

Loyalist Refugees

Non-Military Refugees In Quebec 1776-1784

by **Gavin K. Watt**

To my knowledge, the creation of a master list of non-military loyalist refugees who sheltered in lower Quebec between 1775 and 1784 has not been attempted before. In contrast, there have been several studies of the fighting men. But, what of the wives, mothers, fathers, grandparents, sisters, brothers and children of the fighting men who were compelled to take refuge in lower Quebec during the war? What of the soldiers who grew too old to continue in service, or lost the use of a limb by accident or enemy action? What of the soldiers who fell grievously ill and were unable to return to duty? Were there conscientious objectors? Were the refugees' spiritual needs provided for? What were the refugees' names; where did they stay and for how long; were they employed in some manner; how were they clothed, provisioned and housed; how were their children schooled?

Over twenty-five Quebec communities from cities, to towns, to small hamlets were pressed into sheltering the waves of refugees as they streamed in from the southern colonies. Of course, some were housed in barracks and other military or naval facilities in the garrison towns, but far more were billeted on the Canadien population. In addition, a special community was built at a place east of Montreal called Machiche to house mothers and children who were frail or infirm as well as soldiers recovering from illness or wounds.



View of Chateau-Richer, Cape Tormont – a typical rural Quebec scene that became familiar to the Loyalist refugees



A view of Quebec's famous ironworks, the forges on the St. Maurice River, near Trois-Rivières



Silver box lid with miniature of Mary Brower Munro, c. 1760-70

The book's text is in five chapters

Chapter One

Why Refugees and Why So Many?

Chapter Two

Waves of Loyalists

Chapter Three

What to do with the Refugees?

Chapter Four

Complications Increase

Chapter Five

The Flood Continues

The central piece of the book is the Refugee Roll that lists over 2,400 names of refugees noting their spouses, often by given name and age; the ages, sex and often names of their children; the communities where they were housed; their regimental affiliation, if any, and/or their employment or trade. A sixth chapter explains and provides illustrations of how to use the roll.

Also included is a Surname Concordance, a large list of Source Documentation and a Bibliography and Index.