

The Daniel Smith Loyalist Family
Contributed by John J. Nobleⁱ

One of the Loyalist Smith families in Sunbury County is descended from Lt Samuel Smith who arrived in Massachusetts in 1634 from Ipswich, England. Early on this Smith family settled in Hadley, Massachusetts and remained there for several generations.ⁱⁱ Eliakim Smith, born 13 Jan 1704 in Hadley, Hampshire Co., Massachusetts married Abigail Hoyt, born 26 Jan 1709 in Norwalk, and died before 1765. She was the daughter of Daniel Hayt (sic) and Elizabeth Keeler.(Daniel Hayt was born 1 Jan 1681 in Norwalk, Fairfield Co., Connecticut, and died 1756-1764 in Norwalk, Fairfield Co., Connecticut).

Eliakim and Abigail (Hoyt's) Smith's son, Daniel Smith, was born in Norwalk, Connecticut in 1731. He married Ruth Fitch, on May 22, 1760. She was born on 1 April 1739 in Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut, the daughter of Theophilus Fitch and Lydia Kellogg. According to the Kellogg Family History,ⁱⁱⁱ Theophilus Fitch was a leading member of the town of New Canaan, Connecticut. The Fitch and Kellogg families were among the founding families in Connecticut and came from Essex County in England. It is possible to trace the Kellogg side back to before they came across the Atlantic and also for the Fitch family.^{iv} Theophilus was a common name in those days. Clapman Smith (Daniel's son) had both a Theophilus and a Lydia among his 14 off-spring.

The Smith, Fitch, and Kellogg families were thus part of the Great Migration to New England in the 1630's and 1640's.

Daniel and Ruth (Fitch) Smith lived in New Milford, Litchfield County, Connecticut when the American Revolution broke out. They ran a public house and owned land there consisting of 113 acres. Daniel Smith's claim for losses during the Revolutionary War is documented and reported on pp 867-9 of the "*Second Report to the Ontario Bureau of Archives for the Province of Ontario*" (Toronto, Ont., 1904; L.K. Cameron, Printer, 1905, in the NB Provincial Archives). See also pages 36 and 41/42 of "*Connecticut's Loyalists*" by Robert A. East, Pequot Press, Chester, Connecticut, 1974.

A 1916 article, "*Refugee Loyalists of Connecticut*"^v, mentions that during the American Revolution, which was actually a civil war, there were people engaged in bringing off their Tory (i.e. Loyalists) associates and friends from Connecticut. Daniel Smith of New Milford, Litchfield County, operated under a warrant, or commission, during the winter of 1776-77, and secured "a good many". (p77). "On June 16, 1779, Fanning's King's American Regiment sailed for New York, and accompanied Tryon's last expedition to Connecticut, which occurred in the early days of the next month. The expedition was directed against New Haven, Fairfield, Green's Farms and Norwalk, and like the earlier one, was piloted by Tory guides, William and Thomas Chandler, sons of Joshua Chandler of New Haven, two brothers of Amos Botsford of the same town, and Daniel Smith of New Milford, serving in this capacity". (Pp79-80). In March 1777, the Litchfield County Court issued the following order: "The personal estate of Daniel Smith, Justin Sherman, Nathan Daton and Thomas Noble, all of New Milford, in the

County of Litchfield, they being inimical, was ordered to be disposed of for the use of the state.”
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Daniel Smith and his family fled to New York (which was occupied by the British throughout the American Revolution), and sailed to what is now Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada with the Spring Fleet of 1783.^{vii} Initially they went up the Saint John River to Maugerville (“Majorfield” in his statement of claim) and then to Burton, which is across the Saint John River from Maugerville. Daniel and his family also brought with them two Negro slaves to whom he granted their freedom, but they stayed with the family and are buried in Blissville. Slavery was not abolished in Connecticut until after the American Revolution.

Daniel and his sons, Orlo, Clapman and Daniel Jr. were granted land along the South Branch of the Oromocto River in Sunbury County, New Brunswick. A map showing the location of these grants is on page xiv of “*Days of Old: A History of Fredericton Junction*” and copies of their original petitions are available in the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. The original grant to Daniel is in the Saint John Museum. “Daniel settled in the old Murphy Place in Hoyt. It is now owned by the Gerrit & Marlene Groenenberg. When Daniel died he was buried in the cemetery located on the old Murphy place. Later when the Blissville Baptist cemetery was developed, his coffin was moved there. His slaves were buried on the old Murphy Place and remain there.”^{viii}

Daniel and Ruth Smith had 6 children:
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a) Orlo Smith married 12 Mar 1791 in Sunbury County, Hannah Thomas. Orlo received a grant of 200 acres, lot 1 on the Southwest Oromocto River in the Parish of Blissville, Sunbury County, 9 November 1787. On April 21, 1857, an Orlo Smith received a grant of land in Bathurst, Gloucester County. Perhaps this was Orlo’s son?^x

b) Clapman Smith born about 1761 in Connecticut and who married about 1792 in Sunbury County Susannah Bailey, born about 1775 in Bay Chaleur, N.B., died 15 July 1856 in Blissville, Sunbury County, N.B. Clapman died in 1843 in Sunbury County, N.B. B. Joan Davis and Janice Seeley’s “Sunbury County Happenings,” Vol. 1, p. 7 contains the following from the “Religious Intelligencer” (Saint John, N.B.) of 25 Jul 1856: “Died –At Blissville, Sunbury County, on the 15th inst., Mrs Susannah, relict of the late Clapman Smith, Esq., in the 82nd year of her age, leaving 8 surviving sons and 2 daughters, with a large number of grand and great grandchildren. Mrs Smith was born at the Bay Chaleur, to which her parents had emigrated from London. They removed to the Saint John River when she was about 4 years old. Her father was a truly pious and devoted disciple of Christ, and for many years sustained the public worship of God. When 17 years of age she was married to Mr. Smith, by whom she had 15 children; one died in infancy, another in early years, all the rest professed faith in the Savior. During the last 13 years she had been a widow, waiting for the time of her departure. During the last 2 or 3 years her faculties failed so far that at times she did not recollect her own friends, even her own children were sometimes forgotten by her, but at no time did she forget her Savior.”^{xi}

According to Smith family lore “Susannah Bailey eloped with Clapman. Her Father didn’t approve of the match and disinherited her daughter. Later he relented and willed his estate to

Susannah's children. Clapman Jr. had the bible containing a record of Susannah and Clapman's children to prove that they were entitled to receive the inheritance. The brothers took up a collection of ten dollars each and Joseph (one of the brothers) was given the bible and other papers to take to Saint John to employ a lawyer to press their claim. On the way he had to cross a swollen river. The water was higher than he thought; the wagon upset and the papers were destroyed. So ended the story of the Bailey legacy. No doubt the family had been counting on collecting that inheritance for years and years. Clapman and his wife were buried in the cemetery on the old Murphy Farm (now owned by Groenenburg's) Later they were moved to the Blissville Baptist cemetery when it was developed.^{xii} The gravestones for Clapman Smith and his wife Susannah still exist.^{xiii}

- c) Daniel Smith married Nancy Kellogg. Died in 1834.
- d) Ruth Smith
- e) Mary Smith married George Hayward
- f) Lydia Smith married a Mr. Ward.

Children of Clapman Smith and Susannah Bailey are:^{xiv}

- i Clapman Smith born about 1795 married Gertrude DeWitt
- ii Benjamin Smith born about 1800 married Amelia Clark
- iii Daniel Smith born about 1803 married Phoebe Hartt
- iv Joseph Smith born 2 Sept 1803 married Harriet Louise Lounsbury
- v Samuel Smith born about 1805 married Abigail Balman
- vi William Smith born about 1813
- vii Lydia Smith born 2 Oct 1815
- viii Theophilus Smith born in Sunbury County , N.B.
- ix James Smith born in Sunbury County, N.B.
- x John E. Smith born in Sunbury County
- xi Thatcher Smith born about 1822 married Phoebe Smith
- xii Ezekiel Smith born in Sunbury County, N.B.
- xiii Israel Smith born in Sunbury County
- xiv Ammon Smith born in Sunbury County

Here is the story from the "*Hoyt Pioneer Cemetery*" booklet:

"There happens to be a story to go along with Benjamin Smith:
The husband of Amelia (Clark) Smith had a tragic experience in the woods near Fredericton Junction. Benjamin had been working in the woods with his brothers and decided to come home for the weekend. As he was walking home he met up with a panther. Acting to save his life he climbed a tree but opposite to the tree he climbed, there was another tree which the panther had climbed. With the panther trying to claw him, Benjamin tied his clasp knife to this boot and started kicking the panther. While kicking the panther, he hollered for his brothers to come. Finally, the panther gave up and left, then his brothers came. When Benjamin climbed down the tree he

fainted from the loss of blood, because the panther scratched and cut him badly. He needed special attention for about six weeks. Benjamin Smith wore bandages on his legs and was crippled for the rest of his life, but at least he saved his life from the panther."

There is also another mention of Benjamin Smith and this is regarding his Wife's grave.

"After Amelia had been buried, Benjamin put concrete walls around her grave so cows could not walk on it. These walls are still there today although they are starting to deteriorate."

Benjamin moved north with his son George Frederick to Victoria Corners, Carleton County following the death of his wife. Benjamin's grandson, Benjamin Franklin Smith, was active in New Brunswick politics at the provincial and later federal level where he served as Member of Parliament for Victoria-Carleton from 1930-35 and as Senator from 1935 until he died in 1944. He is a key character in Arthur T. Doyle's book "*Front Benches and Back Rooms: a story of corruption, muckraking, raw partisanship and intrigue in New Brunswick*", Green Tree Publishing Company, Toronto, 1976

Benjamin Smith and Amelia Clark had seven children:

- i. John E. Smith born 17 October 1826, married Elizabeth Nutter
- ii. George Frederick Smith, born about 1829, married Ruth Amelia Mitchell
- iii. Lydia Smith
- iv. David Smith
- v. Jeremiah Smith
- vi. Israel Smith
- vii. Albert Smith

The descendants of Daniel Smith and Ruth Fitch are many.

ⁱ See also "Some Descendants of Daniel and Ruth (Fitch) Smith", by George H. Hayward, Fredericton. N.B. 25 February 2000

ⁱⁱ "GENEALOGIES OF HADLEY FAMILIES, by Lucius M. Boltwood, 1862

ⁱⁱⁱ "History of the Kellogg Family in the Old World and the New" page 83

^{iv} "History of the Kellogg Family in the Old World and the New", page 83 lists the Fitch genealogy back to Braintree, England

^v "The Refugee Loyalists of Connecticut" by Professor W.H. Siebert, read to the Royal Society of Canada May 1916, published in the Royal Society Section II, 1916

^{vi} Note-book of Archdeacon W.O. Raymond, St. John, N.B.; Townshend, "British Invasion of New Haven, Connecticut", pp 92-94; "Second Report to the Ontario Bureau of Archives, Pt II, 1904", pp 867-869; "The History and Genealogy of the Family of Thomas Noble of Westfield, Mass" by Lucius M Boltwood, 1878, p 43

^{vii} According to Robert A East, Daniel Smith arrived on the ship *Union*, which did not disembark passengers at Saint John, but headed further up the river to what became Kingston. See page 40 of "*Connecticut's Loyalists*"

^{viii} From a document prepared by Clarence Smith and provided by Sandy (Davenport) DeVenney in December 2000

^{ix} Document prepared by Clarence Smith

^x Public Archives of New Brunswick, RS686- Index to New Brunswick Land Grants, Grant 8072 Volume 51

^{xi} "Some Descendants of Daniel and Ruth (Fitch) Smith", by George H Hayward, Fredericton, N.B., 25 February 2000

^{xii} Document prepared by Clarence Smith

^{xiii} Photos provided by Fredrica Given of Fredericton Junction, N.B.

^{xiv} "Some Descendants of Daniel and Ruth (Fitch) Smith", by George H. Hayward. The same names appear in the Clarence Smith document.