

The Black Loyalists

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The Treaty of Paris: 1763

The British have defeated the French in North America



Under British rule, will life change for the Blacks of North America?

1772: Lord Mansfield's Ruling

In this 1772 legal case, a slave, Somerset, brought to England by his master had escaped and had been recaptured.

Antislavery activists argued for his freedom, stating that England did not have a law permitting slavery. They cited a **1569** case in England, involving a Russian slave, in which it was resolved that:

“England was too pure an air for a slave to breathe, and so everyone who breathes it becomes free.”



1772: Lord Mansfield's Ruling



Lord Chief Justice Mansfield ordered the slave's release, stating that without a law that would recognize the powers of a slave owner over a slave, English courts would not uphold a slaveholder's claim to a slave. He condemned slavery as "odious"

But, Mansfield did not rule that slavery was always illegal, only that it would take an act of Parliament to legitimate it.

Unfortunately, the ruling did not apply to British colonies.

Great Britain: A Slow End to Slavery

1807: Abolition of the Slave Trade Act

- When the vote was taken, the act was passed in the House of Lords by 41 votes to 20.
- In the House of Commons, it was carried by 114 votes to 15.
- It became law on March 25, 1807, but illegal trade continued.
- To avoid fines (£100 per slave), slave traders often dumped slaves overboard

1833: Emancipation Bill: Abolition of Slavery

- The act took effect on August 1, 1834.
- Slave owners received £20 million compensation.

Governor James Murray

- In 1759, the British defeated the French, taking possession of New France, now renamed Quebec.
- In 1763, the new governor of Quebec in British North America wrote to his friend John Watts in New York, requesting he find him some slaves.



Governor James Murray writes...



“I must earnestly entreat your assistance, without servants nothing can be done, had I the inclination to employ soldiers, which is not the case, they would disappoint me, and Canadians will work for nobody but themselves. Black slaves are certainly the only people to be depended upon, but it is necessary, I imagine, they should be born in one or other of our Northern Colonies, the Winters here will not agree with a Native of the torrid zone, pray therefore if possible procure for me two Stout Young fellows, who have been accustomed to Country business, and as I wish to see them happy, I am of the opinion there is little felicity without a Communication with the Lady’, you buy for each a clean young wife, who can work and do the female offices about a farm. I shall begrudge no price, so hope we may, by your goodness succeed...”

Mid-18Century: Blacks in the Maritimes

- 1745: French Blacks fought and lost in the battles waged to defend the fortified town of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island
- 1747: records reveal that a free black labourer named Quash and two black masons received the same pay as their white co-workers
- 1749: British government offered free passage, provisions, muskets and ammunition to settlers, free Blacks included
- 1750: a reference to 15 Blacks being fed at Halifax
- 1759: Nova Scotia government opened more former French lands to settlers: again free Blacks were eligible

18 C: Blacks in the Maritimes

- Not all Blacks were free or self-employed in the Maritimes.
- 1752: a "negro servant" is named in a will
- May, 1752: several black slaves are advertised for sale in the Halifax Royal Gazette
- 1759: A slave owner writes about the troubles he has with one of his two his slaves, how he is "obliged to exercise the cat [whip] or stick ... almost every day"
- Nova Scotia, General Assembly refers to "negro slaves" in a 1762 law regarding the sale of liquor
- 1767: reference to "a rascal negro" who "cannot be flattered or drove to do one-fourth a man's work"
- 1768: **2,217** black slaves valued at £77,595 sterling were imported to BNA, Newfoundland, and mainly Bahama and Bermuda
- 1788: "robust able black men" working in Newfoundland fisheries as slaves on sloops from Bermuda

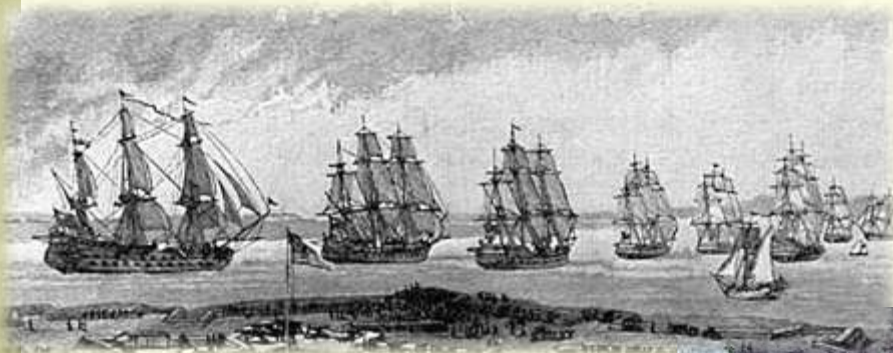
The Loyalist Migration: 1783

- 1783: The first major influx of Blacks into the Maritimes
- The **Loyalists**: all the black and white inhabitants who remained loyal to the British when the 13 American colonies fought for their independence from Great Britain following the proclamation of the famous "**Declaration of Independence**" in **1776**
- During the American Revolution, the British employed Blacks to fight against the American rebels, promising them emancipation
- These slaves of American rebels had to make a formal claim for British protection from the rebels in order to be guaranteed freedom

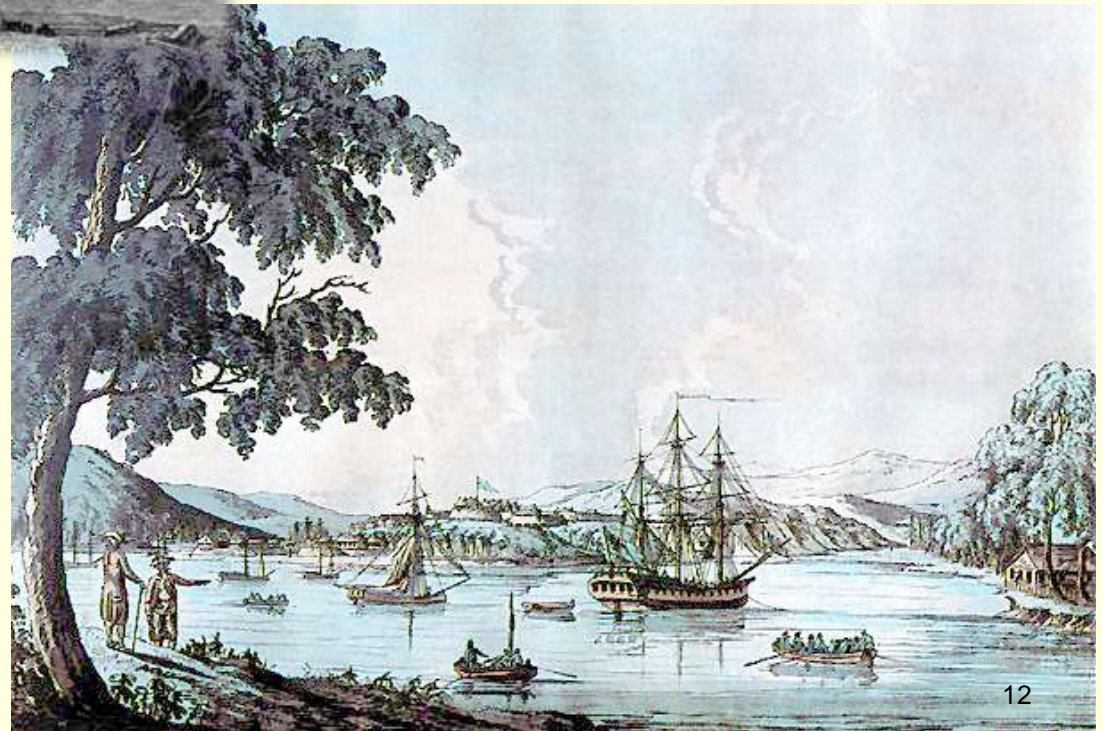
The Loyalist Migration: 1783

- In the war, Blacks served as boatmen, woodsmen, general labourers, buglers, musicians, and soldiers
- **The Black Pioneers** (“Dunmore’s Ethiopians”)
 - a British military corps formed entirely of free Blacks
- Slaves of white Loyalists remained the property of their owners
- British lost the war to the rebels:
 - British troops and their Loyalist supporters had to leave the United States.
 - Most went to the British West Indies,
 - many came north to the land we now call Canada.

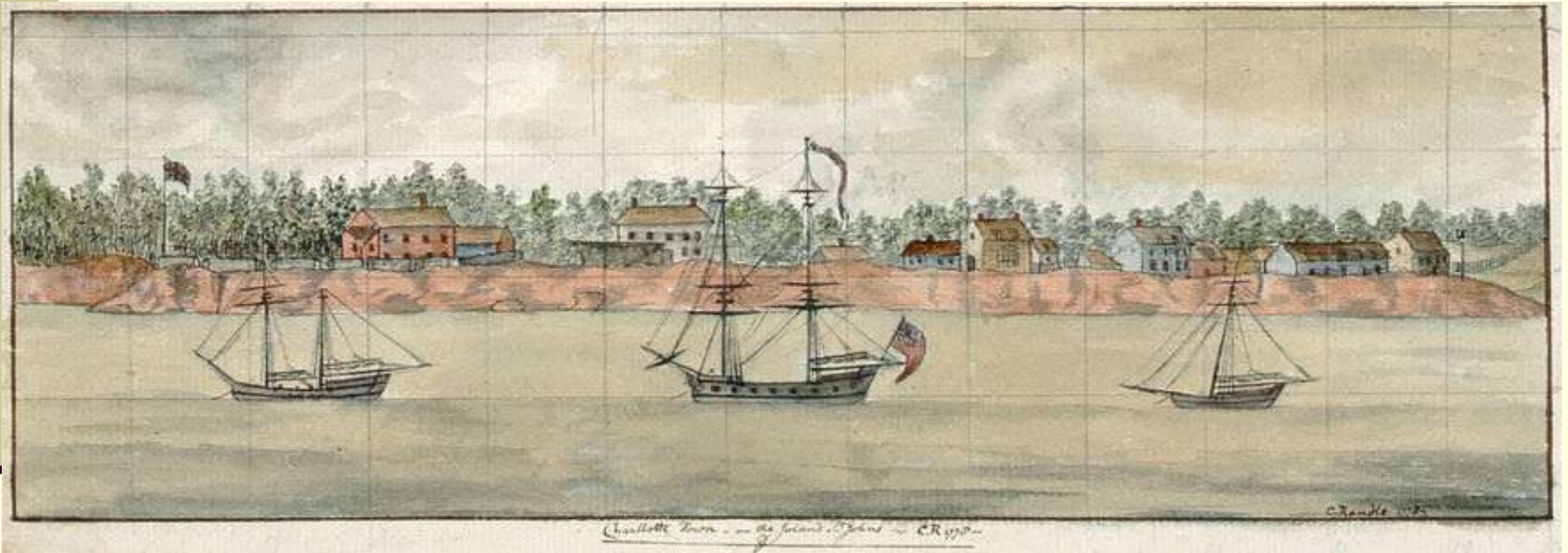
Loyalist Migration of 1783



- Loyalists Leaving New York on British Transport Ships
- Loyalists Reach Annapolis, 1781



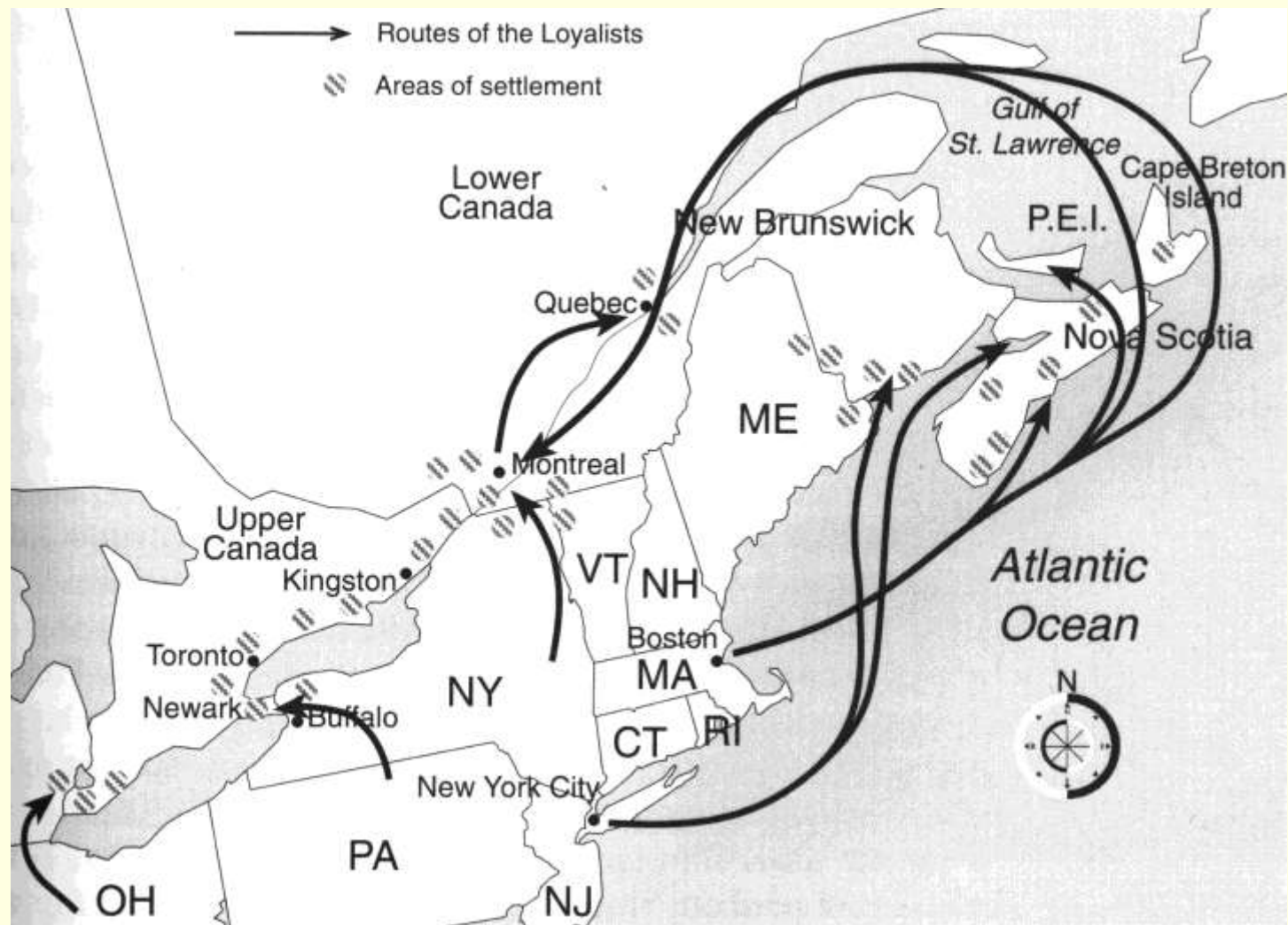
Loyalist Migration of 1783



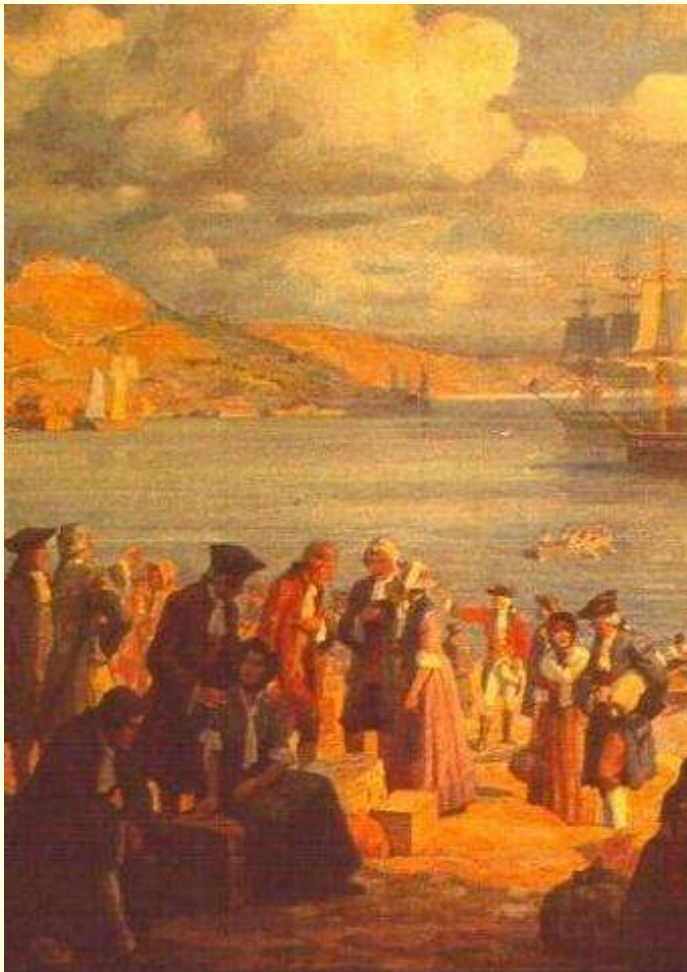
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, in 1778

Routes of the Black Loyalists - 1783

From the new United States of America to British North America



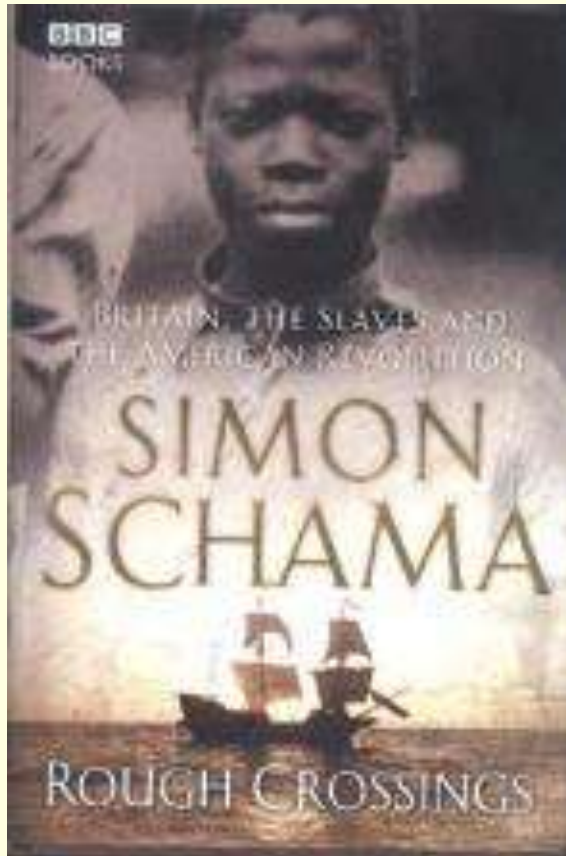
Who came north?



Loyalist Landing

- ❖ About 50,000 Loyalists came north to British territory
 - ❖ About 30,000 to the Maritimes
- ❖ Most were white people.
- ❖ Some white Loyalists had owned much land and many slaves in the rebel American colonies
- ❖ Other Loyalists had owned little land and few, if any, slaves
- ❖ Loyalists came from all professions and social classes
- ❖ Many white Loyalists took slavery for granted

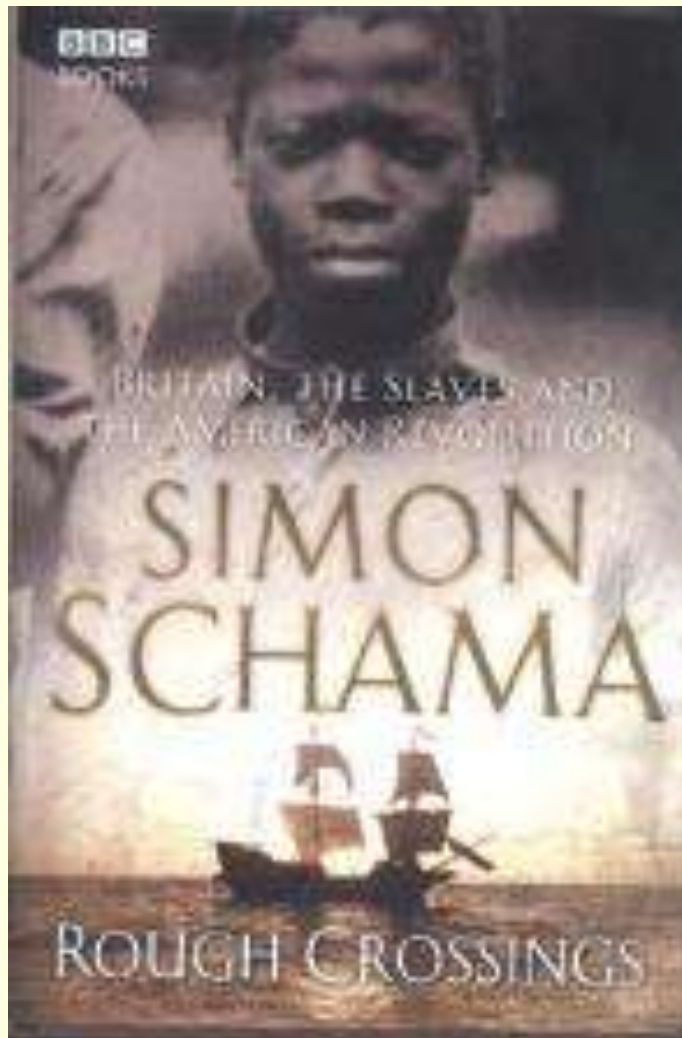
Who came north?



- ❖ Other Loyalists were Black.
- ❖ The British had offered emancipation to all slaves who served with the British troops against the American rebels.
- ❖ Following the war, these slaves were offered land and liberty in Canada.

Rough Crossings

by Simon Schama



- ❖ A history of the Black Loyalists - slaves and free blacks who joined the British side in the War of Independence, recounting their journey from America, to Canada, and finally to Sierra Leone.
- ❖ Also the story of the British abolitionists, Wilberforce, Clarkson, and many others, fighting for an end to slavery.

Impact of Loyalist Influx

- Short-term impact: a rapid increase in number of slaves in Canada
 - The defence of slavery increased: White Loyalists were vocal and informed advocates of slavery
 - Black slaves replaced *panis* slaves, even in Quebec
 - Variety of work done by black slaves greatly increased:
 - Former plantation slaves had been trained in a variety of skills
- Slaves and black freemen now lived side by side:
 - Black Loyalists who had fled from rebel owners to fight for the British were free men.
- Long-term outcome: a decrease in the number of slaves

Decrease in Slavery

- Loyalist landowners couldn't afford and didn't need large slave populations: land not as productive as their former plantations had been
- Some Loyalists came from areas where slavery was not so harsh:
 - the softer, less formal regulations associated with slavery tended to become the norm in Canada:
 - slaves generally baptized, given some education, and kept together as families
- Many Loyalists were becoming anti-slavery advocates, some even before their arrival in Canada:
 - did not support slavery in their new country
- The slaves, seeing so many free Blacks, no longer assumed slavery was their eternal fate
- By 1800, the Loyalists had virtually ended the practice of slavery

1783: Carleton Evacuates Loyalists

- American Revolutionary war was over
- British had lost the war
- British army had to evacuate its troops and supporters and find new homes for them in British territory, including "Canada"
- Sir Guy Carleton, the Commander-in-Chief of British troops in North America, supervised the evacuation of troops from New York in **1783**:
 - from May to November: sent most Blacks to the West Indies, others temporarily to Florida, and many to British North America

The Book of Negroes

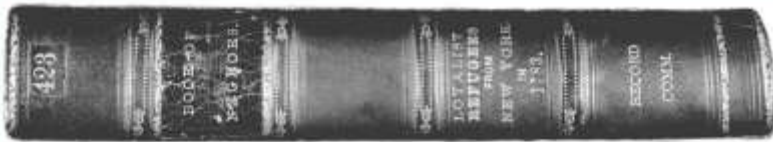
- Blacks feared recapture by former masters while on American soil
- Carleton registered Blacks' names in the Book of Negroes
- sent them to their new destinations
- promised slave owners would be compensated if the removal of these former slaves violated final details of peace treaty
- **Book of Negroes:** registered name, age, occupation, of each slave and name of former owner
- Excellent record of the movement of Blacks into Nova Scotia at the end of the revolutionary war

The Book of Negroes

Sir Guy Carlton, Commander-in-Chief of the British troops supervised the evacuation of the troops.

Many Blacks went to the British West Indies, some to Great Britain, and many to British North America.

Their names, occupations, and former owner were registered in **The Book of Negroes**.

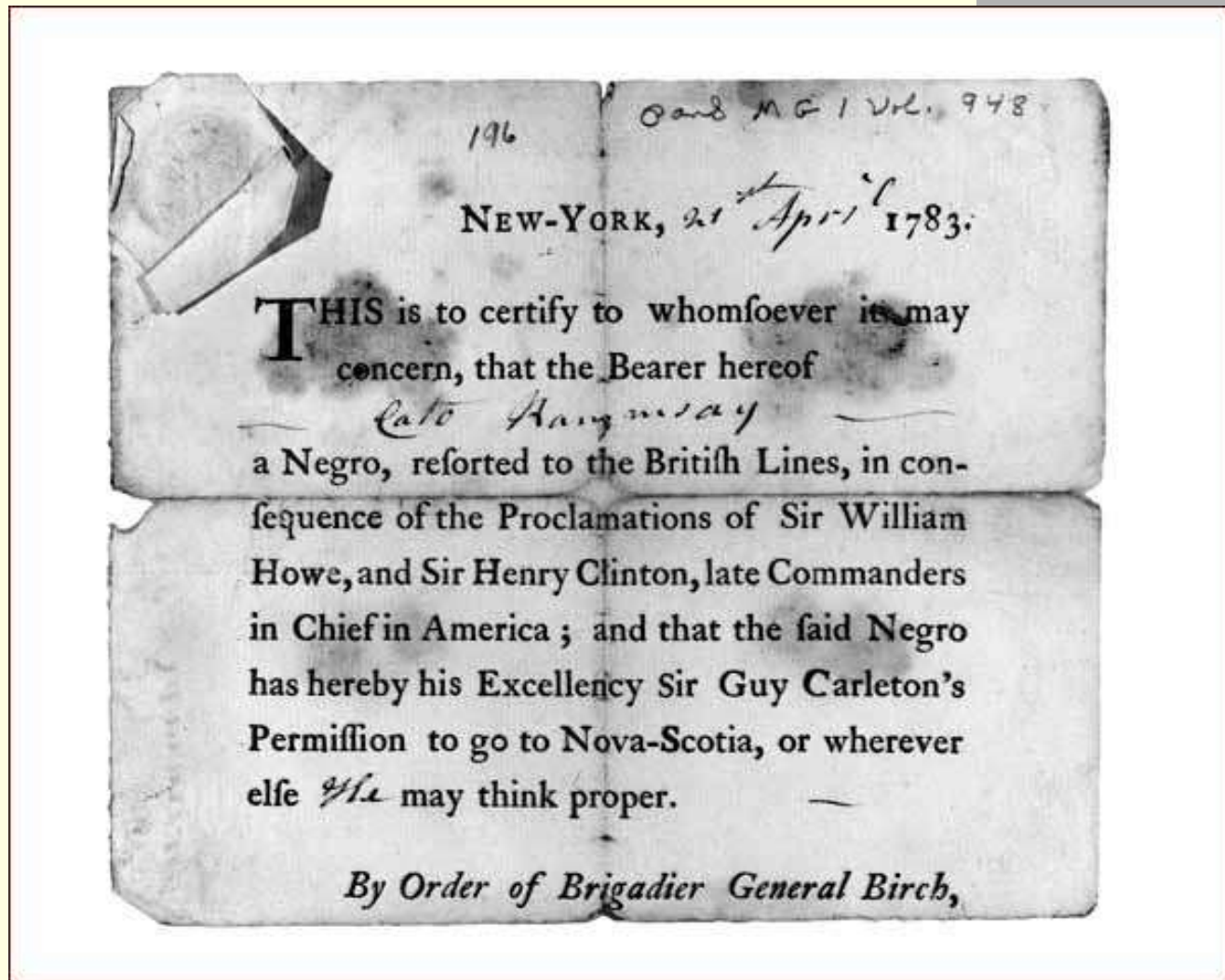


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Says your hon fill before the death 11
years ago -
I to Charles Elliott of - he who
died about 1774 years ago
Property of Edw Wright purchased from
Jas Stokes of New York
Formerly Slave to Tom Woodhouse Purcell
and Virginia left him 6 years past
by Proclam²
Served with Capt Perrell in Tom Verq^a
left him 6 years past in Slave -
Formerly Serv^t to Geo Philips Middleton
Connecticut left him 6 years past by
Proclam²

Ships Names	Where	Bound - Negroes Names -	Age
and their	Port Roseway -	Rachel	28
Commander -	"	David	8
Ship - Montague	"	Polly Pompey -	9
Capt. Wilson -	"	Miriam -	19
"	"		
Ship Providence	Port Roseway -	Mrs M ^r Cutlock -	17
John Nichol -	"	Polly Skrambird -	20
		London Ploy -	40
	"	Wig ² Richardson -	38
	"	Catt ^r D ^o -	9
		James Ramsay -	20
		Hannah Hazard	36
		Ben Hazard.	11
		David James	40
		Cato Ramsay	45
		China Godfrey -	35
		Nelly Ramsay -	15

Certificate of Freedom



1783: Evacuation of Black Loyalists

- Slave owners liked Carleton's arrangement:
 - would receive compensation
 - wouldn't need to run after escaped slaves
- General Washington disagreed
 - but powerless to change the situation since the slaves had already been evacuated
- British offered compensation to former slave owners:
 - "the Slave would have his liberty, his Master his Price, and the Nation support [of] its honor."

Black Loyalists in Nova Scotia

- Most Blacks went to Nova Scotia
- The majority were free men
- Free Black Loyalists in British North America:
 - felt strong identity as British supporters
 - didn't wish to associate with people who were not Loyalists
 - did not wish to associate with Black slaves

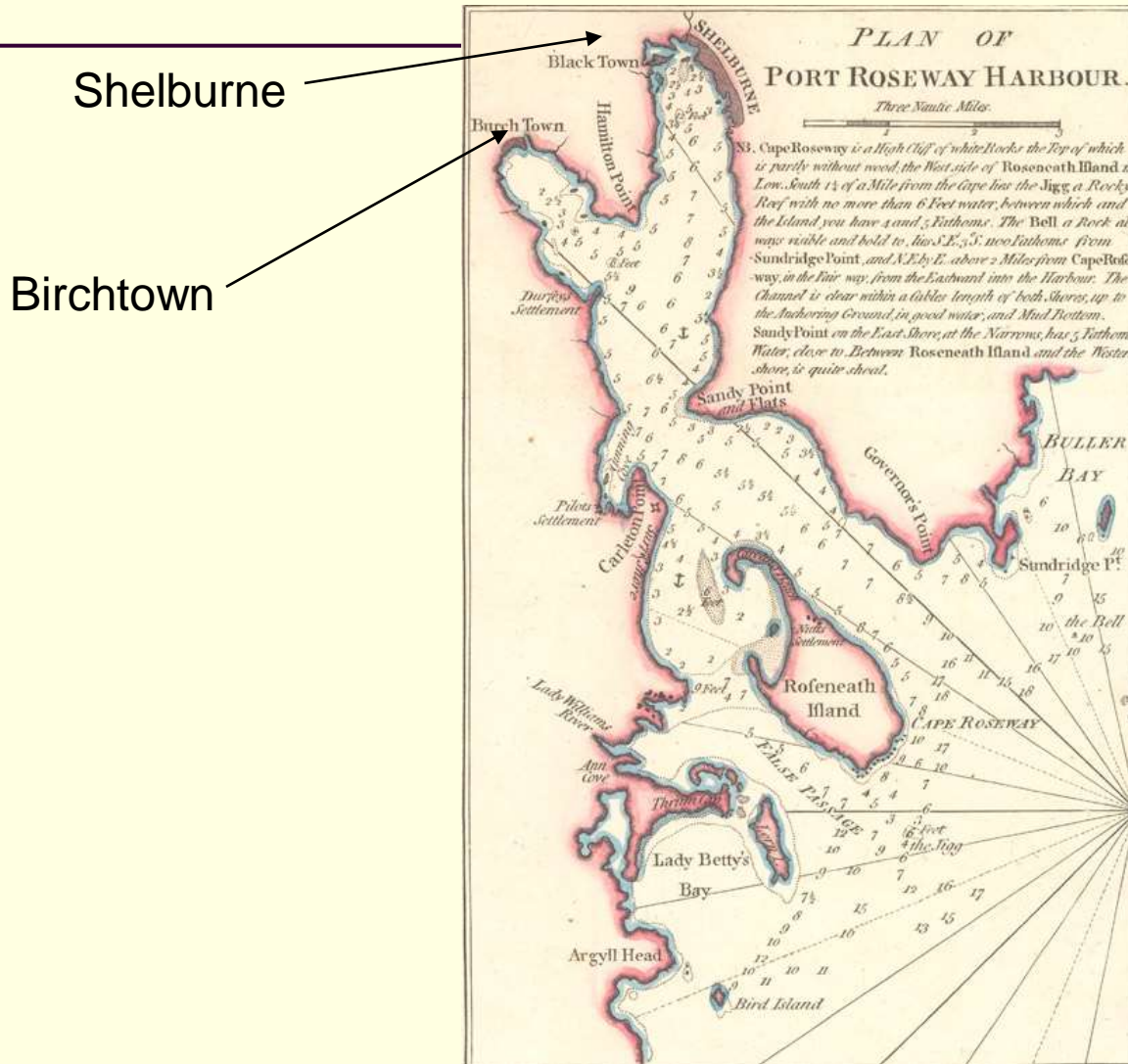
Sample Groups of Loyalists

- August, 1782 - Charleston South Carolina:
 - 4,230 whites
 - 7,163 Blacks
 - awaiting transport to British controlled territories
- March, 1783: awaiting transport to Halifax
 - 259 white adults,
 - 65 children,
 - 24 slaves
- Many others sent to Jamaica and Florida
 - Many unable to find work there
 - Rerouted to Nova Scotia,
- November, 1783: 3,000 free Blacks living in Nova Scotia:
 - 1,336 men; 914 women; 750 children

Black Loyalist Settlements



Port Roseway Harbour



Early Conditions of Black Loyalists

- In early years, legal records of the land surveys weren't always completed, and the promised land grants were not confirmed
- Upon arrival, a few Blacks did go directly onto the land
- many Blacks didn't immediately receive any land
 - were ordered to work repairing British army barracks.
- **486** plots of land were eventually given to free Black Loyalists in Nova Scotia,
 - half of these in Annapolis County

Sketch of Black Loyalists



Blacks settled on the “Barrens”

- From the outset, almost all Black settlers were geographically segregated from whites:
 - the most fertile and largest parcels of land went to the whites
- If and when the Blacks received land
 - faced problems making these barren stony lots produce crops
 - most had been plantation field workers, accustomed to rich fertile lands
- Blacks’ land – the Barrens - had thin topsoil, peppered with large granite rocks left by the glaciers of the ice ages

British Lieutenant William Dyott describes Blacks' living conditions

- "...beyond description wretched, situated on the coast in the middle of barren rocks, and partly surrounded by a thick impenetrable wood. Their huts miserable to guard against the inclemency of a Nova Scotia winter, and their existence almost depending on what they could lay up in summer. I think I never saw wretchedness and poverty so strongly perceptible in the garb and countenance of the human species as in these miserable outcasts."

The Black Pioneers

- all-Black militia: served with British Loyalist forces
 - Fared somewhat better than the other Blacks, but never as well as the whites
- first arrived in 1782-83, **Black Pioneers**
 - Found no land or provisions ready for them
 - Had been promised land, three years' worth of food rations, and seeds for crops
- Black Pioneers had arrived late in the year 1783
 - The majority of Loyalists had arrived in the early spring
 - were considered disbanded upon departure from New York
 - Not entitled to pay as soldiers or to clothing upon their arrival
- General Carleton ordered supplies and temporary shelters for them when they arrived late in the year.

“Black Pioneers” 1835

by **British military officer & artist Robert Petley, (1812-1869)**

This watercolour shows a family, probably from Upper Hammonds Plains, heading to market with a cartload of goods to sell. (Bedford Basin area, near Halifax)



The Black Pioneers

- Carleton wanted each man to receive:
 - one acre in the towns of Shelburne or Annapolis Royal and 20 acres of farmland nearby; **or**
 - 100 acres if they settled away from these towns
- The reality after about three years:
 - most men had received only 50 acres or less
 - not one had a town lot
- The Black Pioneers who couldn't work the poor land often became sharecroppers for whites or tenant farmers

Sample Land Grants

- 1785-86 in Annapolis county
 - free Blacks received land grants of **one acre** around Digby township
 - none received wharf lots by the water
 - whites received **100 to 400-acre** lots throughout Annapolis County
- 1789: Clements County:
 - 148 of 184 lots went to Blacks
 - Given 50-acre lots: the amount usually given to a white woman and her family.
- Lots of 10 to 40 acres for Blacks are typical, with Whites getting 100 to 200 acres
- Failure and poverty for black Loyalists:
 - small plots of land and lack of preparation for farming poor land

Shelburne & Birchtown

- Region economically healthy and independent at first:
 - other areas remained under close scrutiny and protection of Halifax
- Loyalists who arrived in Shelburne in **May 1783** were well prepared for winter
 - Captain Barclay arrived in Birchtown:
 - tried to get the best lots for his group of white Loyalists
 - 55 adults and 57 slaves
 - Four of these white Loyalists owned 36 of the 57 slaves (called “servants”)
 - Charles Oliver Brueff, New York goldsmith arrived with 15 slaves

Shelburne & Birchtown

- Loyalist communities tended to be segregated:
 - Slaves lived with their masters in Shelburne
 - Free Blacks lived mainly in a black community, Birchtown, 3 to 6 miles away.



1784: Shelburne & Birchtown

- Approx. 5,900 whites:
 - 4,700 Loyalist settlers,
 - 1,191 disbanded white soldiers
- 2,750 Blacks: 1,521 Blacks in and 1,229 in Birchtown
 - 1,485 free Blacks (54%)
 - 1,269 servants, largely black
- slaves: ratio of 3 men for each woman
- free Blacks: ratio of 6 men for each woman
- 1787: population of about 4,000 Blacks (slave and free)

Many Blacks Highly Skilled

- ❖ Many of these Blacks were skilled
- ❖ among the professions practised by Blacks were: ropemaker, boatbuilder, farmer, chimney sweep, carpenter, sawyer, sailor, seamstress, caulker, cook, pilot, peddler,
- ❖ most came from southern states
- ❖ former slaves who were freed upon arrival generally stayed on as salaried workers with their former masters



Black Wood Cutter - 1788

Rose Fortune 1774-1864

Black Loyalist, Police Officer and Businesswoman



- Born into slavery in Virginia,
- Aged 10, escaped to New York City, then to Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia in 1783
- In late 1700s, appointed herself policewoman of Annapolis Royal, on the north shore of Nova Scotia.
- Had a unique wardrobe:
 - her petticoat showed under her dress
 - she wore a man's waistcoat and an apron.
 - wore a lace cap tied under her hair and a straw hat on top
 - her painted shoes had heels which were several inches high.
 - usually carried a straw basket and wore white gloves and mittens.
 - her dress was later adopted by many of the Black Pioneer women when they went to market.
- Started a trucking service for ferry boat passengers using a wheelbarrow to carry luggage to their homes or hotels.
- Died in 1864 at the age of 90.
- Buried in an unmarked grave in the Royal Garrison cemetery.

Birchtown

- Autumn 1784: population of Birchtown 1,521 people
- Size of Birchtown: as small as 13 acres in 1784, but more likely it around 400 acres
- In Birchtown: 138 white families who owned 396 servants.
 - Sixty families had only one servant
- Many more free Blacks in Birchtown than slaves.
- Birchtown was, briefly, the largest settlement of free Blacks in North America
 - Black population noted in the newspapers of the time in New York and London.

Birchtown at its Zenith: 1787

- 1787: 200 free black families living in Birchtown
- 50% of families had built houses and begun to improve their land
- Most Blacks were mature and skilled, had small families:
 - not a burden on society
 - their cheap labour and skills were appreciated by the white society, initially
- Many Black Loyalists in Birchtown walked three miles to Shelburne every day to work in a variety of jobs, from labourers to harbour pilots.

Racial Tensions Flare

- After 1787, economy went downhill
 - harmonious relations between Blacks and whites disintegrated, and racial tensions flared.
- Even earlier, in July of 1784, the diary of a local man, Simeon Parks, describes, *"An Extraordinary mobb or Riot has happened in Shelburne. Some thousands of People Assembled with Clubs and drove the Negroes out of the Town...."*
 - 100s of disbanded white soldiers, still in possession of their arms, became unruly.
 - Jobless Whites very angry that White residents of Shelburne preferred to hire Blacks at cheaper wages.
 - Former soldiers ad to offer their labour at comparable rates to the Blacks'
- In their riot, Whites rampaged the black settlement at Birchtown, destroying 20 black homes

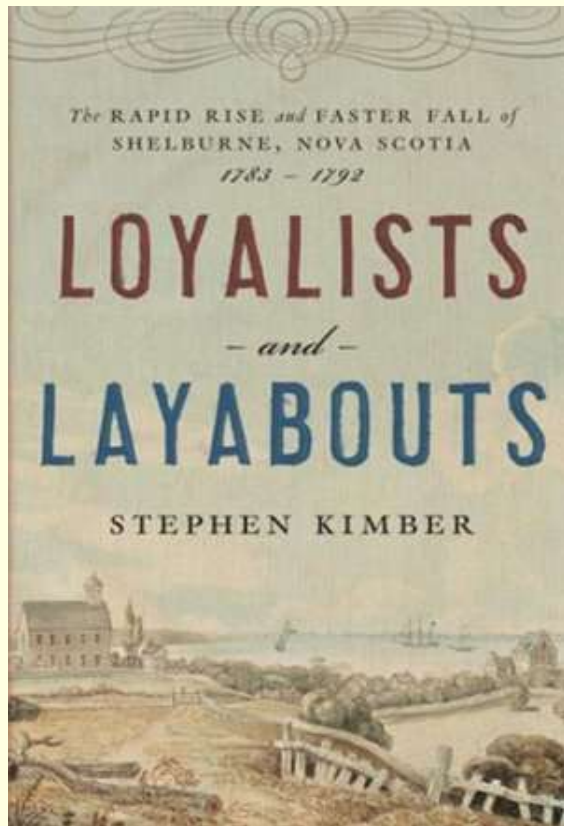
Increasing Poverty for Blacks

- Government surveyor, a white man who had resisted the white people's attempts to acquire the Blacks' land, needed military protection from angry whites
- Troops were called in to restore order
- Nova Scotia Governor, John Parr, ordered frigate in the port to avert further incidents
- Racial tension increased because government stopped issuing rations to Loyalists in 1787
 - several slave owners freed their slaves rather than continuing to provide for them
 - Result: Blacks in Birchtown were living "*in the most distressing circumstances*" according to the Overseers of the Poor who asked Halifax for food for these people to avoid starvation

1787: Famine Hits the Black Loyalists

- **1787**: Black preacher, Boston King, described the famine which affected many Black Loyalists of Birchtown, who found themselves without government rations "*...some killed and ate their dogs and cats; poverty and distress prevailed on every side.*"
- Despite famine, the next year, **1788**, only whites in need got aid
- Further evidence of racial discord and discrimination in **1789**, when a law is passed in Shelburne warning Blacks not to hold their "dances and frolics" in Shelburne itself

Community in Decline



- By the 1790s, many of the original white Loyalist settlers had moved away, taking their slaves:
 - left because of the poor land, and war between the British and France
 - War in the 1790s had cut off the local Nova Scotia merchants from the West Indies trade
- In 1792, about 1,200 Blacks left for Sierra Leone, West Africa
 - Felt hopeless about making a successful life in the Maritimes
 - Departure added to the growing economic depression of the remaining black community
- 1792: orderly rows of houses reduced to roofless buildings and holes in the ground served as shelters in winter

Black Loyalist Pit House: 1994 Excavation



Is it a “Cellar” or ...???

- The most important feature excavated in 1994 was the cellar hole.
 - First assumed to be a root cellar, a component of a larger building.
 - It measured 2.2 by 2.5 meters (8 feet by 6 feet 6 inches) **and was first interpreted as the remains of a temporary structure built to survive at least the first winter of 1783.**
 - Little evidence of walls or footings was found.
 - A linear arrangement of rocks along the cellar's east side, thought to be the remains of a wall when first seen in 1993, is **now thought more likely to be evidence of an entrance roughly in the centre of the cellar.**
 - land-grant examination and the dating based on the recovered artifacts leaves little doubt that this structure was built by one of the original Black Loyalist settlers of Birchtown.

Not a “Cellar” but a “Pit House”!

- **It appears that the ‘cellar hole’ was actually the main dwelling itself, over which a roof of some sort was constructed.**
- This hole in the ground would have been a temporary measure as an expedient against the approaching winter.
- Little oral tradition gathered referring to the Black Loyalists in Birchtown, but a recurring theme is that the original settlers lived in ‘caves’
- There are no caves as such in Birchtown
- The 1993 and 1994 excavations suggest the existence of semi-subterranean houses erected as temporary shelter.



Home – a Hole in the Ground



- The writings of Clara Dennis from the 1930's
 - Provide a clue to the origin of the 'cave' tradition:

“Later I wandered through the woods where the early, pioneer black men had had their habitations.

‘Surely human beings could never have lived in these places,’ I said. ‘They are only holes in the ground!’

‘That's all they ever were,’ said the present owner of the land. ‘I've heard grandfather tell about them. The government gave the negroes land here, but they had no houses, not even log cabins. They just dug a hole in the ground and put a little peaked roof over it. They chose a hill for their purpose because the ground was drier. The peak roof would shed the water when it rained. There was a small trapdoor in one side of the roof and the negroes entered the house by dropping right down through. And that was the black man's home - a hole in the ground with a roof over the hole.’”

Pit House

- http://museum.gov.ns.ca/blackloyalists/19002000/Events1900/pithouse_lg.htm
- <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/arch/sites/birch/cellar.htm>

Internal Divisions Among Blacks

- Contributing to the decline of the black community were its internal divisions: there were four black spokespersons, each with his own clique:
 - Colonel Stephen Blucke, a mulatto schoolmaster who had led the Black Pioneers
 - Moses Wilkinson, and Boston King, both Methodist preachers
 - David George, a "Very Loud" Baptist minister, according to Simeon Perkins' diary
- Adding to division in the Black community, free Birchtown Blacks considered themselves superior to Shelburne slaves

Colonel Stephen Blucke

- A free man from Barbados (White father and Black mother)
- Led the Black Pioneers in the war against the American rebels
- Was leader of the Black Loyalists in Birchtown
- Colonel of the black militia in Shelburne
 - organized the men into work crews, and ran the Black Militia, which constructed the Annapolis road and performed other public works.
- One of first Black boat owners in Shelburne – his fishing boat built by Blacks
- Profited financially as intermediary supplying White merchants with cheap Black labourers
- Could afford to rent a pew in the “White” Anglican church in Shelburne
- He was the first Black in Birchtown to have a lot, about 200 acres.
- His was the only well built home in Birchtown

Colonel Stephen Blucke

- Blucke helped other local Blacks acquire land they were promised
 - These Blacks got only 40 acres at the most
 - Took them about four years to get this land
- Helped many people with petitions to the authorities: e.g.

Shelburne 12th April 1785

Gentlemen,

Permit me favourably to solicit the release of Thomas Foster from his present confinement. I bring persuaded that he is brought to a due sense on his crimes, and will in future be cautious of threatening any person's life.

I am with due submission

Gentlemen

Your most obedient Honourable servant

Stephen Blucke

The Honourable Birch, Magistrate, Shelburne

Petition “To the Worship Magistrate of the County of Shelburne in General Sessions of the peace”

The petition of Stephen Blucke in behalf of himself and the other inhabitants of Birchtown and its neighbourhood.

Humbly Sheweth!

That the inhabitants of Birchtown and its neighbourhood, to the number of eighty souls and upwards, have been called upon by Colonel Blucke, the overseer of the read leading to Round Bay to do their statute labour and have actually turned out and done the same on that road between Birchtown and Colonel Bluckes lands as will appear to the court by the annexed certificate.

That the road leading from Birchtown to Shelburne inlet, in joins Mr. Farish's road is in many places almost impossible for boat passengers and entirely so for cattle or carriages and the statutes labour of all the said inhabitants being already expended as above mentioned that road must remain another year in its present bad status to the great injury of the said inhabitants - unless the court are pleased to afford them some relief.

Petition “To the Worship Magistrate of the County of Shelburne in General Sessions of the peace”

That from the great number of the said inhabitants upwards of three hundred souls who for many necessaries depend upon what they can carry to Shelburne market during the winter season on their backs or on hand sleighs year petitioner is there to hope the court will think their situation worthy of their attention.

The therefore humbly prays the court may be pleased to grant relief in this particular to the said inhabitants by allowing them five pounds out of the license duty, to be laid out and before mentioned under the care and direction of such persons as your worship shall think proper and petitioner will ever pray-

Birchtown

Stephen Bluck

6th July 1791

Colonel Stephen Blucke

- Became a teacher of Black students in Birchtown.
 - given good evaluations by the school inspector
 - school closed after a few years due to decline in population
- Was one of the few Black leaders who resisted the wave of emigration to Sierra Leone.
 - organized a petition opposing the use of public funds to transport the blacks away from Nova Scotia.
 - probably feared loss of the “manpower” he supplied to the Whites
- Blucke has been described as "a man of upright character, intelligent, and of good education."

Colonel Stephen Blucke

- Was he "a man of upright character, intelligent, and of good education" ?
- Two Scandals !
- Was accused of stealing money entrusted to him
 - Decided to leave Shelburne at that time
 - articles of his clothing were found near the Annapolis Road
 - People believed he was killed by an animal while attempting to escape
 - The money he was accused of stealing was later discovered
- Around 1788 Margaret Blucke left her husband:
 - he had begun an affair with their adoptive daughter Isabel Gibbons. His wife moved to New York and wrote to the Reverend John Marrant asking him for details about the situation.

Letter from Mrs. Blucke in New York to the Rev. Mr. Marrant, dated Oct. 12, 1789

"Rev Sir,

"I am favoured by your very kind and affectionate letter, dated the 17th of last month, and in return receive my hearty thanks for your kind attention in writing to me; and indeed, my dear friend in Christ, your letter has refreshed, and is comfortable to me, and I may say as the wife man faith, ointment and perfume rejoice the heart; so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty council, and they that seek the Lord, understand all things. And may the spark of divine love (which you always cherish) extend in all the hearts of your hearers, and that you may have that comfort of seeing the success of the Gospel fully accomplished among your people.

Letter from Mrs. Blucke in New York to the Rev. Mr. Marrant, dated Oct. 12, 1789

I would be glad to hear the Gospel tidings you would give of them, as it would give me joy and welcome news of the renewal of the holy spirit in their hearts and precious souls, and that God, out of his infinite mercy, may pour down into their hearts and souls, that enlightened grace which Cornelius and family renewed by the hands of Peter, which I shall not fail to make my earnest prayers to God for them.

Letter from Mrs. Blucke in New York to the Rev. Mr. Marrant, dated Oct. 12, 1789

And now, my dear respected friend temporal concerns, believe me I answered every letter I received from you, I enclosed it to Mr. Blucke, wherein he informed me that he delivered it into your own hands. Indeed, I was doubtful of it; however, the very last I wrote you and sent you, I here enclose a copy of it now for your satisfaction, and you will see that I did not shew that neglect for you that you thought I did. I sent it under cover to York Lawrence, then living with Mr. Stephen Skinner, as I was almost certain York Lawrence would deliver it to yourself, as I charged him in my letter not to deliver it into anybody's hands by your own. I would be glad to know if you received it; believe me, my mind and heart is filled with concern and trouble on account of that poor unhappy girl Isabella, in the manner she lives.

Letter from Mrs. Blucke in New York to the Rev. Mr. Marrant, dated Oct. 12, 1789

I would wish to God it was in your power to contrive to get her to Boston, and any expense you would be at of getting her away, I would gladly pay; indeed it would be an act of charity and mercy of restoring her from the unhappy life she lives in. I have wrote to Mr. Blucke, and that repeatedly, but no satisfaction I can receive from him, or nothing I can depend on. I request you will write to me every opportunity, and let me know how you children and yourself does, and how you like the place where you are, and to let me know if it would be possible you could do anything of getting Isabella away; and likewise I request you will let me know what news about Mr. Blucke and the place, as I cannot find out what he is doing.

Letter from Mrs. Blucke in New York to the Rev. Mr. Marrant, dated Oct. 12, 1789

I would take it as a favour if you would enquire after Peter Gray and wife, and please to take notice of him, and let him know his mother is well, (she is my sister) and all his friends and relations are well. Please to acquaint me how he makes out; my dear friend I believed I almost took you with this long letter, but excuse me for the present, as my next letter shall be shorter; and believe me to be, with every affectionate regard, wishing yourself and family every spiritual and temporal blessing, is the sincere prayer of,

Your's Margaret Blucke

"N.B. Please to let me know what Street you live in, and Number, as I shall direct my letter to you; so please to direct your letters to me, No. 40, Smith's Street New-York. Those directions are necessary, as the letters will sooner come to hand.

Your's M.B.

"My good Sir,

"You see I am entirely at a loss how Mr. Blucke goes on, and you will be pleased to give me as full an account as you can about him.

Stephen Blucke -

- **1998** - Site AkDi 23:
- A search for the location of Stephen Blucke's house.
- over 12,000 artifacts were recovered from this site, the majority being ceramics.
- an unusual number of military items recovered, including Revolutionary War buttons, a triangular bayonet, a sling swivel, a British navel boarding axe and an iron spur.
- The number of artifacts, the quality of the pieces and the number of matched sets allowed archaeologists to assume this was the location of Stephen Blucke's property.



A button

Remnant of a plate



A Few Black Loyalist Preachers

- **Boston King** ~ born near Dorchester, South Carolina, in 1760,
 - came on the ship *L'Abondance* to Shelburne,
 - became a Methodist minister.
- **David George** ~ a slave at Silver Bluff, South Carolina
 - Founded first Black Baptist church in the USA.
 - helped bring the Baptist faith to Nova Scotia.
- **John Marrant** ~ a free-born Black from South Carolina and New York
 - came to Nova Scotia from England as a Methodist missionary preacher

The Memoirs of Boston King Black Loyalist Preacher

THE
Methodist Magazine,
For MARCH, 1798.

MEMOIRS of the LIFE of BOSTON KING,
a Black Preacher.

Written by Himself, during his Residence at Kingswood-
School.

IT is by no means an agreeable task to write an account of my
Life, yet my gratitude to Almighty GOD, who considered my
affliction, and looked upon me in my low estate, who delivered
me from the hand of the oppressor, and established my goings,

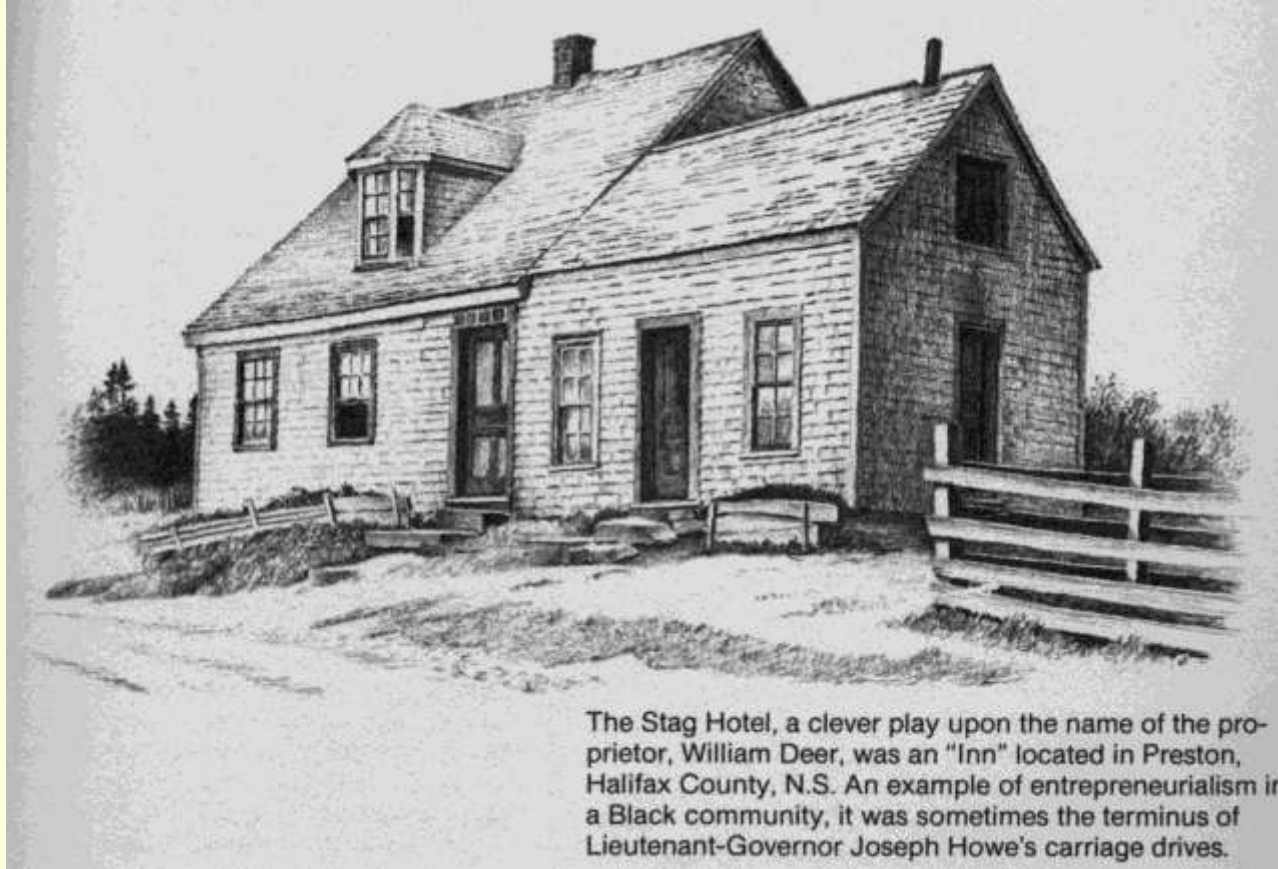
RAN AWAY

FROM the subscriber, a Negro Man named POMPEY, aged about 21 years, about five feet ten or eleven inches high, he is a stout well made fellow, had on when he went away a striped cotton jacket, a brown ditto, a linen shirt, Russia sheeting trowsers, white yarn stockings, tanned leather moccasins half soled, and carried with him a grey homespun great coat, a sailors blue jacket, mixed rug, and a white blanket: Whoever will take up said negro and bring him to his owner at Grimros-Neck, Queen's County, New-Brunswick, shall receive TWO GUINEAS REWARD, and all reasonable charges paid by me,
JOHN WHITLOCK.

*Queen's County, New-Brunswick,
May 12, 1786.*

Announcement
of a runaway
slave, with a
reward offered
for his return.

William Deer's Stag Hotel in Preston, Nova Scotia



Nova Scotia Lieutenant-Governor Joseph Howe (1804-1873) would sometimes stay there

Sign Outside Deer's Stag Hotel

1744 B.11
The "Stag Hotel" is kept by William Dear,
Outside, the House looks somewhat queer;
Only Look in, and there's no fear,
But you'll find Inside, the best of Cheer:
~~Brandy, Whiskey, Hop, Spruce, Ginger Beer~~
Clean Beds, and food for Horses here:
Round about, both far and near,
Are Streams for Trout, and Woods for Deer:
To suit the Public taste, 'tis clear,
Bill Dear will Labour, so will his dearest dear.

TO BE SOLD AT
Public Auction

At the 2 EXCHANGE COFFEE-HOUSE, in
this city, on MONDAY next, at 12
o'CLOCK at noon:

FORTY-SIX hogsheds of London Por-
ter; 2 hogsheds, 4 casks and a box of
bottled Ale; 3 crates and a box of bottled
Porter; 10 barrels of damaged Porter; 9
boxes of Pipes; 67 rolls of Paper Hang-
ings; a variety of Dry Goods; Glats,
Crockery and Tin Ware; Scale, Beam and
Weights; sundry Houshold and Kitchen
Furniture, such as Desk, Chest of Drawers,
Beaufait, Tables, Chairs, Benches, Look-
ing Glasses, Clock and Case, Beds and
Bedsteads, Pictures, Glats Lamps, Scon-
ces, Andirons, Grid Irons, Kettles, Bak-
ing and Fish Pans, &c. &c.

ALSO, a NEGRO MAN and BOY;
a Sloop rigged vessel, with mast, bowsprit,
sails, &c. a Waggon, Birch Boards, empty
Gin Cases, and a variety of other articles
too tedious to mention. Late the property
of CHARLES M'PHERSON, inn-holder,
seized and taken in execution b

W. S. OLIVER, *Sheriff*.

St. John, July 4, 1786.

Slaves for Sale

1736 ~ Notice of Auction of slaves
in St. John, New Brunswick

Notice of Slave for Sale

T O B E S O L D.

A Smart, active NEGRO BOY, about fifteen years of age, uted to all kinds of household work, told for no fault. Title indisputable. For particulars enquire of the Printers hereef.