*uncles in Hamilton*" of the Bay of Quinte Mordens were presumably George, Daniel and Moses. In 1822 Ann and some of her sons moved to London Township but part of the family remained in West Flamboro. Ron Barrons of Hamilton has researched the Mordens of Flamboro West<sup>16</sup>. and written accounts of them.

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<sup>16</sup> R.S. Barrons, A Morden Trilogy, Hamilton 2002



## SETTLERS ON THE DELAWARE

Although we have not yet found a record of Joseph's birth in the English records we can deduce that it occurred in 1741 or earlier. The peg on which we hang this deduction is the record of Joseph's military service in the Pennsylvania militia in 1757. The military call-up age at the time was 16 and if we subtract 16 from 1757 we arrive at a birth year no later than 1741. This means that he was about two when the Mordens crossed the ocean around 1743.

According to Marshal Morden the family consisted of father [unnamed], and three sons.<sup>17</sup> Pity the mother of this seasick young brood, who was herself enduring the discomforts of pregnancy. The story is preserved in the Bartholomew family that Nancy Morden, who married John Bartholomew of Lancaster County, PA, was born at sea.<sup>18</sup> The trans-Atlantic voyage in the creaking, rolling ship was an ordeal that seemed to go on forever. The sailing ships of the time averaged about eighty passengers each. The bunks were crowded, the air was foul, rats scuttled about and burial at sea was a common occurrence. The food was abominable: pea soup, hard-tack biscuits, and spoiled meat day after day. Often passengers were required to bring their own provisions which they packed in barrels and considering shipboard fare was so unappetizing they may have been the fortunate ones. Their instructions were to pack enough provisions for twelve weeks.

We have no passenger list to record our early ancestors' arrival in Pennsylvania nor traces of their first years in the colony. It was the mid-point of the eighteenth century, George II of Hanover was King of England, and Pennsylvania was an English colony in the wilds of North America that the King had granted to William Penn in 1681. The American Weekly Mercury for 1740 and 1743 (available on microfiche) announced '***Ships entered inwards at custom-house Philadelphia***'. A notice gave only the name of the ship and its master, no passenger list. The Mercury did, however, shed some light on the general conditions at that time. There was much news of privateers and prize ships. The ships bound for New York Harbor were large ocean-going vessels, - the Pottle from London and the Butler from Liverpool and ships arriving in Philadelphia seldom came direct from England. Immigrants to Pennsylvania usually came via Boston, New York, Virginia or the Barbados and there transferred to local coastal carriers. To reach Philadelphia they had to round Cape May, sail into the mouth of the Delaware, and then work their way ninety miles upriver past long stretches of salt marshes to reach the city. This was a slow sail against the current, tacking this way and that to avoid shoals and rapids and it called for smaller vessels, mainly sloops and brigs, with a few schooners. At long last their goal came into sight and they stepped onto American soil.

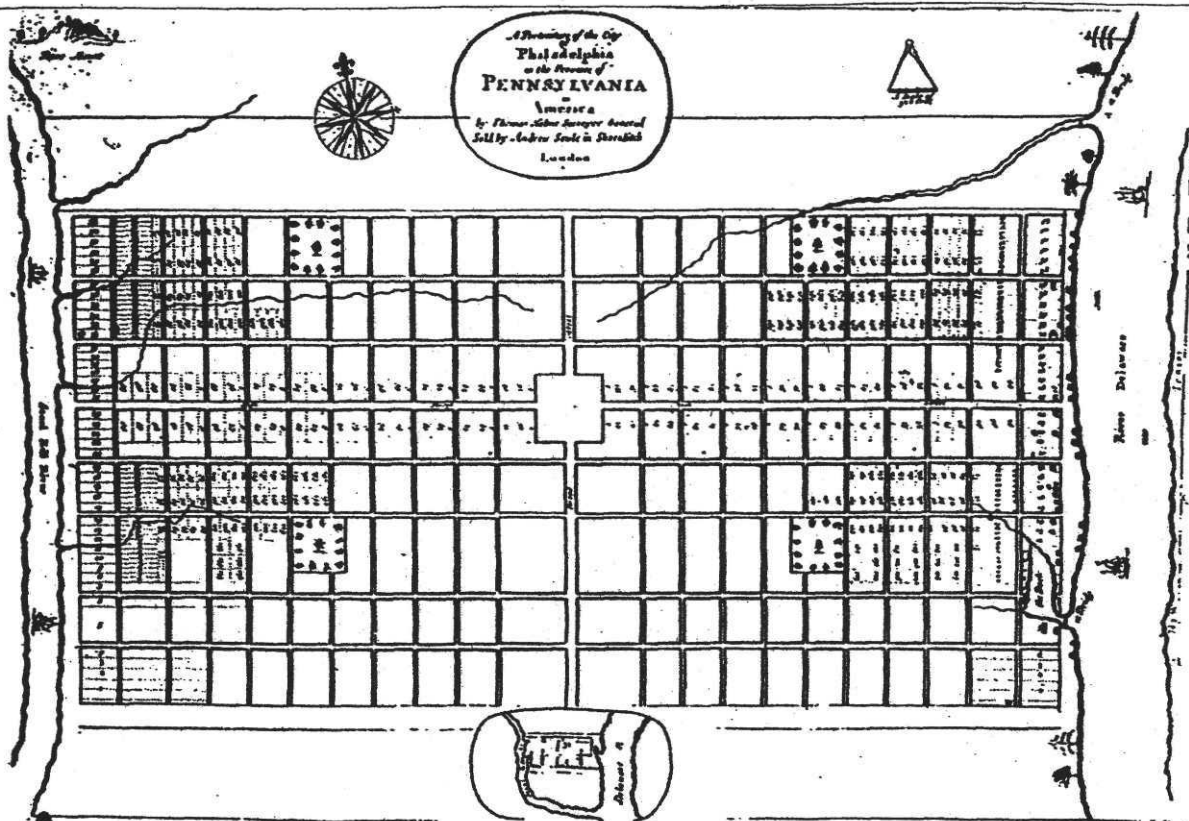
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<sup>17</sup>Pioneer Life named them Ralph, Joseph and William. This information is unproven.

<sup>18</sup>George Wells Bartholomew, *The Bartholomew Family*... Austin, Texas, 1885. "She was born on the Atlantic Ocean, while her parents were emigrating from England to this country, and died about 1793."

## PENN'S PLAN OF PHILADELPHIA

William Penn had planned Philadelphia as a model city and had designed it on a grid with ruler-straight streets. Alas, it did not live up to his dreams and when the Mordens landed it was still a raw port city. The dock area was lined with warehouses, taverns and bawdy-houses, its streets were unpaved and dusty, and livery stables generated mountains of manure buzzing with flies. Mosquitoes spread malaria and in the year 1743 a yellow fever epidemic was raging which baffled the city doctors who vainly tried to figure out its cause. Our family was a hardy lot to survive the perils of land and sea and it may be that the mother of the infant Nancy was stricken.



(Pa. Hist. & Museum Comm., Harrisburg; original in Hist. Society of Penna. Phila.)

THOMAS HOLME'S "PORTRAITURE OF THE CITY"—1682  
Prospective purchasers saw this in the London land office

## GEORGE OR JAMES?

It is said that the Mordens lived forty miles above Philadelphia, some say in Pennsylvania, some say in New Jersey. Daniel Morden stated in a claim that he "*resided in the County of Sussex in the Jersies, in America, before the Rebellion.*" New Jersey was the more inhabited and civilized side of the Delaware while Pennsylvania was the wild uncleared side. Some men farmed on both sides and colonists crossed the river freely.

Even though it was more settled New Jersey was still a wilderness. In 1758 in Oxford Township, N.J., **George Morden's** petition for a "*license to keep a house of entertainment for the benefit of travelers it being a convenient place and much wanted for travelers, there being no place of entertainment betwixt Josiah Ball and Col Abraham Van Campen's wich is upwards of twenty miles*", was signed by nine of his neighbors and he in turn signed similar petitions for a couple of them. The early meetings of freeholders and Justices of the Peace were held in taverns or houses and were concerned with roads, cattle marks and wolf bounties. Each wolf carried a handsome bounty of £3 and Edward Robeson (who became allied to the Mordens) collected money for a wolf's head in 1755. These pioneer families all knew one another and interacted as occasions arose.

Both George and James Morden appeared in the Pennsylvania land records. In the absence of vital records these are our only guides to the original Morden settler. Whether he was George or James is beyond my power to resolve. One problem is that there are too many George Mordens to fit into the traditional outline. The most visible was George Morden of Sussex County, N.J., who married into a prosperous family, owned 150 acres, had a sawmill and paid taxes each year. He was well documented in New Jersey land records, tax rolls and wills but was he the emigrant grandsire or his son?

A Morden researcher, Charles Field, maintains that George's first wife from England died and he married a second. This was Eleanor or Elinor, daughter of Jan Emans of Gravesend in the township of Walpack, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, merchant, and his second wife, Neeltje Van Aaken. Eleanor Eman's baptism on 19 May 1728 was entered in the records of the Dutch Church in Kingston, New York. Charles Field, states that "*she was first married to a Butler by whom she had three children. George Morden was her second husband.*"

After the death of Eleanor Eman's father in 1732 her mother, Neeltje (Elinor) Van Aaken Emans married a second husband, Edward Robeson, who died in 1764 leaving her an affluent widow with plantations, rental income, good livestock and a negro serving wench. In her will (1773)<sup>19</sup> Elinor Robeson made generous bequests to her large family including daughter **Elinor the wife of George Morden and their eleven children**. Elinor Morden received a third share of a parcel of land and some clothing. The eleven Morden children were each to receive "*One Spanish dollar or seven shillings and sixpence current money of New Jersey*". The only Morden child named was Catharine, who received a spinning wheel.

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<sup>19</sup>Will from New Jersey State Library, Abstracts of Wills. Will of Elinor Robeson, Liber 16 p.432

clothing. The eleven Morden children were each to receive "One Spanish dollar or seven shillings and sixpence current money of New Jersey". The only Morden child named was Catharine, who received a spinning wheel.

I have failed to find baptismal records for these Morden children and it is highly improbable that Elinor was the mother of all of them. Obviously she was not the mother of Joseph or Ralph Morden who were born in England although she might have been their step-mother. George Morden continued to pay taxes in New Jersey until 1774. David Morden and George Morden who served in the New Jersey Militias in 1793 may have been two of his sons. There are clues pointing to a connection between this New Jersey family and the Mordens of Mt. Pleasant Township, Columbia County, Pennsylvania.

Feb. Term 1758

Copy

Petition of George Morden  
for a license to keep a house of Entertainment

To the Honorable Judges and Justices of the County of  
Sussex the Petition of the Inhabitant of Oxford Town  
Sheweth Humbly That your Honors will grant  
every Morden License to keep a House of Entertainment  
for the Benefit of Travelers it Being a convenient place  
and much wanted for Travelers there being no place  
of Entertainment between Bristol Ferry and Col. Mordens  
van Sarsens which is upwards of 20 Miles therefore  
Considering the Distance we hope your Honors will  
grant us our Request and we your petitioners shall  
be bound in Duty to ever pray

John Vanatta

John Alphon  
George Matthes  
Biffiaman Vanatta  
Lower Huelion at  
Sarah Hall  
Thomas Vanatta

WYOMING



1755

TOAMENSING

GENERAL COURT  
THE PROPRIETORS  
SECTION ESTABLISHED  
SUPERIORITY OF THE WATER  
IN PENNSYLVANIA

French North Passes  
So called and as  
water crosses  
mountain  
barriers

Indian Village  
Wicquegan  
POPONO  
FAIR HOPKINS

WATER GAP

FOX GAP

Gooswin's Ferry  
1778

Wife's daughter of  
Edward's daughter of the  
Indian War, later by 1778

Arthur's Ferry  
1768 to 1780

NEW JERSEY

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
proposed opening the  
construction of FORT  
MIFLIN, August 1756  
to the Delaware  
Location, the winter of 1755-56

GRIMSHITTEN

ROCKENMAUGA  
CREEK  
(supposedly  
concealing  
for land)

Peter Doll's  
Blockhouse  
prior to 1755

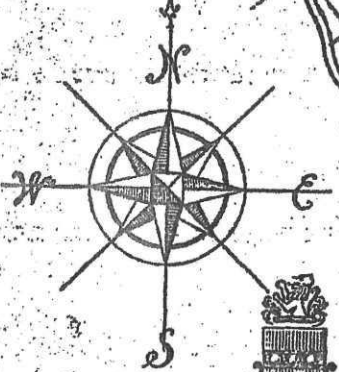
HUNTER  
SETTLEMENT  
1768-1769 (died 1769)

MERCER 1770  
1770 to 1780

Mack's Ferry  
1768 to 1778

Four Corn Ferry  
1761

Quora Ferry 1761



INDIAN MANOR

LEGHA

Wagon Road  
1762-1763

Wagon Road  
1762-1763

Route of the main  
Indian Wagon Road  
Sept. 13, 1770, 1771

Gen. Taylor's practice  
to live here a short  
time

Fort Delaware  
1778

PHOENIX  
CREEK  
(Mungawant  
with top land)

DAIENS  
OR  
BRYLANDS

David Brainerd  
Presbyterian 1744  
Missionary to Indians

HOTEL FERRY  
1761

MARBLE  
MOUNTAIN  
1759

GENERAL WASHINGTON'S  
CAMP

DE LAURENCE'S  
PROPERTY 1768  
1768-1776

POWELL'S  
CAMP

THE  
FORKS OF THE DELAWARE  
IN  
PENNSYLVANIA  
AN  
ENGLISH PROVINCE  
IN AMERICA  
UNDER THE  
PENN PROPRIETARIES  
1681 1785

GEN. LAFAYETTE stayed  
at BETHLEHEM from Sept  
21-1777 to Oct. 16-1777,  
receiving 3000 rounds  
of powder at Bethlehem,  
then went down river  
at the site of the  
battery Mr.

Given to John Jennings  
by the Penns in payment for  
boards and services in going  
to Wyoming.

GEN. JEFFERSON  
SAID THE  
DELTA  
AND THE GREAT  
THAT PASSED THROUGH  
IT.

General Taylor's camp  
Delaware  
1763 to 1776, with the exception of a short  
period he was Governor of the North  
ampton County Committee of Observation  
and Inspection up to Feb. 1778  
He died at Easton on February 25th 1778

INDIAN TREATIES

1756-1757-1758

1761-1762

1777



1776

COMPILED BY  
J. SCHUBERT  
JANUARY 1878

Scale  
IN MILES

## MOUNT BETHEL TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

Within ten years of leaving England, part of the Morden family settled in Mount Bethel Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The Bay of Quinte Mordens have always believed that their ancestors lived in Pennsylvania at a settlement called Philadelphia Bush. It is now apparent that after leaving Pennsylvania and removing to the Mohawk Valley of upstate New York they gave their new settlement the old familiar name so there were two places called Philadelphia Bush. **George** and **James** Morden appeared in Pennsylvania in the early 1750's taking up land on the west side of the Delaware in Bucks County (in the part that later became Northampton County). Land records described their location as Mount Bethel Township "*above the Forks of the Delaware between branches of the Allegheny River*".<sup>20</sup> The "Forks" specifically refers to the junction of the Lehigh<sup>21</sup> and Delaware Rivers near the town of Easton, but a broader definition says "*All of the region between the Delaware and Lehigh extending back to the Blue Mountains was called the Forks of the Delaware.*" The Allegheny was not the big Allegheny River that flows into the Ohio at Pittsburgh but a much smaller stream, Allegheny Creek that an old map of Upper Mount Bethel Township shows flowing into the Delaware. At the time that the Mordens received their land grants Joseph Morden was a boy between twelve and fourteen years old..

The general area above the Lehigh was inhabited by the Lenni Lenape, a tribe of the Delaware Indians, and was called the Minisink. In the beginning the Indians were friendly to the English because they had been fairly treated by the first Proprietor of the great tract that the King had granted to the Quaker, Sir William Penn. After his death his sons greedily added an excessive amount of land - thousands of acres - to the original holding through the unfair Walking Purchase (1737). Their agreement with the Indians was based on the amount of ground a white man could cover in a day and a half, and the Penns scoured the colony for their three fastest walkers. The walk developed into a grueling marathon in which the Penn superstriders pushed themselves so hard that one man died and the other two who completed the walk were permanently damaged. Bitterly, the Indians realized they had been cheated of their best river lands, the rich Minisink flats, and one chief told the surveyors, "*Put up iron string, go home.*" It was too late. The Penns were in possession, they drew up plans for a county seat at Easton, and they proceeded to develop the area. The Indian attitude towards the Europeans changed from friendship to hatred and it was the misfortune of our Mordens that the land they bought was in this disputed territory.

On 14 September 1751 **James Morden** of Bucks County registered two lots of 20 acres each above the Forks of the Delaware for which he paid at the rate of £15.20 s per hundred acres ( in other

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<sup>20</sup> Pennsylvania Land Office records in Harrisburg. Bucks Co. Warrants Nos. 204 and 205.

<sup>21</sup> An old map calls the Lehigh the West Branch of the Delaware.

words about £3.4s for each parcel). One record says that he had already paid £1 and on September 14 he paid off the £2 arrears by two payments of one pound each. At the same time "*James Mervin gent. of Bucks County*" registered 60 acres that had belonged to Abraham Teunis deceased, for which he paid at the rate of £15. 20s per hundred acres. Mervin or Morden? Nicholas Scull was to survey both parcels<sup>22</sup> It is apparent from the fact that James and George Morden bought adjoining farms that the two men were closely related but we have nothing to tell us to which generation each belonged.<sup>23</sup> When this land was sold to Jacob Beck and his heirs in 1790 it was described as "*a certain tract of land called Hemlock Fall situated in Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County*". There is no longer any trace of a place called Hemlock Fall or the landmarks of James Morden's land mentioned by the surveyor, - posts, a White Oak, and various stones.

By comparing old maps and all available documents it is fairly certain that the Morden land was near Jacobus or Cobus Creek. The Goodwins lived at its mouth and operated a ferry across the Delaware. When James Morden made his will it was witnessed by Richard and Catherine Goodwin. The surveyor's plan shows that James's neighbors were Jacob Emerich, George Beck or Peck, James Barckley and William Craig. Another one was Edward Robeson, the New Jersey man who had collected a bounty on a wolf's head. In 1753 Robeson was granted a warrant for "*50 acres on Indian Cobus's Creek near the Blue Mountains*".<sup>24</sup> John Durham and Frederick Beck also owned property in the area.. It was a pioneering society in which the landowning families knew one another and their names often appeared together on documents and tax rolls.

On 10 November 1753 **George Morden** of the County of Northampton was granted 20 acres "*adjoining or near James Morden between branches of the Allegheny River*", to be paid at the rate of £15.10s per hundred acres. On 16 Jan 1755 he registered another 50 acres above the Forks of the Delaware **adjoining James Morden** and James Martin.<sup>25</sup> Here they made their "improvements", cleared the land, built their cabins and tilled the soil. About six or seven miles north of the Morden farms was the spectacular Delaware Water Gap where the river had cut a long narrow gorge between the steep walls of the Kittatiny Mountains. Indian trails snaked along the edge of the gorge on both sides where Indians and wolves roamed and few whites traveled them. This beauty spot later became a fashionable resort, and today the Appalachian Trail runs near it, but in the 1750's it was the frontier. Survival, not scenery, was the main concern.

The Morden children learned enough reading and writing to transact business and sign documents so perhaps they had a tutor or were able to attend an early school run by the Moravian missionaries. The previous generation which had been educated in England inscribed their signatures making elegant flourishes with a quill pen, but the younger men who grew up in the colonies made heavy work of scratching out a name, and many merely made their mark with an X.

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<sup>22</sup> The Mervin deed is questionable but it was sent to me by the land office as part of the Morden property. See also Pennsylvania Archives, Series 3, v.24, p.149. County of Bucks, Warrantees of Land. Mervin James Sr. 60 acres, surveyed Sept 11, 1751.

<sup>23</sup> It was Aletha Arnold's belief that James was a brother of our Joseph. Arnold and Tegerdine p. 2.

<sup>24</sup>Warrant dated 24 Jan 1753. Northampton Co. Warrants 1749-52.

<sup>25</sup>Warrant No. 48, Northampton County. Morden, George, 50 acres.

Warrant No. 28, Morden, George, survey 20 acres. 10 Nov 1753. Patented to Valentine Stine in 1793.

## WILL OF JAMES OF PENSOLVANY

James Morden lived only nine years after buying his Pennsylvania property. He made a will in 1758 which is still preserved in the Northampton County courthouse in Easton. The original paper is disintegrating and the ink has faded so badly that it is hard to decipher the names.

April the 12 day 1758

This is to satisfy whom it may concern that I give to my wife Jhan Morden all that I have for her widowhud the imprufment land on pensolvany side and all catel and horsis and sheep for her widowhud and if she doth mary anyman I [erasure] all that I have is to be equally divided among my children but Gorg and Jame and to each of them five shillings. This bein the last will of James Morden.

Richard Goodwin

her  
Catran X Goodwin  
mark

James died in 1760. He was survived by his widow and nine children and left a 100 acre "improvement" in Mt. Bethel Township, and a debt for more than the estate was worth. In April 1760 Richard Goodwin and Robert Allison, Jun<sup>r</sup>, made an inventory of the estate of James Morden deceased. The improvement land was valued at £70 and the sale of the remaining farm assets, the Indian corn, buckwheat, rye, "pide cow", axe, bedding, mirror and smoothing iron, brought the total value to £120.13.11. Neighbors bought the powder and shot, the molasses and rum, tea, sugar, two hats, buckles and garters.

As James had foreseen Jane married again. Her second husband was John Van Etta or Van Etten of New Jersey, a widower with several children of his own and together they reared their combined families. James's debts had to be paid and there were expenses for the upkeep of the Morden children and in 1765 John Van Etta and Jane his wife submitted accounts to the Registrar's Office at Easton showing they had paid out £77.0.3 to various creditors which left very little of the estate.<sup>26</sup> There are pages of accounts, further inventories, and bewildering duplicates of these.

In July 1766 the Van Ettas petitioned the Orphans Court for permission to sell the 100 acre improvement in Mount Bethel Township. Permission was granted and land records show that they sold it to George Beck for £70.. Goods and Chattles brought in another £50. and they paid the debts and made a final settlement on June 23, 1766. Edward Robeson, husband of Neeltje Van Aaken Emans and stepfather of Eleanor, wife of George Morden of Sussex County, was an executor and collected his expenses as did John Lowrey.. The file contains the records of the Orphans Court wherein John Vanetta and Jane his wife, late Jane Morden, relict of James Morden, claimed recompense for raising eight of the nine Morden children: **George, James, Moses, Samuel, Elizabeth, Daniel, Nancy and Bia**. There was no mention of any Ralph or Joseph which may indicate that they belonged in another family. Joseph and George, however, appeared in the settlement summary.

<i>By Joseph Morden as by Acct settled</i>	£25..17..8
<i>By George Morden as by Acct pd him</i>	£21.. 4..0

These papers are repetitive and hard to interpret but they show that Joseph grew up in Pennsylvania in one of these families Aletha Arnold's interpretation was that James left an estate of £50 of which Joseph inherited half. He was about twenty-five when he came into this money.

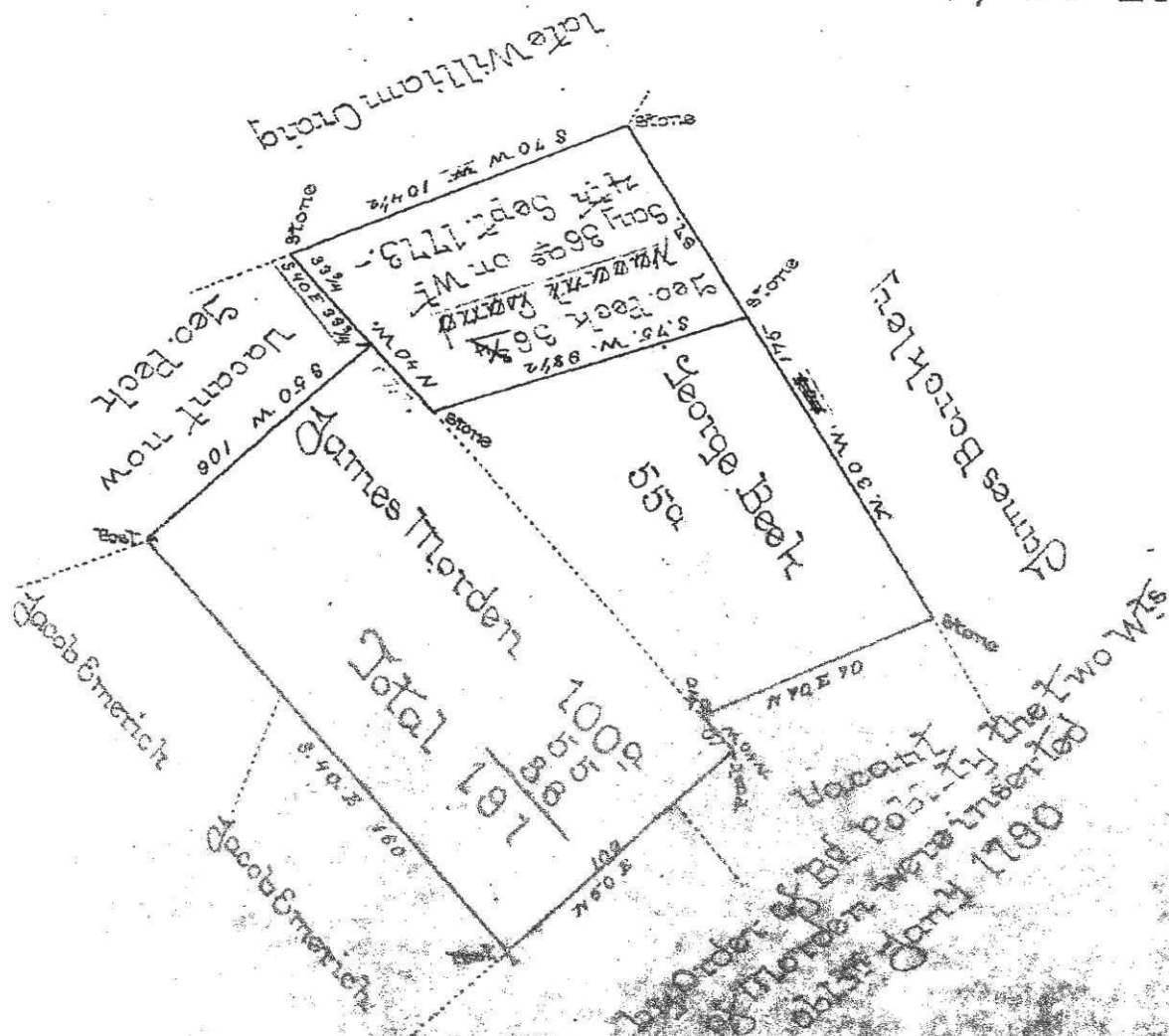
When John Van Etta died in 1791 his will left some assets to the children of his first marriage and to "my dear beloved wife Jinne" but the bulk of his estate was left to "my son and law Samuel Morden".<sup>27</sup> Van Etta children mentioned were John, Sarah, Cornelia, May and Ann.

If I appear to emphasize the role of James Morden over that of George it is simply because of the wealth of James Morden documents available compared to those for George. (See Appendix).

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<sup>26</sup>Northampton County Archives, Easton, PA. Will and Estate Papers (original documents) and Orphan's Court Papers. File 404. Because the originals are so fragile any photocopies have to be made from the microfilm. They have also been microfilmed by the LDS.

<sup>27</sup>Sussex County New Jersey wills, 1791. No. 511S Johannes Vanetta. LDS microfilm 565,477.



by order of Bd. Public Lands the two warrants of Morden were inserted 1790

By virtue of three warrants two of them dated the 14<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1751 surveyed the 14<sup>th</sup> Novemb<sup>r</sup> 1751 to James Morden the other warrant dated 13<sup>th</sup> April 1772 surveyed the 10<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1772 to George Beek the above described two tracts of land situate in Rowan bettel Township Northampton County containing together one hundred and fifty five Acres and the Allowance of six Per Cent to be taken from James Scull's General Plan

Joseph Lukens Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Surv<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>

John Palmer

IN TESTIMONY that the above is a copy of the original remaining on file in the Department of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania, made conformable to an Act of Assembly approved the 16th day of

## WAR ALONG THE DELAWARE

The earliest records of Joseph and his brothers in America that I have found are in the muster rolls of the French and Indian Wars. This struggle between Britain and France started in Europe where it was called the Seven Years' War. It began in 1756 and soon extended to North America only a few years after George and James Morden bought their farms. Because both sides used Indian allies to harry their enemies the conflict in the colonies was called the French and Indian Wars. The main military action took place in New York State, along the St. Lawrence, and in Quebec at the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. Little is written about the enemy actions in the Delaware Valley, nevertheless they brought sudden death by arrow and tomahawk to people living in the Minisink and the farmers along the river were in a constant state of alarm.

The Indians needed little urging from the French and in 1755, nearly twenty years after the infamous Purchase Walk, they began to ambush the settlers, raid their farms, burn their cabins, and scalp and kill men, women and children. They positioned themselves on the heights above the Water Gap and aimed their arrows at any whites passing below. Many Pennsylvania settlers fled across the river to the safer New Jersey shore and for fifty miles above the Gap the countryside on the west side of the river was empty. The British erected a line of forts along the Delaware on the New Jersey side; some built by Ben Franklin. Settlers were enlisted to garrison these log blockhouses, sixty men to a fort, with sometimes a dog or two to bark an alarm. A local historian wrote: *"The first hostile act was in 1756, when three men at work in the fields harvesting the crops were killed. The next was an attempt to capture the fort at Westfalls, occupied as the Indians at the time supposed, by two lone women. But between the time of their first reconnoiter and of the attack, a party of soldiers from New Jersey had arrived at the fort, and these were just seating themselves at the table when the Indians burst in, whereupon both sets of warriors were vastly surprised; but the Indians proceeded to work and the soldiers proceeded upstairs where they shortly gathered their scattered wits and opened such a destructive fire that the invaders retired precipitately. A number were killed on each side. The upper fort on the Neversink was surprised and burned and the entire garrison massacred."*<sup>28</sup>

This is where the young Morden men enter the picture. Volunteer militia companies were called into action and all males between the ages of sixteen and fifty were required to serve for a few months. Their call-up times were staggered so that there were always some men and muskets left in the settlements. Among those frontiersmen who enlisted were **George, Joseph and Ralph Morden**. Joseph and Ralph were still in their teens, and perhaps George was too. Whether they were brothers or cousins does not appear. Their service records showed that they were members of the New Jersey French and Indian War muster and were to serve a month at a time:

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<sup>28</sup> C. G. Hine. The Old Mine Road, (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press 1909; rpt 1963). p. 121

**George** - June 8, 1757 - Sept 12, 1757.

**Joseph** - Oct 18 - Dec 2, 1757 & Jan 16-Apr 6 1758.

**Ralph** - June 8 - July 20, 1757 & Sep 12 - 18 Oct 1757; & Jan 16 - 6 Apr 1758.

If we total the time that each of them served we see that George did duty for three months, Ralph 4 months 1 week, and Joseph 4 months 1 week. From the dates of their enlistment it would appear that George was the oldest, Ralph next, and Joseph the youngest.<sup>29</sup> Privates were paid two shillings a day. Each was expected to provide his own long-barreled musket and a pouch or powderhorn with gunpowder and flints. It is probable that one family firearm had to serve for all the boys and by taking turns they could pass it from one to another. The weekly food allotment was seven pounds of bread, seven pounds of beef or pork, (usually salted in brine), six ounces of butter, three pints of peas and half a pound of rice.

In the month before George and Ralph were called up the Indian raids came alarmingly close to the Mordens when the wife and daughter of Edward Marshall who had taken part in the hated Indian Walk were killed on Jacobus Creek not far from Goodwin's Ferry in May 1757. A list of people killed and houses burnt by the Indians at the Minisink totaled 78 people in all. In reading the accounts of this conflict in the Minisink country we come across the names of families that later became allied to the Mordens through marriages, - Howell, Westfall, Vanaken, Van Campen, and Quick. They were all closely involved in these frontier skirmishes and some died from tomahawks blows or musket shots. One entry read "*Cornelis Vanaken and Guizebert Vancamp with fifteen of their families.*"<sup>30</sup>

The militia companies were on call when settlers came under attack. Usually they went to defend the Delaware Valley forts and small scouting parties were sent out at night on reconnaissance missions. There was wood to be chopped and foraging parties were needed to round up food. Some men were sent to New York to serve in British units there and it is remotely possible that George Morden might have served under William Johnson of the Mohawk Valley in the attack on the French in 1757. Hostilities subsided with the Treaty of Paris in 1763 but the natives continued to harbor bitter feelings and to harry the settlers right up to the American Revolution.

In addition to his militia record **Joseph Morden** was shown on a Mount Bethel tax roll dated Sept. 1, 1761, when he was assessed as a single man. He and Ralph Morden, along with another young man, James Durham, appeared in a list of the township taxpayers drawn up by the Collector John Durham.<sup>31</sup> The three names were together among the single men at the end of the list. We can tell that Joseph was not affluent because the £4 that he was assessed for was at the bottom of the tax scale, while more prosperous men with big farms and livestock were rated at as much as £30. This was the last time that Joseph Morden's name appeared on the Mount Bethel tax roll although Ralph and the Durham men

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<sup>29</sup>Probably published in Pennsylvania Archives, 5<sup>th</sup> Series pp. 1588 and 1589. My reference is lost.

<sup>30</sup> New Jersey Archives. Newspaper extracts v.3, p.571. See also v. 20, p.59, Account of Indian ambush of Abraham Vanaken of Sussex County and his daughter. Pennsylvania Gazette, Aug 26, 1756.

<sup>31</sup> Northampton County, Pa., Mount Bethel Twp. tax list 1761, (LDS mf 021680). John Durham collector. Single men [16 names]:

Joseph Morden, Ralph Morden.

In another list of Mt. Bethel assessments for 1761. Collector was James Simson. (LDS mf 021680)  
Mordon, Joseph £4

continued to be assessed there. When Ralph Morden married Ann Durham it is likely that the Tax Collector became his father-in-law and his old friend James Durham his brother-in-law. Both of them owned land in Mount Bethel. Joseph's bachelor days were just about to end, for he was by then around twenty, and the New Jersey the girl who was to become his wife was seventeen.

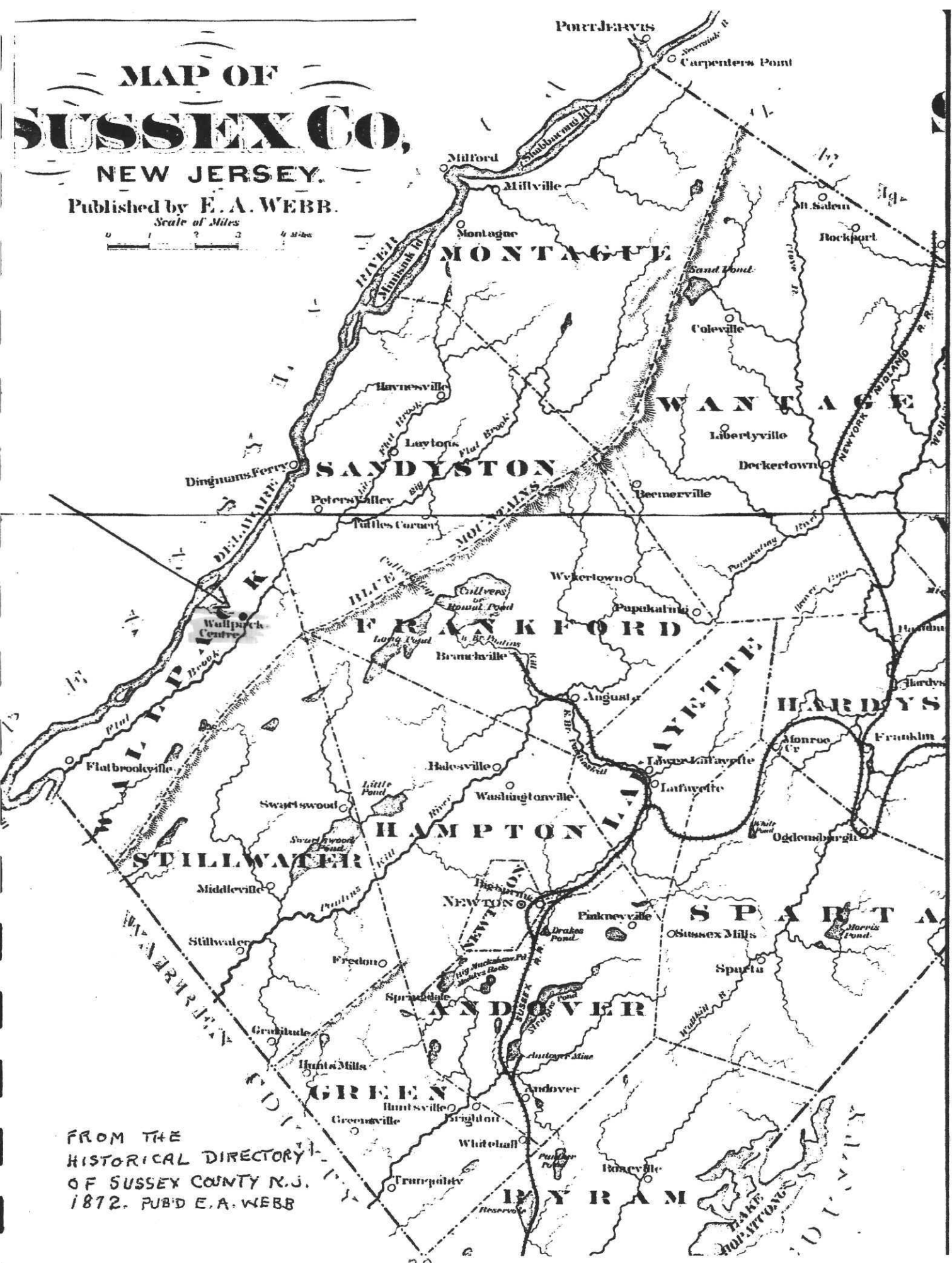
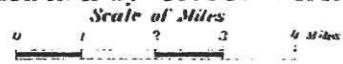
No Pennsylvania church records have been found for our family so we have no date for the wedding or for any christenings. I believe that the Mordens were Episcopalians and since there were no Episcopal churches in their area in the mid-1700s they left no records. The first churches in the Delaware River valley were Dutch Reformed where the Dominie preached long sermons in Dutch so we do not find the Mordens in their congregations. Despite the tradition that Ralph was a Quaker and a pacifist exhaustive searches have failed to find his name in Quaker records and we have seen that he was no pacifist in the French and Indian Wars. It is significant that after his death his widow, Anne, asked a friend who was going to England to bring back a Church of England prayer book for her. His son John *"considered himself a member of the Church of England, but in Canada he became a Methodist."*<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Christian Guardian, Toronto Mar 21, 1821. Obituary.

# MAP OF SUSSEX CO., NEW JERSEY.

Published by E. A. WEBB.



FROM THE  
HISTORICAL DIRECTORY  
OF SUSSEX COUNTY N. J.  
1872. PUB'D E. A. WEBB

## THE HOWELL FAMILY

The girl whom Joseph married was **Laurania Howell**, one of the daughters of Richard Howell, a tailor who lived in the village of Walpack on the New Jersey side of the river. The Howell family is of Welsh ancestry and some believe that Richard (born 1715) came directly from Wales. There was, however, a large family of Howells which had settled in Southold, Long Island very early and Richard may have come from that family although he does not appear in their genealogies.

Walpack (sometimes spelled Walpeck) was in the Minisink area on the Jersey side. The region is rich in minerals and there are legends of Dutch copper mines soon after the time of Henry Hudson, and of even more ancient mines used by the natives. Walpack Township was a small patch of this area about nine miles long nestled within a bend of the Delaware.<sup>33</sup> Along the east side of it ran the Old Mine Road, the first road built for wheels in North America, which the Dutch had made in order to take their ore to market.<sup>34</sup> It ran straight for one hundred miles over the mountains and down to the Hudson River and was the route by which people took their furs and grain north to Esopus (Kingston), New York. The route was especially easy in winter when the frozen rivers served as snow roads, and some of the Minisink people were married and baptized in Esopus. In the days of the Dutch few thought of going downriver to Philadelphia.

The early history of Walpack Center is sketchy but it seems to have been a hub with some small businesses, a mill on the stream called Flatbrook, and a local tailor named **Richard Howell**. He was a responsible citizen. When Albert Van Garden of Walpack died in August 1742 without leaving a will "*Benjamin Smith and Richard Howel, of same place, tailor*" were appointed to draw up an inventory of the estate.<sup>35</sup> This they did on September 6<sup>th</sup>. From this fortuitous brief reference we learn our ancestor's residence and trade and can deduce that he was not a newcomer to the community. Richard was then about twenty-seven years old, with a wife named Ann or Anna, and a baby girl, Lucretia.

Richard's wife, **Anna Daniel**, has been wrongly identified in some histories as "*Anna O'Donnell from Dublin*". Her name appears as Daniel in the baptismal records of her children and the Daniel family was among the early settlers in West New Jersey from 1676 on. Anna Daniel bore several sons and three daughters to whom she gave the names Lucretia, Laurania, and Letitia, and these girls were baptized in the Dutch Reformed Churches that were just being founded in the area.

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<sup>33</sup> Originally Walpack was a part of Morris County but as the population grew the boundaries were changed and in 1753 it became part of a new county named Sussex County which was set aside from Morris.

<sup>34</sup>C.G.Hine. The Old Mine Road, Rutgers University Press 1963.

<sup>35</sup>New Jersey Archives, First Series vol.30. Abstract of Wills 1730-1750, p.498.

The first record was in the register of the Shawnee Dutch Reformed Church, a pioneer church on the west side of the upper Delaware. The Dutch who were the first settlers of the area had organized the church in 1737, but the first clergyman, Domine Mancius, left, and they had a hard time finding a replacement. Eventually a young fellow, Casparus Fryenmoet or Fryenmuth, was ordained to the ministry in 1741. There was a backlog of infants awaiting baptism so the new domine got busy and began christening them in batches. In order to get their child baptized Richard and Anna had a ten-mile ride, probably on horseback. They left Walpack carrying the baby in their arms, followed the Old Mine Road to Depuis' ford which was three miles above the Water Gap, and splashed across the river into Pennsylvania to get to the church. "*Like most houses in a newly settled country, it was a log structure, and stood on the northeastern border of the Weaver farm, nearly two miles above Shawnee*" [an Indian village]<sup>36</sup> The Howell baby was the seventh child the new domine baptized.<sup>37</sup>

<i>1741</i>	<i>Baptism No.</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Child</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
<i>June 21</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Richard Howel Ann Daniel</i>	<i>Lucretia</i>	<i>[No names]</i>

The lack of witnesses probably indicates that the Howells were not members of the congregation, nor did they appear in the membership or official board rolls. The sermons - two per Sunday - were in Dutch and the long earnest homilies would have been tedious ordeals for our English-speaking forefathers. The customary fee for the baptism was 3 shillings.

Three years later another Howell baby came along to be christened, again by Rev. Fryenmoet. Pay attention to this one, for this little girl is none other than our very own Laurania, destined to become ancestor of the Bay of Quinte Mordens. By this time Walpack had a church of its own so there was no need go across the river.<sup>38</sup> This church was on the historic Old Mine Road a mile west of the present village of Flatbrookville.

<i>1744</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Child</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
<i>April 24</i>	<i>Richard Houwel Anna Daniel</i>	<i>Louwrenia</i>	<i>[No names]</i>

After Laurania came a third girl who was baptized in the Walpack church.

<i>1746</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Child</i>	<i>Witnesses</i>
<i>April 27</i>	<i>Richard Howel Anna Daniel</i>	<i>Laetitia</i>	<i>Isaac van Kampen Lena Rosenkrantz, syn Huys vr. [his wife]</i>

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<sup>36</sup>Amos Canfield, "Records of the Reformed Dutch Church at Smithfield, Pennsylvania," in New York Genealogical and Biographical Record vol. 57, 1926, p.64. Originals are in the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia.

<sup>37</sup> *ibid.* p. 71.

<sup>38</sup>New York Genealogical Biographical Society Collections vol.5. Minisink Valley Dutch Reformed Church Records.

We have not found the baptismal records of the Howell brothers but we know that they were John born in 1751, Griffith born in 1758, and Warren born around 1762.<sup>39</sup> There are traces of all of the family except Letitia through the following years. What happened to her I know not.

In 1746 Richard Howell was one of the men who signed a petition to organize the town of Smithfield, Pennsylvania.<sup>40</sup> The Shawnee Church where Lucretia had been baptized in 1741 became known as the Smithfield Dutch Reformed Church and the church records have been published as Smithfield records. During the time that they lived in Walpack our Howell ancestors, like the Mordens, were affected by the French and Indian wars. John Howell's Revolutionary war record states that he fought the Indians but in what year is unknown. It is said that he could speak Indian, Dutch and French in addition to his native English.

We do not know how Joseph Morden and Laurania Howell met. Perhaps Joseph knew her brother John from their days in the militia, or perhaps he heard that the tailor in Walpack had three beautiful daughters and he decided to have a coat made. Mount Bethel Township where Joseph lived was below the Delaware Water Gap while Walpack where Laurania lived was north of it, so to court the girl of his heart Joseph had to travel upriver. The best road was on the New Jersey side so he may have crossed the river by Goodwin's Ferry.

No record of the marriage of Joseph and Laurania has come to light but likely it took place around 1761, an estimate based on the approximate birth date of their oldest child. I would guess that Laurania was seventeen and Joseph about twenty. Some of the Howell boys were red-haired, -- John for one -- the result of their Welsh ancestry, and I like to imagine Laurania as a curvaceous lass with copper-colored tresses.

We know that they had at least six children, and in that era of high infant mortality there may well have been others who died in infancy. Two or three of the oldest Morden children were probably born in Pennsylvania or possibly New Jersey. So far we have failed to find any birth or baptismal records and dates are approximated from other sources such as military records and obituaries. The oldest son was **James**, born around 1762, who acted as head of the family after his father's death. The second was **Richard**, born 1765. We have no way of determining if any girls were born in the interval between the two boys. **John**, **Lucretia**, and the youngest boy **Joseph Jr.** were born after their parents had left the Delaware and moved north into New York.

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<sup>39</sup>Watt, Gavin K. The King's Royal Regiment of New York, by Brig. Gen. Ernest A. Cruikshank. Ontario Hist. Soc., Toronto, 1984 reprint of 1931 ed. Also in: PAC mf. #2864 W. O. 28, p. 189, R.R.N.Y. Military record page 210.

<sup>40</sup>W.W.H.Davies, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 1876, p. 585.



## THE GRASS GROWS GREENER IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY

About the time of his marriage Joseph began to hear reports of new land available in upstate New York. The Mohawk Valley had long been unsafe for English settlement because of the danger of French and Indian attacks but with the ending of the Seven Years' War, it was at last open to colonists, and people began moving into the fertile riverlands and into the back country beyond. Joseph and Laurania were part of this tide of colonization that flowed into the domain governed by Sir William Johnson. By 1769 or even earlier they settled in Albany County north of the Mohawk River at a place called Philadelphia Bush,<sup>41</sup> a few miles southwest of Sir William's baronial dwelling, Johnson Hall.

When a young man, William Johnson had been sent out from Ireland to manage his uncle's huge estates on the Mohawk River and had become the most powerful man in the valley.<sup>42</sup> His uncle's land was on the south side of the river but William seized the opportunity to make his own fortune and obtained a grant of 100,000 acres on the north side of the Mohawk. In time he was made Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the British and given a knighthood. The heart of his settlement was Johnson Hall built about ten miles north of the River. It was erected shortly before the Mordens arrived and is still standing, a solid square mansion built in the plain Georgian style of an old Irish manor. Although it appears to be made of stone it was actually made of wood blocks, cut and painted to imitate stone.<sup>43</sup> Here he lived in feudal grandeur amid his tenants and his Indian allies.

Sir William made a splendid Indian Superintendent. He could orate before the Indian chiefs, smoke a pipe, trade wampum, and make treaties as skillfully as if he had been born in a longhouse. The friendly Six Nations Indians admired him and were given a hospitable welcome to the Hall. They set up camp and built their cookfires around it and held their Great Councils on the Hall lawn. After his first wife's death Sir William took an Indian housekeeper-wife, the vivacious Mohawk princess, Miss Molly Brant, - the "brown Lady Johnson" - and by so doing almost became one of the Six Nations tribes himself. The alliance cemented his relations with his brother-in-law, the Mohawk chief Joseph Brant, who remained a staunch ally of the British throughout the American Revolution. Sir William was looking for good tenants to colonize his great tracts and to that end brought out Highlanders from Scotland, fearless brawny laddies that were staunchly loyal to him and his family. He also encouraged Irishmen and English to settle in the area, people such as Joseph Morden, the Howells and the Cotters.

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<sup>41</sup>French's New York Gazeteer: "The first settlement in Mayfield Twp. was commenced about 1760 or '61, under Sir Wm. Johnson, on the old road from Tribes Hill to the Sacondaga and was then called "Philadelphia Bush".

<sup>43</sup>Johnson Hall State Historical Site, Hall Avenue, Johnstown, NY 12095. Open at stated hours May to October.

When the Mordens came from Pennsylvania their most likely route from the Delaware was the Old Mine Road across the mountains for a relatively short distance to the lower Hudson River Valley, and from there upriver and into the Mohawk. The year of their journey is indicated by the Loyalist claim which stated succinctly: "*Was settled on the Mohawk ... had a Tenant Farm ... Near 70 acres Clear. Had been in Possession seven years ...*" [before joining the British forces in 1776]. This dates Joseph's lease around 1769, or earlier. Settlers frequently squatted on the land, built a cabin and cleared a few acres before actually obtaining their contract. We have seen that Joseph was paid £25. 17s. 8d from the Pennsylvania estate of James Morden in 1765 and probably this money was used in obtaining his New York lease.

Although land on the Mohawk was uncleared forest it was not to be had just for the taking. The Dutch, the original colonizers in the 17th century, had brought with them a feudal system in which patroons owned great tracts of land which were subdivided and leased to tenants who could never hope to have title to their acres, and who would forever be obligated to pay rent and render service. As the tenant labored to clear the fields the owner's land increased in value. This "lease forever" system persisted even after the Dutch were succeeded by the British. Large blocks such as The Holland Patent, the Stuart purchase and the Kingsborough Patent were granted to proprietors who held them for the permanent rental income. Sir William Johnson owned a large territory and collected £6 a year for each farm of one hundred acres. Joseph's farm in 1776 was in the New Philadelphia Bush near Johnstown where he leased land "*from one Holland.*"<sup>44</sup> It is hard to determine the precise location of pre-Revolutionary property because the American victory wiped the slate clean and new American owners from 1785 on were looked on as the original settlers. Local historians say that Joseph's farm was about three miles west of Fonda, Tryon County.

Sir William Johnson's will of 27 Jan 1774, mentioned the land leased to Joseph Morden and three of his neighbors.<sup>45</sup> The will said "*To George, my natural son by Mary Brant, and brother of the aforementioned children, I devise and bequeath tow [two] lots of land, part of Sacondaga patent, known by No. Forty three and forty four, and called New Philadelphia [or Philadelphia Bush], containing two hundred and fifty acres each.* (Editor's note: Those lands were some three miles westward of the present village of Fondasbush, and were occupied before the Revolution by the families of one Shades, Michael Carman, and Joseph Morden. Jacob Ross, a single young man with Carman, and Shades had three sons grown up who were all Tories. **These tenants all removed with the Johnson family to Canada. Compensation was subsequently sought for these lands. --**). "Shades" was probably Jacob Sheets, a name originally spelled Schaets. John Howell later married one of the Sheets girls. Carman, Sheets and another tenant at Johnstown, Joseph Cryderman, remembered and

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<sup>44</sup>The Holland Patent was granted to Henry Fox, Lord Holland, on March 20, 1769. Lord Holland was b. 1705, gambler and spendthrift when young, later influential in politics. He d. 1774 leaving land to son Stephen who died soon after leaving all to his infant son Richard Henry Fox. Had 80,000 acres south of the Mohawk near German Flatts and 20,000 + acres north of it, surveyed 1769.

Another Holland who also owned land on the Mohawk was Lt. Holland, an Army officer at Albany 1699-Commissioner of Indian affairs 1721-1726.died 1756. Son Edward b. Albany 1702 inherited and, in turn, left to his young son Henry a tract of land in or near Schoharie, Albany Co. Henry may be Joseph Morden's landlord.

<sup>45</sup>Jeptha A. Simms, *The Frontiersmen of New York*, Albany NY 1883. v.1. Sir William's will.

attested to the Morden farm when James submitted a claim for war losses after the American Revolution. Other neighbors who bore witness to the Morden losses were Simon Johnson, and John Cough Sr.<sup>46</sup>

There is a vague and baffling reference to Mordant and Solomon in the Johnson papers.<sup>47</sup> These papers were damaged by fire so that parts of them are missing and we can only guess at their meaning. Hugh Fraser, apparently Sir William Johnson's agent at Beverdam reported to him in a letter of 22d Nov 1767, "...I hope you have no objection to send pr. The Bearer the Contents of the enclosed Aco'. Your [ ] Mordant & Solomon in enclosed in the aco'. I imagine you'll give orders to some of your tenants [ ] grain, if you'll be pleased to direct them to me [ ] furnish them with 200 Skipples of wheat & Rye [ ] you'll Excuse this freedom from him who is with great Regard & Esteem

Sir  
Your most obed<sup>t</sup>. Humble servant  
Hugh Fraser

Mordant, whoever he was, seems to have had business deals with Sir William in 1767.

Sir William Johnson's brother Warren Johnson, spent a couple of years in the Mohawk Valley about 1760 and kept a journal recording life at Fort Johnson.<sup>48</sup> Warren had landed at Philadelphia and found it was better laid out, more civilized and healthier than New York City but life in the Mohawk Valley was crude and primitive. "*Schenectady is a little dirty village 16 miles from my brother's...*" Army officers going up and down the Mohawk used Fort Johnson as an inn. "*More custom at Fort Johnson than at any inn in England...There are vast numbers of Indians who are troublesome beyond thought to my brother. They often kill one another in drunken fits.*" He found the Dutch outspoken and ill-mannered and much preferred the Indians. The Dutch in turn hated the English and Irish. A Dutch mob in Schenectady murdered two Irish men and once set eight dogs on Sir William in Albany.

Warren arrived in October when the game birds had migrated and wrote, "*Everything very scarce and very dear here; wild fowl very scarce; there is a kind of pheasant and woodcock...There are a few ducks, and some wild turkey and deer to be had in winter. They are obliged to pen up their sheep for fear of the wolves. Their horses run in the woods all winter... My brother had four horses killed this winter by wolves...Both white people and Indians eat bears' flesh. There are fine hickory nuts, butter nuts, a kind of walnut, small chestnuts in abundance, and peaches and apples... Pigeons are so plenty there is no driving them off a small piece of ground of 6 acres with many guns, though numbers of them be killed.*" There were plenty of trout and pike even in winter, caught through the ice, and a few salmon. Occasionally a wood buffalo was seen. In spring there was maple syrup and spruce beer made with maple sap, and in summer there were wild strawberries and raspberries in season.

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<sup>46</sup> The names of the four witnesses are from James's Loyalist claim 1786 (Ontario Bureau of Archives Report 1904, v.2 p-1110-1111). Another of Holland's tenants was Loyalist John Cook Sr from Johnstown. He and his son-in-law Jacob Ross served in the same unit as Joseph Morden in the Rebellion. We can see Cook's Loyalist claim in the Ontario Archives Report for 1904, v.2, p.1120. "Had 250 acres tenant land, a lease forever from Harry Holland" for which he paid £5. rent. Cook was warned off and fled to Canada.

<sup>47</sup>Sir William Johnson Papers, v.5, p.806. A map shows a place named Beaver Dams over two hundred miles southwest of Johnstown.

<sup>48</sup> The Loyalist Gazette, Spring 1996, pp.15-25 Fort Johnson was the first house that Sir William built. Johnson Hall was later.

The man from Ireland found American winters bitterly cold. At Fort Johnson where the Mohawk River was 300 yards wide it froze hard and people walked across or drove their sleighs over the ice. "*The houses having no window shuts above stairs in the country are much colder than in Europe...*" Water and ink and even strong punch froze inside the English houses but the Dutch kept their houses warm - too warm to suit him. "*The Dutch make great use of stoves which keep the room next to them very warm, which is entirely disagreeable to all strangers and give them a headache.*" The world that Warren described is the world into which our Morden grandsire settled.

Our Mordens had already adjusted to the North American way of life and did not suffer the culture shock that overtook Warren Johnson. Joseph made good headway clearing his farm and by the time of the Revolution had opened up 70 acres and owned a team of oxen, two horses, and four cows.<sup>49</sup> Not every settler had both oxen and horses or so many cattle. Joseph's efforts compared well with neighbors who had cleared only twenty-five or thirty acres, and at age thirty-six he was making good progress. Sometimes relatives came up from the Delaware. Daniel Morden, probably Joseph's younger brother, was in the area, still single and possibly living with Joseph and Laurania. There were visits from Moses of New Jersey and it is said that Ralph came up on one occasion. He had remained in Pennsylvania and was paying taxes on two hundred acres in Mount Bethel.<sup>50</sup>

One of their neighbors was James Cotter who had immigrated from Ireland in 1751 and leased 100 acres at Johnstown from Sir William Johnson. He lived in a log cabin on his 30 acre clearing with his wife Lucretia and their children. It is almost certain that the wife was Lucretia Howell, the oldest Howell daughter who had been baptized in Smithfield, Pennsylvania. She was only ten the year that James Cotter emigrated so he was considerably older than Lucretia and she may have been a second wife. The Cotter's son Richard was a school chum of James Morden, probably his cousin. The two young fellows could not foresee that in a few years their lives would be disrupted by revolution and that together they would serve in the Provincial Troops and settle near one another in the Bay of Quinte.

Around 1769 Sir William Johnson established a Free School at Johnstown for both boys and girls. The first list of scholars showed 45 names. Richard Cotter was the fourth name and nearby was his friend **James Morden**, sixth on the list. In 1772 Sir William Johnson wrote in a letter "*The school there is extremely promising and increases fast, 86.*"<sup>51</sup> Although the school was coeducational none of the Morden girls was on its roll.

When Sir William Johnson founded a Masonic Lodge at Johnstown the Charter for St. Patrick's Lodge No. 4 F & AM was granted by the Grand Lodge of England on 23 May 1766.<sup>52</sup> Sixteen men were present at the charter meeting held on 2d August 1766. The organizational meeting took place at Johnson

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<sup>49</sup> Ontario Bureau of Archives Report 1904. Claim #1095, James Morden.

<sup>50</sup> Northampton Co. Tax Lists 1761-1793. Mt Bethel. LDS microfilm 0021682. See summary of Ralph's taxes in Appendix. There are such variations in the amount of taxes assessed Ralph that one might conclude there were two men named Ralph Morden.

<sup>51</sup> O'Callaghan. Documentary History of New York p.261. The list is undated but appears with a letter dated 10 May May 1769. The second letter is on p. 482.

<sup>52</sup> Washington Frothingham. History of Fulton County, D. Mason, 1892. Pp.285-289

Hall on 23 August with Sir William as master. I have read that when the war commenced all but three of the forty-three members of the Lodge were Tories who went to Canada and that the Lodge had to be reorganized after the Revolution. Whether or not Joseph Morden was a Freemason is unknown. I have tried to locate a list of the Lodge members but have failed in my efforts.

When the Mordens first settled at Johnstown it was in Albany County. In 1772 a new county was split off from it named Tryon after the governor of New York recently sent out by England. Johnstown was just inside Tryon's eastern boundary and it included the western Mohawk Valley as far as Fort Stanwix. Governor Tryon's term of office was destined to be brief, terminated when Britain lost control.

The Howell family, Richard and Anna and their children, had followed the Mordens from Walpack to the Mohawk Valley around 1775. We have two ways of checking this date. William Canniff<sup>53</sup> wrote that their son John was 24 when he "*took up his residence at Johnstown on the Mohawk River*". Since John was born in 1751 it follows that he was 24 in 1775. Furthermore in John's Loyalist claim of 1787 he stated that his father's farm in New York "*was a lease from Abraham Down about 12 years ago*". Again we arrive at approximately 1775.

Richard Howell paid £5. per year rent for 170 acres near Mayfields and held the lease "forever".<sup>54</sup> According to a local history<sup>55</sup> the first permanent settlement at Mayfields was about 1760 under Sir William Johnson "*on an old road that led from Tribes Hill to the Sacandaga, and the few early inhabitants called the settlement 'Philadelphia Bush' from the fact that some of their number came from Philadelphia or vicinity*". The name Mayfield came from the Mayfield Patent which was granted in 1770.

By the outbreak of the war Richard and his sons had built a log cabin and barn and cleared about thirty acres. This is a lot of land to clear in one year, so they either worked hard and fast, or they took over a farm which had already been partly cleared. Abijah Christie, a neighbor whose farm was on one of the old Indian trails witnessd John's Loyalist claim in simple words:

*Knew Claimt from near Mayfield. There was a Considerable Clearance. He lived there. His Father lived with him. They had a Considerable Stock. His Father died at Beginning of War. It came to Claimt. on his Father's death.*<sup>56</sup>

John was still young and single before the Revolution so it is hard to interpret the statement "*his father lived with him*" Richard Howell was only about 60 but may have been in failing health. If his mother was there her presence was assumed. A woman could manage the household, make soap, spin wool, knit sox and feed the chickens but she didn't get into the records.

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<sup>53</sup> William Canniff, The Settlement of Upper Canada (Toronto: Dudley & Burns, 1869; 1971 rpt., Belleville: Mika). p. 105.

<sup>54</sup> Ontario Bureau of Archives Report 1904, Loyalist claim of John Howell, late of Tryon Co., p.1021.

<sup>55</sup> Washington Frothingham, History of Fulton County (Syracuse: D. Mason, 1892).

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

Just before the American Revolution Joseph Morden had hopes of getting more land. Sir William Johnson's first settlement was Johnstown. His second settlement was four miles north of the Mohawk River in the area now known as Gloversville. It was intended to be an outpost leading towards the wilderness. Perhaps thinking of the future of his sons who would need farms of their own one day, Joseph applied for a grant in this huge new tract. On 27 April 1770 Sir William drew up a list of eighty freeholders whose applications had been approved.<sup>57</sup>

*"Names of those who are to be inserted in the Patent for the Northern Tract of 80 Thousand Acres, in the rear of Kingsborough, alias Stuart Purchase."*

This wording implies that a map was to be sectioned into lots and the names written in. James Cotter was the twelfth name on the list and Joseph Mordant was number thirteen. One account of this land agreement says that the names consisting of prominent early settlers and people who had served with Johnson in the French and Indian wars and others deserving preferential treatment read like a 'who's who' of Tryon county,<sup>58</sup>. At any rate this transaction was never completed. Sir William died during a powwow in 1774 and the grand plans for the future were never realized. The very security from French and Indian attack which allowed our ancestors to settle along the Mohawk was in the end their undoing, for as soon as the American colonies no longer needed the protection of the British they could afford to break the connection. Revolution was brewing.



"The Council Fire at Johnson Hall"

*a valuable old painting that belonged to Mrs. Charles B. (Rose M.) Knox*

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<sup>57</sup> Johnson, Sir William. *Papers*, ed by James Sullivan, A. C. Flick, and M. W. Hamilton. (Albany, 1921-1965). 12 p. 818 819. The word freeholder is defined: An estate held in fee or for life.

<sup>58</sup> Peter C. Betz, "Edward Wall, a Loyalist in Conflict," in *The Loyalist Gazette* v. XXXVI no. 2, (Fall 1998).

## LOYAL TO THE UNION JACK

The coming of the American Revolution disrupted our ancestors' ordered existence and threw all their plans into disarray. The action began in 1773. Boston held its Tea Party, in 1774 the first Continental Congress assembled, and in 1775 Paul Revere galloped in the night and George Washington was appointed Commander in Chief of the American forces. The Mohawk Valley was a quiet backwater at first, populated by old Dutch families and more recent British Tories, but the discontent developed a momentum of its own that crept steadily westward from New England and finally reached Tryon County. Johnstown which had been founded and influenced by Sir William for so many years remained loyal to his interests even after his death and was recognized as a Tory stronghold. Knowing this the firebrands in New England despatched Patriot troops to the Mohawk to rouse the citizens to rebellion.

The privileged Johnson family became the focus for envy and American Patriots formed the Tryon Committee of Safety to spy upon and report their movements and those of their supporters. Sir William's son, Sir John, was a lesser man than his father, but nevertheless the tenants and neighbors rallied round him when hostilities began. Col. Guy Johnson, Sir William's nephew, was the first to leave the Valley, taking his family to the safety of Montreal in 1775. Sir John remained and when clashes broke out between the Patriots and Indians he did not handle the situation well and it rapidly worsened. There was skirmishing early in 1776 when he, who was titular head of the Tryon County Militia, was outraged by being made prisoner - along with his wife - of the very militia that he had commanded. The American General Schuyler confiscated his arms and disarmed his tenants as well. This was a serious matter in a land where bears raided the pigpen and where wild ducks or deer meant dinner. Joseph Morden may well have lost a precious musket to the rebels.

The Mordens and Cotters looked on Britain as the mother country, the preserver of law and order and they remained loyal. When the Howells arrived from Pennsylvania they had no sooner got settled than they were pressured to align themselves on the side of revolution. The minutes of one of the planning meetings of the Tryon Committee of Safety says "*and they shall meet again on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March next [1776] at the house of Richd. Howel to vote regularly and finally their proper officers*", although the attendance record of the meeting shows that Richard was not among the eighteen men present.<sup>59</sup>

As soon as Sir John was released on parole, he made plans to escape to the British and began rounding up supporters. His Indians allies smuggled replacement arms into Johnson Hall in their

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<sup>59</sup> Maryle B. Penrose, *Mohawk Valley in the Revolution; Committee of Safety Papers ... Franklin Park NJ: Liberty Bell 1978, p. 74.*

backpacks. The Committee of Safety had eyes everywhere and rumors of the activities at the Hall got back to the Patriots who sprang into action. Thanks to his Mohawk stepmother Molly Brant, Sir John also had a splendid intelligence service and little escaped the scouts' notice. In May 1776 the Indians raised the alarm that a Patriot force under Colonel Dayton was on its way to seize Johnson Hall and its owner. Sir John buried the family papers and silver and prepared for a getaway. Runners sped away to spread the word that all able Tories were needed at the Hall. **Three Mordens, Joseph, Daniel and Moses**, who was apparently up on a visit from the Delaware, were among the first to arrive. A table was set up on the lawn and the men stepped up one by one to sign the preliminary enrollment list. Joseph, Daniel and Moses were at the front of the line and wrote their names near the top of the first page.<sup>60</sup> The document is undated and some estimate the date to be May 18<sup>th</sup>, but in later years Laurania stated in a Loyalist claim that Joseph "*entered the service 10<sup>th</sup> May 1776*".

Joseph had little time to put his affairs in order. It is to be hoped that he was able to go home to tell Laurania that he had joined up, to give some practical orders to the boys to carry on with the farm work as best they could, and tell the girls to help their mother. He would have gathered up his homespun jacket, some bread and cheese, and a flintlock gun if he still had one. A few kisses to his wife and the girls, hands laid on the lads' shoulders, and he was away. They never saw him again. He was thirty-six and Laurania was thirty-two when they said goodbye. Hiking along with Joseph was Daniel Morden age 20, a bachelor, who was also in the Colonel's Company. Joining Sir John and his forces, Indian and white, the two Mordens headed out through the woods straight across the Adirondack Mountains towards the British in Canada. Although Moses had signed the preliminary roll at Johnson Hall he returned home to enlist in the New Jersey Volunteers. At the end of the war he stated in a claim that he served for seven years with the New Jersey Volunteers where he was a "*non-commissioned officer, was in several actions, was often wounded.*"<sup>61</sup>

Laurania Morden stayed on in her cabin and tried to keep the farm work going, comforted by the belief that the British would quickly defeat the upstart Americans, that Joseph would come home soon, and that life would return to normal. Some of Laurania's children were extremely young and it is even possible that she was pregnant. There are many accounts of Loyalist wives who were left "in a delicate condition" when their men went off to war. The Tory families lived warily, supporting one another and cautiously sharing any news that came their way. All around them were the watchful eyes of the Committee of Safety.

Ahead of Johnson's party lay two hundred miles of mountain country. An old map of the period left the area blank except for the words *This Country by reason of Mountains Swamps and Drowned Lands is impassable and uninhabited..* The normal easy route would have been farther east but the American forces were approaching from that direction so Sir John left by way of the lesser known route north to the Sacandaga River. There were about one hundred and seventy men, red and white, led by three Mohawk guides from the nearby

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<sup>60</sup> Muster Roll at Johnson Hall, Johnstown. This May 1776 list was at one time to be seen at Johnson Hall when Col. Charles Burton Briggs was curator. When I was looking at it the Colonel pointed out that Joseph and Daniel and Moses had signed on the first page, showing that they were among the first to rally to the cause. An enthusiastic admirer of the loyalists, Col. Briggs had gathered together many source documents. When he was replaced by a new curator with Patriot sympathies he took the papers with him as his personal property. A typed copy of the roster is in the Montgomery County Archives, Fonda, New York. See also deposition of Laurania Morden, 1787. PAC, AO13/13. Reel B2187, p. 413.

<sup>61</sup>Ronald S. Barrons, *A Morden Trilogy*, Hamilton, 2002. "Old Moses Morden is listed in the muster Roll of Lieut. Col. Isaac Allen's Company in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, New Jersey Volunteers at Richmond, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1777 and also listed with Colonel Allen in 1781."

Indian settlement at Fort Hunter. A few doomed dogs followed along. The route at the beginning was very familiar for it led past The Fish House, an old summer camp of Sir William Johnson's. Perhaps Joseph had a word with his Howell in-laws as they trudged past Mayfield. At first the men were full of energy and determination and dragged with them a small cannon that they thought might be useful. Their enthusiasm was short-lived. There was still snow on the high ground, the woods were wet with the spring melt and the cannon had to be wrestled along through the mud. The trail grew faint and a few miles into the bush they abandoned the gun and left it there in the trees. Its twin is still to be seen today at Johnson Hall.

Historian T. Wood Clarke described their route: *"In going through the Adirondacks the party probably went by road to the Fish house at the bend of the Sacandaga River and then followed the old Indian trail to Raquette Lake. From here they must have followed the Raquette River through or alongside Forked Lake and Long Lake. From the north end of Long Lake they cut across country by way of Anthony's Ponds to Big Tupper lake. From Big Tupper lake they descended the Raquette River to the point where it empties into the St. Lawrence at the St. Regis Indian Village. The trip down the Raquette River was confirmed years later by one of the survivors."*<sup>62</sup>

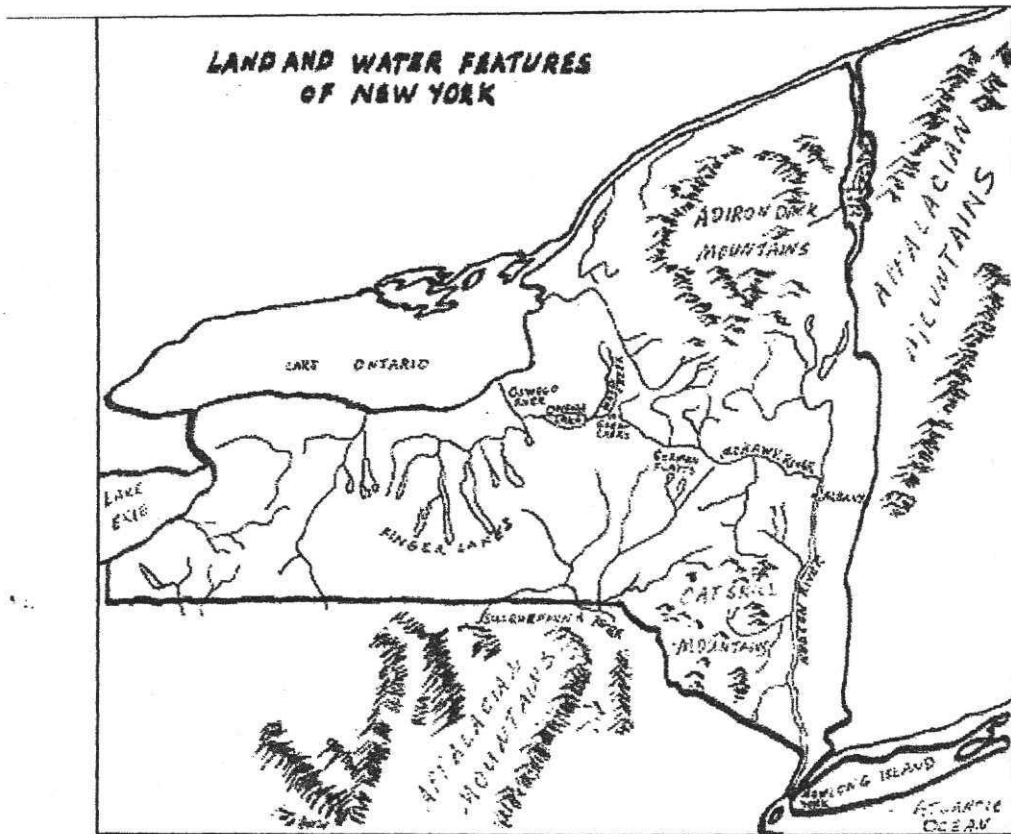
They could not live off the country. Even though they tried to move quietly there were too many of them and their crashing through the brush sent jays screaming alarms through the woods. The animals vanished and there was no game for the pot. In a few days their meager stores ran out and the men were forced to chew beech leaves and dig up roots and wild onions. Ask not what became of the dogs. As they neared the St. Lawrence Guy Johnson in Canada somehow got word of their approach and sent out Akwesasne Indians to lead them in to their Indian Village. After nineteen days of scant rations, plagued by blackflies and mosquitos, the exhausted volunteers reached the St. Lawrence ragged and hungry. There on the south shore at the St. Regis Indian settlement they rested and regained strength. They could not eat solid food at first so they began with a tea made of roasted corn, sweetened with maple sugar.

Meanwhile Sir John, who had probably eaten a little better than his men, was busily rounding up more Indian followers and a few Canadians. Americans had invaded Canada in the winter and were still at Montreal so Sir John was planning to rout them out. On June 13 with replenished stores and about five hundred men, - two of them Mordens, - he began moving east down river towards Montreal. By the time they reached there two days later British troops had just arrived from England and the Americans had fled in panic toward Lake Champlain. What the groomed and polished British officers thought of Johnson's starving, unshaven, tattered colonists emerging from the bush is best not to imagine. Being townsmen themselves the English had no conception of what an endurance test that three week trek across the mountains had been.

## MAP OF ADIRONDACKS

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<sup>62</sup> T. Wood Clark. *The Bloody Mohawk*, Macmillan 1941. Rpt. by Ira J. Friedman 1968. P.195.



*(Courtesy of Robert Scott)*

The Mohawk River travels east through central New York into the Hudson River at Albany. The Hudson River flows south into the Atlantic Ocean at New York City. Wood Creek, one mile to the west of a bend in the Mohawk River, is the entry into a continuous water connection westward to Lake Ontario via Oneida Lake and the Oswego River.

## PROVINCIAL TROOPS GET NO RESPECT

Moving on to Chambly, Sir John had an interview with the great man Governor General Guy Carleton and was given the authority to raise the 1st Battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York (KRRNY). Thus began Johnson's famous King's Royal Yorkers. Joseph and Daniel enlisted in the new regiment on the very first day it was officially mustered, 19 June 1776, and this is the date that stands in the army records.<sup>63</sup> Two weeks later the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776. We look back on our Morden men with pride knowing that they actually enlisted six weeks before the regiment had official sanction.

Having arrived full of ginger and fighting spirit, the men from Johnstown felt let down when they were assigned to picket duty or were set to camp chores and to building cabins for refugees. The first impression of a shabby disordered crew was to dog them for years and the British authorities looked on them with disdain. General Carleton commented that they were "*better with the axe than with the firelock.*" Crushing the rebellion had been their aim when they joined up but they followed orders and picked up their axes and shovels.

Joseph and Daniel, still clad in their farmer's homespun, were at Point Claire in Colonel Patrick Daley's Company in the muster roll of 23 Feb 1777.<sup>64</sup> Sir John Johnson had been pestering the British with requests for uniforms for his ragged regiment but they were slow in forthcoming. Finally the Provincial troops were granted the right to wear uniforms on condition that Sir John would pay for them. They were to be green faced with white to set them apart from the scarlet of the regular British army. Although not as dashing as the uniforms worn by the regular soldiers, time proved green a safer color. Red shows up through the trees and makes a splendid target to train one's sights on. It took time for Sir John to find the money and order the material and patterns from London and the men were not able to set aside their wornout civilian garb and don the green coats for nearly a year. These were the uniforms that gave them the nicknames "Johnson's Greens" or "The Royal Greens" or the "Loyal Greens".

In the spring of 1777 one of Sir John's recruiting parties brought a group of eighty-two Tories from Johnstown into the army camp. Among them were Joseph's brothers-in-law, **John Howell** and **Griffith Howell**, who brought news of the families that had been left behind. They both had harrowing experiences of their own to relate. The rebels had forced them to serve against their will. John "*deserted from them at the first opportunity*" while Griffith was "*thrown in gaol*" and "*was obliged to take arms*

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<sup>63</sup> Watt, Gavin K. *The King's Royal Regiment of New York*, by Brig. Gen. Ernest A. Cruikshank. Ontario Hist. Soc., Toronto, 1984 reprint of 1931 ed. Also in: PAC mf. #2864 W. O. 28, p. 189, R.R.N.Y.

<sup>64</sup> Gordon Crouse cites PAC mf 2864, p. 200 of Regimental Lists.

to get out of gaol but went from home".<sup>65</sup> They enlisted in the KRRNY on 23d April and John's backwoods skills made him famed as a remarkable scout, Indian interpreter, and a legend for daring. He is mentioned in the accounts of both friend and foe. Back in the Mohawk Valley the infuriated Americans listed the Howells as enemies to the country. Two weeks later another group came in to the camp to enlist. These were Scottish Highlanders that included several members of the McDonell family from the Charlotte River. They joined as "Gentleman Volunteers" and we will hear more of one, Donald John McDonell.

The news that the Howells brought of the state of affairs back at Johnstown was disturbing. The Patriots controlled the Mohawk Valley. Johnson Hall had been converted into a barracks and the Committee of Safety had spies everywhere. Lady Mary Johnson was taken as a hostage and kept under house arrest in Albany and Kingston until she escaped to Paulus Hook and crossed the river to New York City. Tory families were harassed and suffered all sorts of hardships and terrorist acts. Crops were burnt, cattle confiscated and driven away, and unjust "fines" were exacted. To avoid being conscripted into the American army as the Howells had been, young men had to hide in the woods or in holes under the barn floor and as James Morden approached sixteen, the legal age for call-up, it was almost certain that by 1778 he would be forced into service with the patriots. Sheer survival became a struggle.

After the young Loyalist fellows vanished from Johnstown with the recruiters in April 1777 the Tryon Committee of Safety issued harsh orders:<sup>66</sup>

*Resolved... that all the disaffected persons in the Settlement of Johnson's Bush and adjacent neighborhood, shall immediately be seized and taken in Custody, Men, Women & their Children, as being proved Enemies to the Country, respectively charged with taking up arms against us, with enlisting for the Service of the Enemy, Supplying them with provisions, and conveying Intelligence to them.*

*Resolved, that the Women disaffected, as aforementioned shall have two Days Time of Liberty to make ready for Departure out of this County, and that after their two Days past they, Men, Women and Children, so taken as above resolved, shall be sent to Kingston, there to Receive further Orders of the Convention of our Representatives.*

There is no report as to what action followed this directive. Loyalist claims of some of the Morden's neighbors stated that the farm stock was driven away when the man of the family followed Sir John to Montreal. I assume that Laurania managed to cling to the family cabin two years longer because her son James did not go to Montreal until 1779. This was the year in which Sir John Johnson's mansion, Johnson Hall, was confiscated as Loyalist property and sold at auction. The new owners wine and dined General Lafayette there.

Up on the St. Lawrence Sir John finally organized his men of the KRRNY into companies and they began to train. Joseph and Daniel Morden were in Sir John Johnson's own Colonel's Company which was formed from his faithful personal tenants and followers. These New York farmers could shoot deer and wild ducks but they needed a lot of drill to change them from independent backwoodsmen into a disciplined fighting unit. Every morning they were roused in the pre-dawn and drilled at 6 A.M.

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<sup>65</sup> Haldimand Papers B.158. Apr 23 1777, List of Men arrived from Johnstown (Mohawk River).

<sup>66</sup> Penrose, p. 110.



### JOHNSON'S ROYAL REGIMENT OF NEW YORK 1776

This is the green and white uniform worn by Joseph, Daniel and James Morden, and by John Howell, James Cotter and fellow soldiers of their regiment. The pewter buttons were stamped with the Crown and the letters "R.P" for Royal Provincial. The hats were of felt and the leggings were of brown cloth.

Every afternoon they had target practice with their muskets. The frontiersmen were already experienced marksmen and Joseph Morden had probably used the flintlock in the French and Indian wars. The muskets were clumsy inaccurate firearms, hard to aim and slow to fire, the gunpowder was difficult to keep dry and the flints that ignited the powder were constantly wearing out. After target practice it was back to the parade ground for a few more brisk laps before the day ended.

It was a relief when summer came and the KRRNY was finally ordered off on an expedition to take the American Fort Stanwix which was on the western end of the Mohawk. This maneuver was one prong of British General John Burgoyne's clumsily executed attempt to drive a wedge between the American Patriot forces. After the war ended Laurania Morden stated in her claim for losses that "*Joseph Morden entered the service 10<sup>th</sup> May 1776 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battn KRR and deceased in Dec 1777 in Montreal after General Burgoyne's campaign.*"<sup>67</sup> Implicit in her statement is the assumption that Joseph took part in the action.

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<sup>67</sup>National Archives of Canada. AO 13/13 p.413. Microfilm reel B2187.

## THE ST. LEGER EXPEDITION

**A**lthough the overall operation is called Burgoyne's Campaign, Sir John and his Johnstown followers were not with the main army but were in a flanking manoeuvre led by Brigadier General Barry St. Leger. My account of the St. Leger Expedition and the probable movements of Joseph and Daniel Morden relies heavily on the two companion studies by Gavin K. Watt and James F. Morrison which identify the officers and men of the various companies involved.<sup>68</sup>

The British forces planned to attack from three directions, converge at Albany, and crush the rebellion once and for all. **General Burgoyne** was to drive straight south from Montreal while **General Howe** moved north from New York City to meet him. The smaller force in which the Morden men served under Brigadier General **Barry St. Leger** was to make a long roundabout detour to the west and double back east down the Mohawk River. How could the rebel rabble withstand such a triple onslaught led by professional trained troops, the British reasoned. The plan failed through poor communications and the British failure to adapt to wilderness warfare. British officers, accustomed to the settled countryside of Europe, failed to understand the need for provisioning and transporting an army in North America, nor were there many roads. In Europe the troops could forage and "borrow" horses, wagons and livestock wherever they marched but in the American wilderness there was nothing to borrow. The men would have to "live off the country".

St. Leger collected a small mixed company of 750 men - half white, half Iroquois, only one-tenth the size of Burgoyne's army. The whites were British troops, some Quebec-born French-Canadiens, and Johnson's Royal Regiment of New York, among whom were our Colonel's Company. The Indians were Mohawks and Senecas. While Burgoyne's main army of over 7000 men assembled near Montreal at St. John's on the Richelieu River, St. Leger took his men west of the city to train and get equipped for the expedition. He received his orders on May 30th and on the first of June they camped at Lachine.

When the Mordens enlisted their commanding officer was Capt Patrick Daley, a friend of the Johnsons and an experienced officer. On June 15, 1777, Sir John promoted the newly arrived energetic young "Gentleman Volunteer", Donald John McDonnell Jr, surnamed Scotus, to Captain-Lieutenant and put him in charge of the Colonel's Company. McDonnell had under his command 2 officers, 1 chaplain and 3 serjeants, 3 corporals and 46 privates, - about 55 in all. He kept them busy and he smartened them up. Hair tied in a queue and whitened with flour. Hats neatly cocked. The tailors rushed to finish the green uniforms and 18-year old Griffith Howell, enrolled as "Tailor, Tryon Co" had a chance to ply the trade he had learned from his father. Joseph and Daniel and their ilk had more musket practice, more

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<sup>68</sup>Gavin K. Watt & James F. Morrison, *The British Campaign of 1777; the St. Leger Expedition, the forces of the crown and congress*, 2001.

Gavin K. Watt & James F. Morrison, *Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley: the St. Leger expedition of 1777*, 2002.

drill, and were ordered to assemble their kits. In their little free time the men went fishing but they got their precious new army boots muddy and were told if they wanted to fish to go do it in their bare feet.

After three weeks they loaded their food and gear and barrels of rum into bateaux and on June 23d finally shoved off and headed up the St. Lawrence. The Colonel's Company was returning to home ground on the Mohawk at last. Their hopes were high that the campaign would go well, that they would soon see their families again, and that peace would be restored and they could get back to farming.

Even though French Canadian rivermen had been hired to help, the long trip upstream was grueling. Eighteen miles was the average traveled in a day. The St. Lawrence was then a wild untamed river that had fourteen major rapids with names like Cascades, Split Rock, Mille Roches, and worst of all the thundering Long Sault, a maelstrom of rocks, leaping spray and treacherous eddies. (It remained a fearsome sight until it was tamed by the St. Lawrence Seaway.) The rapids could only be navigated by unloading the passengers and keeping the boat close to shore while men poled and waded and hauled on ropes. Once the current grabbed a bateau from the Colonel's Company and swept it away and they were in disgrace once again. Officers had to pay some Indians to retrieve it and a damaging belief arose that the Colonel's men were careless with their equipment.

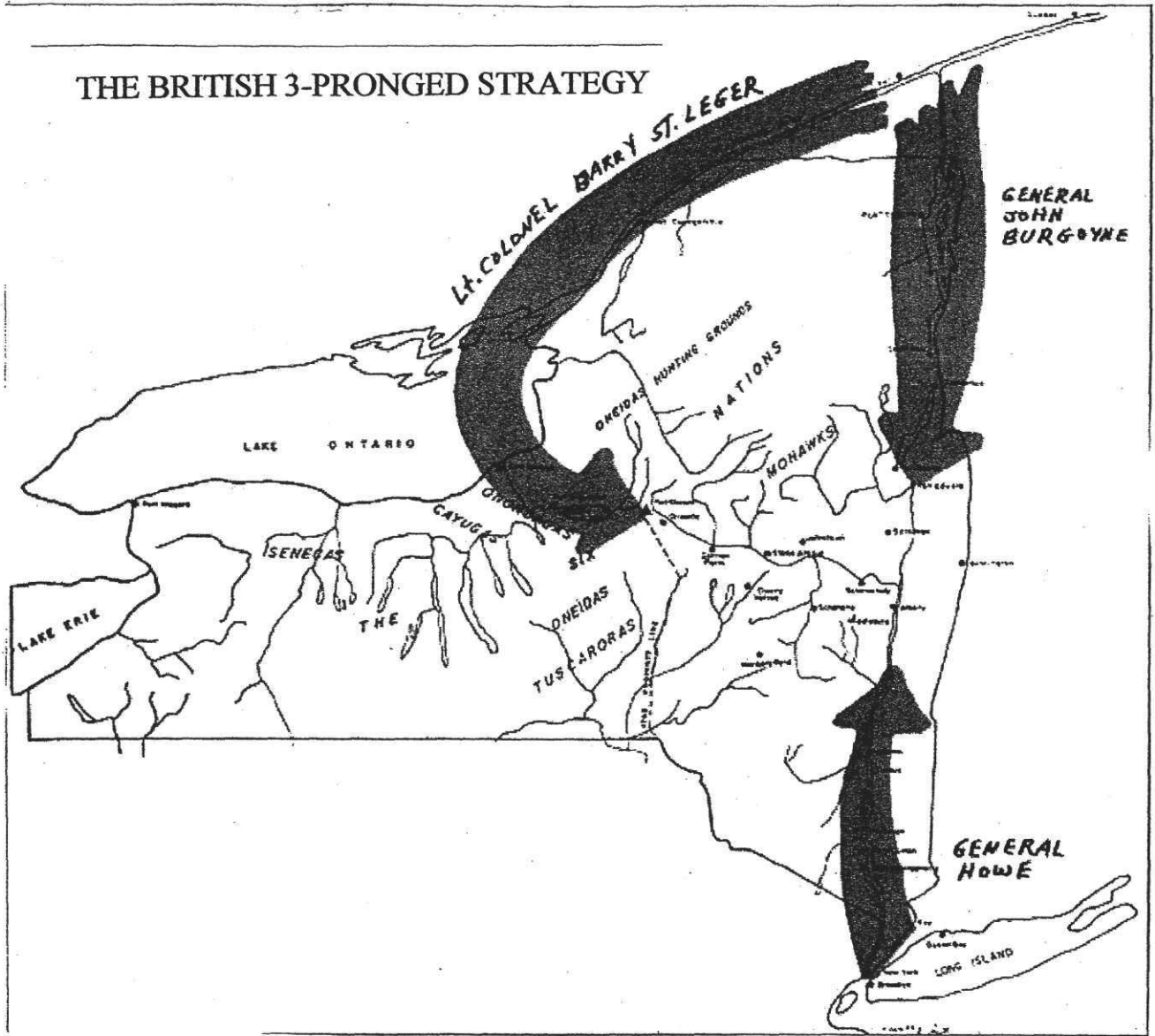
When they reached Lake Ontario they camped on Buck Island (later named Carleton Island) and spent ten days preparing for the advance towards the headwaters of the Mohawk River. Their officers drilled them and ordered as much target practice as the limited supply of ammunition would allow, - two shots a day for each man. The men prepared their kits, washed clothes, and cleaned their muskets. They had not been paid for weeks but finally there was a pay parade at which they received not only their back pay but future wages up to August 24<sup>th</sup>.

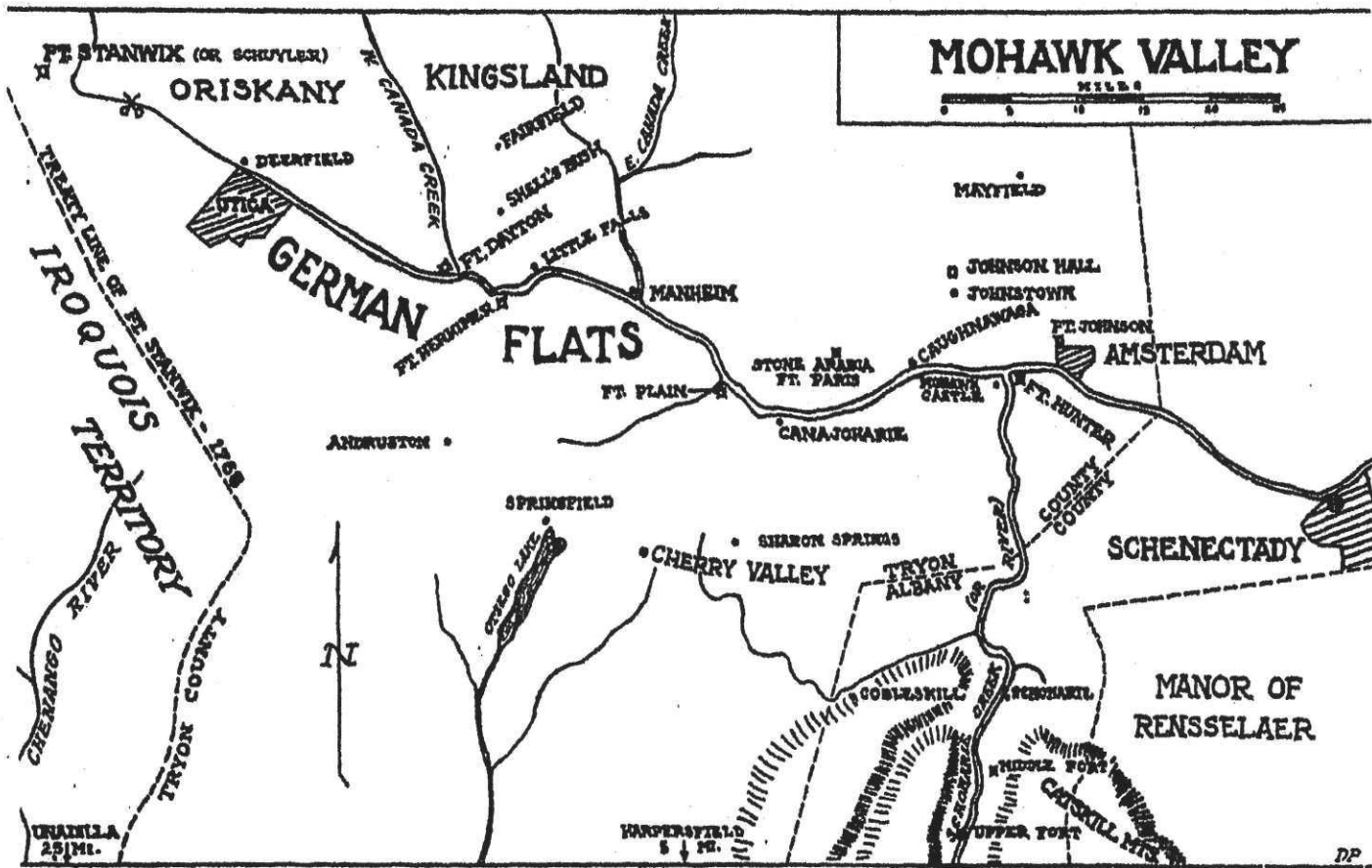
Great news came from the east that Burgoyne had captured the American Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain. It heartened the men and made St. Leger overconfident. Lying between St. Leger and his rendezvous with Burgoyne was an old British fort that the Americans had appropriated and named Fort Stanwix. Stanwix guarded a vital point on an Indian portage to the Mohawk and St. Leger had been told that the Fort was in ruins and was manned by a small force. He confidently advanced to take it. A relative of the Johnsons, Daniel Claus, received better intelligence from his Indian scouts and learned the disagreeable truth that the Americans had rebuilt and fortified the fort, fresh troops had arrived, and loads of provisions and ammunition were on the way from Tryon County. St. Leger disregarded the Indian's report and moved on to Oswego and up the Oswego River, a move watched by scouts from Stanwix who had overheard Johnson's war councils and passed the alarm to the Americans.

Each side worked with all its might to outmaneuver the other. The Americans defenders of the fort sorely needed the food and ammunition that were coming up the Mohawk so they played for time. The connecting link between the Oswego and Mohawk Rivers was Woods Creek so to slow down the oncoming British boats work gangs of American axe-men felled trees across the stream. When St. Leger's men reached the creek they had to halt until they had cleared away the tangle and it was here that the undervalued provincials had a chance to show their woodsmen's skills. Clearing the twenty winding miles of creek and manhandling the heavily laden bateaux through the shallow water fell to the French Canadians. At the same time our Johnstown lads were set to opening a rough bush road for the crude wagons that the carpenters were hammering together. The August heat was oppressive and they sweated and itched from mosquito bites and poison ivy. At the rear of this perspiring, flybitten column of men

came a few women, - Sir John's pregnant wife, his children, Daniel Claus's wife and children, servants, and some female camp followers who had come along to cook and do laundry, gather firewood and nurse the sick in return for which they were given meals and shelter.

The advance party arrived near Fort Stanwix on August 2d, 1777 and set up camp but the Royal Yorkers remained in the rear, still felling trees to clear a roadway. They worked miracles. Eight miles of trail were made in two days and at once the men began pushing and hauling the heavily loaded carts along it by sheer male muscle, doing the work of the oxen and horses they did not have.





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## ORISKANY

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of August St. Leger learned that a column of 800 Tryon County men under General Herkimer was approaching Fort Stanwix from the east to relieve the garrison and bring supplies. To block them an Indian-style ambush was planned in a strategic bottleneck where Herkimer's column with its slow ox-carts heavy with goods would be penned in between a swamp, a ravine and a tangle of trees downed by a hurricane. Sir John Johnson with part of the Royal Yorkers, Major Butler and his men, and Joseph Brant's Mohawks, went out to set the trap and lie in wait. The Colonel's own small company was left to guard the camp, the supplies, and the women and children so probably Joseph and Daniel Morden were several miles from the ambush site when the action began.

It went as planned. General Herkimer came marching along unaware of the watchers in the woods and as his creaking oxcars entered the bottleneck the Mohawks and the Royal Yorkers rose out of hiding to open fire. The Americans, stunned at first, quickly recovered and grouped behind trees to return volleys. This was the notoriously cutthroat battle of Oriskany, the bloodiest of the whole revolutionary war, where men running through the trees chased and fought each other, old neighbor against old neighbor. It lasted six hours and the slaughter with musket ball and tomahawk was horrendous on both sides. Young Indian warriors seeking glory killed and scalped freely. Sir John Johnson's Highlanders were equally fierce and skillful and used their tomahawks like Lochaber war axes. Men lay dead or dying in the woods and General Herkimer himself received his death wound. The shooting and the smoke and the war cries went on until a sudden downpour dampened the powder and temporarily stopped the fighting. The wet powder and priming made the firelocks useless and the men on both sides struggled to keep their weapons dry.

During this lull Sir John Johnson gathered up his wounded and returned to the camp with a report of the battle. After the rain stopped the feisty young Captain Lieutenant Donald McDonnell was ordered to take the Colonel's Company and a score of other men off guard duty - here go Joseph and Daniel Morden - and at 2 o'clock in the afternoon they set off to the battlefield. As McDonnell's men neared Oriskany they came on the sobering sight of dead and dying men. On the Captain's orders they paused to turn their green uniform jackets inside out to show the unbleached linen linings. From a little distance they looked like ordinary farmers in rough white work smocks. The American militia prepared to welcome their reinforcements from Albany coming to the aid of the fort. When they recognized that old Tory neighbors had got inside their defences the fight grew fierce and deadly. Mordens fought hand-to-hand with men whom they had known in Johnstown. McDonnell saw his men grappling in a melee, rushed to their aid, and was himself impaled on a sword. The Royal Yorkers, Hessians, and Indians fought a winning battle for an hour and were busily gathering up discarded enemy firearms until alarmed by sounds of firing came from the direction of their camp.

This raid was a deliberate diversion created by the American Lt. Col Willett who sallied out of the fort with 250 men to maraud the now unguarded camps of the British and Brant's Indians. When an Indian raised the alarm the women fled for the trees. St.Leger and Sir John Johnson also beat a

retreat to safety across the river leaving behind their supplies as booty for Colonel Willett's men. Willett wrote in his report:

*"Nothing could be more fortunate than this enterprise. We totally routed two of the enemy's encampments, destroyed all the provisions that were in them, brought off upwards of 50 brass kettles and more than 100 blankets (two articles which were much needed), with a quantity of muskets, tomahawks, spears, ammunition, clothing, deerskins, a variety of Indian affairs, and five flags."*

Among the prizes was General St. Leger's lap desk containing his papers and his nicely drawn plan of battle, Sir John Johnson's papers, and bundles of prized wampum. Indian huts were torched. Willett returned to the fort to fly the Continental flag in triumph over the captured British and camp flags.

East of them at Oriskany the Colonel's men were winning until the raid on the camps put a sudden end to the battle and they gathered their dead and wounded and withdrew. Of the Royal Yorkers two were dead and 18 wounded, and their Indian allies had heavy casualties. Out of Herkimer's 800 Tryon militia only 150 men survived. His supply wagons and reinforcements never did reach the fort but retreated the way they had come carrying their wounded. When the fighting ended the Tories had the upper hand but the short siege of the fort that followed ended in a draw with both sides claiming victory and even yet the outcome of Oriskany is interpreted in conflicting ways depending on who is writing the history. The official American guide to Oriskany says, *"These brave Patriots withstood a fierce ambush of Tory and Indian forces."*

St. Leger who had prematurely begun to celebrate a triumph was totally disgusted and took to the bottle. He mounted a half-hearted siege of the fort but this slow warfare was not the kind that the Indians liked and they began to drift away. Sir John Johnson, however, was still full of courage and military zeal and unwilling to give up. After attending to the dead and wounded, he begged St. Leger to be allowed to take some of his own troops and Indians on down the Valley to recruit Tory followers. It was his old familiar ground, Tryon County rebels were mourning their dead and had lost heart, and Sir John believed he had a chance of regaining support. Permission was refused and when St. Leger heard false rumors that continental troops were approaching he abandoned the siege and gave orders to withdraw. The KRRNY retreated to Oswego on August 22d, fuming and frustrated, hungry, and cold at night without their lost blankets. Instead of seeing their old homes and loved ones again the Johnstown men had to march away from them in the opposite direction. Once back at Oswego the leaders continued the retreat on down the St. Lawrence and in three weeks they landed at Montreal. Thus ended St. Leger's expedition.

Fort Stanwix was a pivotal point in the war, giving the American rebels hope that they had a chance of winning. It also curdled their feelings towards the Loyalist wives remaining in the Mohawk Valley. Two weeks after the bloody battle of Oriskany the Tryon Committee of Correspondence drew up a list of Tory women who were to be rounded up and confined in a house at Johnstown. Although Laurania Morden was not among those named who can doubt that she lived under a cloud of suspicion? The Morden men and Laurania's brother John Howell may have been recognized among the green-coated Tories and reported to the Committee. After the crushing defeat of Burgoyne at Saratoga in October 1777 the Loyalists still in the Mohawk Valley were in a precarious position. Occasionally a daring British spy with a few Indian allies would travel from Montreal to the Mohawk and would risk his life to gather intelligence and to bring messages and trifling gifts to the families left behind. Laurania's brother John was one of those bold scouts who ventured into enemy territory under disguise and on one occasion left some neckerchiefs for the Tory women.

## DEATH IN THE CAMP

The Colonel's Company had lost its valiant young captain McDonell at Oriskany and he was replaced by Lieut Joseph Anderson from another company. At Oswego it took time to round up the scattered bateaux but they finally left on Sept 7 and retraced the arduous trip across the lake and back down the rapids of the St. Lawrence. Back at Montreal they were marched to their base at Fort St. John's on the Richelieu to refit. After a breather of only a day or two St. Leger led them on down the Richelieu River and Lake Champlain to reinforce General Burgoyne's main army which was advancing towards Saratoga.

Arriving at Ticonderoga on September 27 they paused, waiting for Indian reinforcements and as it turned out they went no farther. Burgoyne's luck had run out after his victory at Ticonderoga and his forces were defeated at Bennington and again in two battles at Saratoga. On October 17<sup>th</sup> he surrendered his sword and his army to the American General Gates. This astounding turn of events effectively ended the war on the northern frontier. When word of the surrender reached St. Leger he withdrew his disheartened army back to Fort St. John's. The Expedition which had set out with such spirit and determination faded away in a disappointing withdrawal. General Howe, instead of coming up from New York city as the third prong of the encircling movement, turned and sailed in the opposite direction to Philadelphia.

Having survived the bloody engagement at Oriskany it is ironic that Joseph Morden's life ended in the army encampment. The camp to which the KRRNY returned was overrun by a deadly epidemic which had been smoldering from the time that a smallpox-ridden American force had fled when British troops arrived in 1776. The sick Americans who were left behind passed on the disease and even their abandoned bedding and goods carried the infection. Vaccination was not yet common, the camps were crowded and unsanitary, and the epidemic swept through the Tory ranks. In Sir John's small company the following men were on the list of sick or dead in the fall and winter of 1777: Lieut Byrnes, Ptes. Black, Dowran, Lilbuck, Massey, **Morden**, Saver and two Wormwoods.

On November 24th, 1777, **Joseph Morden** died of smallpox near Montreal.<sup>69</sup> He was not yet forty. He died not knowing of his wife's tribulations, the coming trial and execution of his brother Ralph in 1780, the ultimate British defeat, and the family's eventual settlement in Canada. **Daniel Morden's** Company also had its quota of sick men but he was one of the survivors and he was transferred to Captain Watts' Light Infantry. Joseph was probably buried in some field at St. John's in an unmarked grave among the other smallpox casualties.

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<sup>69</sup> Haldimand Papers, Archives of Canada.



## LAURANIA IN MONTREAL

On the farm at Johnstown life had become increasingly more perilous for Joseph's family as the Committee of Safety made surprise checks on them and snooped about for signs of Tory activity. As James Morden neared sixteen there was the growing danger of being conscripted by the Patriots. Hope for relief from this uncertain existence flickered out when word of Joseph's death reached them. After the battle of Oriskany the Patriots grew greedier and under the pretext of fining the Tories, plundered goods and chattels from many of their households. Joseph Morden's two horses, his oxen, cows and even his clothing were confiscated. Lucretia Cotter (Laurania's sister?) had a similar experience when two horses, two cows, 3 yearlings, 5 hogs, furniture and utensils were hauled away. "*Rebels took them when [James] joined Sir John Johnson*". Lucretia, however, had brighter hopes for the future because her husband James was still living.

As the British gradually lost their hold on the country the only stronghold in the colonies left to the Tories was New York City. There they gathered their ships and their troops and made of it a safe refuge for the Loyalists who crowded into the city and lived under the protection of Sir Guy Carleton.

We do not know if Laurania left Johnstown of her own free will or whether she was evicted and ordered to leave. Many Loyalist wives were given notice that they must depart within twenty days, their possessions were confiscated and sold to pay their travel expenses to Kingston on the Hudson, and from there they made their way to New York City. Laurania's departure from Johnstown may have been in 1779 when James appeared in Montreal and enlisted in the King's Royal Regiment. She was still a young woman, 33 or 34 at the time, James was the only son who had reached maturity, and the remaining brood needing her care comprised teenage Richard, two young boys John and Joseph Jr., and two little girls Lucretia and Loraine.

There is a persistent story that she traveled by New York and Halifax to rejoin her relatives in the KRRNY at Montreal. Laurania herself made no such statement in her Loyalist claim, but one would gather it from the garbled account in Pioneer Life, p. 561,

*...it was Joseph [Morden] who became the progenitor of the Mordens of the Bay of Quinte district. He came to Canada in 1777, by sea and via Halifax where he probably settled for a time. He married Lucretia Howell, a sister of Major John Howell...*

The errors are obvious -- Joseph Morden came overland to Canada with Sir John Johnson, and 1777 was the date of his death, and yet this oral tradition has the ring of truth if one applies it to Laurania. It was not Joseph but his **wife** who traveled by sea and Halifax. There were few ships sailing the Halifax to Quebec route in the earlier years and most Loyalists had to wait until 1783 and yet some fortunate people did get passage earlier. Laurania was probably in Montreal by October 1781 for at the end of the

month John Morden, a boy of ten, was put on the payroll of the 2d Battalion of the KRRNY at Montreal.<sup>70</sup> This was the company in which his uncle John Howell was a Sergeant; he undoubtedly put in a word for the lad.

The first mention we find of Laurania herself in Quebec was in the winter of 1781/82.<sup>71</sup> She was recognized as a dependent of the KRRNY.

*Return of Royalists who are entitled to House rent & firewood from Govt till further orders commencing 1st Jany 1782.*

*Mrs. Morden widow          6 [people]*

One gets the sense that Laurania received favored treatment when she reached Quebec. Quite apart from the sympathy she received as a widow and a displaced person it seems that influential hands reached out to help her. She had known the Johnsons at Johnson Hall, her two Howell brothers, her son James, James Cotter probably her brother-in-law, and his son Richard, were serving in the KRRNY. The fact that she was drawing an allowance for rent and firewood shows that she was not one of the many women sent to the cheerless refugee camp at Sorel but she was living in private quarters in Montreal. Since she regularly drew rations of bread and meat we can trace her movements through the provision lists.

*Provisioned Gratis 25 Dec 1781 - 24 Jan 1782<sup>72</sup>*

*Attached to Jessup's King's Rangers.*

*Lorina Morden, Montreal, widow*

*1 woman, 2 male children over 6, 2 female children over 6*

Since Joseph Jr. was one of the boys the other was either Richard or John. Although John was on the payroll of the 2d Battalion he may have been given leave during that winter which was an unusually severe one even for Quebec. One of the girls was undoubtedly Lucretia, and the other would have been Loraine or Elizabeth. The whereabouts of the children are harder to trace as they grow older and conditions change. The refugees, drawn together by shared misfortunes, formed a close interrelated community and in the returns where the girls were not with their mother they were probably in a nearby friendly family, doing household chores or taking care of the infants and toddlers.

*Provisioned gratis 24 March 1783<sup>73</sup>*

*Return of distressed unincorporated Loyalists that are victualled by the bounty of the Government in the Province of Quebec, agreeable to His Excellency's the Commander-in-Chief's orders.*

*Lorina Morden          Montreal*

*1 woman,          1 male above 6.*

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<sup>70</sup> *Haldimand Papers* B 165, cited in *Burleigh Papers* in Queen's University Archives.  
Roll of Men of 2nd KRRNY enlisted since 25 Oct 1781  
John Morden 1 Nov 1781.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.* B 165.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.* B.166.

<sup>73</sup> *Haldimand Papers* B166, p. 197 cited by Gordon Crouse in his Morden family notes.

Another return made in the summer showed that everything was changing for Laurania. She remained in Montreal with one or two of the younger children until the summer of 1784 but the older children scattered with various groups moving towards the new settlements.

*Montreal, 24 July 1783<sup>74</sup>*

*Lorain Morden, 1 person, 1 male above 6, ½ ration per day*

The war came to an official end with the signing of the peace treaty in September 1783. According to its terms the Loyalists were to have their confiscated property restored but it was soon obvious that there was no welcome back to the American colonies for them and provision had to be made for resettling the men and their families elsewhere. Some went to England, a few to Jamaica and Bahamas, but the majority had to be provided for in North America. General Sir Guy Carleton was placed in charge of the arrangements for resettlement. Thousands of refugees were given grants in Nova Scotia but the officers and men of the KRRNY were allotted lands along the north shore of the St. Lawrence and at the east end of Lake Ontario near the old French Fort Frontenac, renamed Cataraqui.

Captain Michael Grass led an advance company of men to Cataraqui to look over the land in the fall of 1783 and Richard Morden was one of those who went with him. Grass and most of his men returned to Montreal for the winter but Richard was one of the few who remained to spend the winter in Cataraqui. He probably found shelter and employment with Uncle John Howell. We do not know John Morden's whereabouts, but he had been with the KRRNY since he was ten and was now a self-sufficient teenager. The youngest lad, Joseph Jr. remained with his mother throughout 1783.

While the survey parties were hurriedly laying out the Cataraqui townships for settlement some men of the KRRNY had been sent to Cataraqui townsite (now Kingston, Ontario) to build barracks and storehouses for the garrison and to prepare for the settlers. Among the construction teams was John Howell, building houses near the fort and setting himself up as a merchant. With him came his young wife Catherine, daughter of Jacob Sheets, and their two children and also his niece Lucretia Morden making herself useful keeping an eye on the babies. It is apparent that the older Morden children had come under the wing of their uncle John Howell. Proof of this family arrangement is found in the rolls.

Roll of Loyalists at Cataraqui 4 Dec 1783.<sup>75</sup>

Capt. Grass's Coy.

Men: Richard Morden 18 yrs 8 months.

Women with KRRNY: Cathe'ne Howell, 23 yrs 8 mos. (John Howell's wife)

Children with KRRNY: Rich'd Howell, 2 yrs 4 mos

Griff'th Howell 5 mos

Lucretia Morden 12 yrs 3 months

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<sup>74</sup> Ibid. P.111.

<sup>75</sup> Haldimand Papers B126 printed in Kingston before the War of 1812 (Toronto :Champlain Society, 1959) pp.49 ff.

Meanwhile Laurania was still down in Montreal waiting for winter to end. Young Joseph always appeared with his mother and seems to have aroused some pity even among the officials. He was referred to as "only a boy". On 24 Jan 1784 he was listed as "*Joseph Morden, an orphan at Montreal, 1 person, 1/2 ration per day.*"

*Return of Incorporated Loyalists desirous of settling in Canada, 2nd Feb 1784 (Quartered at Montreal)<sup>76</sup>  
Lorina Morden, 1 woman, 1 male and 1 female above 6 years of age, 3 rations per day.*

Since the oldest girl, Lucretia, was already at Catarauqui that winter we see here that the second girl was back with her mother among the women and children who were waiting for spring breakup of the ice in the St. Lawrence. When they finally were told that it was their turn to travel upriver to their new homes the group assembled at the starting point at Lachine, walked around the rapids to where the bateaux were gathered and climbed aboard. These bateaux were 30 or 40 feet long, held about eighteen people and had an awning stretched over them to keep the passengers and their bedding dry. They were manned by hardworking crews made up of four oarsmen and one steersman, who began the laborious journey upriver, keeping close to the shore. On an average day they could travel about eighteen miles. By the time Laurania made the journey so many boats and men had been lost navigating the whitewater rapids that a few crude canals had been dug around the most dangerous stretches. Even so, it was still an adventuresome trip. At the worst spots the passengers had to disembark and walk along the shore while the men dragged the boats along with ropes. At night it grew cold on the water and they stopped at some flea-infested inn or bedded down on the floor of a farmhouse. Sometimes the children slept under a makeshift tent made of a sail and some blankets. When they reached the upper river and left the turmoil of the rapids behind they sailed out into the calm beauty of the Thousand Islands and suddenly the area of their future homes took on a more appealing look. The grueling trip took a couple of weeks before the weary and mosquito-bitten travelers finally arrived at their goal: **Catarauqui.**<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> Haldimand Papers. B168, p. 10 cited by Crouse. A similar return is found in General Return of Refugee Loyalists in the Province of Quebec exclusive of those Quartered and residing at the Upper Posts. [Undated list, estimated 1784]

#34. Morden Lorina. 1 woman, 1 male between 6 - 12 years, 1 female above 12 years, total 3. 1/2 ration per day

<sup>77</sup> Earle Thomas, "Bateaux and Durham Boats, Transportation on the Upper St. Lawrence in Loyalist Days" in Loyalist Gazette vol.22, no.1, pp. 12-14. See also Dr. H. C. Burleigh, Forgotten Leaves of Local History, Kingston (Kingston: Brown Martin, 1973) p. 89 ff.

## PIONEERING IN THE BAY OF QUINTE

It was probably in July 1784 that Laurania's group arrived at Cataraqui. If they had expected to find an established town they were disappointed, - just an army barracks with officer's quarters, and a few cabins and Indian huts . They paused there before going on to the land allotted to the KRRNY.



Watercolor view of Cataraqui in August 1783 by James Peachey. In keeping of the National Archives of Canada. Published in Lennox and Addington Society Papers 1987.

At first they had to live in army tents on the shore until things got sorted out and they knew where to go. Lieut.General George Haldimand, who was in charge of the resettlement, issued an order that a tent be issued for every five persons, with a kettle for every tent<sup>78</sup>. The survey crew had just finished its hurried job of staking out lots but none had yet been assigned. In order to be fair they held a drawing. The lot numbers were written on slips of paper, put in an officer's hat and stirred around and one by one each man reached in to learn the site of his new home. This was the ultimate lottery and there was a moment of suspense until each man read his location ticket.

<sup>78</sup>Preston, Kingston Before the War of 1812 p.67. Distribution of Clothing to the Refugee Loyalists , May 1784.

Men who had served as privates in the Provincial troops and others who had proved their loyalty to the Crown were granted 200 acres. Their sons were also eligible for 200 acres on reaching twenty-one; daughters received grants on reaching twenty-one or at marriage. Sergeants like John Howell and James Cotter were granted five hundred acres, and officers even more - the higher the rank the larger the grant and the better the location. Widows like Laurania were disenfranchised unless they were daughters of Loyalists.

As soon as the locations were decided the families took down their tents, gathered up their bundles, and moved on to try to find the boundary markers of the property they had just drawn. Most of it was in Township No. 3, (Fredericksburgh) which had been allotted to their battalion of the KRRNY. Travel was mostly by water therefore waterfront lots were the most desirable. After a quick look around their acres to decide the best place for the cabin the men got to work with their short iron felling axes making a clearing, and cutting logs for the shanty. No matter how small and dark the cabin it was a relief for a family to finally live under its own roof and cook at its own fireplace. James and John Morden, and uncle John Howell began clearing farms in Fredericksburgh. Uncle Daniel Morden was allotted land in Osnabruck, one of the Royal Townships nearer Montreal. Richard Morden who had preceded his mother to Cataraqui the previous year was now living with the Associated Loyalists in Township No. 1 (Cataraqui) where his name appeared in a provision list with the notation, "*Family in 3d Township.*"

The welfare of the refugees was in the hands of Lieut. General Haldimand who was instructed to provide for the Loyalists who had lost their estates. Haldimand carried out his task admirably, organizing everything from sawmills to oxen, to farm tools and seed corn. When funds from Britain did not meet the needs of the Loyalists he risked his own career and bent the rules sufficiently to provide a basic subsistence for the settlers. On behalf of my ancestors I salute him. Faced with hundreds of displaced persons to be resettled the authorities had to buy land from the Indians, survey it, and parcel it out. In the interests of national security and of forming stable communities they kept the old regiments together when they were allocating land. Eight townships on the north shore of the St. Lawrence near Montreal were mainly allotted to Sir John Johnson's Scottish highlanders and Jessups men. Of more interest to us are the five townships near Cataraqui where the men of Johnson's 2d Battalion of the KRRNY drew land. Having endured severe misfortunes together these Loyalists moved and settled as a unit. In the event of an American invasion they could be depended on to defend the frontier.

Crops could not be grown until fields were cleared so in the early years food had to be brought 160 miles up the river from Montreal. These pioneers had such a short time to plant and harvest that first summer that the only crop they could grow was turnips. Arrangements were made for purchasing cattle and Indian corn from across the lake and potatoes and seeds from Montreal.. The only seed wheat they could find was in Vermont and it was expensive.

The Loyalists had left all their tools and farming implements back in Tryon County where they had quickly been confiscated, so for the first three or four years at Cataraqui it was a struggle to get equipped. Hoes especially were in short supply and there was no blacksmith to forge more. In a petition the settlers submitted to Governor Haldimand they requested some basic tools and building supplies. They needed boards, hinges, window glass, a plough, spades, hoes, chisels, hammer and nails, a saw, a sickle, a grindstone, a blacksmith, livestock, seeds, and bateaux to transport all these things. On July 26 Haldimand noted "*Arrival of tools has quieted apprehensions of Loyalists at Cataraqui and rations augmented.*"

garments. There was no mention of the multitude of household articles the women needed but they lacked everything from blankets and cooking pots to needles, thread, and spinning wheels. The few precious items they had were passed around from family to family. It was some years before a weaver came to the area and young John Morden did a brisk trade when he announced that he was a woodworker and could make beds, chests, and spinning wheels.

The British government miscalculated the time it would take the colonists to become self-sufficient and cut off aid too early. Crops were still being grown and harvested by hand amid clearings full of stumps. Bears and wolves preyed on the few sheep and cattle that had been brought in with the result that 1788 was "The Hungry Year" when some families starved to death. Richard Morden settled at Fish Lake where fish almost jumped at the hook but they tasted flat without salt for seasoning. Everyone was hungry but somehow all our Mordens managed to survive and prosper. They took their places in the developing community as worthy, responsible members, holding public offices all the way from pound keepers and fence viewers to justices of the peace and members of the legislature.

### MATTHEW FORREST

During this settlement period Laurania married Matthew Forrest, a veteran of the 2nd Battalion of the KRRNY. We have no record of the marriage, and it is hard to determine when it occurred. Probably the ceremony took place at Cataraqui and was performed by one of the Army officers, The Loyalist claims are of no help in pinpointing the date for Laurania submitted them under her former name of Morden since she was claiming for Morden losses.

The army lists show that Matthew Forrest of the KRRNY was a man much younger than Laurania.<sup>79</sup>

The Roll of 2d Battalion KRRNY 25 Apr 1783<sup>80</sup>, Corporals:

#13. Mathew Forest, age 22, Height 6 feet 1 1/2 inches, American. Company: Loyalists; served 1 year 9 months.

The above man was only 4 years older than Laurania's son James. She herself was 39 in 1783. I have failed to find any Matthew Forrest senior so it appears Laurania's second husband was seventeen years her junior. They had no children.

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<sup>79</sup> Laurania referred to her second husband as Matthew Forrest; he might easily be confused with M. Deforest, also a Loyalist.

Canadian Archives Report 1891 p. 10.

Return of disbanded troops and loyalists in Township No.3, Cataraqui (Fredericksburgh). Mustered this 6 Oct 1784.

Deforest, M.

Forrest, Math. W.

<sup>80</sup> Rolls of the Provincial (Loyalist) Corps, Canadian Command, American Revolutionary Period, comp. by Mary Beacock Fryer and Lieut. Col William A. Smy, (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1981)

The above man was only 4 years older than Laurania's son James. She herself was 39 in 1783. I have failed to find any Matthew Forrest senior so it appears Laurania's second husband was seventeen years her junior. They had no children.

Matthew Forrest of the KRRNY found useful employment in construction work. The new settlements urgently needed a sawmill and a grist mill, so the army Engineers' Corps hired men for the job on 10 Sept 1784. A provision list of 6 Oct 1784 showed Matthew employed at the King's Sawmill in the 3d Township above Cataraqui at present-day Millhaven where the first mills were built.

*Matthew Forest, 1 man, 1 woman, 1 male under 10, 1 female above 10, 4 persons, 3 1/2 rations*

In another list of July/August 1786 his household in Fredericksburgh consisted of 1 man, 1 woman 1 boy over 10 and 1 girl over 10, drawing 4 rations per day.<sup>81</sup>

Young John Morden, who seems to have been a useful lad, also helped build the mill where his new stepfather worked, for his name was also entered in a list of men hired at Cataraqui.<sup>82</sup>

Matthew Forrest appeared again in 1787 in a map of Ameliasburgh, Prince Edward County. There is a rather puzzling entry on an 1787 map of Ameliasburgh showing Mrs. Mordaunt with 200 acres.<sup>83</sup> Mordaunt or Morden? Three farms away was Sergt. Cotter with 100 acres and adjoining him, Sergt. Major John Howell with 200 acres. More research in the land records might clarify this.

As a Loyalist soldier Matthew received 500 acres of land:  
*At the Council Chamber, Navy Hall [Newark]. 12th May 1796.  
Mathew Forrest, late Sergeant in Sir John Johnson's Corps: Prays for an additional three hundred acres of land, having received only 200 acres; and for lands for his family. Ordered that he shall have an additional grant of three hundred acres.*

He died shortly after making this application. The following year Laurania stated in her claim of 31 July 1797, "....that your Petitioner is now the second time a Widow having lost her late husband, Mathew Forrest..." It strikes me as odd that when her children married and were choosing names for their own children not one used the name of his stepfather. The Morden family was given to naming their children after prominent Loyalists, e.g. James Plummer, Richard Smith, John Howell, James Cotter and so on, so why did Laurania have no grandchild named Matthew Forrest Morden? It would be wrong to read too much into this omission, but it does seem to show a lack of enthusiasm among Laurania's children for their mother's second husband.

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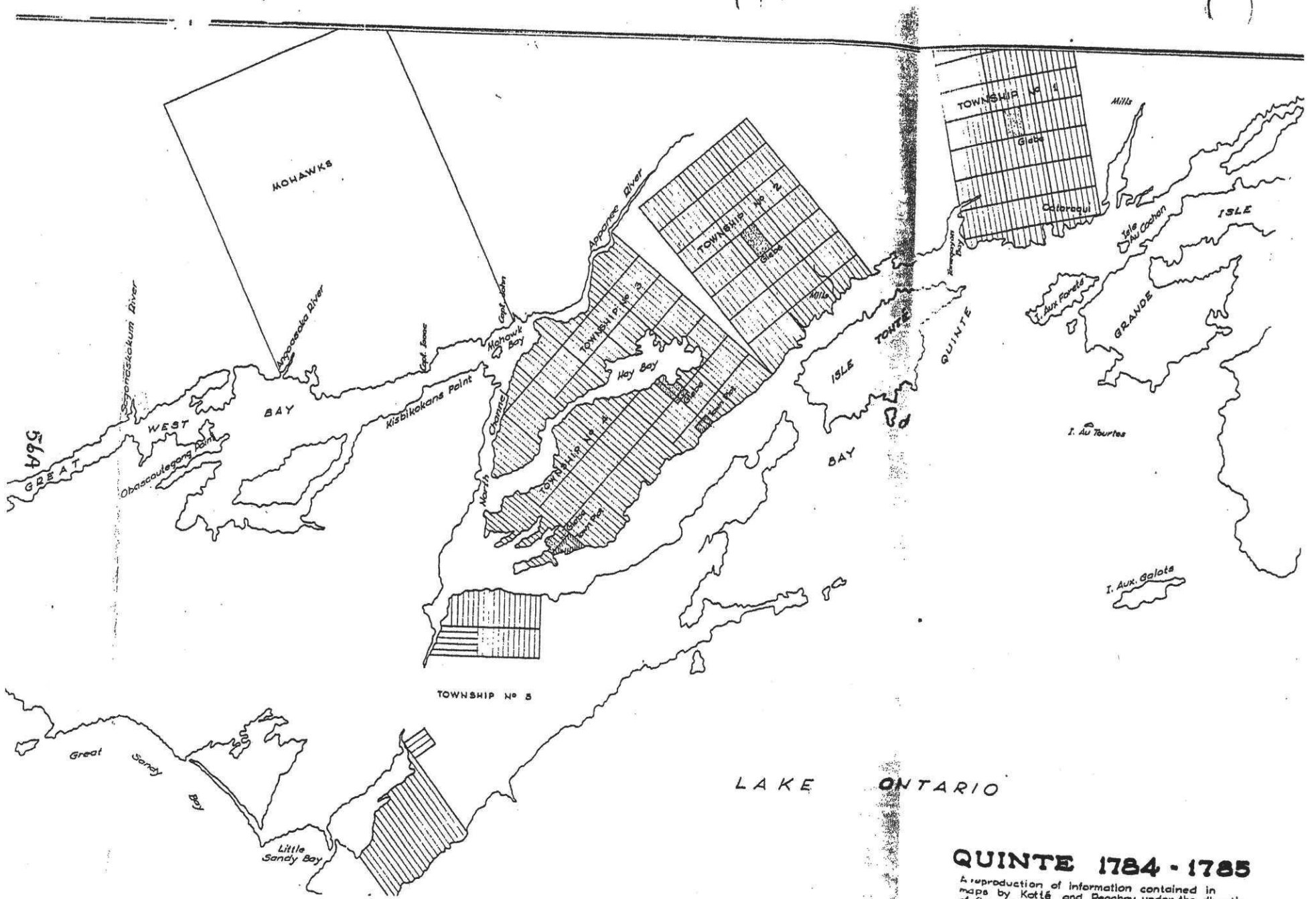
<sup>81</sup>Norman K. Crowder, Early Ontario Settlers; A Source Book (Baltimore MD, Genealogical Pub Co, c1993).

<sup>82</sup> Haldimand Papers B127, cited in Burleigh Papers.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid., Survey of 1st concession 1787.

Mrs. Mordaunt 200

It may be significant that Sergt. Major Howell had 200 acres four lots east of this. These farms all fronted on the water.



**QUINTE 1784 - 1785**

A reproduction of information contained in maps by Kotté and Peachey under the direction of Samuel Hellier.

## JOSEPH'S LOYALIST CLAIMS

Once settled, Laurania began a wearisome series of petitions for compensation for her lost property. The Loyalists had hoped to regain their prewar homes but there was no forgiveness at the end of this bitter war, and although the new Congress made "earnest recommendations" to the thirteen states that they restore the confiscated property the well-meant directive was ignored. The British, realizing that they had to shoulder the burden of reparations, set up a Commission on Loyalist Claims and put in motion formal procedures to be followed. In entering her claims it is apparent Laurania Morden was helped by her brother John Howell who had also settled in Fredericksburgh; their claims had similar wording and were submitted at the same time. Had Joseph Morden lived he could have claimed land as a Loyalist but his death cancelled his rights and Laurania's as well, for it was only the children of Loyalists, not the widows, who qualified for recompense. She did not give up easily, but try as she might her petitions were all turned down.

The first claim was probably the following which was sent to London but did not arrive there before the deadline set by the Commissioners. The first deadline for submitting claims to London was March 25, 1784. If you missed it you were out of luck. It is in a bundle labeled "Claims received too late. Mainly South Carolina but some Pennsylvania" and was probably never even read.<sup>84</sup>

*Account of losses sustained by Joseph Morden in the first battalion of the King's Royal Regiment of New York, an account of his loyalty in .....ing himself to the British government.*

<i>To Lands &amp; Tenements</i>	<i>£250 - -</i>
<i>To Horses</i>	<i>16 - -</i>
<i>To Wairing Apparel</i>	<i>4 - -</i>

*N.B. The above Morden from the Province of New York of County of Tryon.*

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<sup>84</sup> AO 13, Reel B-2446. Series II, vols. 80, 81. p. 346.

The second was a "Memorial" entered by her son James on her behalf and its number AO 13 shows it was in a bundle sent to England. It probably missed the second deadline, May 1, 1786. Audit Office Papers 13/14. p.414. (PAC mf reel B2187)

Accept No 5298 Joseph Morden  
 The accmpt of losses sustained by the late Joseph Morden in the Kings Royal Regt New York on account of his loyalty to the crown Soldier of Great Britain. Possession  
 KRRNY lays in New Philadelphia Bush near  
 End. Johns Town in the county of Tryon.

New	To lands and tenaments	£250 - 0 - 0
Claim	To horses	16 - 0 - 0
	to wearing apparell	2 - 0 - 0
Heard	Hallifax Curr.	

15 Apr  
 1786 Lorina Morden, widow  
 ----- James Morden, oldest son

Rec'd  
 Def Ap [crossed out]  
 Sep 27

Admitted N.B.  
 for his children. The above amount can be witnessed by Michael Carman, Simon Johnson [?]  
 Jacob Sheets Senior, John Cough Senior.

The eldest son is to attend at Montreal. Near New Johnstown in the Province.  
 The younger children will first attend on the mother.

Because of distance and slow sailing ships it was difficult for the Loyalists to submit their claims. Realizing that their system was too cumbersome for the claimants Britain sent out two Commissioners to British North America to collect the evidence. They travelled from Halifax to Niagara, and were at Cataraqui in September 1787. Commissioner Pemberton heard Laurania's claim, probably on Sept 28<sup>th</sup>. The transcript is dated Sept 20 but Pemberton had not arrived at Cataraqui by the 20th.

AO 13/13 p. 413. (PAC mf reel B2187)

*Cataraqui 20th Sept 1787*

*Joseph Morden entered the Service*

*10th May 1776 in the 1st Battn KRR*

*and deceased in Dec 1777 in Montreal*

*after General Burgoyne's Campaign.*

*His son being in the above*

*mentioned Regiment, his widow*

*applies for the loss sustained*

*by the deceased.*

*Lorainia Morden*

*Claimt says she herself resided at Montreal in the Fall 83 -*

*Her son was in the 1st Battalion & resided at Montreal.*

*5 other children.*

*All the children were under age.*

And a final late claim:

Public Archives, Canada.  
Record Group 1/L/3, vol.100, pp. 125-148.

Petition of Loriania Morden alias Forrest - to his Honor Peter Russell, President of the Council of Upper Canada - humbly sheweth  
...that your petitioner is the widow of Joseph Morden, late Volunteer in the 1st Battalion of Royal Yorkers, and brother to Ralph Morden who was executed for his loyalty - that he died in Montreal in the year 1777 - and left your petitioner and six children who are now all living in the Bay of Quinte having never left the Province -  
...that your Petitioner is now the second time a Widow having lost her late husband, Mathew Forrest, who also served in II Batt. Royal Yorkers by whom she had no children. She never received lands on her own account - prays for family lands..

Witness J. Ridout, J.P.

Niagara 31 July 1797.

Received 1 August 1797, James Green.

Note dated 15 July 1802 - no family lands now granted - nor Grants to females except daughter of U.E. Loyalists - by Order of the Governor.

Certificate of Robert Kerr, J.P.

I certify that Loriania Morden, alias Forrest, is a widow and was the wife of Joseph Morden, formerly of Sir John Johnson's regiment, who died during the war, and left six children who have been settled in the Bay of Quinte many years.

31 July 1797. Petition not allowed.

So that was the final word. It was a bitter verdict to one who had suffered the loss of her husband and home and had undergone ten years of hardship. Two hundred years later we still chafe at the injustice of it. In some way however, she did obtain a small parcel of farm land, perhaps through purchase, perhaps as widow of Matthew Forrest. We find her name in Fredericksburgh Township on an undated list:

Mrs. Morden, Widow Joseph, Mecklenburgh List, Fredericksburgh,  
1/8 Lot 5, Concession 5, 100 acres.

Laurania Morden was aged approximately 53 in 1797 when she submitted her third and last claim. Since her sons had moved to Prince Edward County by that time it is probable that she was living there near them. When and where she died and was buried is not known. Probably she lies in an unmarked grave in one of the pioneer cemeteries in Sophiasburgh.

Although Joseph's ambitions were never realized he lived on in his children who established themselves as Loyalists and successfully claimed land in their own right. They settled in Upper Canada west of present-day Kingston in the area known as the Bay of Quinte, an arm of Lake Ontario. On the map one can see that the long sprawling Bay cuts off Prince Edward County from the mainland and turns it into a semi-island, giving the county its scenic charm, balmy climate, and feeling of being a place set apart.

The Mordens, the Howells, the Cotters, the Williams and their friends formed a close-knit society around the Bay. They intermarried with other Loyalist families with whom they had common bonds of army service, property and personal losses, and shared hardships. At one time the closeknit families of Prince Edward County regarded newcomers with insular reserve and were slow to admit them to their circle. Although the old pioneer families have dispersed you may find even yet when chatting with one of the County's inhabitants that you are speaking with a member of the network of families allied to the Mordens. A shared history still connects us.

## AT HOME IN THE BAY OF QUINTE

All Joseph and Laurania's children settled around the Bay of Quinte. The returns of disbanded Loyalists of 1784 showed Richard in Township No. 1, Cataraqui, and James and John and their uncles Daniel Morden and John Howell a little farther west in Township No. 3, Fredericksburgh. Daughter Lucretia had friends in Cataraqui (Kingston) and apparently married a doctor there. Within ten years all four sons moved up the Bay of Quinte to newer townships in Prince Edward County. James, Richard and Joseph Jr. had farms in Sophiasburgh, while John, after spending a few years at Niagara, acquired a fine waterfront farm in Ameliasburgh. These are the four brothers I have written about in my series Mordens of the Bay of Quinte and you can follow their fortunes in detail in those volumes.

The Morden brothers carved farms out of the wilderness on both sides of the Bay and as they prospered, added to their acres. Before long the remaining vacant land in Prince Edward County filled up causing the grandsons of the pioneer Mordens to relocate across the Bay to Hastings County, later moving a little west to Northumberland County. They did not stop there but went on to Bruce County, Ontario, rolling on to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and ending at the Pacific Ocean. Dr. Randy Widdis of the University of Regina who wrote his doctoral study on migration patterns of five pioneer families of the Bay of Quinte area chose the Mordens as one of his sample families.<sup>85</sup> He analyzed the trend of the first three generations as they began to leave the Quinte area after 1800 and found that compared with the other families the Mordens were the most firmly rooted and the last to move out. Once they had land the Mordens held on to it, keeping it within the family, seldom selling it but letting the parcels of land accumulate into larger farms through the generations. He found the Mordens made land transfers between husband and wife, between father and son, father and daughter, brother to brother or sister, or to in-laws.

Dr. Widdis also noted that while the other four families moved into the trades and professions a little sooner Mordens clung to their fine farms and remained in agriculture another generation or so. In the end they too became town dwellers and went into the trades, medicine, education, law, the church, and the world of high finance. Randy used some of my notes in addition to his own research for his section on the Morden family.

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<sup>85</sup>Randy William Widdis. *With Scarcely a Ripple, Anglo-Canadian Migration into the United States and Western Canada, 1880-1920*. McGill-Queens University Press, 1998. Chapter 4, pp. 115-172. The 5 families selected were Denyes, Morden, Laughlin, Hudgins and Ruttan.

## POSTSCRIPT TO THE REBELLION

Any hope that the sons might have had of recovering their father's valuable lease land and the goods and chattels left behind vanished when all the states enacted Confiscation Laws to finance the war. In New York State the Commission of Sequestration went about their business of seizing and selling Loyalist property, and added over \$3,600,000. to the state coffers from fines, taxes and confiscations. In their long lists of confiscated estates appeared the name of **Joseph Morden**.<sup>86</sup> John and Griffith Howell were indicted in absentia as Loyalists in a list published 14 July 1781. The Americans got rid of the hated name Tryon County with its colonial associations and in 1784 renamed the Johnson's old district Montgomery County. Even yet a researcher sometimes feels a sudden chill in the atmosphere when one mentions that one is looking for a Tory, not a Patriot, ancestor.

Daniel Morden served out the war from 1776 to 1783 in the KRRNY. He was allotted land near the St. Lawrence River in Osnabruck Twp, Stormont Co around 1785, married Elizabeth Lawson in 1788, and settled at Osnabruck for more than ten years. By 1797 he relocated five hundred miles westward in Flamborough West near the Hamilton group of Mordens. Among these was Moses, who served out the war as an NCO in the New Jersey Volunteers, and apparently remained a bachelor. Moses settled on his 400 acre land grant in Flamborough West and operated a sawmill there. For an account of Daniel, Moses and Samuel Morden see the study, A Morden Trilogy, by Ron Barrons of Hamilton.<sup>87</sup>

In Pennsylvania under the Confiscation Act of March 6, 1778,<sup>88</sup> a number of persons in Bucks County lost their estates for remaining loyal to the British Crown and the income from the land sales enriched the state Treasury. James Morden of Sussex County, New Jersey received a judgement of forfeiture on inquisition in 1778-79. Unwary and guileless Ralph Morden was hanged as a Tory traitor at Easton, PA in 1780 but his widow and children delayed coming to Canada until 1787. They settled at Niagara at first and, within a few years relocated in West Flamborough, now Hamilton, Ontario. They were given generous land grants apparently because of the special circumstances of Ralph's death. This line of Mordens has become so large it requires special study just as the Joseph Morden line is a separate branch of research. The Uxbridge Mordens, descendants of George Morden, is another group which has drawn the interest of family historians recently.

It is one of the ironies of history that two Morden brothers of the Bay of Quinte, grandsons of Joseph of the KRRNY, married two Betskey sisters, granddaughters of Adam Kittle, a private who served in the continental levies under Col. Marinus Willett, an American officer at Fort Stanwix. The blood of old foes mingles in the veins of the descendants of Joseph R. and James R. Morden.

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<sup>86</sup> Roberts' New York in the Revolution. Supplement comp. by Erastus C. Knight. Quayle, Albany, 1901. p. 256.

<sup>87</sup> R.S. Barrons, Hamilton. A Morden Trilogy; Old Moses Morden, U.E.; Daniel Morden, U.E., and Samuel Morden. Hamilton, July 2002. Privately printed.

<sup>88</sup> The Black List appeared in various publications: New Jersey Archives, 2d series, v.3, p.46. Also in the Pennsylvania Archives. Also in E. Alfred Jones, The Loyalists of New Jersey in the Revolution. Appendix III p. 285. Newspaper extracts.



## CHILDREN OF JOSEPH MORDEN AND LAURANIA HOWELL

1. **James Amit MORDEN** c1762-1840. See vol. 2 of Mordens of the Bay of Quinte: James Morden and Margaret Parliament of Northport, Sophiasburgh. James married Margaret (Peggy) PARLIAMENT 1771-1868, both Loyalists. This couple pioneered near Northport on the Bay of Quinte in Sophiasburgh. Their ten children were:

1. Joseph James MORDEN c1794-1881 m. Mary REDNER, b. 1806.
2. George MORDEN c1796-c1829, m. Hannah SPRAGUE 1799-1882.
3. James Plummer MORDEN 1798-1863 m. Catherine BABCOCK 1802-1859.
4. Isaac MORDEN 1799-1893 m. Lucy S. CRAIG 1808-1879.
5. Richard J. MORDEN 1801-1887 m. MARGARET THOMPSON 1806-1884.
6. Lorraine MORDEN 1804-1884 m. William BRICKMAN 1790-1863.
7. John Parcels MORDEN 1806-1866 m. Hester DAVIS 1808-1897
8. Benjamin MORDEN b. c1808-1888 m. Mary McCORMICK 1803-1875; #2 Welthey DRURY
9. Margaret MORDEN 1812- m. Samuel HAWLEY 1806-
10. Andrew W. MORDEN 1815-1836 unmarried.

2. **Richard MORDEN** 1765-1832? See vol. 3 of Mordens of the Bay of Quinte: Richard Morden and Anne Williams of Fish Lake, Sophiasburgh. Richard married Anne Williams c1770?-c1818?. After Anne's death Richard m. 2d Rebecca (Mastin) BOWERMAN 1768-1852.

1. Mary Anne MORDEN 1791-c1820? m. Judah BOWERMAN 1779-1869.
2. Joseph Richard MORDEN 1793-1885 m. 1. MARGARET BETSKEY 1798-1841.  
#2. Mary JONES 1809-1868.
3. John Richard MORDEN 1794-1875 m. 1. Susannah BAKER 1802-c1834;  
#2. Eliza (Fox) COVERT.
4. Catherine MORDEN c1796-1845 m. James NOXON 1797-1836.
5. Richard R. MORDEN 1797-1845 m. Lanor Magdalene NOXON 1803-1899
6. James Richard MORDEN 1799-1877 m. Mary Betskey 1800-1872.
7. Robert R. MORDEN 1801-c1864; m. (H)esther CLARK 1818-
8. Sarah Lucretia MORDEN 1802-1845; m. Asa FOSTER 1799-1872.
9. Daniel MORDEN 1805-1878 m. Ann TRIPP 1804-1882.
10. Margaret MORDEN b. c1806?-1837 m. Peter SAUNDERS c1800-1889.
11. William MORDEN c1807-1880; m. Nancy PARLIAMENT 1811- ?

3. **John MORDEN** 1770-1831. See vol. 4 of Mordens of the Bay of Quinte: John Morden and Eve Bowman of Ameliasburgh. John married #1. Eve BOWMAN d. c1817; #2. ... COTTER. They settled in Ameliasburgh

1. Joseph Wilkinon MORDEN 1798-1877 m. Charlotte BENEDICT 1805-1872.
2. Lorraine MORDEN 1802- m. James R. SNIDER of Ameliasburgh.
3. John Howell MORDEN 1804-1877 m. Mary MASON 1813-1893.
4. James Cotter MORDEN 1807-1893 m. Lenora FAIRMAN 1816-1904.
5. Lucretia Julia Ann MORDEN 1810- m. Elias CLARK 1794-
6. Richard S. MORDEN 1812-1857 m. Lucy BURLINGHAM 1815-1879.
7. Jacob O. MORDEN 1814-1841. Unmarried.
8. Elizabeth MORDEN. Dates missing. Unmarried.

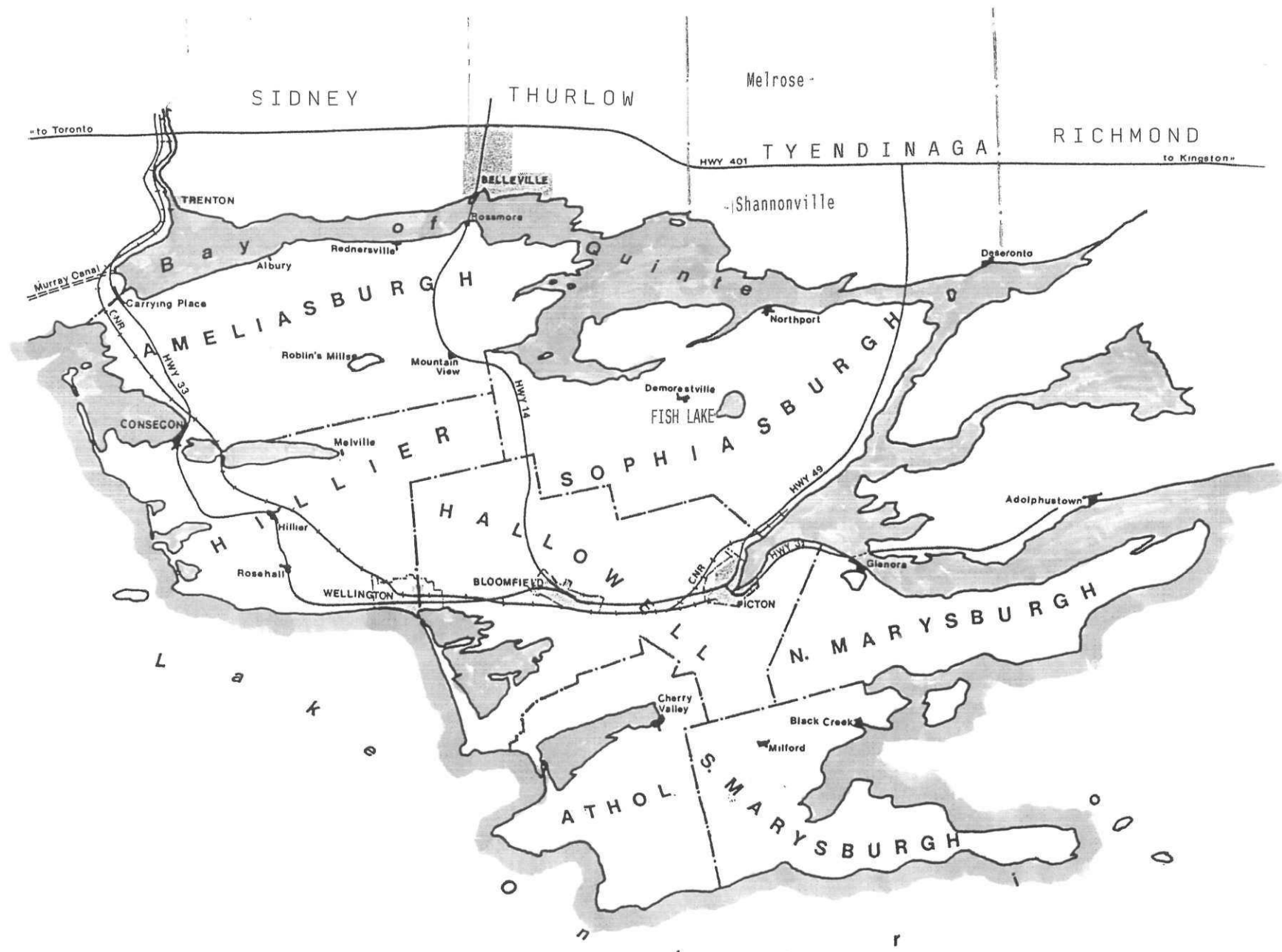
4. **Lucretia MORDEN** b. 1771, well-documented in provision lists, Loyalists' petitions, Kingston church records and so on. Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte says she married Mr. Howell of Ameliasburgh but I have found no proof of this and circumstantial evidence suggests that she married Thomas PLUMMER of Kingston, a surgeon from England who died in 1805. Jolene Pillars of Mesick, Michigan, publisher of the Morden Family Newsletter, (1993-1994) says Lucretia married W. Plummer and claims descent but offers no proof. Lucretia may have married 2: Andrew Johnston of Ernesttown. These are unresolved problems.

5. **Joseph MORDEN Jr.** born c1774 d.1836 was too young to serve in the war. He was in Sophiasburgh 1798. Joseph Jr. married Margaret HUFFMAN, 1777-1829, daughter of Conrad Huffman and Catherine Pulver. They left no children and we know very little about them. Margaret's death was recorded in the West Lake Hicksite Quaker records, 7th of the 10th month, 1829, aged 51, residence Sophiasburgh. (PAC mf3841, C-3-77). Joseph Jr. married a second wife, Lavina RUTTER, widow of Benjamin Ryckman. She was b. c1800, d/o George Rutter.

6. **Lorraine MORDEN.** Possibly the second of the two girls. Gordon Crouse, genealogist, failed to find documentation for her. Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte said she m. W. PLUMMER and settled in Kingston. Unless there were two Plummer brothers this is open to question. See #4 above who probably married Thomas PLUMMER. The other possible choice for second girl is Elizabeth (see below). If that is so her name might be that of her unknown paternal grandmother.

The first five children are well documented. William Reid, Ontario archivist, listed another daughter **Catherine** who married a Long of Haldimand County. This seems unlikely to be Joseph's daughter. Ralph and Ann Durham Morden had a daughter Catherine who married Elias Long in Pennsylvania, bore three children, and died before the family moved to Canada. Compare this woman with an ancestor of Professor Morden Heaton Long who had a deed for land granted to "*Catherine Long of the County of Haldimand, daughter of Lawrenia Morden, otherwise Lawrania Forrest...*" Is it possible that Elias Long married Morden cousins both named Catherine, #1. Ralph's daughter; #2. Joseph's daughter? Inconclusive.

**Elizabeth** Morden said by Pioneer Life to have married Peter Mirkell, was referred to by Nathaniel Solmes Morden as "*sister married Mirkell*". Gordon Crouse, genealogist, failed to find any documentation for her nor have I. Jacob Merkill of Stone Arabia on the Mohawk was prosperous before the Revolution and had 75 + 85 acres + a sawmill and an orchard. He joined Sir John Johnson's Corp in 1780 and afterwards settled in the 3d of the Royal Townships at [New]Johnstown. Ref.Audit Office 12/26. Also Antliff p.123. Not a Bay of Quinte family.



TOWNSHIPS OF HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD COUNTIES



## WHERE THE BAY OF QUINTE MORDENS LIVED

**JAMES AMIT MORDEN, PIONEER.**      Sophiasburgh

His children:

Joseph James.	Sophiasburgh; Ameliasburgh, Trenton, Ont; Rochester New York.
Henry Redner Morden	b. Trenton; Frankford, Marmora, Dundas, Burk's Falls.
William S.	Ameliasburgh; res Marmora. Lost trail.
John P. & Teresa.	Ameliasburgh. Tyendinaga. Lost trail.
Phoebe J.	Lost trail.
Edgar.	Port Perry. Niagara area, N.Y. A rolling stone.
Emma Tonstal	Rochester, N. Y.
James	Reach (L.Scugog area); B.C. Lost trail.

George Morden.	Ameliasburgh
Ellen Fones.	Hillier (Wellington)
Matilda Hicks	Wellington
Mary Huyck	Hillier. Bruce Co. (Brant Twp)
George	Wellington
Daniel	Wellington

James Plummer	b. Sophiasburgh; Ameliasburgh. Stayed.
Mary Post.	Huntingdon, Hastings Co.
Loraine Gerow	Ameliasburgh; Huntingdon; Muskoka.
Sarah M. Mercer.	Ameliasburgh (Rednersville). Stayed.
Phoebe Ann Way.	Ameliasburgh. Stayed.
Ellen Babbitt	Ameliasburgh. Stayed.
Catherine Jones	Belleville. Buried Ameliasburgh.

Isaac.	Sophiasburgh (Northport). Stayed.
Mary Baker	Sophiasburgh.
Sarah E. Brickman/Redner	Ameliasburgh.
Nancy Wilson	Sophiasburgh.

Richard J.	Sophiasburgh (Big Island). Stayed.
Mary Munro	Sophiasburgh ?Wisconsin?
George.	Ameliasburgh, Sophiasburgh; Thurlow; Belleville.
John Thompson Morden.	Sophiasburgh.
Scott	Sophiasburgh. Michigan.
S. James	Sophiasburgh. Hillier.
Isaac	Sophiasburgh.
Emily Fairman	Trenton.

Loraine Brickman	Ameliasburgh (Rednersville)
Deborah Russell	Ameliasburgh. Lost trail.
Benjamin.	Ameliasburgh
William A.	Ameliasburgh (Rednersville)

John Parcels.	Trenton. Belleville.
Charlotte David/Dickens	Adolphustown. Brighton.

Cornelius D.	Picton
Andrew	Chicago
Margaret Bentley	Belleville
George	Deseronto
O. Howard	Winnipeg
Edwin	Brighton. ret. Belleville.

Benjamin	Cobourg
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Margaret Hawley	Adolphustown.
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Andrew

**RICHARD MORDEN, PIONEER.** Sophiasburgh (Fish Lake)

His children:

Mary Anne Bowerman.	Hallowell.
Joseph R.	Sophiasburgh (Demorestville)
Anne McTaggart.	Tyendinaga (Lonsdale)
Nancy Wright	Sidney, Hastings. Saginaw, Michigan.
Ruth Aylesworth.	Tyendinaga. Thurlow. Hillier.
Rebecca Aylesworth.	Hillier (Wellington). d. Toronto.
J. Foster	Tyendinaga (Melrose). Bloomfield.
Henry B.	Tyendinaga (Melrose). Deseronto. Brighton.
Noxon.	Sophiasburgh.
Orton.	Sophiasburgh. Manitoulin Island.
Catherine Gilbert.	Sophiasburgh
Lucretia Way.	Sophiasburgh
Susannah Foster.	Sophiasburgh
Jones.	Sophiasburgh

John R.	Hallowell (West Lake). Bruce Co. (Brant).
Mary Ann White	Hallowell
Alvah	Bruce Co. (Brant Twp). and Manitoba.
Amelia Hughes	Lost trail.
Richard	Bruce (Brant Twp.)
Josiah	Hillier. Hallowell. Wellington.
William Henry.	Hillier. Bruce Co. (Brant Twp).
David H.	Hillier. Bruce Co. (Walkerton).

Catherine Noxon	Sophiasburgh (Fish Lake).
Ann Pettit	Hillier
Gilbert Noxon	Hillier
Lucretia Palmer	Hillier
Lanor Noxon	Bloomfield
Sarah Titus	Hillier

Richard R.	Hillier (Christian St.)
Lydia White	Hillier
Jonathan	Hillier
Wilson	Hillier or N. Marysburgh

Dr. James B.	Picton
Catherine Glenn	Ameliasburgh
Elizabeth Calnan	Sophiasburgh
Susan Calnan	Sophiasburgh
David R.	Hillier (Christian St.)
Rev. Dorland N.	Manitoba, U. S. A., Ontario churches.
James R.	Sophiasburgh
Richard	Sophiasburgh
Sarah Simpson	Sophiasburgh
Capt. Walter	Sophiasburgh
Robert R.	Sophiasburgh. Owen Sound.
Sarah Lucretia Foster	Sophiasburgh
Daniel.	Sophiasburgh. Tyendinaga.
Israel	Tyendinaga
Sylvester.	Tyendinaga
Philip	Tyendinaga and Manitoba
Mary Wilde	Tyendinaga. Lost trail.
Susan Hennissey.	Tyendinaga. Lost trail.
Adeline Sprung/Easton.	Tyendinaga. Coe Hill, N. Hastings
Richard A.	Tyendinaga
Margaret Saunders	Sophiasburgh
William	Tyendinaga and Bruce Co.
Harriet Warner.	Tyendinaga and Northumberland Co.
Robert	Bruce Co. (Brant Twp.); and N. Carolina; Manitoulin I.
Margaret Doolittle.	Fredericksburgh and Hillier.
George	Bruce Co.
Stephen	Bruce Co.; Manitoulin I.; Nampa, Idaho; Ilwaco, Washington State.
Mary Jane McIntyre	Bruce Co.; N. Carolina; Idaho.
Rebecca Clarke.	Bruce Co. (Walkerton); Calgary.
William Jr.	Grey Co. (Bentinck Twp.);and Manitoulin
Catherine Quackenbush	Bruce Co. and Fredericksburgh. Napanee.
Martha McLaughlin	Bruce Co. (Carrick Twp).
S. Almeda Atton/Hall	Bruce Co. (Carrick Twp); Alberta.
Nancy McClure	Bruce Co. (Carrick Twp)
Alice McCrimmon	St. Thomas (Crown Atty).
Samuel R.	Toronto ?(Crown Atty).

**JOHN MORDEN, PIONEER.**

Ameliasburgh on the Bay shore.

## His children:

Joseph Wilkinson	Brighton. Tyendinaga. Napanee.
Elizabeth Simpkins.	Tyendinaga (Melrose)
Monroe.	Brighton
Amzi.	Napanee (Crown Attorney).
Dr. John H.	Brockville
Julia Symington	Napanee
Wealthy Burns.	British Columbia

Lorraine Snider.	Ameliasburgh
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John Howell Morden	Ameliasburgh. Stayed.
Mahala Herrington	Sidney Twp.; Algoma; Ch. to Michigan.
Caroline Herrington.	Ameliasburgh. Belleville
Lucy Irvine	Sidney. Belleville
John Benson	Ameliasburgh; Michigan.
Marshal Roblin	Michigan
Lenora D.	Ameliasburgh (Mt. Pleasant); Trenton; Belleville.
Samuel Solmes.	Ameliasburgh d. y.
Walter Stevens.	Michigan M.D.

James Cotter Morden	Tyendinaga; Sidney; Florida.
Egerton Ryerson	Sidney; Niagara.
Almira Dafoe	Port Hope, Ont.; Florida
Allan H.	Seneca Falls, N. Y.
Lucetta Dafoe.	Vancouver, B. C.
Sarah E. Morden	California and B. C.
Stanley P.	Sidney (Holloway)
Nancy Card	Bancroft; Hamilton.
Herbert	Bancroft. d. y.

Lucretia Julia Ann Clarke	Sophiasburgh (Demorestville); Utica, N. Y.
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Richard S.	Hallowell
Ransler B.	Ameliasburgh; Picton; Belleville.
Richard J.	Hallowell, d. y.
Finley	Hallowell, d. y.

Jacob O.	Ameliasburgh, d. y.
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Elizabeth Morden	unmarried
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**JOSEPH MORDEN JR., PIONEER**

Demorestville, Sophiasburgh.

No children.

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Your input in helping revise and expand these records will be greatly appreciated by our far-flung Morden relations. One project known as The Morden Information Centre is mainly the work of Larry Morden of Calgary, Alberta. Larry is entering Morden names in his genealogy program using the PAF software program. As of 2005 his address is Morden Information Center, 10720 Maplebend Drive SE, Calgary AB T2J 1X5. Phone (403) 225-3786.

APPENDIX

ALETHA ARNOLD'S LINEAGE OF EARLY MORDENS

LUCRETIA MORDEN PLUMMER

JOSEPH MORDEN JR.

PENNSYLVANIA LAND RECORDS

WILLIAM MORDAUNT, PENNSYLVANIA

CAPTAIN JOHN MORDEN, PENNSYLVANIA

JAMES MORDEN AND JOHANNES VAN ETEN PAPERS

LOYALIST PETITION 1784



## EXCERPTS FROM ALETHA ARNOLD'S LINEAGE OF EARLY MORDENS

(First four generations only).

### I. SAMUEL MORDEN<sup>1</sup> born ca. 1665 (1660-70) in England

m.

Children:

Daniel Morden<sup>2</sup> b.

II. Thomas Morden<sup>2</sup> b. ca 1690 in England  
and others

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### II. THOMAS MORDEN<sup>2</sup>, s. of Samuel<sup>1</sup>, b. ca 1690 in England

m.

Children:

James Morden<sup>3</sup> b.

Moses Morden<sup>3</sup> b.

### III. George Morden<sup>3</sup>, b. ca. 1715, see Entry III

Jane Morden<sup>3</sup> b. in England

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JANE MORDEN<sup>3</sup>, b. in England

m. Peter Case of Pennsylvania

Children:

Christopher Case<sup>4</sup>

Peter Case<sup>4</sup>

John Case<sup>4</sup>

Daniel Case<sup>4</sup>

and maybe others

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### III. GEORGE MORDEN<sup>3</sup>, s. of Thomas<sup>2</sup>;

b. ca 1715; d.

m.

Came to U.S. ca 1743, settled 40 miles above Philadelphia

Children:

James Morden, b. ca 1738<sup>4</sup>; d. 1765 in Mt. Bethel Pa.

Jonathan Morden,<sup>4</sup> b. ; d. before 11/1803 in U.S.

George Morden<sup>4</sup> b. ca 1740; d. 1818

Joseph Morden<sup>4</sup> b. ca 1740; d. 1777

Ralph Morden<sup>4</sup> b. 1742; d. 25 (26?) 11 1780

Nancy Morden<sup>4</sup> b. ca 1745; d. ca 1793

Daniel Morden<sup>4</sup> b. ca 1765; d.

Moses Morden<sup>4</sup> b. ; fought in Revolutionary War.

Son, returned to England

Son, returned to England

JAMES MORDEN<sup>4</sup>, s. of George<sup>3</sup>

b. ca 1738; d. 1765 in Mt Bethel Pa.

m. a New Jersey girl. James left an estate of £50. His brother Joseph inherited half.  
He left 2 children. His widow returned to New Jersey and remarried.

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JONATHON MORDEN<sup>4</sup>, s. of George;<sup>3</sup>

b. d. before 11/1803

m.

A receipt dated York, 5/11/1803 to Anne Morden for estate of late Jonathon. No further record.

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GEORGE MORDEN<sup>4</sup> s. of George<sup>3</sup>

b. ca.1740 IN England; d. 1818

Came to U.S. about 1743 to Philadelphia. Moved to Canada and settled Lot 10, Concession 2, West Flamboro, Ontario. Brought 2 slaves from Pennsylvania. Built a sawmill at Borsers Falls, West Flamborough (W.F.) and a distillery at Greensville.

m.

Children: George, Mary, Jonathan, David, Katharine

JOSEPH MORDEN<sup>4</sup> s. of George<sup>3</sup>

b. ca. 1740; d. 1777.

Born in England. To America as a boy. To Mohawk Valley in 1768. Died on service in the King's Royal Regt. N.Y. His widow and family set. near Bay of Quinte, Ontario;

m. Laurania Howell.

Children: James, John, Joseph Richard, Elizabeth, Lucretia, Loraine, Catharine, another son.

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RALPH MORDEN<sup>4</sup>, s. of George<sup>3</sup> ;

b. 1742; d. 25 (26?) 11/1780

m. Ann Durham in 1765.

Children: Catharine, Jane, John, Moses, Ralph, Eleanor, Elizabeth, James, Nancy.

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NANCY MORDEN<sup>4</sup> dau. of George<sup>3</sup>

b. ca 1743 on the Atlantic crossing. d. 1793 .

m. ca 1765 to John Bartholomew of Lancaster County, Pa.; b. ca 1740, in Philadelphia;  
d. in Jefferson Co ca 1823.

Children: John, Mary, Elizabeth, Margaret, Moses, Aaron, Kate, Samuel, Rachel.

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DANIEL MORDEN<sup>4</sup> s. of George<sup>3</sup>

b. ca 1765 (?); d. moved to West Flamboro, Ontario

m. Children: Jane, Ann, Mary, Daniel, John, Sophias, Sarah, Ralph.

## TWO LITTLE-KNOWN MORDEN CHILDREN: LUCRETIA AND JOSEPH JR.

### LUCRETIA MORDEN PLUMMER

Laurania Morden stated in her Loyalist claims that she had four sons and two daughters. Some family historians have made unsupported claims that there were three or four daughters, - Lucretia, Loraine, and perhaps Elizabeth or Catherine. This has not been proven and to date the only daughter who has been solidly documented is Lucretia. She was born around September 1771<sup>89</sup> near Johnstown, Tryon County, in the Mohawk Valley of New York, and was undoubtedly named after her maternal aunt, Lucretia Howell. One account says that Lucretia Morden was born on 6 Sep 1771, Fonda, Montgomery, New York.<sup>90</sup> When the American Revolution broke out and her father joined the British in 1776 she was not yet five years old. Lucretia was one of the youngsters traveling with her mother when the family had to flee from its Tryon County home to the protection of the British in New York City. When they arrived in Montreal she was one of the unnamed female children for whom her mother drew food and fuel rations. There was only one roll in which Lucretia was actually identified by name: "*Loyalists temporarily quartered at Catarauqui*" which was a list of children attached to the 2d Battalion, King's Royal Rifles New York:

4 Dec 1783. **Lucretia Morden**. 12 years, 3 months. 1/2 ration per day.<sup>91</sup> This is the record from which I estimated her date of birth.

During the resettlement period after the family had come to Upper Canada she and her mother may have lived for a time with her older unmarried brother Richard. Richard had drawn his allotment in Township Number 1, Catarauqui, had erected a cabin, and begun to clear land. A muster roll of disbanded troops and Loyalists dated October 1784 showed him with a household of one woman, one male above ten years, and one female above ten years. Perhaps this young girl was Lucretia. Although the older children had struck out on their own the younger children were still under their mother's care. In time "Mrs. Morden" had her own log cabin, appearing in a list of settlers in Township Number 3, Fredericksburgh. We assume Lucretia was living with her mother at that time. Laurania Morden's second marriage to Matthew Forest around 1784 undoubtedly affected her children but just how they regarded their stepfather is a matter for speculation. None of them named a boy Matthew in his honor.

Lucretia Morden grew to become a popular young lady, much in demand as a witness at weddings and a sponsor at baptisms. In December 1790 she was one of the witnesses at the marriage of her brother Richard to Anne Williams. The record is in the Ernesttown register of the Rev. John Langhorn, Church of England clergyman.

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<sup>89</sup> Date of birth calculated from a provision list of 1783.

<sup>90</sup> Jolene Pillars in Morden Family Newsletter. Source not stated.

<sup>91</sup> Kingston Before the War of 1812: a collection of documents edited by Richard A. Preston. Toronto, Champlain Society, 1959, p. 51.

When she was around twenty Lucretia lived for a time in the developing town of Cataraqui [Kingston] and was one of a privileged social circle. St. George's Anglican Church had just been built and had as its minister the Revd. Dr. John Stuart, a Loyalist. The first St. George's was nothing like the limestone Cathedral of today but was a simple low wooden building, with plain glass windows and a little belfry. Nevertheless it was considered the official church of the colony and the members of its founding congregation were prominent in the early community. We find Lucretia in its register as a sponsor at several baptisms of children of the founding families.<sup>92</sup>

Oct 12 1794. Sponsor of Elizabeth, daughter of Angus McDonnell and Margaret Fox.

Oct 19, 1794. Sponsor of Charles, son of Samuel Merrill and Mary Phillips.

Dec 14, 1794. Sponsor of James, son of Christopher and Phoebe Georgen.

Arch McDonnell, a magistrate and a member of the Land Board, was formerly a Lieutenant in the 84th Regiment; Christopher Georgen, a generous contributor to the building fund, was once a sergeant in the 84th Regiment. He was a church warden and a general contractor who supplied some of the church furnishings; Samuel Merrill was town constable. Lucretia Morden must have had beauty and charm to move in this provincial but elite circle.

Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte in its outline of Joseph and Laurania Morden's children stated that Lucretia Morden married Mr. Howell of Ameliasburgh and that her sister Loraine married W. Plummer. It is possible that the Pioneer Life reporter wrote "Loraine" when he meant "Lucretia" and vice versa. We have no record of these marriages but from circumstantial evidence it seems almost certain that Lucretia married Dr. Thomas Plummer. Reid, the recorder of Loyalist children listed Lucretia as a daughter of Joseph Morden but he is of little help about her marriage. He said she married [blank] Plummer of Kingston. He made no mention of any sister Loraine and we have no information about her.

## THOMAS PLUMMER

Thomas Plummer was a surgeon -- probably an army surgeon -- who had recently come from England. Kingston was a garrison town and the officers and men of the garrison were very popular with the local belles.<sup>93</sup> The first record I have found of Thomas in Cataraqui was 1794 but not until 1796 do we find his name again.

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<sup>92</sup> The Parish Register of Kingston, Upper Canada 1785-1811, ed. by A. H. Young. Kingston, The British Whig Pub Co, 1921.

<sup>93</sup> A William Plummer was a settler in Northampton County, Pennsylvania before the American Revolution. His name appeared alongside Ralph Morden, and related James Durham, and Elias Long. See Pennsylvania Archives 3d series, vol.6. State of the Accounts of the Lieutenant and Sub-Lieutenant of Northampton County, 1777-1783.

Militia Fines received from sundry delinquents for non-performance of militia duty.

William Plumer ..... £40 0 0

It seems that Thomas Plummer and Lucretia Morden were married around 1795. Lucretia would then have been twenty-four years old.. Since their marriage was not recorded in the register of St. George's I surmise that theirs was a military wedding, performed by the commander of the garrison. The evidence for their marriage is circumstantial but strong. Previous to 1796 Lucretia Morden, young and single, was a godparent for three baptisms. In November 1796 Thomas and Lucretia Plummer appeared in St. George's register as joint sponsors at the baptism of a child of Francis and Mary Wyckott (or Wykoff). In 1797 "*Lucretia Plummer daughter of Joseph Morden*" applied for a Loyalist grant and received it on the same day that Thomas Plummer received his land grant.

Thomas and Lucretia remained in the Kingston area and continued to be in demand as godparents. Thomas Plummer was a baptismal sponsor of Mary, a child of Samuel and Mary Merrill, in 1796 and Lucretia Plummer sponsored another Merrill baby, Sarah, in 1798. In 1800 Thomas was called on to sponsor Mary Bush. He and Lucretia were joint sponsors of an Ashley baby in October 1801, of a Darley baby in October 1803, of a Badgley baby in September 1804, and of a Burley baby also in 1804.

### LAND PETITIONS

Doubtless Thomas was attached to the British garrison and did not qualify for land under the regulations for displaced Loyalists. His application for a grant of land is informative:<sup>94</sup>

*Doctor Thomas Plummer late from England applies for 200 acres of land from which a Certificate is granted him and the Oath of Allegiance is administered.  
Wednesday 5th March 1794*

*Present: The Revd Mr. Stuart  
Richd Cartwright Senr Esqrs.  
Richd Cartwright Junr*

Thomas's backers were the influential men of the community, the Revd. Dr. John Stuart, the first Church of England minister of Kingston and "The Honourable Richd. Cartwright".

Three years later Thomas applied for further land.<sup>95</sup>

*29th July, 1797. Newark.*

*Thomas Plummer. Praying for lands as a settler. Recommended for 600 acres as a surgeon.*

It can scarcely be coincidence that within the same week Lucretia also applied for the land to which she was entitled.

*Kingston, July 5th 1797: to the Honorable Peter Russell, Esq., Administrator, of the Gov't of Upper Canada in Council.*

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<sup>94</sup> Upper Canada Land Board Minutes and Records 1765-1804, v. 7. Public Archives of Canada microfilm RG1 L4. A copy is in Lennox & Addington Museum, Napanee.

<sup>95</sup> Ontario Archives Report 1931, p. 38.

*The Petition of Lucretia Plummer of Kingston - humbly sheweth...your Petitioner is a daughter of a Loyalist... is entitled to lands which she has never drawn... prays for usual quantity... in the Midland District.*

*Affidavit: Personally appeared before me Lucretia Plummer.. made oath and sayeth her father Joseph Morden, Loyalist, joined the Royal Standard in America before 1783. Sworn 4th day of July, 1797.*

*William Atkinson, Comm. Peace.*<sup>96</sup>

Flour mills and saw mills were desperately needed by the early settlers. William Canniff described how the early pioneers laboriously ground out their small harvest of corn and wheat in hollowed-out stumps. The building of the first grist mill at Cataraqui and the second at Napanee were great events, and more mills were needed as the little clearings grew larger and began to yield crops. Thomas Plummer decided to become a miller and entered another application.<sup>97</sup>

*17th Nov. 1797. Council Chamber, York.*

*Thomas Plummer. Praying for a lot of land on Indian Point near Kingston to erect a wind mill on. Referred to the Acting Surveyor General to report.*

Perhaps approval was never granted. Canniff listed a number of the early mills but made no mention of one at Indian Point, and I have been unable even to pinpoint the location of Indian Point.<sup>98</sup>

Lucretia submitted another land claim at the same time that Thomas entered his.<sup>99</sup>

*17 Nov 1797. Council Chamber, York.*

*Lucretia Plummer. Praying for lands as a loyalist. Proofs being adduced of petitioner's being entitled by the U.E. List, recommended for 200 acres.*

This grant may be the Crown Land patent in Clarke Township (Newcastle District) Con 9, Lot 20, recorded on 27 April 1804 and sold in 1831.<sup>100</sup>

Thomas died an untimely death. The Parish Register of St. George's Church, Kingston, has this record.

Funerals reported Oct 8, 1805.

#206. 17th. Thomas Plummer

The register does not specify whether this was a child or an adult, but it is significant that Thomas Plummer's name disappeared from the parish register after 1804. There is nothing in the Kingston register to show that Thomas and Lucretia had any children.

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<sup>96</sup> *Public Archives of Canada. Q289, p.484.*

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid. p.85.*

<sup>98</sup> John Howell, Lucretia's uncle, built the first windmill in Canada opposite the Upper Gap in Fredericksburgh. It was not a great success as a mill but it was used as a fortress in the war of 1812.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid p. 86.*

<sup>100</sup> Ontario Archives name index. This patent is not to be confused with another patent to her niece Lucretia Morden in 1828.

I have already mentioned the possibility that Lucretia may have married W. Plummer as a second husband, but circumstantial evidence shows it is more likely that her second husband was Andrew Johnston. This belief is based on some significant entries in Rev. John Langhorn's register:<sup>101</sup>

Mary Anne, dau of Andrew and Lucretia Johnston, ErnestTown, baptism March 1, 1807.  
Thomas Plummer, son of Andrew and Lucretia Johnston, ErnestTown, baptism 7 Apr 1809.  
Rev. Langhorn recorded the burial of this child on the same day, April 7, 1809.

Eve, dau of Andrew and Lucretia Johnston, ErnestTown, baptism May 11, 1813.  
Eve, dau of Andrew and Lucretia Johnston, ErnestTown, burial May 13, 1813.

Lucretia is not a common name except among our Howell and Morden family and there is little doubt that Lucretia Johnston was Lucretia Morden Plummer. The names of the Johnston children support the argument for Lucretia Morden as their mother. Thomas Plummer Johnston's name honored the army doctor, and Eve was the name of Lucretia's sister-in-law Eve Bowman, wife of John Morden. Mary Anne may have been a name from either the Plummer or the Johnston family.

LDS records show that another researcher has also connected her with Andrew Johnston:  
*Lucretia Morden married Andrew Johnston 1805, of Ernestown, Lennox & Addington.*<sup>102</sup>  
I have not seen the evidence on which this entry was based.

Jolene Pillars who produced the Morden Family Newsletter believes that her ancestor Mary Anne Priest was the daughter of William Plummer and Lucretia Morden. She has traced this line in her newsletter.<sup>103</sup> Jolene states that W. Plummer married Lucretia Morden 17 Nov 1797 and that their daughter Mary Ann Plummer was born on 24 March 1807. If Jolene has good evidence of this my arguments for Thomas Plummer as Lucretia's husband are invalid.. Regardless of whether Mary Ann's father was Thomas or William, Mary Ann was certainly the daughter of one of these Plummer men. It is a strange coincidence that Mary Ann Johnston was born about the same time as Mary Ann Plummer. Mary Ann Plummer may have been adopted by Johnston. Perhaps two Morden sisters both with a name beginning with L. married two Plummer men, thus creating confusion. . Further research for Thomas Plummer's army and land records is needed.

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<sup>101</sup> Langhorn, Ernesttown Baptisms p. 40.

<sup>102</sup> LDS Film no. 1760929. (Official temple record for deceased individuals) Internet.

<sup>103</sup> Morden Family Newsletter, v.1, nos 1 and 4; and v. 2, no.1.

**W. Plummer m. Lucretia Morden** 17 Nov 1797.

Lucretia b. 6 Sep 1771, Fonda, Montgomery, New York.

1 dau Mary Ann Plummer b. 24 Mar 1807. Marr Phesenton Priest. Had 8 children. She d. in childbirth?

In vol. 2, no.1 Jolene provides 4 pages of detailed information which follows the Mary Ann Plummer / Phesenton Priest family through three generations. One of their eight children was named William and another Andrew J. Again, this brings Andrew Johnston into the picture as either father or step-father. Mary Ann died in 1852 in Whitby Township, Ontario County and was buried at Hubbell Cemetery, Myrtle. Phesenton Priest died about thirty years later in Michigan.

The Lot in Clarke Township, Durham County, Con 9 Lot 20, which the Crown had granted to Lucretia Plummer was sold by Mary Ann Plummer to John T. Williams in 1831.



## JOSEPH MORDEN JR.

c1774-1836, son of Joseph and Laurania

Joseph Morden, Junior, was born about 1774 or later, not long before his father left home to join the British army. Because we have no birth record for him we have to estimate his date of birth from other sources. He was one of the children who accompanied his mother on the journey from their Tryon County home to New York City and from there by sea to Quebec. He was thought of as a little fellow and any references to him describe him as "*an orphan*" and "*only a boy*". His mother and her children were shown in Montreal on provision lists in the winter of 1781.<sup>104</sup> Because Joseph was too young to serve in the army, information about him is as sparse as can be, and he was counted in refugee provision lists as a nameless male child.

His birth date becomes an exercise in deduction. In a "General Return of Refugee Loyalists in the Province of Quebec..." (estimated date 1783/84) 'Lorina' Morden had two children with her, - a boy between 6 and 12 years, and a girl over 12. The boy was obviously Joseph Jr. which shows that his date of birth fell within the years 1772 - 1777. On 24 Jan 1784 another return of the Unincorporated Loyalists victualled in the Province of Quebec listed "*Joseph Morden, an orphan at Montreal, 1 person, 1/2 ration per day.*" After the war when his mother had remarried and was living with her second husband Matthew Forrest at the King's Sawmill near Cataragui, we again glimpse Joseph Jr. in a provision list for the mill workers (circa Sept 1784). Matthew Forrest had in his household a woman, a male under 10 (Joseph), and a female above 10. From this we calculate that 1774 is the earliest possible year of Joseph's birth. In May 1798 when he made application for a land grant he had to be at least twenty-one to qualify, which places the latest possible birthdate at May 1777.

He was living in Sophiasburgh when he entered his Loyalist Claim. "*Petition of Joseph Morden, a U.E. Loyalist, is a son of Joseph Morden, U.E.L., not having received lands prays that a quantity be assigned to him. Sophiasburgh, 10th May 1798.*" We surmise that Joseph Jr. was in an ambiguous position in calling himself a Loyalist. His father had died in service before establishing his status as a Loyalist settler, his mother was not eligible for recompense as widow of a Loyalist, and now Joseph found that he was too young to be classed as a Loyalist in his own right. He resubmitted his claim at the Council Chamber, York, in July. His brother John was in York applying for land at that same time and may have represented him. The granting officer made this note: "*The Petitioner I believe to be twenty-one years of age. York, 6th July 1798, signed D. M. G. Rogers.*" This Order-in-Council was "*returned to the Council Office by the late Surveyor General Mr. Smith for privileges or otherwise.*" In the end his claim was allowed and Joseph Morden was approved for 200 acres as a U.E. Loyalist on 7 July 1798.

On 10 Feb 1810 a new order was signed by John McGill stating that "*Joseph Morden is privileged for one Deed for two hundred acres of land as a U.E.L.*" He did not pay the patent fees on this land immediately and it was not patented to him until 25th Feb 1818. The location was in York County, Lot 13 Con 1, Georgina Township. This was in the Lake Simcoe area and was considered remote and undesirable at that time. His residence was still Sophiasburgh and he remained there through his life. "*Joseph settled near Demorestville and died without issue,*" wrote Gilbert W. Morden. I have not

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<sup>104</sup> Haldimand Papers B165

discovered the exact location of his farm but believe it was at Fish Lake near his brother Richard's. Fourteen years after this grant, in a reversal of his status Joseph Morden, son of Joseph Morden Sr. and "Lorina" Forest of the Midland District "a boy", was taken off the U.E.L. list on 21 Jan 1824. At any rate he had by that time received his land allotment, but the denial of a place on the roll of honor must have struck him as unjust to say the least.

When the war of 1812 brought the threat of an American invasion Joseph did duty as a Sergeant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Prince Edward County Militia. Three records show that he served at least eight months and possibly more:

Nov. 25 to Dec 24, 1812, in Capt. John Howell's Company.

Oct 17, 1813, he was in Capt. James Cotter's Regiment and had served 6 months.

Oct 25, 1813, he was in Capt. Owen Richards' Company, 31 days, pay 15s. 6d.

The regiment's basis was the old KRRNY. One of its captains was Joseph's uncle John Howell, and I believe that Captain James Cotter was also his uncle through marriage.

On 14 Feb 1820 Joseph Morden of Sophiasburgh was one of ten men who signed a letter in support of Samuel Taylor's claim to land. In August 1829 he signed another petition concerning several surveys which did not agree as to the lot lines. This was a perennial problem in Prince Edward County as a result of the first hurried survey and of the irregular character of the shoreline itself. The latest survey by Publius V. Elmore *"if adhered to will create the utmost confusion and distress in the whole concession by depriving every one of a considerable portion of their buildings. Your petitioners being comprised of nearly 70 individuals in the concession most humbly pray that in your wisdom will see fit to order the survey made by John Ryder Deputy surveyor as the unalterable surveyor for the concession..."*

Joseph was married twice but left no descendants. His first wife was **Margaret Huffman** and his second was **Levina Rutter**, both of whom appear to have come of Palatine families who had emigrated from the Rhineland to America before the Revolution.

## MARGARET HUFFMAN

Margaret's identity and year of birth are established from the Quaker register of the West Lake Meeting in which her death was recorded. *Margaret Morden, daughter of Conrad and Catherine Huffman, died on the 10th of the 7th month, 1829 aged 51, late residence Sophiasburgh.* From this we can calculate that she was born c1778.

The Hoffmans were said to have originated in Sweden and gone from there to Holland. Several Hoffmans were in lists of Palatine refugees made in 1707 at Rotterdam and London. A history of the Huffman/Hoffman family compiled by Alleta Huffman Niles shows that Coenrad Huffman (bapt 1738) and his wife Catharina Pulver (bapt 1741) lived in the Hudson valley of New York State before the American Revolution. Alleta found their eleven children in the baptismal records of the Dutch Reformed Church in the years between 1761 and 1786, some baptized near Rhinebeck in Dutchess County, and some in Columbia County. "Gritjen" was the eighth; she was baptized on 15 January 1777 in the Dutch Reformed Church in Rhinebeck. Gritjen or Gritje is the Dutch diminutive of Margrietje.

When Gritje was born the American Revolution was already under way and several Hoffmans had shown their Loyalist sentiments. A "Coenrod Huffman" -not Gritje's father but another of that name - served in Rogers Rangers and a Nicholas Huffman, merchant, of Dutchess County had his property confiscated by the rebels. After the war Philip Hoffman of Fredericksburgh and Joseph Hoffman Sr. and Jacob Hoffman of Ernestown were in Reid's Loyalist list. Although Gritje's father Conrad remained in the United States during the Revolution his sympathies apparently were also with the British.

The connection in early Upper Canada between the Huffman, Pulver and Morden families may well have gone back to the Mohawk Valley. One of the Pulvers married a Bowman wife in Schenectady and Bowman was the name of Joseph Morden's sister-in-law Eve, wife of his brother John Morden. The strands of these and other Loyalist names form an interwoven fabric that stretches across the border.

I have failed to find the record of Joseph Morden's first marriage. It probably took place after Jan 1, 1804 when he was around thirty and Margaret about twenty-five. Margaret Huffman still bore her maiden name when she acted as a sponsor of the baptism of Elizabeth Smith, infant daughter of Samuel and Mary Smith on 1 Jan 1804. (Stuart's Register, Kingston). Two of Margaret's siblings married in the late 1790s. Her sister Magdalena, born 1774 Dutchess County, married James Cotter Jr. of Fredericksburgh on 20 Apr 1794. A brother, Peter, married Anne Maria Fretz in 1797. Another brother, Conrad, married Jane Shibley in 1804.

As already mentioned the Quaker records show that Margaret died in 1829 aged fifty-one. She was probably buried in the old Quaker Burying Ground overlooking the Bay of Quinte and her monument no longer exists.. Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte stated that Joseph and Margaret had no children.

## LEVINA RUTTER

Three years later Joseph married again. His second wife came from across the bay in Adolphustown and was also the daughter of a Loyalist. On 26 June 1832 **Joseph Morden** of Sophiasburgh and **Levina Rikman** of Adolphustown were married by the pioneer Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Robert McDowall of Fredericksburgh. The genealogist Brian Tackaberry, who is tracing the Ryckman family, wrote, "*I believe that the Lavinia, or Levina Rikman who married Joseph Morden Jr. was actually not a Ryckman but a Rutter. Benjamin Ryckman, son of Tobias Ryckman UE of Sophiasburgh, was married on July 11, 1821 to Lavinia Rutter, daughter of George Rutter UE of Adolphustown. She received her land as daughter of a UE Loyalist by OC Sep 28, 1825, and her husband Benjamin received his land by OC on Mar 17, 1824. They appear to have lived in Adolphustown but may have spent some time in Sophiasburgh, where other Ryckman relatives had settled. I do not believe that there were any children from this marriage, but cannot entirely rule this out... It is not known where or when Benjamin died... I believe that [Lavinia who married Joseph Morden] is Lavinia widow of Benjamin Ryckman*". For consistency's sake I am calling her Levina.

Levina's father, John George Rutter used his middle name George. He was born near Esslingen, Wurtemberg, Germany and came to America in 1774, entering at Philadelphia. He farmed at Hoseck in Albany county, New York, and fought on the British side in the American Revolution. Dr. Burleigh wrote an account of a stirring action in 1776 in which George Rutter participated. Seventy-five civilian Loyalists who had been cutting wood defended a blockhouse at Bergen Wood, New Jersey, against General Wayne and 2000 trained rebel soldiers. Not only did they drive off the enemy but they gave chase and captured some prisoners and cattle. George came to the Bay of Quinte in 1784 with Van Alstine's Associated Loyalists. He settled in Adolphustown, bringing his family from Sorel, and appeared with a family of seven in the return of inhabitants in 1794. His wife was Elizabeth, surname uncertain, possibly Meyers. They had eleven or twelve children, one of whom was Lavinia or Levina who was born about 1800. George received at least three grants of land on Concession 3, Adolphustown and was in the annual returns of Adolphustown settlers in 1800, 1810 and 1822.

Levina married her first husband, Benjamin Ryckman, also living in Adolphustown on 11 July 1821. He was the son of another Associated Loyalist settler, Tobias Ryckman. Tobias was in the Return of Disbanded troops and Loyalists settled in Township No. 4 Cataraqui (Adolphustown), 5 October 1784. In 1790 he was granted one hundred acres (1/2 Lot 8, Con 2) on the east side of East Lake. Tobias appeared in Prince Edward Co in a list of land grants for 1790, Districts of Lunenburg and Mecklenburg on the east side of East Lake, one hundred acres, 1/2 of Lot 8, Con 2.

After Benjamin's death Levina married Joseph Morden. McDowall's register shows: "*Joseph Morden, Sophiasburgh; Levina Rikman. Adolphustown. June 26, 1832.*" Less than four years later Joseph Morden Jr. died in Feb 1836 without issue. (Reid's Loyalists) He may well have been buried in the old Quaker Burying Ground but no marker remains to prove it. He left no children to keep his memory green.

His widow "**Levina**" **Morden** married **John Foster** on April 10th, 1837. Both were of Adolphustown, they were married by the Rev John Hamm, Methodist minister, and the witnesses were Mathew Ruttan and Rachael Ballard. John and Lavinia appeared as witnesses at a Prince Edward County marriage in January 1840. I have found no further traces of them.

Sources:

Gordon Crouse, Morden Family Notes.

Gilbert Walworth Morden, Napanee, Ont. Handwritten notes on the Morden family, c1950.

Haldimand Papers, vol.167, pt.2, p.358 (cited by Crouse).

E. Keith Fitzgerald. Loyalist Lists, (Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1984), p.3.

Mary Beacock Fryer and Lieut-Colonel William A. Smy, Rolls of the Provincial (Loyalist) Corps, Canadian Command, American Revolutionary Period, (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1981).

William D. Reid. The Loyalists in Ontario (Lambertville, NJ: Hunterdon House, c1973).

West Lake Meeting, Hicksite Quaker records. PAC mf 3841, item C-3-77.

Rev. McDowall's Marriage Register ed. by Wanamaker, pp. 22, 25.

Marriage register of the Rev. John Ham of Ernestown, Midland District 1836-1838, transcribed from the original in The Searchlight, vol 1, no 3.

Ontario Archives 20th Report, 1931. Land book C. p. 187.

Ontario Bureau of Industries Report. Toronto, 1897. Appendix; "Pioneer Owners of Land, Adolphustown", taken from books of the Crown Lands Department, Toronto.

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Pioneer Life on the Bay of Quinte, pub'd 1904, repr Belleville, Mika Pub Co, 1972.

Alleta Huffman Niles. The Huffman-Hoffman Family Line of Alleta Marion Huffman. Dated 1978-1986. In the collection of the Marilyn Adams Centre, Ameliasburgh.

Eula C. Lapp. To Their Heirs Forever. (Belleville: Mika. 1977). Hoffman pp. 27 and 351.

Harry S. Rutter, "A Brief History of John George Rutter, Loyalist of Adolphustown Township, Lennox and Addington County," The Beacon, 1998, p. 6.

Letter from Brian Tackaberry to Marjorie Van Damme, May 30, 1998.

Dr. H. C. Burleigh, "The Blockhouse at Bergen Wood" in Forgotten Leaves of Local History. Brown & Martin, Kingston Ont, 1973.

Nick and Helma Mika, The Settlement of Prince Edward County. (Belleville: Mika, 1984). p.229, Appendix 2. Land grants 1790, Districts of Lunenburg & Mecklenburg. Canadian Archives. p.230 East Side of East Lake. Tobias Ruckman, Con 2.

Larry Turner. Voyage of a Different Kind. The Associated Loyalists of Kingston and Adolphustown. (Belleville, Mika: 1984).

## NOTES ON SMALLPOX AMONG THE LOYALISTS

Joseph Morden, my Loyalist ancestor who was a private in the King's Royal Regiment of New York, contracted smallpox in the army camp near Montreal and died of it on 24 November 1777. The words "died of smallpox" are dry and cryptic and convey nothing of the horror of such a death. Much of what I have learned about the disease is drawn from Thomas Fleming's 1776, Year of Illusions.<sup>105</sup>

Smallpox, which has now been declared officially eradicated, was a feared disease in the eighteenth century. Those who became ill with it suffered agonizing fevers, cramps, rashes, and diarrhea, and many in the end died. The lucky ones who survived became immune. When the Americans invaded Canada in 1776 this terrible plague swept through their army camps at Sorel and Quebec, and the sick men suffered unattended in tents and barns. An American army doctor described one such ravaged camp: "*Language cannot describe nor imagination paint, the scenes of misery and distress the Soldiery endure. Scarcely a tent upon this Isle but what contains one or more in distress and continually groaning & calling for relief, but in vain! Requests of this nature are as little regarded as the singing of Crickets on a Summers evening... [I found] a large barn Crowded full of men ...many of which could not See, Speak or walk,*" and he went on to give other details too sickening to repeat.

Vaccination to immunize people had just been developed but the vaccine carried the live virus and sometime actually caused the disease. The distasteful procedure was to make two holes in the arm, then draw through them a thread which had been coated with matter from a smallpox sore. Benedict Arnold who was still fighting on the American side, ordered that every man who had not had smallpox be immunized, but his order was hysterically countermanded by General Thomas, who appropriately enough, himself took sick with smallpox and died. In May of 1776 along came the British fleet under Sir Guy Carleton, carrying Gentleman Johnny Burgoyne and 10,000 reinforcement troops and landed at Quebec. The alarmed Americans, in disarray, and at half-strength because of the smallpox, broke and fled through the forest and along the river leaving guns, rifles and cannon. "*At times it seemed that half the army was carrying the other half, so many men were ill with smallpox. More than one man was left to die in the woods when his companions became too weak to carry him.*" The Americans abandoned 200 sick in hospital, - a legacy of pestilence.

Carleton was not interested in pursuing the scattered enemy to wreak vengeance. He has been described as cold and unfeeling, but he did give humane orders that his captains round up the starving enemy men from the woods and French parishes and see that they got fed. "*All Capts. & other Officers of Militia are hereby commanded to make diligent search for all such distress'd persons and afford them all necessary relief, & convey them to the General Hospital, where proper care shall be taken of them...*" He further promised to return them home "*as soon as their health is restored.*" From this contact smallpox entered the British ranks and a few years later spread to the refugee camps at Sorel where women and children gathered around 1783.

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<sup>105</sup> Thomas Fleming, 1776, Year of Illusions, (New York: W. W. Norton, c1975) Chapter 17, pp. 221. 224-5. p.229.



mf 384,837

Exemplification Index. 1683-1801.

Wm Mordant Jan 5, 1683/4 No 5, page 528. [That's all]

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LDS mf 14279. Found will of Wm Mordent p. 318. Not looked at.  
also mf 14281 and 14285.

Grantees Index. (1683-1718) in one of the above 3 films.  
Book D4 p. 80 for transfer from Wm Mordaunt to James Mortimer of  
500 ac which became 607. No date.

Penn. Archives Series 2, vol. 19, p. 582.

Minute Book H, 13 6th mo 1714:

Patent to Coll. John Evans for 607 Ac with 500 from Wm Mordant.  
Also in 1032840, Book #11. Great Valey, Chester Co, Welch Tract.  
Duffryn Mawr or Great Valey; some part called Whiteland.  
p. 17 Capt John Mordent. Record 500 Ac become 607 went to C. J.  
Evans on 10/3/1714. (see below).

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LDS microfilm 1032840

RG Land Office Journal vol.D. 22 Dec 1738 to 24 Mar 1742.

Ledger page dated Philadelphia 1741 June 25th day.  
Cash Drs for Quitrent Rec'd 143.9.0. of Sundry Persons at  
Philadelphia.

3 mo 20 day of Thomas Morden a lot in Walnut street  
57 yrs in full £5:14.-

Comments:

Walnut St. is in the heart of today's downtown Philadelphia and  
runs past Rittenhouse Square, Washington Square and Independence  
Square.

Wm Mordant purchased a lot in Philadelphia in 1683.  
Thomas Morden paid 57 years quitrent on a lot in Walnut St.,  
Philadelphia, in 1741. 1683 + 57 = 1740.

Glenn, Thomas Allen. Merion in the Welsh Tract with sketches of the townships of Haverford and Radnor. Norristown, 1896.

The index is admittedly incomplete so I scanned the book page by page. No Mordens. A few Howells.

p.27. List of purchasers in the Welsh tract. [This list was published in the Pennsylvania Magazine, n.d.]  
About 45 names for 50,000 acres.

William Mordant 500.

=====  
First and Last Name Index to the History of Chester County, Pennsylvania, by J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope. 1983

MORDANT William 38

vol.1, p. 38.

Dat 5th 12th mo 1701.

An account of the purchasers concerned in the Welsh Tract, granted by the generall war't by wich the said Tract was laid out and such lands as hath bine laid out by war't to dylie executed within the same, and 1st of Ye Ould England Purches'rs

[List of 41 shareholders]

6th name was William Mordant.....500 acres  
50,000 ac total.

Comment:

He did not appear in early tax lists as far as I could tell. An absentee owner?

CAPT. JOHN MORDEN'S LAND IN PENNSYLVANIA

LDS microfilm 1032840. Records of the Land Office.  
RG17. Rent Book A.  
Rent Roll No. 11. Chester County  
Welch Tract Rent Roll Alphabet.  
Morden John Capt. 17.

=====  
mf 1032840.

Handwritten ledger; no headings on columns (see my photocopy)  
Ref. 17.

13:1:1683/4. Capt John Morden  
now Coll. John Evans  
now Thomas James.  
10:3:1714 to C. J. Evans 500 [ac?] 607 [ac]  
Paid J. Logan in full to the year 1714 [by whom?]  
6: 3:740 [1740] to J.L. 26 y in full £7:7:4  
22:2:743 [1743] to J.L. 3 ys in full - 17:-  
19:5:745 [1745] to Jo 2 y in full - 11:4  
10 April 1765 to EP for 20 y'ly 5:0:0

Comments:

Capt John Mordent probably held the land from 1683/4 to 1714 when  
pd in full, then let it go. Evans took it over in 1714.

Did Capt John also have a lot in Philadelphia?

This seems to be the same land patented to Wm. Mordant (500 acres  
became 607). Date of transfer is the same. Evans was the buyer.

"James Logan the Proprietor's Receiver Gener'll for this Province  
and Counties, being disposed to resign the Collective Part of his  
Commission for the same, was pleased with the advice and Consent of  
the other Comm'rs to appoint James Steele to be Deputy Receiv'r  
Gen'll..." 30, 1 mo. 1714.

=====  
Survey notes for a road from Thomas Jarman's Mill leading from the  
great Road from Radner to Philadelphia. May 1710.

*...1710 and laid out a road beginning at Thomas Jarman's mill in  
the great Valley thence to a whit oadk on the said Jarman's land  
marked with five notches from thence through the land of John  
Mordent to a marked poplar with five notches... etc etc from tree  
to tree.*

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Pennsylvania Archives vol. 19, Series 2.  
Minute Book H.  
1714.

Signed a Patent to Coll. John Evans for 607 acres in the Great  
Valley, 500 acres in right of Wm Mordant, the rest he pays for,  
dated 16th 3 mo.



JAMES MORDEN FACT SHEET

- 14 Sep 1751. James Morden of Bucks Co. bought 20 acres at the rate of  
#205 £15 20 s per hundred acres. Above the Forks of the Delaware.  
Regd 14 Sep Nicholas Scull to have it surveyed. Thomas Hamilton
- 11 Sep 1751. James Mervin Gent. of Bucks Co. bought 60 acres that had  
#204 belonged to Abraham Tennis, Deceased, in Rockhill Twp.  
Reg's 14 Sep Adjoins land of Lawrence Growdon. £15 20s per hundred acres.  
Nicholas Scull to have it surveyed. James Hamilton.
- 14 Nov 1753 Land surveyed to James Morden. 1755 see below  
12 Apr 1758 Will of James Mordan. All to wife Jhn? Mordan, improvement  
land on the Pensolvany side, catel, horses. sheep.  
If she marry, all to be equally divided among children Gorg and  
Jame, and to each 5s. Richard Goodwin, Catran Goodwin, wits.
- 19 July 1766 Jane Vanetta late Jane Morden, petitioned Orphan Court in  
Easton. 1st husband James Morden d. intestate 6 years ago  
leaving his widow and 9 children; had 100 acres improvement  
in Mount Bethel Twp. James d. in debt to more than the estate  
was worth. Jane petitioned court for permission to sell the  
land to pay debts and bring up the children. Permission to  
hold a public sale granted.
- 8 Sep 1766 John Vanetta and Jane his wife administrators of estate of James  
Morden late of Mount Bethel Twp reported to Orphans Court the  
sale of lands on 11 Aug to George Beck for £70.  
Signed 16 Sep 1766 by Jounnes Vanetta.  
Approved by the court.
- 10 Sep 1772 Surveyed to George Beck.  
George Beck also had two warrants for land of his own, total  
for the 4 parcels 155 acres.
- 8 Jan 1790 Joseph Beck paid the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania £40 8s for  
a certain tract of land called Hemlock Fall in Mt. Bethel Twp.  
containing 190 acres made up of 4 warrants, 2 grants to  
James Morden 14 Sep 1751 and 2 to George Beck in 1772 and 1773.
- 16 Sep 1778 James Morden (is this Jr?) named on the Pennsylvania Black  
List of person who have assisted the King of Great-Britain.
- 10 Nov 1753 George Morden granted 50 acres adjoining James Morden in  
Northampton Co to be pd at the rate of £15 10s. per hundred acres
- 16 Jan 1755 George Morden, 50 acres above the Forks of the Delaware, North-  
ampton Co, adjoining James Morden and James Martin.

GEORGE MORDEN NAMES IN COLONIAL RECORDS

- 1753 George Morden granted 20 acres adjoining James Morden in Northampton County, Pennsylvania, 10 Nov. To be paid at rate of £15, 10s. per hundred acres. A return on 23 May 1795 shows it patented to Valentine Stine; 28.45 acres. (LDS microfilm 1028,661. Warrant registers, vol.17, Northampton Co.,1733-1785) #28.
- 1753 Pennsylvania Land Office Quitrent Rolls,#12. Entry 226. Nov. 10, Philadelphia. George Morden's payment for 28 acres,45 p. in Northampton County to be £4.7.7. He paid £1.0.0. (LDS microfilm 1032,840, entry #226)
- 1755 George Morden had a survey for 50 acres above the forks of the Delaware, Northampton County, 16 Jan. Not recorded, no return, no patentee. (LDS microfilm 1028,661, entry #48 . See also Penn. Archives, 3d ser. vol.26, p.125).
- 1758 George Morden of Oxford Town, Sussex County, N.J., petitions for a tavern license since there is no stopping place for travelers in a twenty-mile stretch of road. Petition signed by nine neighbors. Feb 1758. (LDS microfilm 900,372. Sussex Co. applications for tavern licenses 1753-1759). Petition granted. He also signed the applications of three neighbors.
- 1758 George Morden witness to the marriage of John Zeitz and Henrietta Reisenfels in Philadelphia; Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, March 15. (Pennsylvania German Church Records...from the Pa. German Society Proceedings and Addresses. 3 vols. Baltimore, Genealogical Pub. Co., 1983, v.1,p.653).
- 1759 ~~George Morden one of three witnesses to the will of Nicholas Beston, April 20, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Dutch Baptist or Dunkers. (Maryland Will Book 30, part 2, p.770)~~  
On examining a microfilm of the original registry book the name proved to be Mardin, not Morden.
- 1768 First town meeting of the new Township of Knowlton, Sussex Co., N.J. was held on the second Tuesday in March. George Morden appointed constable. (Snell. History of Sussex County, N.J.,1881. p. 625)
- 1773 Will of Neeltje Robeson of Knowlton, Sussex Co. N.J. mentioning her daughter Elinor, wife of George Morden, with eleven children. (N.J. Archives, 1st series, vol. 30, 32 or 34, Abstracts of Wills).

GEORGE MORDEN NAMES IN COLONIAL RECORDS

- 1773 Sussex County Tax Ratables, 1772-1822. Knowlton Twp.  
George Mordin 150 ac; value of land £12. 14 horses and cattle.  
Column for householder not checked off. Taxes £1.3.8.  
(LDS microfilm 411,318)
- 1774 George Morden 150 acres, value ? 9 Horses and cattle. Saw mill.  
Total value £11.
- 1773 George Morden taxpayer in Sept of each year in Knowlton Twp.,  
1774 Sussex Co. (Ronald Vern Jackson. New Jersey Tax lists v ol.3, 1981)
- 1774 Provincial taxes, Philadelphia Co. (Penn Archives 3d ser.,vol.14, p.427)
- 1793 Sussex County militia. Township of Knowlton.  
p.282. #86 David Morden  
#87 George Morden  
We can safely say that these are the sons of George of Knowlton  
listed by A. Arnold.

Pennsylvania Land Office, Harrisburg. Warrant No. 48, Northampton Co.

1755

No.48

Jan'y 16

Northampton County. 50 Acres

George Morden

---

By the Proprietaries

Whereas George Morden of the County of Northampton hath requested that we would grant him to take up fifty acres of land adjoining James Morden and James Martin above the Forks of the Delaware in the said County of Northampton for which he agrees to pay to our use at the rate of fifteen pounds ten shillings current money of this Province for one hundred acres and the yearly quit-rent of one half-penny sterling for every acre thereof These are therefore to authorize and require you to survey or cause to be surveyed unto the said George Morden at the Place aforesaid, according to the Method of Townships appointed, the said quantity of fifty Acres if not already surveyed or appropriated, and make Return thereof into the Secretary's Office, in order for further Confirmation, for which this shall be your sufficient Warrant; Which Survey in case the said George Morden fulfil the above agreement within six months from the date hereof, shall be valid, otherwise void. Given under my Hand and Seal of the Land Office, by Virtue of certain powers from the said Proprietaries at Philadelphia, this seventeenth day of January Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and fifty-five.

To Nicholas Scull, Surveyor General.

By the PROPRIETARIES.

Pennsylvania, ff.

(L. S.)

WHEREAS *George Morden* of the County of *Northampton* hath requested that We would grant *him* to take up *Twenty* Acres of Land *adjoining or near James Morden between the branches of Allegany River*

in the *5<sup>th</sup>* County of *Northampton* for which *he* agrees to pay to our Use *at Three* Fifteen Pounds Ten Shillings, current Money of this Province, for *the* Hundred Acres; *and the* yearly Quit-rent of one Halfpenny Sterling for every Acre thereof;

THESE are therefore to authorize and require you to survey, or cause to be surveyed unto the said *George Morden* at the Place aforesaid, according to the Method of Townships appointed, the said Quantity of *20* Acres, if not already surveyed or appropriated, and make Return thereof into the Secretary's Office, in order for further Confirmation; for which this shall be your sufficient Warrant: Which Survey, in case the said *George Morden* fulfil the above Agreement within *Six* Months from the Date hereof, shall be valid; otherwise void: GIVEN under my Hand, and the Seal of the Land-Office, by Virtue of certain Powers from the said Proprietaries, at Philadelphia, this *10<sup>th</sup>* Day of *Nov<sup>r</sup>* Anno Domini One Thousand Seven Hundred and *Eighty three*

100

*George Morden*  
*James Morden*  
*Secretary*  
*Surveyor*  
*To Nicholas Scull, Surveyor General.*

*James Hamilton*

## SUMMARY

### RALPH MORDEN IN THE LAND RECORDS

- 1761 Ralph Morden and his brother Joseph assessed as single men in Mt. Bethel, Northampton Co.
- 1764 Ralph Martin £5. Mt. Bethel Twp
- 1765 Relve Mordhen 2 acres cultivated land.  
1765 Relve Morthon £6.
- 1766 Relph Martin. 53 acres Mt. Bethel.  
1766 Refe Mordon. £6 Mt. Bethel.
- 1767 Refe Marton pays £7 Mt. Bethel.  
1767 Relf Morden rated 12s on 200 acres Mt. Bethel. (Not single man)
- 1768 Mar 5 Relf Martin. £9, Mt Bethel.  
1768 Ralph Mordon rated 12s on 200 acres; £2.5s.4d on livestock and quitrent.  
1768 Ralph Morden taxed on 200 ac, 1 horse, 1 cow.  
1768 Ralph Mordon pays £2.5s.4d on 147 acres, 2 horses, 1 cow.
- 1769 Relph Martin rated £12 on 200 acres and £1.12s.- on lvgestock, 1 horse, 1 cow. Mt Bethel.
- 1770? [c29 May] Undated survey of Ralph Morden's land, Northampton Co Warrants 1769-74.  
1770 Mar 5 Ralph Morden 8. Mt. Bethel.  
1770 Ralph Morden rated £12 [s?] on 50 ac.
- 1772 Ralph Mordon, labourer pays £1. proprietary tax, Mt. Bethel.  
1773 Feb 8. Ralph Morden £12 tax. Abated £6.  
1773 Ralph Morden rated £1 on 200 ac. total tax £1.6s.8d.Mt. Bethel.
- 1775, Jan. Ralph Mordon 100 ac. Return of Mt. Bethel Twp for Co.  
1776 Ralph Mardin 50 ac. Mt. Bethel.
1778. May 14. Northampton Co Militia, 6th Bn, 2d Company.  
Ralph Mordan.
1780. May 14. Northampton Co Militia, 5th Bn.  
Ralph Mordon [listed twice]



JAMES MORDEN OF MT BETHEL TWP. PENNSYLVANIA

The records which follow pertaining to James Morden are confusing, repetitive, and hard to fit into what we know of the Morden family structure. The legal papers are also hard for a layman to interpret. James Morden who made a will in 1758 and died soon after left his estate, - one hundred acres and a number of large debts - to his widow Jane and nine children. The only children named in the will were sons George and James.

In April 1760 Richard Goodwin and Robert Allison, Junr, made an inventory of the estate of Jeams Morden deceased. The improvement land was valued at £70. and the remaining assets brought the total value to £120.13.11.

It is tempting to identify this James Morden as James<sup>3</sup> brother of Moses, George and Jane. Estimating that a man who had nine children by 1756 was probably married around 1740-1742 it would place him in the generation that was born in England. This is only a theory and needs more proof before it can be accepted.

After James died Jane soon remarried John Vanetten of New Jersey, a widower with several children of his own. His name is spelled in various ways, Vanetta, Van Etten, Van Etta. Together they reared the younger Morden children and their bill for child-care expenses against the Morden estate provides the names of six of these. Presumably the three anonymous older children were self-supporting.

In 1765 Jane and John Van Etta submitted accounts to the Registrar's Office at Easton, Pennsylvania, showing that they paid out £77.0.3 to various creditors leaving very little in the estate. There are pages of accounts, further inventories, and bewildering duplicates of these. John and Jane Van Etta petitioned the Orphans Court in July 1766 for permission to sell the 100 acre improvement in Mount Bethel Township. Permission was granted and land records show that the land was purchased by George Beck in 1766 for £70. Goods and Chattles brought in another £50. and they paid the debts and made a final settlement on June 23, 1766. Edward Robeson [husband of Elinor ], was an executor and collected his expenses as did John Lowrey whose wife was probably a daughter of George Morden. Sizeable amounts were paid to Joseph and George Morden.

In the will which he made in 1786 John van Etta left some assets to the children of his first marriage, and to "my dear beloved wife Jinne" but the bulk of his estate was left to "my son and law Samuel Morden." Vanetten children mentioned were John, Sarah, Cornelia, Mary, and Ann.

WILL OF JAMES MORDAN OF NORTHAMPTON CO, PENNSYLVANIA

April the 12 day 1758

This is to satisfy whom it may consarn that I give to my wife Jhon Morden all that I have for hir widowhud the inprufment land on pensolveny side and all catel and horsis and sheep for hir widowhud and if she doth marey anyman I [erasure] all that I have is to be equally divided among my children but Gorg and Jame and to each of them five shillings. This bein the last will of James Mordan.

Richard Goodwin

Catran       her  
              X     Goodwin  
              mark

Transcript from file 404

Inventory of Jeams Mordens Estate deceased

	£	s.	p.
for sale? improvement	70	0	0
to 5 acres of Indian Corn		2	5
to 3 acres of Buckwheat		0	18
to sundries sold in the vandues	37	10	8
to 1 pide cow		2	10
to Sundry for lumber		0	10
to 2 spinen weasels and one looking glass		0	10
to Beding cloes		1	5
to 2 cheers and flax hitchell		0	4
to 1 axe		0	2
to one acre of flax		0	8
to hay sold		1	2
to 26 bushels and 1/2 of Rie		3	6
to 1 smooven iron		0	2
and 2 heaters			

£120.13.11

Praised by Richard Goodwine and Robt Allison Jun'r  
as witnessed our hands his seventh day of April 1760

the above is a true coppey done by me

Rob't Allison Jun'r

Knolton June 3d

Paper #2 from File 404.

John Vannetta et al to  
Wm Plumstead] Bond of Adm'n for the Est of J. Morton died 19th  
March 1765.

[Pencilled note] James Morton

Know all men by these Presents,  
That we John Vannetta of Oxford  
Township Sussex County West New Jersey  
yeoman and George Beck of Mount Bethel  
Township County of Northampton,  
Province of Pennsylvania -----

are held and firmly bound unto William  
Plumstead Register-General for the probate  
of wills and granting letters of Administration  
in and for prov of PA in the sum of  
Two hundred pounds lawful money of the  
said province to be pd to William  
Plumstead -----etc etc  
Dated the nineteenth day of March 1765.

[Long form with blanks for name etc.]  
John Vannetta and Jane his wife admin's  
of goods etc of James Morton deceased  
to make an inventory before  
19 April next and make an account  
of their administration on or before  
19 March 1766. Accounts to be  
examined by Orphans Court of Northampton.  
(Signed) Mark of Johan Vannetta

[A painfully made signature] J-O-H-N Vannetta  
[Vannetta was written by another hand]  
=====

Paper No.3.

Admi'n Acct of John Van Etten and Jane 1765.

[Labeled in pencil] James Morton Esq.  
-----

[on reverse side]

The Account of John Vannetta and Jane his wife (late Jane Morton  
relict of James Morton).

[2 columns]

Total Cr 120.13.41	Cash pd Edw'd Robeson Esq & receipt	4.10.0
	By Do pd Jno Lowrey & etc ...ditto	4.16.1
	By Jos: Morden as by Amt settled	25.17.8
	By Geo: Morden as by Amt pd him	21.4.0
By several small Insolvent debts and misappraisements		3.0.0

Paper No 4.

Final Settlement of the Estate Late of James Morden deced  
June 23 1766

Double column account of assets and expenses.  
[Left side]

Assets £50.13.11

Item with an improvement valued 70.0.0  
233.18.1/2

[Does not add up]

Original value 120.13.11 of assets was crossed out  
& rewritten 50.13.11

Brot over ----- £120.13.11  
Ballance due to sd acct 113. 4.1 1/2

=====

[Right side]

Payments

1765 May 3

By cash pd Edw'd Robeson per recpt 4.10.0  
By do pd John Lowrey p do 4.16.1 1/2  
By do pd Joseph Morden 25.17.8

June 13

By do pd John Lowrey pr recpt 14.4.0  
By do pd ditto pr recpt 5.0.0  
By do pd George Morden 21.4.0  
By do pd for Letters of Administration 0.18.6

77.0.3 1/2

By Com'ds on £120.13.11 @5 p Ct 6.0.9  
By do on 77.0.3 @ do 3.17.0  
117. 7.4?

233.18.1/2

Paper #6. The account of Jane Morden (now Jane Vannetta her adm'n  
of James Morden's estate. Exhibited 6th May 1765.

Final Statement

Charges on left side £120. 13s. 11d Allowance Credit

=====

On reverse side is the record of the sale of James Morden's goods.

Samuel Cikendell	Dr
2 gall 1 qt Rum @4/6	.10.1 1/2
1 Jugg 1/4	.1.4
2 1/2 Powder @3	.7.6
1/4 Powder @ 3	.3.4
3 bottles 9d	.9
9 gall. molasses @2/	.5
2 gall. Ditto @2/	.5
1 Jugg 1/4	1.4
8 Shott @6d	4.
2 pr garters @10d	1.8
2 1/2 Red Wood @4d	.10
1 Snuff Box 1/ Almanack 6d	1.6
4 Bus: salt @3/3; 4 Bus: salt 3/3	<u>1.6.-</u>
	3.8.9 1/2

Cornelius Allason	
1 Jugg	1.4
2 gall molasses	.5.
14 L sugar @6d	.7.
1 Bus Sal 3/3 Silk 18d	<u>.4.</u>
	18.

George Morden Dr.	
6 yd linin @ 2/4	17.6
2 Hatts @2/6	5.
2L tea @7/9	15.6
1 1/2 ditto @--	11.7
1 3/4L powder @3	3.9
1 bottle 3d	.3
2 gall molasses @2.6	.5
2L shott @ 6d	.1
2 bus salt @ 3/3	.6.6
14L sugar @ 6d	<u>.7.</u>
	3.13.1 1/2
	<u>2. 0.0</u>
	5.13.1

Robert Ellison	
[similar list of tea, buckles, jug, molasses, shot and salt]	1.4.8

The Account of John Vanetta & Jane his wife (late Jane Morden relict of James Morden) Administrators of all and singular ye Goods & Chattles lights [or rights?] & Credits of James Morden Deceased as well as and for such and so much of the Goods Chattles & Credits of the same as came to their hands and Possession as of and for the payments & Disbursements out of the same \_\_\_\_\_ May 6th. 1765.

---

[left hand page]

This Accompt Chargeth themselves Dr.

---

These Accomptants chargeth themselves with all and singular the goods Chattles and Credits of the said Deceased mentioned and specified in one inventory and appraisement thereof made in all _____	£	s	d
Amounting too _____	120..	13..	11

[right hand page]

---

Per Contra this Accompt prays Allowance Cr.

---

By Costs pd Edw'd Robeson Exect with [?] receipt	£	4..	10..	0
By Do. pd Jno Lowrey VComptg with [?] Do		4..	16..	1 1/2
By Joseph Morden as by Acct settled		25..	17..	8
By George Morden as by Acct pd him		21..	4..	0
By Several small Insolvent Debts and } misappraisements _____ }		3..	0..	0

#404

Final Settlement of the Estate late of James Morden deced  
June 23d. 1766

[left hand page]

Dr

The Account of John Vanetten & Jane Morden [late Jane Morden Wdw of  
James Morden deced

Bro't over \_\_\_\_\_ £120..13..11  
Ballance due to the s'd acc'ts. \_\_\_\_\_ £113.. 4.. 1 1/2

[right hand page]

Cr

Bro't over the within Credit [rec'd??] \_\_\_\_\_ 86..18..10 1/2

The said Accountant craves further  
Allowances of her several Payments  
& Disbursements as follows vizt.

By maintaining & bringing up Daniel  
(one of the children who was 3 years &  
2 months old at his father's Death) for 6  
years \_\_\_\_\_ £48..0..0

By bringing up Elizabeth another }  
child (being 6 yrs old when her } \_\_\_\_\_ 6..0..0  
father died) 9 months @8 p [per yr?] }

By bringing up Moses another }  
being abt 9 yrs.old 9 months } \_\_\_\_\_ 6..0..0

By clothing him the year foll'g \_\_\_\_\_ 3..0..0

By maint'g 1 yr more \_\_\_\_\_ 8..0..0

By maint'g Sam'l 9 months \_\_\_\_\_ 6..0..0

By maint'g Bia 3 yrs & 4 ms  
(being an Ideot) @ 15 [per] yr \_\_\_\_\_ 50..0..0

By death of her 2 yrs longer \_\_\_\_\_ 10..0..0

By maint'g Nancy [torn 2?] yrs \_\_\_\_\_ 10..0..0

6/6/89

FHL, Salt Lake

Pennsylvania; Northampton County;  
microfilm 0946983. Orphan Court Records 1752-1966; surname index L - M  
1766 MORDEN, James, Mt. Bethel Twp. Jane Vannetta, Admix.  
(or Martin)  
Guardian appointments D153  
Order of Sales & report D 13 17  
Register's Accounts D13 File 96, Folder 5895

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microfilm 0946985  
Book D. Page 13

At an Orphan Court held at Easton in and for the County of Northampton the nineteenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-six before George Taylor, John Moor and Lewis Gordon Esqrs. Justices of said Court & etc. ....

On the Petition of Jane Vanetta late Jane Morden setting forth that the Petitioners first husband James Morden died intestate about six years ago leaving the Petitioner his widow and nine children; and being seized of an improvement and tract of one hundred acres of land in Mount Bethel Township that the Petitioner hath settled her administration accounts in the Register Office at Easton by which it appears that the said deced died indebted to sundry persons in large sums of money more than the personal estate of the said deced will satisfy praying the Court to grant her an order to make sale of the said improvement in order to pay the just debts of the said deced and to bring up the children. Whereupon it is considered and ordered by the Court the said Jane Vannetta do make sale of the said improvements aforesaid

p.14 first giving due and publick notice of the time when and place where the said sale is to be held as also the quantity and quality thereof and the place where the said land is situate to be fixed up at the most publick places at least ten days before the sale is to be held. And that the said Jane Vannetta do bring her proceedings in the premises to the next Orphan Court after the sale so made.

---

Orphan's Court 8 Sept 1766

John Vanetta and Jane his wife administrators of all and singular the goodes chattels rights and credits which were of James Morden late of Mount Bethel Township deced makes return of the sale of the said intestate sale Estate

in these wordes "We the within mentioned John Vannetta and Jane his wife do humbly report to the Orphans Court of the County of Northampton this day held at Easton in and for the County of Northampton that in obedience of the within order of the Court on the eleventh day of August last past we did expose the lands and premises within mentioned to sale by vendue or first having given due and legal notice of the time and place of sale agreeable to the within order and that we did then and there sell the said lands and premises with the appurtenances to a certain George Beck for seventy pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania he being the highest bidder and that the best price bidden for the same. Witness our hands the 16 September Anno Domini 1766. Jounnes Venetta

Whereupon it is considered and decreed by the Court that the said sale shall remain firm & stable for ever.

LDS

microfilm 565,477

Sussex County, N.J. wills.

No. 511S Johannes Vanetta. Sussex 1791. Engrossed & probated.

In the name of God Amen. In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred eaty six December the ninth. I Johannes Van Ette being weack in body but sound in memory thancks be to the Lord for it I give and bequit unto my dear beloved wife Jinne all my Leal and personal estate to hir proper use and intrest during hir naterell live and after hir decease I give and bequit unto my son John van Ette one hundred pounds of good and lawfull mony of the state of New Jersey and if he never returns agin the said one hundred shall be aquel divided among his five shildren wich he has by his first wife forder I give and baquit unto my dauthter Sarah wife of Joseph Mapy thirty pounds of licke mony to hir or hir hairs or assigns forder I give and bequit unto my son and law Samuel Morden sons John and James each of them ten pounds of licke mony. I give and bequit unto my dauhter Cornelia five pounds of lick mony I give and bequit unto my daughter Mary one dollar I give and bequit unto my dauhter Ann one doller I give and bequit unto my son and law Samuel Morden all my real astate to him and his hears and asigns I give and bequit unto my son and law Samuel Mordins shildren all my personal estate if any to be aquely divided among them after my decease I make my brother Thomes van Ette and my son and law Samuel Morden my lawfull exsecktors and them to se this my last will and testment in the whole and every part thearof fulfild In witness wearof I the said Johannes van Ette set my hand and sail the day and year first above written

his

In the presence of W

Joseph Copeland

her

Hannah Copeland

mark

Abraham Kip

Johannes van Ette  
marck



C 6 "PETITION OF THE ASSOCIATED LOYALISTS TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
LIEUTENANT GENERAL FREDRICK HALDIMAND GOVERNOR & COM-  
MANDER IN CHIEF &c &c"

[P.A.C., *Haldimand MSS, B 215, pp. 129-32*]

Sorel, the [ ] January, 1784

The request of the Companies of Associated Loyalists going to form a Settlement at Cataroque.

That Boards, Nails & Hinges be found Each Family for Compleating such Buildings as they shall see Cause to Erect for their Convenience at any time, for the space of Two Years from & after their first Arrival at Cataroque with Eighty Squares of Window Glass to be delivered shortly after their arrival there.

That Arms & Ammunition with one Felling Ax be allowed to Each Male Inhabitant of the Age of fourteen years.

One Plough Shear & Coultter  
Leather for Horse Collers  
Two Spades  
Three Iron Wedges  
Fifteen Iron Harrow Teeth  
Three Hoes  
One Inch & half Inch Auger  
Three Chizels (sorted)  
One Gouge  
Three Gimblets  
One Hand Saw & Files  
One Nail Hammer  
One Drawing Knife  
One Iron for Splitting Shingles  
Two Scythes & One Sickle  
One Broad Ax

Be allowed  
Each Family

One Grind Stone [be] allowed for every Three Families

One Years Clothing to be Issued to Each Family in Proportion to their Number, in the different species of Articles Issued to those gone to Nova Scotia. Two Years Provisions to be found to Each Family in Proportion to their [Number] & Age.—

Two Horses Two Cows & Six Sheep to be delivered at Cataroque to Each Family at Government's Expencc. The Cost of which to be made known at delivery To the End that the same may by a Moderate Tax; be again repaid to Government at the End of Ten Years if required.— Our present Poverty & Inability to Purchase these Articles, as well as our remote situations when there from Wealthy Inhabitants, will we hope plead our Excuse in this request.

That seeds of different kinds such as Wheat, Indian Corn, Pease, Oats, Potatoes & Flax seed be given to Each Family in quantity as His Excellency may think Proper.

That one Black smith be Established in Each Township & found with Tools & Iron for Two years at Government's Expencc for the use of the Inhabitants of Each Town.

That a Grant under the Great Seal of the Province of Quebec be made to the said Associated Companies, for so much of said Lands at Cataroque as they may settle, so as to insure them from & against any Prior Location of such Lands.

That when said Lands are so Granted a Charter be also Granted in the Name of the Associated Companies, Permitting to Erect or Build a Borough Town or City Corporate on Cataroque side, which Borough, Town or City Corporate, shall be called & known by the name of . . . . . As His Excellency shall Please to Order; To which Borough, Town or City Corporate & the Citizens thereof shall be

Granted such Rights and Immunities To all Intents & Purposes as were Granted to & Enjoyed by the Citizens of New York when under His Majesty's Government.—

That the vacant Lands fronting the Lake & not Included in the survey of the first Township be surveyed & Granted for the Benefit of said Township; As An assistance in supporting a Minister and School Master.—

That Batteaux & Canadians who understand Navigating the same, be allowed at Government's Expence for the Purpose of Transporting their respective Families and Bagage to the Place of their destination—

And in as much as the said Associated Companies have for years past Nobly Contended for the support of that Constitution or Form of Government, under which they long have Enjoyed Happiness, & for which they have at last sacrificed their All. Tis Therefore their Earnest Wish & desire that His Excellency for their Better Government & Good order when they arrive at the Place destined for their Settlement would be Pleased to Establish among them a Form of Government As nearly similier to that which they Enjoyed in the Province of New York in the year of 1763 As the Remote situation of their new settlement from the seat of Government here will at Present Admitt of. And that Persons Chosen out of their own Body be Appointed & vested with Power before their departure from hence to Carry the same into Execution when there





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