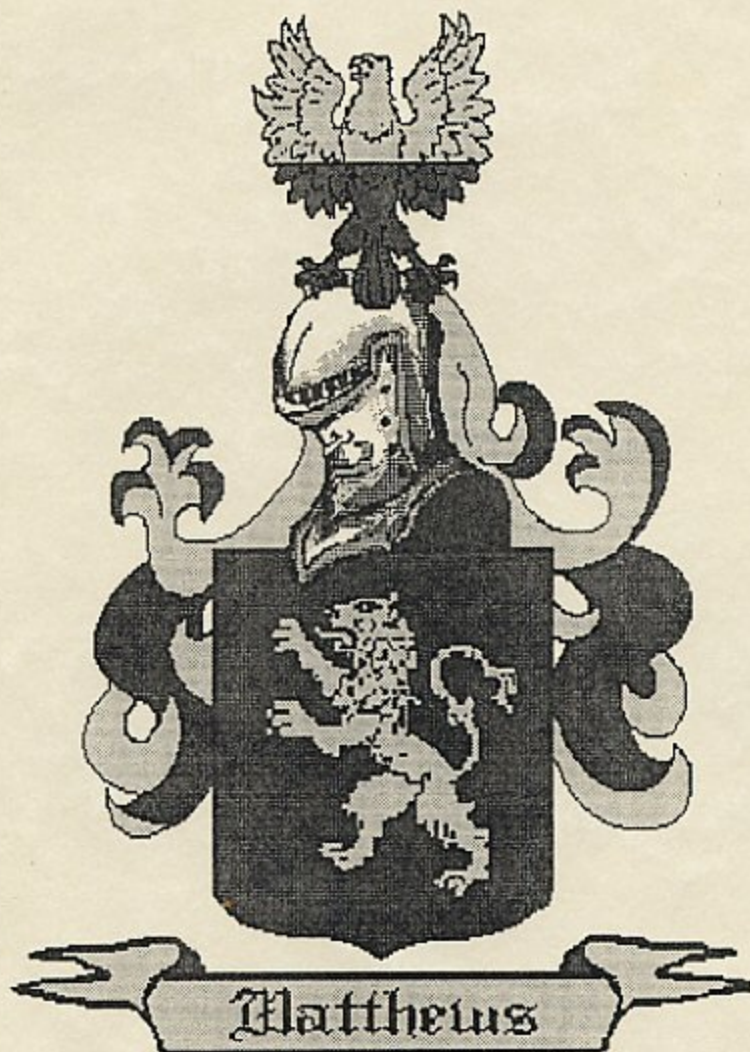


"THE MATTHEWS FAMILY OF PICKERING"

- A FAMILY HISTORY -



THE MATTHEWS FAMILY OF PICKERING TOWNSHIP,
ONTARIO, CANADA. EIGHT GENERATIONS, 1992
WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY:
RICHARD D. MATTHEWS JR., U.E.
ROSE MARIE (WELCH) MATTHEWS, U.E.

"The Matthews Family of Pickering"

-A Family History-

Introduction

I started this project in 1988, shortly after the death of my grandfather, Roy Winfred Matthews. To my surprise no one in our family had put down in any form our family history! My grandfather had done a little research over the years, but was never able to complete it. I was at home recovering from back surgery after an injury with a lot of free time on my hands when I decided to do some research into our family history on my own. The following work took me in excess of four years to complete. I have only used names and dates that I was able to verify from documents. This work is meant to help preserve for future generations of our family our rich history.

Information sources

1. The United States of America, 1850 and 1860 census of the State of Michigan.
2. The archives of Ontario, in Toronto, Canada.
3. The county clerks offices of Sanilac County, Huron County, St. Clair County, and Tuscola County, Michigan.
4. Family records such as birth, marriage, & death certificates.
5. Information from local Michigan public libraries.
6. The national archives of Canada, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
7. Oshawa Historical society, in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada.
8. Prof. Ronald J. Stagg, Ph.D., of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
9. Mr. Roy Winfred Matthews, my grandfather.
10. Mr. Clarence Martin Matthews, my great uncle, and grandfather's brother.
11. Ms. Annette Ruth Matthews, my cousin.
12. Mr. Henry Norlande Ruttan, U.E., my distant cousin.
13. Rev. Dr. William Angus McKay, of Pickering Township, Ontario, Canada.
14. Mr. Gerald W. Nyquist, Ph.D., of Croswell, Michigan.

Written and compiled by:
Richard Dale Matthews Jr., U.E. &
Rose Marie (Welch) Matthews, U.E.
1992

"DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE PATRIOTS OF 1837"

THE OLD STRUGGLES ARE ALMOST FORGOTTEN, OR BUT DIMLY RECALLED. IN JUST A FEW GENERATIONS, NOT MANY STILL REMEMBER WHAT THE BATTLES WERE ALL ABOUT; BUT ENJOY THE RESULTS OF THEM WITHOUT QUESTION. IT WAS ALL LONG AGO, AND VERY PETTY AND UNIMPORTANT, SOME NOW SAY. BUT THERE ARE SOME WHO STILL REMEMBER THE SACRIFICES OF CERTAIN OBSCURE MEN WHO HELPED TO SET CANADA FREE, TO BECOME THE GREAT NATION SHE WAS TO BECOME. IT IS SAID: "BLESSED ARE THEY WHO HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER JUSTICE".



From the Imperial Oil Collection

REBELS MARCHING DOWN YONGE STREET

NAMES OF PERSONS ARRESTED IN UPPER CANADA AND IMPRISONED ON A CHARGE OF INSURRECTION OR TREASON BETWEEN DECEMBER 5, 1837, AND NOVEMBER 1, 1838. HOME DISTRICT

1.

JAMES FOSTER	EDWARD SNIDER	DAVID CASH
JOHN ANDERSON	Wm. ALDERNEY	RICHARD WATSON
THOMAS BURRILL	ROBERT BROCK	ELI BATEMAN
JAY CODY	JOHN Mc'MILLAN	ANDREW EIKART
JAMES SMITH	FRANCIS LYONS	PETER ROGERS
THOMAS RERDON	MICHAEL VINCENT	JOSEPH SHEPPARD
DANIEL WINSTOW	HENRY SHAVER	ROBERT STIVER
PETER DEGUIRE	DANIEL GAMBLE	WILLIAM KING
JOHN KENNEDY	JOHN WHITING	JACOB SHEPPARD
LOUIS BRINE	EMANUEL TOMLINSON	DANIEL HIBNER
CORNELIUS DUNCAN	Wm. ROBERTSON	WILLIAM ROGERS
JOHN KENNEDY 2	WILLIAM CLAY	JOHN BROWN
JAMES RAGGAT	WILLIAM ROGERS	DANIEL SHEPPARD
WILLIAM KENRICK	ROBERT STIBBERT	J.W.KENDRICK
PAT. McCHRISTAL	JAMES EGAR	GEORGE HILL
PATRICK CASEY	SAMUEL BROCK	JOHN M'KAY
GEORGE IRELAND	JAMES JOHNSON	JAMES M'QUEEN
W.T.KENEDY	ROBERT MIDDLETON	JOSEPH GOULD
H.CARLTON	PHILLIP BUSSON	PETER MATTHEWS
JOSEPH HORNE	GORDON BURGESS	GILBERT F. MORDEN
W.MILNEY	WILLIAM BALLARD	ABRAHAM HALING
ARTHUR LAIDLAW	GEORGE GARBUT	JOHN STEWART
MAURICE FITZGERALD	JOHN BURGESS	MICHAEL SHEPPARD
F.WARDROPE	SAMUEL READ	JOSEPH NEWLOVE
J.McGILLES	JOHN BRAMMER	JOHN WILKIE
GEORGE CARROL	JOHN PEARSON	THOMAS SHEPPARD
GEORGE FARLEY	JOHN RUSSEL	GEORGE WILSON
W.YOUNG	PHILO BELFRY	REUBEN LUNDY
SAMUEL CARPENTER	JAMES HUTCHINSON	ROBERT WALKER
HENRY HALL	Wm. M. PLASTED	WILLIAM ASHER
JOHN DUNN	ALEXANDER READ	EMANUEL DONER
JAMES LATIMER	RICHARD TAYLOR	JOSEPH CLARKSON
FREDERICK EIKART	GODLIP EIKART	JOHN BEILBY
WILLIAM PEARSON	WILLIAM NELSON	JOSEPH DONER
WILLIAM ALVES	ROBERT BAILIE	ARTHUR SQUIRES
WILLIAM POOL	GREGORY INNIS	JOSEPH WILSON
ANDREW DRAGOON	JOHN CUYLER	JOHN SHEPPARD
EDWARD HILTON	SEYMOUR H.STOGDILL	JOHN M'DOUGALL
JOHN BRETT	GEORGE EIKART	PERIPHEN HAWKE
FRED. ANDERSON	JOSHUA STEVENS	JACOB TROYER
GEORGE NELSON	COL.VAN EGMOND	PETER RUSH
FRANCIS WAY	GEORGE CHEWETT	GIDEON VERNON
JAMES BERGIN	W.R. LOUNT	DAVID BLAIR
JOHN MONTGOMERY	JAMES HUNTER	WILLIAM WILSON
PETER STOREY	JOHN STEEPLE	ISAAC MASTERSON
HENRY COWEN	PHILIP WIDEMAN	L.S.W.RICHARDSON
HENRY BROCK	WILLIAM WATSON	JACOB KIRTY

HENRY EARL
 CHRISTIN NINNY
 EDWARD BROCK
 ABRAHAM MUSSELMAN
 BENJAMIN WINHUP
 ADAM SCOTT
 PETER PENCE
 THOMAS WILSON
 WILLIAM STOCKDALE
 HENRY JOHNSON
 DAVID PORTER
 GEORGE BOLTON
 JAMES JOHNSON
 W.G. EDMONSTONE
 JOHN MITCHELL
 JOSEPH JOHNSON
 GEORGE HOLBORNE
 JAMES HARMAN
 JOHN CLARKE
 GEORGE LAMB
 JOHN G. PARKER
 JOHN BROWNE
 TOWNSEND WIXON
 SAMUEL WATFORD
 HUGH D. WILSON
 SILAS BARDWELL
 ADAM BAIRD
 JOHN D. WILSON
 COLIN SCOTT
 ASA WIXON
 WILLIAM BROUGHAM
 JOHN GIBSON
 CHARLES LOW
 PETER GRANT
 HASEL H. SCOTT
 SOLOMON SLY
 JOSEPH MILLBURN
 HIRAM MATTHEWS
 JOEL WIXON
 DAVID DEAN
 RUSSEL BAKER
 JOHN HILL
 PETER MUNRO
 JOHN PROUT
 ANDREW HILL
 SAMUEL MUNRO
 CHARLES CROCKER
 WILLIAM WILSON
 ABRAHAM WILSON
 RANDAL WIXON
 JAMES LONG
 SAMPSON HARRIS
 WILLIAM HILL
 WILLIAM CURTIS
 PATRICK GARRY

WILLIAM JACKSON
 CHARLES BURLING
 LEONARD WATSON
 ARTHUR KELLY
 JOHN MARR
 JESSE DOAN
 JAMES KEENE
 THOS. WILSON
 DOUGAL CAMPBELL
 JOSEPH M'GRATH
 ROBERT BERRIE
 DONALD CAMPBELL
 THOMAS SLY
 JOSEPH ELTHORP
 JOHN CAMPBELL
 CHARLES DURAND
 JOHN GRAHAM
 ADAM GRAHAM
 THOMAS D. MORRISON
 G.S. YEOMANS
 LUTHER ELTON
 JAMES LESSLIE
 WILLIAM BENTLY
 JOSEPH WATSON
 -----LESSLE
 WILLIAM GRAHAM
 ANDREW ROWAND
 JOHN DOEL
 NELSON FLANAGAN
 JOSEPH BRAMMER
 ROBERT JOHNSON
 JOSEPH MATTHEWS
 FRANCIS McDONALD
 JAMES BROWN
 HENRY WEAVER
 W.J. COMFORT
 ASHER WILSON
 GEORGE BARCLAY
 JACOB LANE
 LOUIS TERRY
 THOMAS GRAY
 M.P. EMPEY
 ROBERT TAYLOR
 WILSON READ
 GERALD IRWIN
 THOS. HILL
 JOHN READ
 WILLIAM DOAN
 JOHN RUMMERFELDT
 WESLEY DUNCAN
 THOMAS THOMPSON
 JOHN P. PLANK
 JOHN McLAFFERTY
 HENRY STYLES
 WILLIAM KILBURN

WELDON HUGHES
 GEORGE ROBINSON
 ADAM RUPERT
 EBENEZER MOORE
 C.C. SCOTT
 WILLIAM READ JR.
 WEBSTER STEVENS
 ABRAHAM FAULKNER
 THOMAS WILSON
 JOHN GILLINGHAM
 THOS. SHERRARD
 GEORGE FLETCHER
 JOHN M'CORMACK
 JOSHUA HASKILL
 WILLIAM CARNEY
 IRA ANDERSON
 JOSEPH MARTIN
 NELSON CARVER
 JACOB LAMOUREAUX
 CHARLES RAYNER
 JOSEPH NOBLE
 G.G. PARKER
 ABRAHAM ANDERSON
 CHARLES DOAN
 DUNCAN M'NAB
 PATRICK CONDON
 JOSHUA WIXON
 CHARLES AXTELL
 JOHN O'BRIEN
 JAMES KANE
 J.F. FARLEY
 JAMES KEANE
 JAMES BARRY
 GILBERT DECKER
 JEREMIAH C. CHAPIN
 JOHN WILKIE 2d
 THOMAS ELLIOTT
 WILLIAM SHAW
 PETER GRANT 2d
 WILLIAM CARROL
 EWEN CAMERON
 BURTON ATTWELL
 JAMES McDONALD
 EDWARD A. THELLER
 JOHN P. CHERRY
 ISAAC MOINS
 STEPHEN A. BROPHY
 JOHN PLANK
 JOHN HOUCK
 CLAUDE CAMPEAU
 R.S. SMITH
 MATTHEW HAYES
 AUG. D. BERDENEAU
 LAZARUS ELLIS
 SAMUEL LOUNT

ELI IRWIN	JOHN DEVINS	FRANCIS STAUGUSTIN
ARCHIBALD MOLLOY	ELISHA MITCHELL	JONATHAN DOAN
JOHN GARRY	GEORGE WRIGHT	JAMES MURRAY
FRANCIS ROBBINS	THOMAS WATTS	HENRY JOHNSTON
LUCIUS C. THOMAS	CHANCEY PARKER	ZACHARIA DENT
MARTIN SMITH	JAMES PARKER	PHILIP BRADY
ABRAM W. PARTRIDGE	DENNIS O'CONNOR	HUGH CARMICHAEL
EBER THOMAS	WILLIAM KETCHUM	JAMES LELAND
HENRY M'GARRY	DONALD CAMERON	ISAAC MYERS
THERON CULVER	JOHN CONDON	JESSE CLEVER
ELIAS CRERY	AARON FREELE	JOHN RANDAL
JAMES EDMONSTONE	EWEN CAMERON	WILLIAM M'CARRICK
LOUIS LENNOX	JOHN KEANE	WILLIAM DeLANEY
ROYAL HOPKINS	THOMAS TRACY	MICHAEL McFARLANE
WILLIAM BREWER	JOHN CAMERON	SAMUEL WOODS
FRANCIS CLUTIER	WILLIAM CARNEY	TITUS ROOT
TIMOTHY DOYLE	JOHN ARTHUR TIDY	JAMES HOWIE
TERRANCE FERGUSSON	CHANCEY HAWLEY	JAMES MACE
BENJAMIN F. PEW	PETER MILNE	DANIEL SCHELL
ALEXANDER CLUNY	JOHN KELLY	SYLVANUS SPENCER
PETER M'CONVILLE	JOHN ROBINSON	JOHN M'INTYRE
HENRY L. HULL	EDWARD KENNEDY	JOHN D. STAPLES
D. HUTCHINSON	PAUL BEDFORD	THOS. J. SUTHERLAND
JOHN HAWKES	EDWARD KEAYS	WILLIAM BELL
GEORGE DAVIS	JNO. HILL 2d.	JOHN CANE
MICHAEL CORRIGAN	HARVEY BRYANT	EDWARD CARMON
JOHN KLINE	SIMON SERVOS	JOHN M'LEOD
WALTER CHASE	BARTHOLOMEW PLANK	JAS. CANE
JOHN HALING	ENOCH MOORE	HARATIO FOWLER
MICHAEL FLOOD	JOSEPH WIXON	EBENEZER WILCOX
SQUIRE THAYER	WILLIAM WILSON	ROBERT WILSON
JOHN DOYLE	PHILIP JACKSON	FINLAY MALCOM
WILLIAM IRWIN	R. A. PARKER	ROBERT COOK
NATHANIEL SMITH	JAMES YULE	JAS. SQUIRES
JOHN McANANY	DIOGENES M'KENZIE	JOSEPH HART
JAMES M'ISAAC	JOSEPH EARL	ALVARO LADD
W. W. DODGE	IRA WHITE	TIMOTHY MUNRO
JAMES McGUIRE	BENJAMIN WARNER	JAMES BELL
DENNIS LEAHY	FRANCIS CLARKSON	WILLIAM HERON

END OF LIST OF PERSONS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN UPPER CANADA AND
PLACED IN CONFINEMENT IN THE PRISONS OF TORONTO.(HOME DISTRICT)

"THE MATTHEWS FAMILY OF PICKERING"

- A FAMILY HISTORY -

- THE STORY OF PETER MATTHEWS -



Peter Matthews

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY:

RICHARD D. MATTHEWS JR., U.E.

DECEMBER, 1991

-THE STORY OF PETER MATTHEWS-

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WE WILL START OUR STORY IN THE YEAR 1775 AND THE BEGINNING OF THE "AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR", AND THE FIRST CALL FOR TROOPS. SOME OF THE RUTTAN FAMILY WERE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS, AND SOME WERE ON THE OTHER SIDE. OUR BRANCH OF THE FAMILY WERE LOYALISTS. AMONG THEM WAS PETER RUTTAN, WHO WAS A CAPTAIN COMMANDING A BODY OF MEN CORRESPONDING TO THAT OF A COLONEL TODAY. HE WAS THE FATHER OF MARY RUTTAN MATTHEWS. CAPTAIN RUTTAN HAD A LARGE ESTATE IN WHAT IS NOW NEW YORK CITY. HE ALSO HAD A TRACT OF 400 ACRES IN DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK WHICH JUST BEFORE HIS DEATH AT THE GREAT AGE OF 96 HE GAVE TO HIS DAUGHTER MARY, BUT OF COURSE IT WAS OUTLAWED WHEN LOOKED INTO YEARS LATER IN 1844. HE JOINED GENERAL HOWE'S ARMY IN THE YEAR 1776.

PETER RUTTAN SERVED AS A CAPTAIN IN THE FOURTH BATTALION, AND IN THE THIRD BATTALION OF THE NEW JERSEY VOLUNTEERS LATER IN THE WAR. HE WAS CONSIDERED FORMIDABLE ENOUGH AS AN ENEMY TO THE CONTINENTALS THAT THEY OFFERED A \$3,000.00 REWARD FOR HIS HEAD, DEAD OR ALIVE. DURING THAT TERRIBLE TIME OF WAR MARY'S MOTHER HELD THE PLOW, DROVE THE OXEN, PLANTED AND REAPED. THE CONTINENTAL ARMY ENCAMPED THERE, SET FIRE AND ROBBED THE FAMILY OF ALL THEY POSSESSED. THIS WAS COMMON TO "LOYALIST FAMILYS" DURING AND SHORTLY FOLLOWING THE WAR. THE CONTINENTAL ARMY WAS DISBANDED IN 1783, THE FINAL TREATY OF PARIS WAS SIGNED ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1783, AND RATIFIED BY THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ON JANUARY 14, 1784. THIS LEFT CAPTAIN PETER RUTTAN, THE LOYALIST, AMONG THE DEFEATED. HE AND HIS FAMILY WERE LOYAL TO THE HEART'S CORE TO GREAT BRITAIN. HE WAS A NATURAL ARISTOCRAT.

HE BELIEVED IN STABILITY OF GOVERNMENT AND THOUGHT NO BETTER EXAMPLE OF IT WAS KNOWN TO ENLIGHTENED MAN THAN THAT FURNISHED BY THE LIMITED MONARCHY OF GREAT BRITAIN. CAPTAIN RUTTAN COULD NOT FUSE WITH THE NEW AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND BE LOYAL TO HIMSELF. THE LOYALISTS' WERE SAD, AND FELT EXILED ALTHOUGH LIVING IN THEIR OWN HOMES. THE CRUCIAL TEST CAME, TO SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND BECOME A CITIZEN, OR TO FORFEIT ALL, AND BECOME AN EXILE. ENGLAND OFFERED ALL LOYALISTS A HOME IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, IN THE BEAUTIFUL WILDERNESS LAND BEYOND THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER, AND THE GREAT LAKES. CAPTAIN RUTTAN HAD BEEN DETAILED BY THE BRITISH (WHEN THEY STILL HELD NEW YORK) TO GO WITH JOSEPH BRANT, CHIEF OF THE MOHAWK INDIANS, ON A TOUR OF OBSERVATION TO "WESTERN CANADA".

HOW THEY TRAVELED FROM NEW YORK IS NOT KNOWN. THEY, WITH THEIR COMPANIONS STARTED INLAND, FOLLOWING OLD INDIAN TRAILS AND MAKING THEIR OWN MARKS ON TREES AS THEY WENT ALONG. PETER SOMEHOW BECAME SEPARATED FROM THE PARTY OF MEN HE WAS WITH AND BECAME LOST FOR SEVERAL DAYS. HE WAS FOUND AND RESCUED BY CHIEF BRANT. WHEN FOUND HE WAS FAINT FROM A LACK OF FOOD, HIS COMPASS WAS GONE, AND HIS GUN DAMAGED AND UNABLE TO BE USED. AFTER A BRIEF PERIOD OF REST THEY CONTINUED ONWARD. LATER, CHIEF BRANT PEELED FROM A BIRCH TREE A BIT OF BARK AND ON IT WROTE "A CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE RENDERED BY CAPTAIN RUTTAN".

"PETER'S STORY"

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HE LATER PRESENTED THIS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND RECEIVED A GRANT OF SEVERAL HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND IN ADOLPHUSTOWN, WHICH TERMINATES AT "RUTTAN'S POINT", AND WHICH HAS BEEN RETAINED CONTINUOUSLY IN THE FAMILY FROM THOSE EARLY TIMES. CAPTAIN RUTTAN AND HIS FAMILY SETTLED IN ADOLPHUSTOWN IN 1784. HE NEVER FORGOT CHIEF BRANT SAVING HIS LIFE AND NAMED HIS FOURTH SON, JOSEPH BRANT RUTTAN, IN HONOR OF HIM. PETER RUTTAN AND COLONEL SIMCOE, AFTERWARDS GOVERNOR OF CANADA, WERE FRIENDS. THEY CONSULTED WITH EACH OTHER OFTEN. LADY SIMCOE WAS AN ARTIST IN WATER COLORS AND WAS AN INSPIRATION TO YOUNG MARY (MARIA) RUTTAN.

IN THE YEAR 1786 WHILE OUT HUNTING FOR GAME, CAPTAIN RUTTAN CAME UPON CAPTAIN THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS. HE HAD BEEN LOST IN THE WOODS FOR SEVERAL DAYS WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER, AND WAS SUFFERING WITH A FEVER AND FROM STARVATION. HE WAS A UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST AND HAD COME FROM NEW YORK TO SETTLE IN UPPER CANADA. CAPTAIN MATTHEWS WAS NURSED THROUGH THE FEVER AND BACK TO HEALTH AT CAPTAIN RUTTAN'S HOME. THIS WAS WHEN MARY AND THOMAS FELL IN LOVE. THIS ENRAGED HER FATHER WHO THREATENED TO SHOOT MATTHEWS, FOR HE HAD PLANNED TO WED MARY TO A FINE ENGLISH OFFICER, A FRIEND OF COLONEL SIMCOE. MARY WAS JUST SEVENTEEN AT THIS TIME. WHEN SHE WAS JUST PASSED EIGHTEEN, SHE AND CAPTAIN MATTHEWS ELOPED. HER FATHER DISOWNED HER. THEY WERE MARRIED BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

MARY SUFFERED GREAT HARDSHIPS AFTER HER MARRIAGE CEREMONY. THOMAS'S HEALTH WAS POOR, HE SUFFERED FROM "FEVER AND AGUE". THEY SETTLED FOR A SHORT TIME IN NEW BRUNSWICK. MARY RAISED THE VEGETABLES AND WITH GREAT PERSEVERENCE SUCCEEDED IN RAISING SOME CORN, CAUGHT TROUT, AND SHOT SMALL GAME TO KEEP HUNGER AT BAY. THOMAS WAS NOT CONTENT THERE SO THEY RETURNED TO THE BAY OF QUINTE REGION, NEAR BELLEVILLE, SHORTLY BEFORE THE BIRTH OF THEIR FIRST CHILD, A SON, PETER MATTHEWS. THOMAS RECEIVED LAND GRANTS IN THE TOWNSHIPS OF MARYSBURG AND SIDNEY BEFORE FINALLY SETTLING IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP, SOME TWENTY FOUR MILES FROM TORONTO, OR YORK, AS IT WAS CALLED THEN. THEY HAD 600 ACRES OF WOODS. A GOOD PART VALUABLE PINE. AS THE DAUGHTER OF A UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST MARY RECEIVED 200 ACRES. CAPTAIN THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS RECEIVED 350 ACRES BEING A LOYALIST AND PURCHASED THE REMAINING 50 ACRES OF LAND.

CAPTAIN MATTHEWS WENT TO PICKERING IN THE FALL OF 1796, CLEARED A SPOT AND PUT UP A LARGE, WELL BUILT LOG HOUSE WITH WINDOWS THAT WERE CALLED LARGE, AND WERE MUCH ADMIRER. HE WENT FOR HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN THE FOLLOWING SPRING. DURING THESE YEARS MOST OF THE OTHER CHILDREN WERE BORN; THOMAS, DANIEL, DAVID, JOSEPH, JOHN, ASA, AND JANE. THE FIRST YEARS IN PICKERING WERE HARD. MARY SUPERVISED MOST OF THE CLEARING OF LAND AND FARMING, DOING MUCH OF THE LABOR HERSELF. THOMAS PUT UP A SAW-MILL IN THE PINE FOREST, CUT LUMBER AND HAULED IT TO TORONTO FOR SALE. MARY TAUGHT READING AND GEOGRAPHY TO HER CHILDREN AND THE CHILDREN OF WHITE AND RED NEIGHBORS. MANY WALKING AS FAR AS THREE MILES. ALL WHO KNEW HER HAD A REVERENT LOVE FOR HER. THOMAS MATTHEWS GOT HIS CROWN GRANT IN 1799. SO, ON THIS BEAUTIFUL, HIGH TERRACE OF FERTILE BLACK LOAM, THE MATTHEWS FARM WAS BUILT. AFTER A FEW YEARS THE MATTHEWS,

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HUBBARDS, MAJORS, AND WILSONS BUILT A CRUDE LOG SCHOOL HOUSE ON THE CORNER OF THE FIFTH CONCESSION AND THE BROCK ROAD, WHICH THEY MAINTAINED OUT OF THEIR OWN POCKETS FOR MANY YEARS. THIS IS WHERE A YOUNG PETER MATTHEWS MET AND FELL IN LOVE WITH HIS FUTURE WIFE, HANNAH MAJOR. IN 1811 CAPTAIN MATTHEWS WAS MADE A MEMBER OF THE FIRST PICKERING TOWN COUNCIL, AND WAS FOR MANY YEARS THEREAFTER A PATHMASTER. HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR A PORTION OF THE BROCK ROAD AND HELPED CHANGE IT FROM AN INDIAN TRAIL TO A PATH WIDE ENOUGH FOR A STAGE COACH TO TRAVEL UP AND DOWN TO UXBRIDGE.

BEING INTENSELY ALIVE TO ALL GOVERNMENT INTERESTS MARY WAS FULL OF PATRIOTISM WHEN THE WAR OF 1812 TO 1815 CAME. HER HUSBAND THOMAS AND HER THREE OLDEST SONS ENLISTED IMMEDIATELY. PETER, THOMAS, AND DANIEL ALL WENT OFF TO THE NIAGARA REGION. PETER AND HIS BROTHER THOMAS FOUGHT WITH GENERAL BROCK. YOUNG THOMAS WAS SLAIN AT LUNDY'S LANE. PETER HELPED BURY HIS BROTHER NEAR WHERE HE FELL. YOUNG DANIEL DIED IN SERVICE IN THE NIAGARA REGION ALSO. THEIR FATHER SERVED AS A LIEUTENANT IN THE 3RD REGIMENT OF YORK MILITIA. DURING THE WAR PETER ADVANCED TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT. FOR MANY YEARS FOLLOWING THE WAR MARY KEPT A WREATH OF EVERGREEN OVER THE MANTEL IN THEIR MEMORY.

MARY RUTTAN MATTHEWS LOVED THE METHODIST CHURCH. THE METHODIST CHURCH OF CANADA (OR SOCIETY THEN) WAS ORGANIZED IN HER HOUSE BY HER DAUGHTER JANE'S HUSBAND, WILLIAM LOSIE. MARY'S BROTHER WILLIAM WAS MADE A CLASS LEADER. WILLIAM WAS FOND OF THE VIOLIN AND OWNED A FINE ONE. LOSIE, LIKE ALL EARLY METHODISTS, THOUGHT THE VIOLIN "A SNARE OF THE DEVIL". HE TOLD RUTTAN HE MUST GIVE IT UP! AFTER MUCH DEBATING THE RARE OLD FIDDLE WAS CREMATED. ON AUGUST 30, 1819 AT THE AGE OF 52 YEARS, CAPTAIN THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS DIED. HE WAS PUT TO REST ON THE FARM IN THE FAMILY GRAVEYARD. PETER WAS NOW THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY. HE AND HANNAH MAJOR HAD WED WHILE THEY WERE BOTH STILL IN THEIR TEENS. THEY WERE KNOWN BY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AS GOOD BAPTISTS. THE NAMES OF ALL OF THEIR CHILDREN ARE NOT KNOWN, BUT THREE OF THE SONS WERE, HIRAM, CHARLES, AND THOMAS. AS THE YEARS WENT ON HANNAH BECAME ILL AND DIED YOUNG.

PETER LATER REMARRIED FOR A SECOND TIME ON OCTOBER 26, 1831, IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP. HIS SECOND WIFE WAS HANNAH (SMITH) MAJOR, THE WIDOW OF HIS FORMER BROTHER-IN-LAW THOMAS MAJOR. WITH THE TWO MARRIAGES PETER WAS THE FATHER OF EIGHT CHILDREN, AND TWO STEP-CHILDREN FROM HANNAH SMITH'S FIRST MARRIAGE. CANADA AGAIN WAS IN GREAT UNREST. THE MATTHEWS WERE RESIDENT LANDOWNERS WHO SPENT MANY DAYS AT BACKBREAKING TOIL MAKING ROADS AND PAYING TAXES WHILE NON-RESIDENT LANDOWNERS ESCAPED TAXATION AS WELL AS LABOR, BITTERNESS DEVELOPED. THE DISCONTENT WHILE NOT UNIVERSAL WAS WIDESPREAD IN THE TOWNSHIP CUTTING ACROSS LINES OF UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS, ENGLISH, IRISH, SCOTTISH AND AMERICAN SETTLERS. IT WAS FASHIONABLE AMONG ENGLISH COLONIAL OFFICERS AND FAMILY COMPACT ANGLOPHILES TO ADOPT A CONDESENDING ATTITUDE TO BOTH THE AMERICANS AND THE BACKWOODS CANADIANS WHO MADE UP THE GREATER PART OF THE

"PETER'S STORY"

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POPULATION. IN 1836 THE DEFEAT OF THE MORE MODERATE REFORMERS BROUGHT THE HOTHEADS TO THE SURFACE. THEY COULD NOT TOLERATE THE FIXED ELECTIONS. THIS TIME SIR FRANCIS BOND HEAD HAD GONE TO FAR! THE REFORMERS WERE DETERMINED THAT SOMETHING WOULD BE DONE. MEANWHILE, IN THE TOWNSHIP OF PICKERING MEETINGS OF REFORMERS WERE BEING HELD IN THE TAVERNS AND TRAINING UNDER THE GUISE OF TURKEY SHOOTS WERE BEING HELD IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE TOWNSHIP. WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE WAS THE LEADER OF THE REFORMERS. PETER BELIEVED THAT MACKENZIE WAS CORRECT IN HIS VIEWS AND PRIOR TO THE REBELLION TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN THE POLITICAL UNION MOVEMENT. BEING AN AFFLUENT FARMER, AND A BAPTIST, PETER WAS A MAN OF CONSIDERABLE LOCAL INFLUENCE.

MACKENZIE KNEW THIS AND CHOSE PETER AS HIS CAPTAIN FROM THE PICKERING AREA. HE ALSO CHOSE THE MUCH RESPECTED SAMUEL LOUNT, THE BLACKSMITH FROM HOLLAND LANDING. FINALLY THE REFORMERS WERE READY TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST "THE FAMILY COMPACT", WHICH INCLUDED THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND ALL LEADING OFFICIALS. THE REFORMERS WERE OBLIGED TO HAVE WRONGS RIGHTED, TO SATISFY THEIR CONSCIENCE IN REGARD TO JUSTICE. THEY FELT THEY DID THIS BECAUSE OF THEIR LOYALTY TO CANADA AND TO THE MOTHER COUNTRY. CAPTAIN PETER MATTHEWS LED HIS FAMILY, NEIGHBORS, AND FRIENDS TO MONTGOMERY'S TAVERN, AND LATER TO THE DON RIVER BRIDGE. HIS PARTY OF MEN WERE ABOUT SIXTY STRONG. AMONG THEM WERE PETER'S BROTHERS, JOSEPH AND DAVID, ALSO HIS OLDEST SON HIRAM. THEY WERE TO SET FIRE TO THE BRIDGE IF GOVERNMENT TROOPS APPROACHED.

IT WAS DECEMBER 7, 1837 AND THE REBELLION HAD FAILED! THAT AFTERNOON, WHEN PETER LEARNED NEWS OF THE REBEL FORCE'S DEFEAT AT MONTGOMERY'S TAVERN, HE ABANDONED HIS OPERATIONS, DIVIDED HIS MEN INTO SMALL GROUPS, AND TOOK TO THE WOODS IN AN ATTEMPT TO AVOID CAPTURE IN THE ROSEDALE RAVINES. PETER AND A SMALL PARTY OF MEN REMAINED IN THE RAVINES FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS UNTIL FORCED BY COLD AND HUNGER TO MAKE THERE WAY TO THE FARM HOUSE OF THE TWO BACHELOR DUNCAN BROTHERS, JOHN AND WILLIAM. THEY WERE FRIENDS AND FED THE STARVED AND EXAUSTED MEN, BUT AT MIDNIGHT A TROOP OF MILITIA LED BY A TORY NEIGHBOR, THOMAS JOHNSON, BANGED ON THE DOOR AND OVERPOWERED THE PATRIOTS. IT IS SAID THAT PETER MATTHEWS WAS AROUSED FROM A DEEP SLEEP, USED HIS ENORMOUS STRENGTH -- HE APPEARED MERELY TO TOUCH THE BREAST OF THE MAN WHO WOULD ARREST HIM, AND THE MAN CRASHED AGAINST THE WALL AT THE FARTHER END OF THE ROOM. THE MILITIA MANACLED THEIR CAPTIVES, AND PROCEEDED TO MARCH ALL OF THEM THROUGH THE SNOW INTO TORONTO.

ON MARCH 26, 1838, PETER MATTHEWS, CHARGED WITH TREASON FOR HAVING LED A SECTION OF THE REBEL FORCES IN THE HOME DISTRICT, WAS BROUGHT TO TRIAL BEFORE CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN BEVERLEY ROBINSON. ALSO BROUGHT TO TRIAL ON THE SAME CHARGE WAS SAMUEL LOUNT, A COMMANDER OF THE FORCES AT MONTGOMERY'S TAVERN WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED TRYING TO CROSS LAKE ERIE. ON THE ADVICE OF THEIR LEGAL COUNSEL, ROBERT BALDWIN, BOTH MEN PLEADED GUILTY. ALTHOUGH THE

"PETER'S STORY"

-5-

EVIDENCE CONCERNING PETER MATTHEWS'S ROLE IN THE UPRISING WAS INCONCLUSIVE, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECIDED THAT HE HAD BEEN A LEADING FIGURE AND ON MARCH 29, 1838 BOTH MATTHEWS AND LOUNT WERE GIVEN THE DEATH SENTENCE, TO BE CARRIED OUT ON APRIL 12, 1838. MR. CHARLES DURAND, THEN UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH, GIVES THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF THE LAST DAYS OF THIS PATRIOT: "MATTHEWS ALWAYS BORE UP IN SPIRITS WELL. HE WAS, UNTIL DEATH, FIRM IN HIS OPINION OF THE JUSTICE OF THE CAUSE HE HAD ESPOUSED. HE NEVER RECALTED. HE WAS IRONED AND KEPT IN THE DARKEST CELL IN THE PRISON LIKE A MURDERER. HE SLEPT SOMETIMES IN BLANKETS THAT WERE WET AND FROZEN. HE HAD NOTHING TO CHEER HIM BUT THE APPROBATION OF HIS COMPANIONS AND HIS CONSCIENCE". MACKENZIE HAD BEEN MORE FORTUNATE, AND WITHIN A FEW DAYS OF THE FAILED REBELLION HAD MADE HIS WAY TO NEW YORY, AND TO SAFETY.

BEFORE THEY WERE EXECUTED, MARY RUTTAN MATTHEWS WENT BEFORE THE NEW GOVERNOR, SIR GEORGE ARTHUR, AND ON HER KNEES PLEAD WITH HEART TOUCHING APPEAL FOR JUSTICE, AND A MONTHS EXTENSION OF THE DREADED SENTENCE. HER PLEAS FELL ON DEAF EARS. LORD DURHAM WAS SENT FROM ENGLAND TO CANADA TO ADJUST MATTERS, BUT ARRIVED SIX WEEKS AFTER THE EXECUTIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE. HE VISITED MARY AND SPOKE NOBLE WORDS TO HER, AND TO OTHERS ABOUT HER RARE INTEGRITY AND HEROISM. YEARS LATER MARY SAID THAT LORD DURHAM LOOKED REMARKABLY YOUNG - "WITH JET BLACK CURLY HAIR, DARK EYES, AND THAT HE WAS NOT VERY TALL". THE VERY THINGS DEMANDED BY THE REFORMERS WERE GRANTED BY ENGLAND AFTER LORD DURHAM'S FAMOUS REPORT. BUT TO LATE FOR POOR MATTHEWS AND LOUNT. THE GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO GIVE UP THE BODIES OF PETER AND SAMUEL AFTER THEY WERE EXECUTED. THEY WERE BURIED IN THE OLD POTTER'S FIELD, NORTH OF BLOOR STREET.

PETER'S BROTHER JOSEPH WAS CAPTURED, ALSO HIS SON HIRAM. IN MAY OF 1838 THEY WERE BOTH PARDONED AND RELEASED FROM PRISON. DAVID MATTHEWS HAD HID FOR A FEW DAYS FOLLOWING THE REBELLION AND MADE HIS WAY TO MICHIGAN, AND TO SAFETY. HE WAS NEVER ARRESTED. THE GOVERNMENT SEIZED THE FAMILY PROPERTY FOR THE CROWN, BUT IN 1849, AFTER PARDONS HAD BEEN EXTENDED TO MOST OF THE REBELS, QUEEN VICTORIA, IN THE EXERCISE OF HER ROYAL CLEMENCY ABSTAINED FROM ENFORCING THE FORFEITURE, AND WAS PLEASED TO SIGNIFY HER ROYAL PLEASURE THAT SUCH FORFEITURE SHOULD NEVER BE ENFORCED. MACKENZIE WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO CANADA UNDER THE FEBRUARY 1, 1849 GENERAL AND FREE PARDON FROM HER MAJESTY, QUEEN VICTORIA. A REFORMER, AND FORMER FRIEND, THOMAS ANDERSON, RECALLED YEARS LATER: "DAVID GIBSON AND I DUG UP THEIR BODIES FROM THE OLD POTTER'S FIELD... WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE CAME UP JUST AS WE WERE LIFTING THEIR BODIES INTO THE WAGON, AND THE THREE OF US RODE IN THE WAGON TO THE NECROPOLIS, WHERE WE BURIED THESE MURDERED MEN, FOR I CALL IT MURDER, IN ONE GRAVE".

MACKENZIE LIVED IN THE HOUSE ON BOND STREET BOUGHT FOR HIM BY HIS FRIENDS UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1861. THE DATE PETER AND SAMUEL WERE BURIED AT THE NECROPOLIS CEMETERY WAS NOVEMBER 28, 1859. YEARS

"PETER'S STORY"

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LATER A MONUMENT BY THE PEOPLE OF CANADA WAS ERECTED AND UNVEILED ON JUNE 28TH, 1893, AT 2:00 P.M.. THE CEREMONY AND SPEECH WERE BY J.D. EDGAR, M.P., A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT. HIS WORDS REPRESENTED THE NATIONAL SENTIMENT -- THEY WERE STRONG AND FINE AS ONE COULD WISH. THE TORONTO GLOBE, AN ABLE PAPER, SAID, "PATRIOTS OF THIRTY SEVEN". THE MEMORIAL SHAFT DEDICATED TO PETER MATTHEWS, THE FARMER, AND SAMUEL LOUNT, THE BLACKSMITH, WAS PLACED OVER THEIR SINGLE COMMON GRAVE. THE MEN WHOSE PARTICIPATION IN THE UPRISING OF 1837 HAD BRANDED THEM AS REBELS, AND COST THEM THEIR LIVES, BUT WHOSE MEMORY HISTORY HAS ENSHRINED AND WHOSE NAMES TODAY ARE REMEMBERED AS THOSE PATRIOTS TO WHOM THE LIBERTIES OF TRUE CITIZENSHIP WERE DEARER THAN LIFE ITSELF.

MARY RUTTAN MATTHEWS DIED AT BROUGHAM ON THE FAMILY FARM ON THE 1ST OF DECEMBER, 1859, AT THE AGE OF 90 YEARS. SHE WAS BURIED BESIDE HER LATE HUSBAND, CAPTAIN THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS, U.E.L., IN THE FAMILY GRAVEYARD ON THE FARM. MARY'S FATHER, CAPTAIN PETER RUTTAN, U.E.L., HAD DIED ON JANUARY 1, 1829 IN HIS HOME IN ADOLPHUSTOWN. YEARS BEFORE HIS DEATH THEY HAD MADE PEACE WITH EACH OTHER. FOLLOWING THE REBELLION, HANNAH, THE WIDOW OF PETER LEFT CANADA AND SETTLED FOR A TIME IN MICHIGAN. SHE LATER RETURNED TO PICKERING TOWNSHIP AND QUIETLY LIVED OUT HER LIFE THERE. PETER'S OLDEST SONS, FROM HIS FIRST MARRIAGE, STAYED WITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN WHAT IS NOW THE OLD VILLAGE OF BROUGHAM. FOLLOWING THE YOUNG DEATH OF HIS OLDER BROTHER HIRAM, THOMAS MATTHEWS DECIDED TO LEAVE CANADA WITH HIS WIFE AND INFANT DAUGHTER.

HE LEFT FOR MICHIGAN IN THE SPRING OF 1848 AND SETTLED HIS FAMILY IN A LITTLE VILLAGE IN WORTH TOWNSHIP KNOWN AS AMADORE. A NUMBER OF THE FORMER REBEL FAMILIES FROM PICKERING HAD SETTLED IN THIS AREA FOLLOWING THE REBELLION OF 1837. AMONG THESE FAMILIES WERE THE WIXSONS. THEY HAD BEEN NEIGHBORS AND CLOSE FRIENDS OF THE MATTHEWS FAMILY PRIOR TO THE REBELLION. THE FARM HOUSE THAT THOMAS MATTHEWS BUILT STILL STANDS TODAY. IT HAS BEEN COMPLETELY RESTORED AND IS SAID TO RESEMBLE THE FAMILY HOME THAT ONCE STOOD IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP AT BROUGHAM. THOMAS MATTHEWS NEVER RETURNED TO CANADA AND LIVED TO THE AGE OF 71 YEARS. HE DIED MAY 19, 1893, A MONTH BEFORE THE MONUMENT TO HIS FATHER AND SAMUEL LOUNT WAS DEDICATED AT THE NECROPOLIS CEMETERY IN TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA.

THOMAS AND HIS WIFE MARGARET (SPENCER) MATTHEWS HAD ONE DAUGHTER AND THREE SONS. THE SONS ALL BEING BORN IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN. THEIR DESCENDANTS LIVE THRU-OUT THE MID-MICHIGAN AREA KNOWN AS THE THUMB TO THIS DAY. THOMAS MATTHEWS WAS BURIED AT THE CROSWELL CEMETERY IN SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN. THESE STORIES HAVE COME FROM MANY DIFFERENT SOURCES. SOME HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN, WHILE OTHERS HAVE COME OUT OF HISTORY BOOKS... MY FAMILY AND I BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE MOST ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF OUR FAMILY HISTORY THAT WE CAN PUT TOGETHER AT THIS TIME.

THE END

"THE MATTHEWS FAMILY OF PICKERING"

- A FAMILY HISTORY -

The rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada

Aftermath

Dr. Scadding, the eminent anglican historian of the period writes of their death; quoting from an eye-witness: "We saw Lount and Matthews walk out with the white cap upon their heads -- on arriving at the fatal spot, although the steps were seven or eight, and the ascent almost perpendicular, they mounted the stage without the least faltering. Lount first, followed by the sheriff; then Matthews and the deputy, Mr. Baird.

Some have thought Matthews did not ascend with the firmness displayed by his fellow-sufferer; but they do his memory injustice, for I was looking upon the motions of both with intense anxiety, to see whether each disgraced his name, or the cause in which he had forfeited life, and there was not, to my vision, the slightest trepidation.

Lount looked up and bowed to us; then kneeling upon the trap underneath one of the nooses, the cord was placed about their necks by the executioner, and the cap pulled over their faces. One of the clergymen, Mr. Richardson, made a prayer, and in an instant after these two heroic souls were ushered into eternity. Their execution was a cruel, harsh and altogether unnecessary proceeding."



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of Canada

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395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
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395, rue Wellington
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0N3

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

12 March 1990

4140-90-MA-MD-8650

Richard D. Matthews Jr.
326 Norman Street
Caro, Mich. 48723
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Matthews,

In response to your letter of 1 March, I regret to state that a search of the logical sources failed to produce any reference to a Royal Pardon for Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews in 1838. Rather, the despatches from the Colonial Secretary, Lord Glenelg, to the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, Sir George Arthur express a certain approbation of his actions in punishing those implicated in the Rebellion. Enclosed is a photocopy of the calendar for our series RG 7, G 1 in which the text of Glenelg's despatch of 22 May 1838, numbered 70, is quoted in full.

In terms of judicial practices of the time, an appeal to the Queen was improbable. The royal prerogative of granting clemency had been delegated to the Lieutenant Governor but he declined to use it in the case of Lount and Matthews, despite several petitions made to him on their behalf. For the authorities in England to have issued a pardon was not only impracticable in that the execution took place before news of it reached London, but also impolitic in that to countermand the decisions of one's deputy is to undermine the authority he exercises. Glenelg's despatch is nonetheless a very discreet slap on the wrist: "I am happy to learn ... that no further executions were likely to take place". Glenelg was obviously irritated at receiving newspaper reports of the executions before Arthur's formal reports and despatches.

At this period, by law the property of convicted felons and traitors was forfeit to the Crown. I have seen a number of pardons remitting that forfeiture in cases of the Patriotes in Lower Canada, yet leaving them subject to the primary punishment of execution or imprisonment or exile. A check of the records of the Provincial Secretary and Registrar produced no reference to such a conditional pardon for the benefit of the widows and orphans of Lount and Matthews. There is no other source likely to contain a pardon issued in England or in Upper Canada in the name of Queen Victoria for these men.

Sincerely,

Patricia Kennedy
State & Military Archives, Manuscript Division.

Canada

"THE MATTHEWS FAMILY OF PICKERING"

-A FAMILY HISTORY-

DOWNING STREET
MAY 22, 1838

COLONIAL SECRETARY, LORD GLENELG, TO THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF
UPPER CANADA, SIR GEORGE ARTHUR, NUMBERED 70, QUOTED IN FULL.

GLENELG TO ARTHUR: NO.70

" I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR DISPATCH OF THE 29TH MARCH NO.1 REPORTING YOUR PROCEEDINGS UP TO THAT DATE AND THE MEASURES WHICH YOU PROPOSED TO ADOPT WITH REFERENCE TO THE MILITIA AND VOLUNTEERS, AND STATING THAT TWO OF THE MOST ACTIVE OF THE PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE LATE REVOLT HAVING BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL HAD PLEADED GUILTY AND HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH, AND ASSURING ME THAT THE MOST MERCIFUL CONSIDERATION WOULD BE SHEWN TOWARDS THE PRISONERS GENERALLY.

I HAVE LAID YOUR DISPATCH BEFORE THE QUEEN AND HAVE TO CONVEY TO YOUR MAJESTY'S APPROBATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS WHICH YOU HAVE REPORTED. SINCE THE RECEIPT INDEED OF YOUR DISPATCH INTELLIGENCE HAS APPEARED IN THE PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE EXECUTION AT TORONTO OF MESSRS LOUNT AND MATTHEWS, --THE INDIVIDUALS AS I PRESUME ALLUDED TO IN YOUR DISPATCH. I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT BEFORE CONSENTING TO SUCH A MEASURE YOU DEVOTED TO THE CASES OF THESE PERSONS A CALM AND DISPASSIONATE CONSIDERATION, BUT AS I HAVE HITHERTO RECEIVED FROM YOU NO REPORT OF THESE EXECUTIONS, OR OF THE GROUNDS ON WHICH YOU DECIDED TO LET THE LAW TAKE ITS COURSE, I ABSTAIN FOR THE PRESENT FROM ANY FURTHER COMMENT ON THEM. I AM HAPPY TO LEARN THROUGH THE SAME CHANNEL OF INFORMATION THAT NO FURTHER EXECUTIONS WERE LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE." P.201

* NOTE:

THIS SHOULD PUT TO REST THE MYTH OF A PARDON THAT WAS SUPPOSE TO BE ON IT'S WAY FROM ENGLAND TO SAVE PETER MATTHEWS AND SAMUEL LOUNT.

"THE MATTHEWS FAMILY OF PICKERING"

-A FAMILY HISTORY-

"IF WE HAVE NO REGARD FOR OUR PAST, WE WILL HAVE NO FUTURE
WORTH REMEMBERING." -CARL SANDBURG-

FROM JOHN BROWN WHILE CONFINED IN THE TORONTO GAOL UNDER THE
CHARGE OF HIGH TREASON, JUNE 1838.

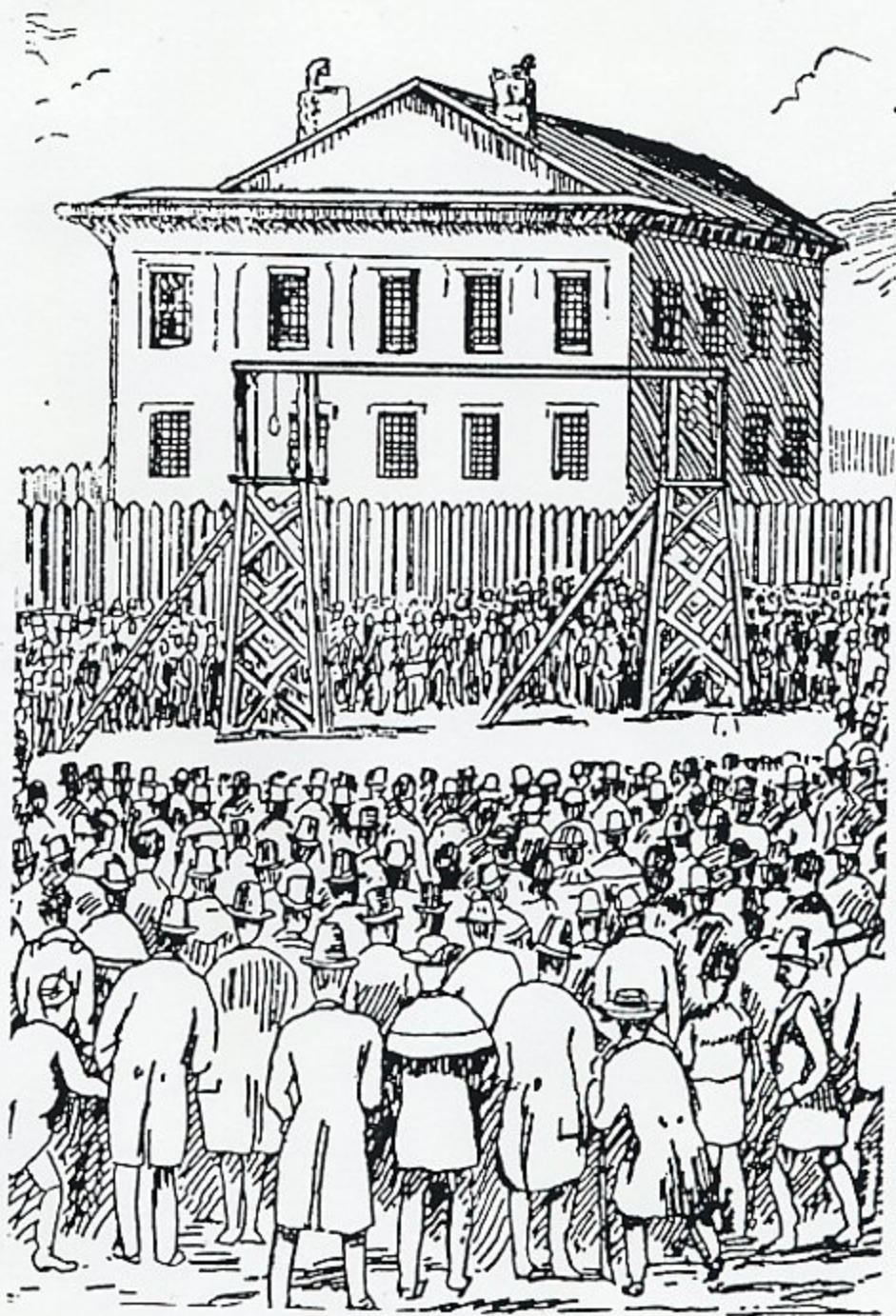
IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL LOUNT AND PETER MATTHEWS
MARTYRED APRIL 12, 1838

THEIR MINDS WERE TRANQUIL AND SERENE
NO TERROR IN THEIR LOOKS WERE SEEN
THEIR STEPS UPON THE SCAFFOLD STRONG
A MOMENT'S PAUSE...THEIR LIVES WERE GONE

FROM MARTIN SWITZER WHILE CONFINED IN THE TORONTO GAOL ON THE
BOX HE CARVED, INSCRIBED A MILITANT VERSE, THE SENTIMENTS OF
AN UNREPENTANT REBEL; THE TORIES, THE PARTY IN POWER, WERE THE
REAL TRAITORS:

MAY VENGEANCE DRAW THE SWORD OF WAR
AND JUSTICE SMILE TO SEE IT DONE
AND SMITE THE TRAITORS FOR THE DEATH
OF MATTHEWS, LOUNT AND ANDERSON

MATTHEWS FAMILY RECORD



EXECUTION OF LOUNT AND MATTHEWS [date and artist unknown].
Public Archives of Canada, C-1242.

**SEPARATE INSCRIPTIONS FOR THE
GRAVES OF LOUNT AND MATTHEWS,
NECROPOLIS CEMETERY, TORONTO**

*I, Samuel Lount, coming from Pennsylvania
to find work, live a free man,
found work but no freedom.
So, fashioning a pike in the forge,
I walked down Yonge Street, proud of it as a banner.
Though the hand was struck down,
I hope that metal still glows.*

*I, Peter Matthews, having fought the Yankees
with the Brock volunteers, sniffed out worse tyranny
thickening here, an insufferable cesspool.
Reluctantly, turning my plough into a sword,
I hacked at the leg-irons chaining us all,
but found only justice
dangling from a British noose.*

RAYMOND SOUSTER

"Unveiling speech of J.D. Edgar, M.P."
(Member of Parliament)

FOR THE MONUMENT TO SAMUEL
LOUNT AND PETER MATTHEWS
ON JUNE 28, 1893 AT THE NECROPOLIS
CEMETERY, TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA

Unveiling speech of J.D. Edgar, M.P. for the monument to Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews; June 28th, 1893 at 2:00 P.M.

J.D. Edgar, M.P. said:

I feel it an honour to have been chosen to unveil this monument, sacred to the memory of Samuel Lount and of Peter Matthews. The fifty-five years that have passed over the fair land of Canada since 1837 have softened many prejudices, and have, I hope, removed all bitterness of heart. We who are here to bare witness of our sympathy with this tardy recognition of the debt the country owes to Lount and Matthews, must try to avoid bitterness in recalling the circumstances of their death. We must ask the voice of criticism and of prejudice to respect the expressions of our grief.

It will not be out of place to refer, in a few words, to the causes which led to the armed uprising in upper Canada, in December, 1837. The people were not blind to the vastly inferior position they occupied when their system was compared with the free parliamentary government of England, or with the democratic liberty of the United States. The sham of an elected legislature existed, but it had no control whatever over either the nominated upper house, or the ministers of the crown. It was little more than a complicated form of despotism, administered in the personal interest of a pampered oligarchy, known to our history as "The Family Compact". Wise and necessary legislation, when passed by the elected chamber, was rejected by the irresponsible one. Votes of want of confidence in the advisers of the crown might be carried in the popular house, over and over again, without the slightest result.

Is it to be wondered then that the sons of the British sires resented the odious tyranny under which they groaned? No constitutional methods seemed to be of any avail. The colonial office was deaf to petitions and remonstrances and dragged the British crown into sharing responsibility for countless acts of injustice and oppression. It seems to have undoubtedly been the intention of Lount and Matthews, and their followers, to march upon Toronto in irresistible numbers in order to make such a demonstration as would overawe the governor, Sir Francis head, and to demand from him a free constitution. Had not the Barons of England wrung from a tyrant king the great charter of English liberty at Hunnymede, by a peaceful display of irresistible force? If the Governor should resist he and his advisers were to be seized, a free system of responsible government was to be adopted, and submitted to the people for ratification. We can now see two things very clearly. First, that in case of the capture of the government by the insurgents, the leaders of the latter would

never have stopped short of independence in their aims. Another self evident proposition is that even the abortive effort at insurrection brought about the prompt concession of responsible government to Canada and thereby infinitely strengthened the sentimental ties which bind us to the British people and to the free institutions that have been developed under the British crown.

Would the survivors of those who rushed to arms to put down the rebellion now desire a return to the condition of affairs which they then supported? Assuredly not. Their brief political creed was to preserve Canada to the British crown on any terms. The imperial idea is a grand one, but many of us believe that, without including freedom and self government for Canada it would be but a hollow mockery. While we claim for those who took up arms in 1837, the name of "patriots", we concede to their opponents the title of "Loyalists" - and both terms signify noble and unselfish objects to be accomplished; though I believe our noblest loyalty to be a patriotic love for Canada, and an ardent zeal for the freedom of her people.

The vindication of the patriots of 1837 is to be found in the prompt concession by England of their demand for responsible government, on the advice of Lord Durham, and also in the wholesale condemnation, in that statesman's famous report, of the family compact and all its works. But the pity of it is, that vengeance had been wreaked upon poor Lount and Matthews before England was aroused to do us tardy justice. Then tell me, too, wherein was their crime a whit blacker than that of the outlawed French-Canadian rebel George Etienne Cartier afterwards baronet, and Prime Minister of Canada? But poor Lount and Matthews were cruelly done to death, and the only public honours they receive are those which we are able to confer today, when we seek to keep their memories green in the hearts of the people.

In 1837 Samuel Lount was in the prime of a vigorous manhood, living at Holland landing, 36 miles north of Toronto. He was a leader among men; well to do, beloved by his neighbors for his good deeds, and influential enough to be chosen by them for a seat in the legislature. Peter Matthews had served at Queenston Heights under General Brock, and had fought in the ranks of our brave Canadian armies throughout the war of 1812-1813. He was also highly respected by his neighbors in Markham and Pickering. Both leaders in the advance upon Toronto, and both were fugitives after the 7th of December.

Matthews was taken within a couple of days at a farm house in York Township, while Lount reached Lake Erie, and after spending two days afloat in an open boat in mid-winter was driven back upon the Canadian shore, and sent a prisoner to Toronto.

They were arraigned together and pleaded guilty on 26th March. On 29th March they were sentenced to be hanged on the 12th of April. The entire community was filled with sympathy, and petitions for commutation of the sentence were signed almost universally. But the new governor, Sir George Arthur, and his advisers, were deaf to all appeals. No respite was granted, although a few days delay would have probably saved their lives. On 14th March a despatch was sent from the colonial office advising against extreme measures. The undue haste with which the executions were forced on gives rise to suspicions that the arrival of such instructions was dreaded, and that they were not unexpected. When sentences were pronounced for treason against the British crown, and the super-loyal local authorities refused to await the decision of the imperial advisers of the crown as to the penalty to be inflicted, no wonder that such a course gave rise to imputations of sinister motives that have never been removed.

The 12th of April arrived, and the hangman was ready for his victims. The other political prisoners were called to the gratings of their cells to witness the executions which were to take place in front of the goal. With head erect, with calm eye and firm tread each of the doomed men mounted the scaffold steps. The last words they had spoken to their comrades were full of hopefulness for the liberties of Canada, and they gloried in the sacred cause for which they were about to die. Two noble hearts were stilled forever, their wives were widowed, and their children were made orphans on that fatal day. Let those call them rebels who will, but surely the Canadian people, whom they loved so well, should only think of them as patriots in life, and as martyrs in their cruel death.

“PATRIOTS OF 1837”

THIS MEMORIAL IS TO HONOUR THE MEMORY
OF PETER MATTHEWS AND SAMUEL LOUNT,
WHO, WITHOUT PRAISE OR GLORY DIED FOR
POLITICAL FREEDOM AND A SYSTEM OF
RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT.

THEIR MINDS WERE TRANQUIL AND SERENE
NO TERROR IN THEIR LOOKS WERE SEEN
THEIR STEPS UPON THE SCAFFOLD STRONG
A MOMENT'S PAUSE...THEIR LIVES WERE GONE

PETER MATTHEWS WAS THE SON OF CAPT.
THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS, A UNITED EMPIRE
LOYALIST, AND MARY RUTTAN MATTHEWS.
PETER WAS BORN IN THE BAY OF QUINTE
REGION OF UPPER CANADA, NOW ONTARIO. HE
GREW UP AND LIVED IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP IN
THE AREA NOW KNOWN AS THE VILLAGE OF
BROUGHAM, ON HIS FAMILY'S FARM.



*Necropolis Monument to
Peter Matthews and Samuel Lount*

-100TH ANNIVERSARY-

*On the One Hundredth Anniversary of
The unveiling of the historic
Necropolis Monument over the graves
of Peter Matthews and Samuel Lount—
Martyrs of the Rebellion of 1837,
and executed, April 12, 1838, a new
memorial plaque is to be dedicated.*

*It will be unveiled by "Family and
Friends of Peter Matthews and Samuel
Lount". You are cordially invited to
attend the Dedication Ceremony on
Monday, June 28th, 1993, at 2:00 P.M.,
at the Necropolis Cemetery, (see map)
200 Winchester St., Toronto, Ontario*

P R O G R A M M E

of

Family and Friends of Peter Matthews and Samuel Lount

on the occasion of the unveiling of

"PATRIOTS OF 1837"

at the Toronto Necropolis

Monday, June 28, 1993

2 p.m.

* * * * *

PIPER

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Opening Remarks | Chair of Programme: William Kilbourn |
| 2. Ontario Heritage Foundation | Dorothy Duncan, Chair |
| 3. Toronto Historical Board | David Burnside, Chair |
| 4. Constituency of Durham West | Jim Wiseman, MPP |
| 5. Words from the Trial | Larry O'Leary |
| 6. Poem by Raymond Souster | <i>Separate Inscriptions for the
Graves of Lount and Matthews,
Necropolis Cemetery, Toronto</i> |

Melville Johnston, Piper—Lament: *Flowers of the Forest*

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7. Laying of Wreath | Matthews and Lount Families |
| 8. Unveiling of Plaque | Matthews and Lount Families |
| 9. Closing Prayer | Rt. Rev. Allan A. Read |

PIPER

RECEPTION—CHAPEL

SPONSORS:

Richard D. Matthews, Jr.	Descendant of Peter Matthews
George S. Lount	Great-great-grandnephew of Samuel Lount
Mark Frank	Author, "The Mackenzie Panels"
Harold Blaine	Former Editor, "The Bay News"
Melville M. Johnston	Professor, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute
William Kilbourn	Author, "The Firebrand"
John Robert Colombo	Editor, "Colombo's Canadian Quotations"
Mike Filey	Author
Kay Gardner	Councillor, City of Toronto, Ward 15
William N. Greer	Architect—Heritage Preservation Consultant
Graham C. Lount	Great-great-grandnephew of Samuel Lount
George Luscombe	Theatre Director
Rick Salutin	Author, "1837: The Farmer's Revolt"
Jim Wiseman	MPP (Durham West)
John Sewell	Former mayor of Toronto
Jack Layton	Professor, Organizer
Jim Turk	Director of Education, Ontario Federation of Labour
Marjorie Coons	Lloydton Rebellion Association
Gordon Duncan	The Peter Matthews Committee (Pickering)
Helen Ruttan-Kinsley	Descendant of Mary Ruttan, mother of Peter Matthews
Bill Kinsley	Spouse of Helen Ruttan-Kinsley
Clare Eves	East Gwillimbury Historical Society
Dorothy Eves	East Gwillimbury Historical Society
Steve Kinsley	Related to Mary Ruttan, mother of Peter Matthews
Marilyn Eves-Kinsley	Spouse of Steve Kinsley
Tom Ellison	Chair, Lloydton Rebellion Association
Helen Poulis	King Township Historical Society
Bill Poulis	King Township Historical Society
Robert Lount Abbott	Great-great-grandnephew of Samuel Lount
Elvira Lount	Producer of "Samuel Lount"; great-great-grandniece of Samuel Lount
Elizabeth Lount	Related to Samuel Lount
Rt. Rev. Allan A. Read	Former Bishop of Ontario, related to Thomas Eimes Matthews
Raymond Souster	Poet

CONTRIBUTORS TO MEMORIAL PLAQUE:

Richard D. Matthews, Jr., UE	Mark Frank
Annette R. Matthews	George Lount
Robert L. Matthews	Steve Fearon
Gerald W. Nyquist	Allan Best
Dale E. Matthews	Larry Cotton

with a special thank you to Wesley and Aurey Frederick of Cumings Memorials, Caro, Michigan.

INFORMATION SHEET

Family and Friends of Peter Matthews and Samuel Lount

Formed in 1992, a group of family and friends of the late Peter Matthews (prominent farmer in the Pickering-Brougham area) and Samuel Lount (blacksmith of Holland Marshes, north of Toronto) were joined by a large group of notable community leaders to co-sponsor a series of projects to honour the two martyrs of the Rebellion of 1837, unjustly executed by a vengeful Family Compact on April 12, 1838, in Toronto (King and Toronto Streets).

These projects are:

- to seek public recognition by both the Federal Government and the Government of Ontario that the execution of Lount and Matthews was a wrongful act and that rectification be made in an official manner by both governments.
- to support the initiative taken by the Friends of Peter Matthews in Pickering-Brougham to mount a plaque to Peter Matthews, the first ever, supported by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. This was done December 6, 1992 (Brock Rd. and Hwy 7 East).
- to seek Toronto Historical Board support for the erection of a suitable plaque at the approximate site of the execution at King and Toronto Streets. This has been agreed and is being done.
- to hold an unveiling ceremony June 28, 1993 at 2 p.m. at the Toronto Necropolis alongside the monument over the joint gravesite of Lount and Matthews correcting a genealogical error in the original 1893 monument. The new plaque will read "Patriots of 1837." Lount and Matthews were originally interred in the Potters Field at the corner of Bloor and Yonge Streets, but their bodies were transferred to the Toronto Necropolis some years after the execution. It was not until 1893 that friends erected a suitable tombstone, still standing.

The aims of Family and Friends of Peter Matthews and Samuel Lount include support for continuing research and study of the events of 1837-38, including research by any regional groups in Canada or individuals abroad seeking revision of what they consider to be inadequate accounts of the Rebellion of 1837-38. As well, they aim to ensure a balanced representation in our history books of this major historical event in the Canadas of 1837-38.

"THE MATTHEWS FAMILY OF PICKERING"

- A FAMILY HISTORY -

"Captain Peter Matthews"

William Lyon Mackenzie said of him, "Captain Peter Matthews was a jolly, hale, cheerful, cherry cheeked farmer of Pickering, who lived on his own land, cultivated his own estate and was the father of eight children, who beseeched the Sullivans, the Drapers and the Robinsons in vain for that mercy to their father which they themselves must yet implore from a just God.

Captain Matthews had fought bravely for the King of England in the war of 1812, was a man of unstained reputation, well beloved by his neighbors, unassuming, modest in his deportment, a baptist, unfriendly to high church ascendancy, a true patriot, and indignant at the treacherous, fraudulent conduct of the detestable Junto, who in 1837, governed Canada.

I often got his vote for a seat in the legislature and always his approbation." *

* From: E. C. Guillet, "The Lives and Time of The Patriots", appendix K. page 270

"THE CLIFTON GATE MEMORIAL ARCH"

-NIAGARA FALLS, CANADA-

The Chairman and Commissioners of
Niagara Parks Commission

request the honour of your presence at the unveiling of the

Memorial Arch

by the Rt. Hon. W. L. M. King, P.C., C.M.G., M.A., L.L.B., L.L.D.

on Saturday, June Eighteenth, nineteen thirty eight

The Ceremony will be held in Cakes Memorial Park, Niagara Falls
at two-thirty o'clock, daylight saving time

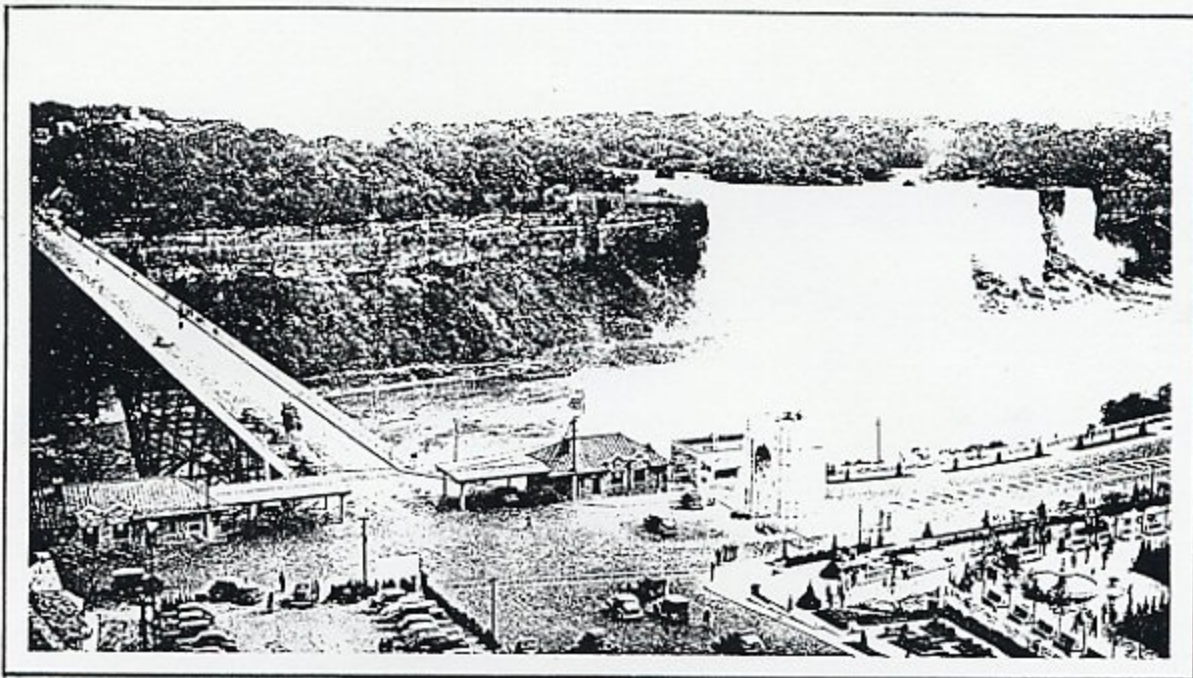
Afternoon tea will be served in the Refectory from four to six

Guests will please note that admission to unveiling and afternoon tea by enclosed card only

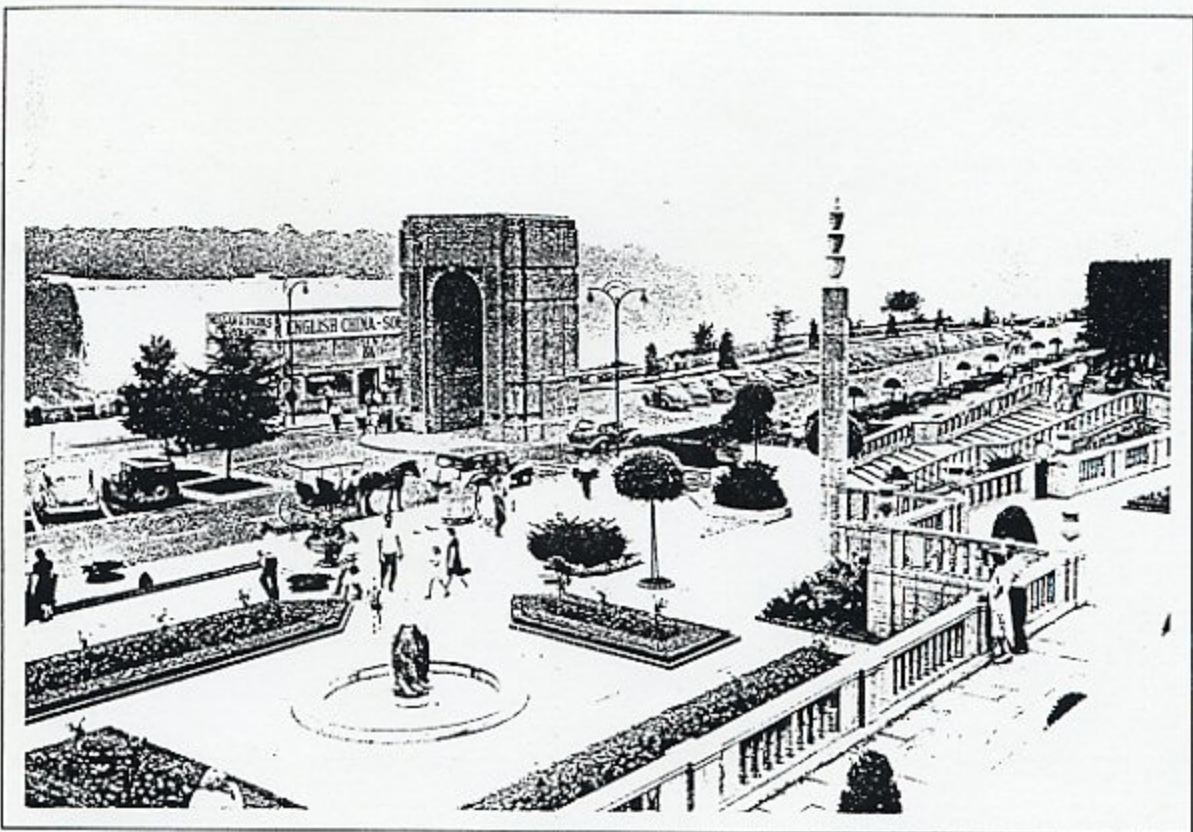
R.S.V.P. TO C. E. KAUMEYER, ESQ. NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

ABOVE IS A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL INVITATION TO THE MATTHEWS FAMILY TO THE UNVEILING OF THE "CLIFTON GATE MEMORIAL ARCH". DEDICATED ON SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1938. THE ARCH WAS DEDICATED ON THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REBELLION OF 1837-8 BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE KING, PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA. (GRANDSON OF WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE)

"THE CLIFTON GATE MEMORIAL ARCH"



The Memorial Arch and Clifton Gate House at the Canadian terminus of the Upper Steel Arch Bridge, 1937.



The Memorial Arch from the Rainbow Gardens circa 1947. The Arch became a traffic hazard and was removed after the 1967 tourist season.

"THE CLIFTON GATE MEMORIAL ARCH"

WEST FACE:

MACKENZIE PRESENTS THE SEVENTH REPORT OF GRIEVANCES TO THE COMMONS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, UPPER CANADA 1835.

THIS MEMORIAL WAS ERECTED TO HONOUR THE MEMORY OF THE MEN AND WOMAN IN THIS LAND THROUGHOUT THEIR GENERATIONS WHO BRAVED THE WILDERNESS, MAINTAINED THE SETTLEMENTS, PERFORMED THE COMMON TASK WITHOUT PRAISE OR GLORY AND WERE THE PIONEERS OF POLITICAL FREEDOM AND A SYSTEM OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT WHICH BECAME THE CORNER STONE OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS.

MEMENTO MORI

CHARGED WITH INSURRECTION OR TREASON AND
EXECUTED IN 1837 - 1839
TORONTO

PETER MATTHEWS

SAMUEL LOUNT

NIAGARA DISTRICT - JAMES MOREAU

LONDON DISTRICT

HIRAM BENJAMIN LYNN, DANIEL DAVID BEDFORD, ALBERT CLARK,
CORNELIUS CUNNINGHAM, JOSHUA GILLAM, AMOS PERLEY

KINGSTON DISTRICT

SILVESTER LAWTON, ANDREW LEEPER, JOEL PEELER, RUSSELL PHELPS,
SYLVANUS SWETE, NILS SZOLTEVKI VON SCHOULTZ, MARTIN WOODRUFF

MONTREAL DISTRICT

JOSEPH NARCISSE CARDINAL, JOSEPH DUQUETTE, CHARLES HINDELANG,
PIERRE THEOPHIE DECOIGNE, PIERRE REMI NARBONNE, CHARLES SANGUINET,
AMBROSE SANGUINET, FRANCOIS-MARIE-THOMAS, CHEVALIER
DE LORIMIER, FRANCOIS NICOLAS, JOSEPH ROBERT, AMABLE DAUNAIS,
FRANCOIS XAVIER HAMELIN

EAST FACE: DEDICATION INSCRIPTION

OUTSIDE FACE OF THE ARCH, FACING NORTH

"AND I SOUGHT FOR A MAN THAT SHOULD MAKE UP THE HEDGE AND STAND
IN THE GAP FOR THE LAND"

(THIS IS TAKEN FROM EZEKIEL, CHAP. 22, V. 30)

"THE CLIFTON GATE MEMORIAL ARCH"

-2-

OUTSIDE FACE OF THE ARCH, FACING SOUTH

"THE FLOODS HAVE LIFTED UP, O LORD, THE FLOODS HAVE LIFTED UP
THEIR VOICE"

(THIS IS TAKEN FROM PSALM 93, V. 3)

OUTSIDE WEST WALL: PLAQUE NO.1

DEPICTING THE DISCOVERERS, LA SALLE AND FATHER HENNEPIN
VIEWING THE CATARACTS.

INSIDE WEST WALL: PLAQUE NO.2

SHOWING MACKENZIE PRESENTING THE SEVENTH REPORT OF GRIEVANCE
TO THE COMMONS, HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, UPPER CANADA.

INSIDE EAST WALL: PLAQUE NO.3

DEPICTING A UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST FAMILY TRAVELLING BY CART.

OUTSIDE EAST WALL: PLAQUE NO.4

PORTRAYS A PIONEER SOLDIER OF THE PERIOD OF 1812.

"THE CLIFTON GATE MEMORIAL ARCH"

-3-

EAST SIDE

THIS ARCH WAS DEDICATED ON THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REBELLION OF 1837-1838 BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE KING, C.M.G., P.C., M.A., LL.B., PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA. THE HONOURABLE MITCHELL F. HEPBURN, PRIME MINISTER OF ONTARIO.

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

THE HONOURABLE T. B. McQUESTEN, K.C., CHAIRMAN

WM. L. HOUCK, M.L.A.

DR. GEO. B. SNYDER

DONALD MCGILLIVRAY

FRED W. BEARD

JOHN C. M. GERMAN, K.C.

ROSS G. L. HARSTONE

A. T. WHITAKER

ARCHIE J. HAINES, M.L.A.

TEMPORA MUTANTUR NOS ET

MUTAMUR IN ILLIS

GENERAL MANAGER

C. ELLISON KAUMEYER

"THE CLIFTON GATE MEMORIAL ARCH"

-4-

ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1984, THE MODEST GARDEN OF MACKENZIE HOUSE AT 82 BOND STREET IN TORONTO WAS CROWDED WITH OFFICIAL DIGNITARIES FROM THE CITY OF TORONTO, THE ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION, AND THE TORONTO HISTORICAL BOARD AS WELL AS INVITED GUESTS. THEY WERE GATHERED TO WITNESS AN UNUSUAL EVENT: THE UNVEILING OF PRECIOUS SCULPTURES RESCUED FROM A NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION MAINTENANCE YARD, WHERE THEY HAD BEEN UNCEREMONIOUSLY DUMPED FOLLOWING THE DISMANTLING OF THE CLIFTON GATE PIONEER MEMORIAL ARCH. WHEN FIRST DISCOVERED, SOME OF THE SCULPTURES WERE BEYOND REPAIR BECAUSE OF INDISCRIMINATE EXPOSURE IN THE OPEN AIR OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS. MANY THAT WERE SALVAGED WERE IN PART RESTORED AND PLACED INTO THE GARDEN WALL AT MACKENZIE HOUSE. OTHER STONES MAY BE FOUND ELSEWHERE IN TORONTO.

THE PIONEER MEMORIAL ARCH HAD BEEN ERECTED IN 1938 TO COMMEMORATE THE ONE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REBELLION OF UPPER AND LOWER CANADA IN 1837-38, TO PAY TRIBUTE TO ITS MARTYRS AND LEADERS, AND TO HONOR THOSE WHO SUFFERED DEATH ON THE GALLOWS FOR THEIR PART IN THE STRUGGLE TO WIN FREEDOM FROM COLONIAL TYRANNY. WHEN MACKENZIE KING, THEN PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA, UNVEILED THE ARCH IN 1938, HE HAD DECLARED: "OUR GENERATION REGARDS THE MEN AND WOMEN OF 1837 NOT AS REBELS, BUT AS MARTYRS FOR CANADIAN FREEDOM." ONLY TWENTY-NINE YEARS LATER THE MAGNIFICENT FIFTY FOOT ARCH WAS DISMANTLED. BELOW IS A RELIEF FROM THE ARCH OF PETER MATTHEWS WHICH NOW SURVIVES IN THE GARDEN AT MACKENZIE HOUSE.





ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT OF THE SEVERAL VARIATIONS OF THE COAT OF ARMS OF THE ANCIENT WELSH FAMILY OF MATTHEWS, FROM WHICH WE TRACE OUR DESCENT IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS (BURKE, GENERAL ARMORY, 1884)

ARMS—"SABLE, A LION RAMPANT ARGENT."

CREST—"AN EAGLE DISPLAYED PER FESSE ARGENT AND GULES."

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-EIGHT GENERATIONS-

1. CAPTAIN THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS, U.E.L.
HIS WIFE WAS MARY RUTTAN, U.E.
2. CAPTAIN PETER MATTHEWS
HIS WIFE WAS HANNAH MAJOR
3. THOMAS MATTHEWS
HIS WIFE WAS MARGARET SPENCER
4. CHARLES WILLIAM MATTHEWS
HIS WIFE WAS LENA CAROLINE BARNES
5. WILBERT MARTIN MATTHEWS
HIS WIFE WAS VERNA LOUELLA WELLS
6. ROY WINFRED MATTHEWS
HIS WIFE WAS IRENE MARY WARNER
7. RICHARD DALE MATTHEWS
HIS WIFE WAS HELEN FRANCIS SUCKIEL
8. RICHARD DALE MATTHEWS JR., U.E.
HIS WIFE IS ROSE MARIE WELCH

THIS IS THE LINE OF DESCENT FOR OUR BRANCH OF THE MATTHEWS FAMILY. THE MATTHEWS FAMILY WERE EARLY SETTLED IN WALES AND SCOTLAND ABOUT THE END OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY, IF NOT BEFORE! BRANCHES OF THE FAMILY MADE THEIR WAY INTO IRELAND AND ENGLAND. PRIOR TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR WERE SETTLED IN THE NEW ENGLAND COLONIES, AND LATER TO CANADA, FOLLOWING THE WAR. OUR FAMILY LEFT CANADA FOLLOWING THE "MACKENZIE UPRISING", OR "REBELLION OF 1837" BECAUSE OF THE FAMILIES INVOLVEMENT. THOMAS MATTHEWS (#3) LEFT CANADA IN THE SPRING OF 1848 AND SETTLED HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN. THEY SETTLED IN SANILAC COUNTY, IN WORTH TOWNSHIP. THE FAMILY REMAINED IN WORTH TOWNSHIP, IN THE SMALL VILLAGE OF AMADORE FOR MANY YEARS. THE MAJORITY OF THE FAMILY STILL LIVE IN EASTERN MICHIGAN TO THIS DAY.

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-FIRST GENERATION-

CAPTAIN THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS, WAS A UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST WHO FOUGHT ON THE SIDE OF THE BRITISH DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR. HE WAS BORN IN ENGLAND IN THE YEAR 1767. AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE WAR HE RECEIVED LAND GRANTS IN THE TOWNSHIPS OF MARYSBURG AND SIDNEY BEFORE FINALLY SETTLING IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP, IN THE AREA NOW KNOWN AS BROUGHAM, IN UPPER CANADA. IN MARYSBURG HE RECEIVED A CROWN GRANT OF 1/2 OF LOT #11, WHICH WAS 100 ACRES. IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP THOMAS RECEIVED A CROWN GRANT OF 350 ACRES, AND HIS WIFE, MARY (RUTTAN) 200 ACRES, BEING THE DAUGHTER OF A LOYALIST. (CAPTAIN PETER RUTTAN) THEY LATER PURCHASED ANOTHER 50 ACRES NEAR BROUGHAM, IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP.

THOMAS AND MARY (MARIA) RUTTAN MARRIED AROUND THE YEAR 1786, THEY ELOPED. MARY WAS THE DAUGHTER OF CAPTAIN PETER RUTTAN, A UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST, AND JANNETJE ACKERMAN. HER FAMILY SETTLED IN ADOLPHUSTOWN FOLLOWING THE WAR. THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS DIED AT THE AGE OF 52 YEARS ON AUGUST 30, 1819. HE WAS BURIED ON THE FARM, IN THE FAMILY GRAVEYARD. DURING HIS LIFE HE WAS A SOLDIER, PIONEER, FARMER, AND PUBLIC SERVANT. HE ALONG WITH THREE OF HIS OLDEST SONS SERVED IN THE WAR OF 1812. THOMAS SERVED AS A LIEUTENANT IN THE 3rd REGIMENT OF YORK (TOWNSHIP, UPPER CANADA) MILITIA.

IN PICKERING THE FAMILY WAS QUITE PUBLIC SPIRITED, CONTRIBUTING TO THE BUILDING OF A SCHOOL AND WORKING TO IMPROVE THE MAJOR ROAD IN THE AREA, THE BROCK ROAD. THOMAS WAS ACTIVE AS A LOCAL OFFICIAL AND WAS NAMED A "PATHMASTER" AT THE FIRST TOWN MEETING IN 1811. BECAUSE OF THE FAMILIES INVOLVEMENT IN THE REBELLION OF 1837 MUCH OF THE FAMILIES RECORDS AND PERSONAL INFORMATION WERE LOST OR DESTROYED TO PROTECT FAMILY MEMBERS. AS A RESULT, ALL OF THE NAMES OF THOMAS AND MARY'S CHILDREN MAY NOT BE KNOWN! THE KNOWN CHILDREN ARE:

PETER MATTHEWS, BORN NEAR "MOIRA RIVER", NOW KNOWN AS BELLEVILLE, IN THE BAY OF QUINTE REGION OF UPPER CANADA, NOW ONTARIO.

THOMAS MATTHEWS, DIED IN SERVICE WITH BROCK VOLUNTEERS AT "LUNDY'S LANE", DURING THE WAR OF 1812.

JOHN MATTHEWS, DIED YOUNG DURING THE LATTER PART OF 1823. WHILE OUT RIDING HIS HORSE WAS STARTLED BY A BEAR, JOHN WAS THROWN FROM HIS HORSE, RESULTING IN A HEAD INJURY THAT KILLED HIM.

DAVID MATTHEWS, LIVED MOST OF HIS LIFE IN THE PICKERING TOWNSHIP AREA. HE MARCHED WITH HIS BROTHER PETER DURING THE REBELLION, BUT MANAGED TO ESCAPE TO MICHIGAN, LATER TO RETURN TO PICKERING AFTER THE GENERAL AND FREE PARDON FROM QUEEN VICTORIA. HE MARRIED AND RAISED HIS FAMILY IN THE AREA NOW KNOWN AS BROUGHAM.

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-FIRST GENERATION-

DAVID MARRIED ANN MacINTYRE, A DAUGHTER OF NICOL MacINTYRE, WHO WAS A NATIVE OF MULL, ARGYLESHIRE, SCOTLAND. HE HAD BROUGHT HIS FAMILY TO CANADA IN 1828. THE FAMILY LIVED ON THE NORTH HALF OF LOT 31, CONCESSION 5, SETTLING THERE IN 1830. DAVID WAS IN THE ENGAGEMENT AT MONTGOMERY'S TAVERN, AND WAS FOR SOME TIME AFTERWARDS IN HIDING. ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS PARTIES OF SOLDIERS CAME TO THE MacINTYRE HOMESTEAD IN SEARCH OF HIM, BUT HE HAD ALREADY ESCAPED SAFELY TO THE UNITED STATES. IN THE 1851 CENSUS FOR PICKERING THEIR CHILDREN ARE LISTED AS:

AMELIA, PETER, MARGARET, MARY, THOMAS, AND RACHEL

JOSEPH MATTHEWS, HE HAD ALSO MARCHED WITH HIS OLDER BROTHER IN THE REBELLION, AND WAS ARRESTED FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT. HE WAS LATER GIVEN A PARDON BY GOVERNOR GEORGE ARTHUR AND RELEASED, FOLLOWING THE EXECUTION OF HIS BROTHER PETER, AND SAMUEL LOUNT, IN MAY OF 1838. JOSEPH AND HIS FAMILY LEFT THE PICKERING AREA, AND WHAT BECAME OF THEM IS UNKNOWN. HIS WIFE WAS ADELINE ELIZABETH MATTHEWS. THE NAMES OF THEIR CHILDREN ARE ALSO UNKNOWN.

JANE MATTHEWS, SHE MARRIED ABRAM LOSIE IN THE SPRING OF 1815. HE WAS A BLACKSMITH, AND LOCAL PREACHER IN THE METHODIST CHURCH.

DANIEL MATTHEWS, WAS THE YOUNGEST OF THE BROTHERS TO SERVE AS A VOLUNTEER IN THE INCORPORATED MILITIA (IE, ATTACHED TO REGULAR BRITISH FORCES) AND DIED IN SERVICE IN THE NIAGARA REGION, DURING THE WAR OF 1812.

ASA MATTHEWS, WAS THE YOUNGEST OF ALL THE KNOWN CHILDREN. HE ALSO DIED VERY YOUNG. HE DIED ON JANUARY 19, 1835 LEAVING A WIFE, MARY ALBRIGHT MATTHEWS, AND A SON, JOHN. HIS SON JOHN MATTHEWS WAS BORN IN 1825, AND WAS LATER TO MARRY MARGARET STEVENSON. ASA LEFT A WILL, WHICH IS ON FILE.

THESE ARE ALL THE KNOWN CHILDREN OF CAPTAIN THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS, U.E.L., AND HIS WIFE, MARY RUTTAN MATTHEWS, U.E..

"THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS"

I hope so to certify that the Barer Thomas Matthews
Came Into this Province then the Province of Quebec
In the year 1787 with his wife and one son who is now
an Inhabitant of this District and that he hath received
as yett only a Grant of two hundred acres of Land
looked for by

Nathl Pettit

Home District
40 mile from the
30th May 1795

Rec^d the 14. March. 1796

Desiring for a lot as family land

132

THAT THE BARER, THOMAS MATTHEWS CAME INTO THIS PROVINCE,
THEN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC IN THE YEAR 1787 WITH HIS
WIFE AND ONE SON WHO IS NOW AN INHABITANT OF THIS DIS-
TRICT AND THAT HE HATH RECEIVED AS YET ONLY A GRANT OF
TWO HUNDRED ACRES OF LAND.

HOME DISTRICT
30TH MAY, 1795



National Archives
of Canada

Archives nationales
du Canada

395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N3

395, rue Wellington
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0N3

22 November 1989

4140-89-MA-MD/5511

Mr. Richard D. Matthews, Jr.
326 Norman Street
CARO, Michigan 48723
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Matthews:

In reply to your letter of 28 October, I am pleased to inform you that a search of the various indexes and logical sources in our custody has produced the following references of possible interest:

Upper Canada Land Petitions (RG 1, L 3)

- Thomas Elms Mathews, Sophiasburgh, 1793 (Vol. 376, M Misc. 1/25, microfilm reel C-2233).
- Thomas Matthews, York, 1796 (Vol. 328, M 2/132, reel C-2191).
- Thomas Elmes Mathews, York, 1816 (Vol. 336a, M 10/272, reel C-2198).
- Thomas Elmes Matthews, Pickering, 1817 (Vol. 379a, M Leases/180, reel C-2235).

Upper Canada Land Board (RG 1, L 4)

- Thomas Elms Mathews, re petition, Mecklenburg, 1793 (Vol. 8, p. 11, reel C-14027).
- Thomas Elms Mathew, schedule of locations, Mecklenburg, 1790 (Vol. 12, p. 33; Vol. 13, pp. 48, 49, reel C-14028).

Ontario Crown Lands Department Loyalist List (MG 9, D 4, Vol. 4)

- Thomas E. Mathews, a settler (p. 308, complimentary xerox copy enclosed).

/2

Canada

"THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS"

222
No. 1175

Receiver General's Office,

York, 13th Day of March 1864

Thomas Elmes Matthews has paid into this
Office the Patent and Surveying Fees on
Acres of Land under Regulation of 1864.

£ 5 11 0 Patent Fee

£ 18 0 Surveying Fee

£ 0 0 (Studying)

To
John Smith, Esq. Receiver

[Signature]
Cred. Paid

A PAID RECEIPT OF THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS FOR HIS
PROPERTY IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP, AT BROUGHAM.

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS-

PICKERING

AS FAR AS CAN BE LEARNED FROM RECORD OF MEETING AND THE RECORD OF SALE AND LEASE OF LAND, THE FOLLOWING SETTLERS WERE ALSO IN THE TOWNSHIP WHEN THE FIRST TOWN MEETING WAS HELD IN 1811.

CROWN LEASE	A. DAVIDSON	LOT 5	BROKEN FRONT	1809
CROWN LEASE	WM. HOWARD	LOT 11	BROKEN FRONT	1800
CROWN LEASE	WM. PEAKE	LOT 15	BROKEN FRONT	1806
CROWN LEASE	AB. SATTERLEY	LOT 31		
		R.2	BROKEN FRONT	1804
CROWN LEASE	DAVID HARSHORNE	LOT 34		
		R.3	BROKEN FRONT	1810
CROWN LEASE	WM. SMITH, SR.	LOT 34		
		R.2	BROKEN FRONT	1811
CROWN LEASE	WM. SMITH, SR.	LOT 34		
		R.1	BROKEN FRONT	1811
CROWN LEASE	CHAS. WARD	LOT 5	CONCESSION I	1802
CROWN LEASE	SALMON FULLER	LOT 15	CONCESSION I	1802
CROWN LEASE	AARON SCRIBNER	LOT 9	CONCESSION II	1802
CROWN LEASE	HAWKINS WOODRUFF	LOT 12	CONCESSION II	1810
CROWN LEASE	SAM. MUNGER	LOT 16	CONCESSION II	1802
CROWN LEASE	DAVID CRAWFORD	LOT 16	CONCESSION IV	1807
CROWN GRANT	JNO. RYCKERT	LOT 16	CONCESSION V	1797
CROWN GRANT	D. CRAWFORD	LOT 17	CONCESSION V	1807
CROWN GRANT	JNO. MAJOR	LOT 18	CONCESSION V	1801
CROWN GRANT	THOS. MATTHEWS	3/4 LOT		
		17 &		
		LOT 18	CONCESSION VI	1799
CROWN GRANT	CALEB PALMER	LOT 23	CONCESSION VI	1805
CROWN GRANT	JACOB WALDENBERGER	LOT 16	CONCESSION IX	1803

CALEB AND HENRY POWELL, NICHOLAS BROWN AND JAMES LAMORU WERE ALSO IN THE TOWNSHIP IN 1811. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN OTHERS WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT RECORDED IN ANY STATEMENT OF SALE, LEASE OR GRANT OR AT ANY TOWN MEETING. THIS INFORMATION IS FROM THE BOOK, "THE PICKERING STORY", 1961 BY REV. WILLIAM A. MCKAY. PUBLISHED BY THE PICKERING HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS-

PICKERING

THE FIRST TOWN MEETING FOR PICKERING WAS HELD IN MARCH OF 1811. AT THIS MEETING THE OFFICERS FOR THE TOWN, AS IT WAS CALLED WERE:

THOMAS HUBBARD	TOWN CLERK
DAVID CRAWFORD JOHN HAIGHT	ASSESSORS
ABRAHAM TOWNSEND	COLLECTOR
NOADIAH WOODRUFF THOMAS E. MATTHEWS JOHN LAWRENCE ABRAHAM TOWNSEND	PATHMASTERS
JOSEPH WIXON TIMOTHY ROGERS	POUNDKEEPERS
JOHN RICHARD JAMES POWELL	TOWN WARDENS

IN 1812 NICHOLAS BROWN WAS MADE ASSESSOR AND JAMES LAMORU, PATHMASTER. THE SAME OFFICERS SERVED DURING 1813, AND 1814 WHEN NO TOWN MEETING WAS HELD BECAUSE OF THE WAR OF 1812.

NOTE:

THIS INFORMATION IS FROM THE BOOK, "THE PICKERING STORY", 1961 BY REV. WILLIAM A. MCKAY. PUBLISHED BY THE PICKERING HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Transcribed from original

A memorial, to be registered, pursuant to the Act of Parliament in that behalf, of and Indenture of Bargain and Sale, bearing date the Thirtieth day of December in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and sixty five; and made

Between David Matthews of the Township of Pickering, in the County of Ontario yeoman of the *FIRST PART*; Jane Matthews of the same place the wife of the said party of the First Part of the *SECOND PART*; and Thomas Stevenson of the Township of Whitby in the said County of Ontario yeoman of the *THIRD PART*:

Whereby it is witnessed that the said party of the First Part, in consideration of the sum of five thousand Dollars of lawful money of Canada, (the receipt whereof is thereby acknowledged,) Did give grant, bargain, sell, alien, assign, transfer, release, enfeoff, convey and confirm, unto the said party of the Third Part, his heirs and assigns, All and Singular that certain parcel or tract of Land and Premises situate lying and being in the Township of Pickering in the County of Ontario, aftersaid Province containing by admeasurement one hundred and ten acres be the same more or less, being composed of the southern three fourths of Lot number seventeen in the sixth concession after said township of Pickering excepting thereout forty acres of the Front part of said lot heretofore sold and conveyed by the said David Matthews to one James Brown. And also a small parcel or portion thereof about thirty six feet by eighteen feet known as the burying ground.

And by the said Indenture it is witnessed, that the said Jane Matthews the Wife of the said party of the First Part did remise, release and forever relinquish her *DOWER* in the said premises unto the said party of the Third Part, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns.

Which said Indenture is witnessed by Charles Arthur Jones of the Town of Whitby in the County of Ontario Esquire

And this Memorial thereof is hereby required to be registered by me the said grantor therein named. Witness my Hand and Seal the thirtieth day of December in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and sixty five

Signed and Sealed in Presence of

There was no signature
by Thomas on original

C.A. Jones

[illegible signature of 2nd witness]

David Matthews



National Archives
of Canada

Archives nationales
du Canada

395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N3

395, rue Wellington
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0N3

30 March 1990

4140-90-MA-MD/8060

Richard Matthews, Jr.
326 Norman Street
CARO, Michigan
U.S.A. 48723

Dear Mr. Matthews:

In reply to your letter of 7 February, I am pleased to enclose a complimentary reader-printer copy of an Upper Canada land petition submitted in 1794 by Mary Rattan (Matthews) of the District of Mecklenburg (RG 1 L 3, Volume 424, R3/67, reel C-2740). I trust you will find this satisfactory.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) L. St-Louis-Harrison
Genealogical Consultant
Reference Services Section
Reference & Researcher Services Division

/ls
encl.

Canada

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Warrant of Arrest

[Handwritten signature]

Confidential

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington, D.C.
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

77

At the Council Chamber at Quebec, — Monday 9th. November, 1789.

P R E S E N T.

His Excellency the Right Honourable LORD DORCHESTER;

The Honorable WILLIAM SMITH, Esquire, Chief Justice,	} Esquires.
HUGH FINLAY,	
THO. DUNN,	
EDW. HARRISON,	
JOHN COLLINS,	
ADAM MABANE,	
J. G. C. DELERY,	
GEORGE POWNALL,	
HENRY CALDWELL,	
WILLIAM GRANT,	
FRANÇOIS BABY,	
CHAS. DEBLAUDAERE,	
LE. C. S. DUPRE,	

HIS Lordship intimated to the Council that it remained a *Quæstio*, upon the late Regulation for the Disposition of the Waste Lands of the Crown, whether the Boards, constituted for that Purpose were authorized to make Locations to the Sons of Loyalists, on their coming to full Age and that it was his wish to put a Mark of Honor upon the families who had adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard in America before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783.

The Council concurring with his Lordship it is accordingly O R D E R E D.

That the several Land Boards take Course for preserving a Registry of the Names of all Persons falling under the Description aforementioned to the End that their Posterity may be discriminated, from future settlers, in the Parish Registers and Rolls of the Militia, of their respective Districts, and other Public Remembrancers of the Province, as proper Objects by their persevering in the the Fidelity and Conduct, so honorable to their Ancestors, for distinguished Benefits and Privileges.

And it is also ordered, that the said Land Boards may in every such Case provide not only for the Sons of those Loyalists, as they arrive to full Age, but for their Daughters also of that Age, or on their Marriage assigning to each a Lot of Two Hundred Acres, more or less, provided nevertheless that they respectively comply with the general Regulations, and that it shall satisfactorily appear that there has been no Default in the due Cultivation and Improvement of the Lands already assigned to the Head of the Family of which they are Members.

J. WILLIAMS, C. C.

Mary Matthews alias Rutton

U. E. having preferred

to this Board a Petition addressed to his Excellency the Governor in Council for a Grant of Two Hundred Acres of Land, in the Township of *Necklarburgh* under the foregoing Order, we have examined into her Character and Pretensions, and find that she is duly entitled to the benefit of the said Order, being the ~~Daughter~~ *Daughter of Peter Rutton* *late Captain in U. E. the Jersey Volunteers*

and there being no Default in the due Cultivation and Improvement of the Lands, already assigned to the said *Peter Rutton* U. E.

her Father in the Township of *Adolphus Town* in the District of *Necklarburgh*. We therefore hereby assign to the said *Mary Matthews* *alias Rutton* U. E. the Lot Number

U. E.
Lot N^o
Concession
Township of
District of

in the Concession of the Township of *Necklarburgh* in the District of *Necklarburgh* containing Two Hundred Acres more or less, the same being vacant, and the Petitioner's Name duly entered on the Plan and Schedule of Locations of the said Township. And the said

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Mary Matthews alias Mattow U. S. is hereby authorized to occupy and improve the said Lands, and having improved the same ~~she~~ shall receive a Grant thereof to ~~her~~, and ~~her~~ Heirs, or Devisees in due Form, on such Terms and Conditions as it shall please His Majesty to ordain. And all Persons are desired to take Notice that this Assignment, and all others of a similar Nature, ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE by Purchase, Donation, or otherwise, on any Pretence whatever, except by an Act under the Signature of the Board for the District, in which the Lands are situated, which is to be endorsed upon this Certificate.

Given at the Land Office Board for the District of *Mass*
Lebanon this *fifteenth* Day of *June* One
Thousand Seven Hundred and *Ninety One* of
Richard Peter Dep. Secy
Neve McLean
R. Carter
John Stewart

By Order of the Board,

Acting Surveyor for the District of

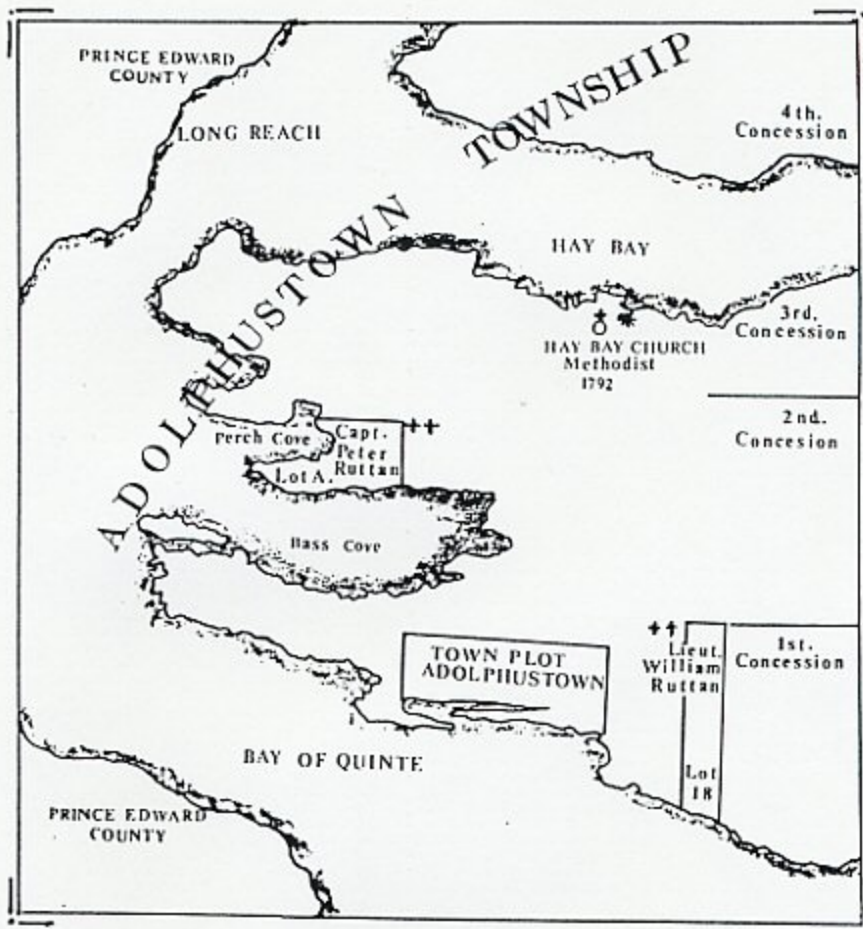
EXTRACT from the Rules and Regulations for the Conduct of the Land Office Department, dated Council Chamber, 17th. February, 1789.

- IV. **T**HE safety and propriety of admitting the Petitioner to become an inhabitant of this Province being well ascertained to the satisfaction of the Board, they shall administer to every such person the oaths of Fidelity and allegiance directed by Law. After which the Board shall give every such Petitioner a Certificate to the Surveyor-general, or any person authorized to act as an Agent or Deputy Surveyor for the District within the trust of that Board, expressing the ground of the Petitioner's admission. And such Agent or Deputy Surveyor shall within two days after the presentation of the certificate, assign the Petitioner a single lot of about two hundred acres, describing the same with due certainty and accuracy under his signature. But the said certificate shall nevertheless have no effect, if the Petitioner shall not enter upon the location and begin the improvement and cultivation thereof within one year from the date of such assignment, or if the Petitioner shall have had lands assigned to him before that time, in any other part of the Province.
- VII. The respective Boards shall, on Petitions from Loyalists already settled in the upper District for further allotments of land under the instructions to the Deputy Surveyor-general, of the 2d. of June, 1787, or under prior or other orders for assigning portions to their families, examine into the grounds of such requests and claims, and being well satisfied of the justice thereof, they shall grant certificates for such further quantities of land, as the said instructions and orders may warrant, to the Acting Surveyors of their districts respectively to be by them made effectual in the manner beforementioned; but to be void nevertheless, if, prior to the passing the grant in form, it shall appear to the Government that such additional locations have been obtained by fraud.—And that if these, the boards transmit to the Office of the Governor's Secretary, and to each other like reports and lists as herein before, as to other locations, directed.
- VIII. And to prevent individuals from monopolizing such spots as contain mines, minerals, fossils, and conveniences for mills and other singular advantages of a common and public nature, to the prejudice of the general interest of the settlers, the Surveyor-general and his Agents or Deputy Surveyors in the different districts, shall confine themselves in the locations to be made by them upon certificates of the respective Boards, to such lands only as are fit for the common purposes of husbandry and they shall reserve all other spots aforementioned, together with all such as may be fit and useful for ports and harbours, or works of defence, or such as contain valuable timber for ship-building or other purposes, conveniently situated for water-carriage, in the hands of the Crown.
And they shall without delay give full and particular information to the Governor and Commander in Chief for the time being, of all such spots as are herein before directed to be reserved to the Crown, that order may be taken respecting the same.
And the more effectually to prevent abuses, and to put individuals on their guard in this respect, any certificate of location given contrary to the true intent and meaning of this regulation is hereby declared to be null and void, and a special order of the Governor and Council made necessary to pledge the faith of Government for granting of any such spots as are directed to be reserved.

*So: Memory conquers time.
It is the resurrection of the past.
The fragrance of the rose creates
Once more the garden where it grew.
The mind's eye sees anew
The face of the beloved,
And hears his voice
With ears that memory provides.
Kind memory has no power
To make pain felt in after years
But tells us only that it was;
While joys give us once more a thrill
So that at last when we are old
We can be youthful once again.*

Mary Ruttan Matthews

"CAPTAIN PETER RUTTAN"



A MAP OF PART OF ADOLPHUSTOWN TOWNSHIP, LENNOX COUNTY, MIDLAND DISTRICT. SHOWN ARE THE CROWN GRANTS OF LAND MADE TO CAPTAIN PETER RUTTAN AND HIS BROTHER LIEUTENANT WILLIAM RUTTAN ON WHICH THEY SETTLED, BUILT THEIR HOMES, RAISED THEIR FAMILIES, AND DIED. IN ADDITION TO THESE LANDS, THEY EACH RECEIVED GRANTS IN OTHER AREAS, TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY WERE ENTITLED. THE HAY BAY CHURCH WAS THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH TO BE BUILT WEST OF THE MARITIMES. CONSTRUCTION BEGAN IN 1792, AND AMONG THE NAMES OF THE SUBSCRIBERS ARE THOSE OF PETER AND WILLIAM RUTTAN. THE REVEREND WILLIAM LOSIE WAS THE FIRST PREACHER.

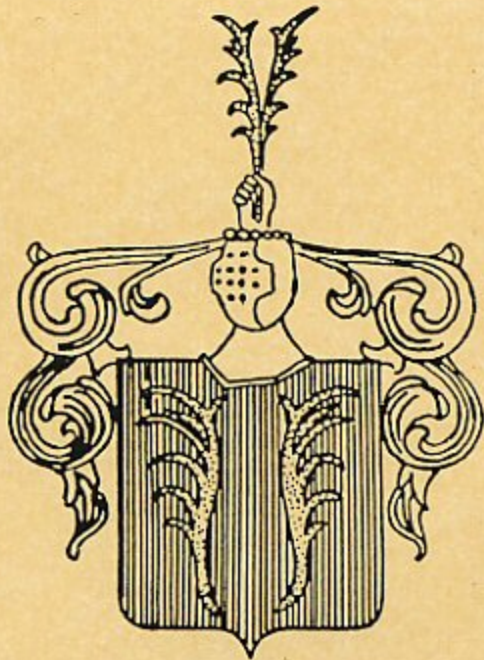
"CAPTAIN PETER RUTTAN"

PETER RUTTAN, BAPTIZED APRIL 19, 1742, IN THE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH IN SCHRAALENBURG, NEW JERSEY. ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1766, AT PARAMUS, NEW JERSEY, HE MARRIED JANNETJE ACKERMAN, BORN MAY 12, 1751. HE WAS ONE OF TEN CHILDREN BORN TO WILLIAM AND MARIE DEMAREST RUTTAN. PETER JOINED GENERAL HOWE'S ARMY IN DECEMBER OF 1776, AND SERVED AS CAPTAIN IN THE 4TH BATTALION, AND LATER IN THE 3RD BATTALION OF THE NEW JERSEY VOLUNTEERS. IT IS SAID THAT IN 1776 PETER ACCOMPANIED CHIEF JOSEPH BRANT ON A TOUR OF OBSERVATION FROM NEW YORK TO "WESTERN CANADA", AND THEY BECAME FAST FRIENDS. IN THE SUMMER OF 1783 WITH THE WAR OVER, HE WAS APPOINTED CAPTAIN, SECOND IN COMMAND TO CAPTAIN CONRAD VANALSTINE, OF A GROUP OF DISCHARGED SOLDIERS AND REFUGEES WHO WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE NEW YORK.

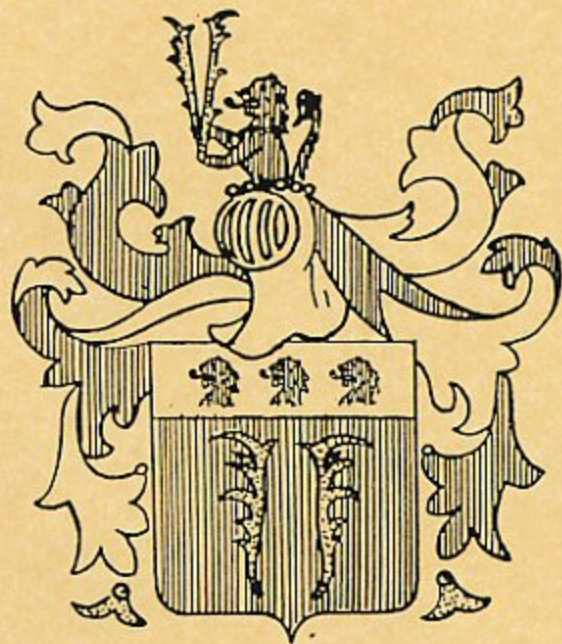
UNDER CAPTAIN GRASS, ABOARD THE SHIP "HOPE", THE GROUP ARRIVED IN QUEBEC ON AUGUST 14, 1783. TWO DAYS LATER THEY PROCEEDED UP THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER TO SOREL, WHERE THEY WINTERED. IN THE SPRING OF 1784 THEY TRAVELLED UP THE RIVER AND ARRIVED AT ADOLPHUSTOWN ON MARCH 20, 1784. PETER RUTTAN DIED JANUARY 1, 1829, AND FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON HIS PLACE OF BURIAL HAS NOT BEEN FOUND. JANNETJE'S DATE OF DEATH IS SUGGESTED AS BEING ABOUT 1810, AND HER PLACE OF INTERNMENT IS ALSO UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME. IT HAS BEEN STATED BY A DESCENDANT THAT HE BELIEVES THAT BOTH ARE BURIED IN THE HAY BAY CHURCHYARD WHERE PETER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY CONTRIBUTED TO THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH, AND OVER THE YEARS HELPED TO KEEP IT IN REPAIR. THEY HAD EIGHT CHILDREN:

- I ABRAHAM RUTTAN, BAPTIZED DECEMBER 24, 1769
- II PETER RUTTAN (JR.), BAPTIZED DECEMBER 1, 1771
- III MARY (MARIA) RUTTAN, BAPTIZED MARCH 1, 1772, WAS THE WIFE OF CAPTAIN THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS, U.E.L.
- IV JANE RUTTAN, BAPTIZED JULY, 1775
- V WILLIAM RUTTAN, BAPTIZED JULY 9, IN THE REFORMED CHURCH IN NEW YORK.
- VI JOSEPH BRANT RUTTAN, BORN IN 1783
- VII JOHN RUTTAN, BORN IN 1786
- VIII DAVID RUTTAN, BORN IN 1789

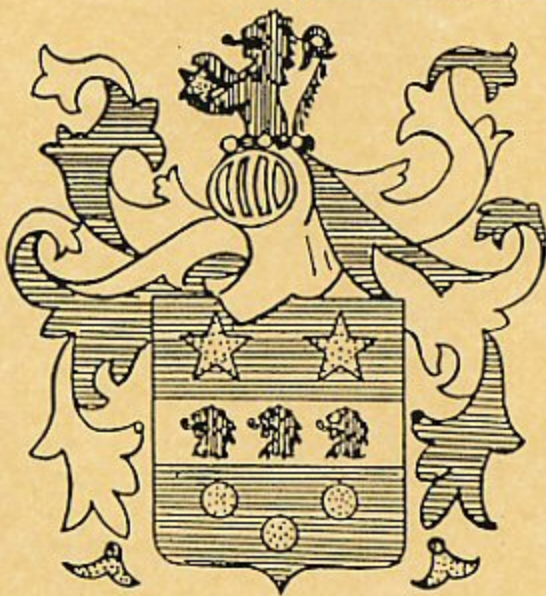
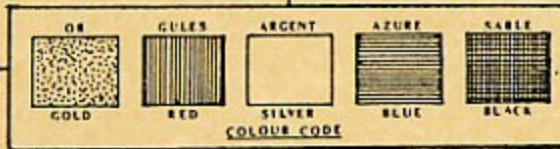
ARMS OF THE FAMILY RUTTAN



NICHOLAS RUTANT le 12 mars 1567.

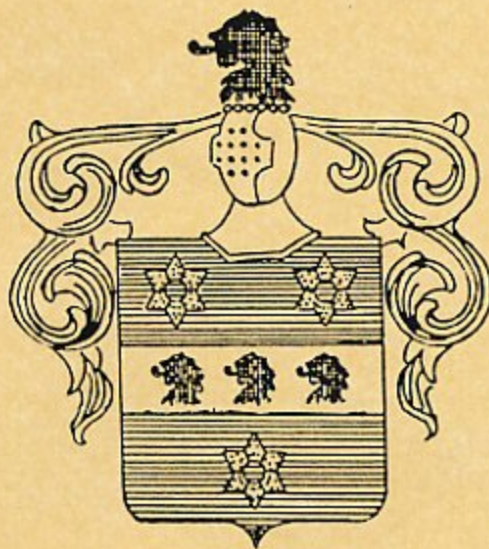


JEAN RUTANT le 20 sept. 1589.



JACQUES RUTANT le 25 avril 1589.

PIERRE RUTANT le 20 juin 1596.



FLORENTINE RUTANT le 13 dec. 1599.

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-SECOND GENERATION-

CAPTAIN PETER MATTHEWS, WAS BORN NEAR "MOIRA RIVER", NOW KNOWN AS BELLEVILLE, IN THE BAY OF QUINTE REGION OF UPPER CANADA IN 1786. HE WAS THE FIRST BORN OF CAPTAIN THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS, A UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST, AND MARY (MARIA) RUTTAN MATTHEWS. THE EARLY YEARS OF HIS LIFE ARE UNKNOWN TO US. WE DO KNOW THAT HE WAS MARRIED TWICE, AND WAS THE FATHER OF EIGHT CHILDREN FROM THE TWO MARRIAGES. HIS FIRST MARRIAGE WAS TO HANNAH MAJOR, THE DAUGHTER OF JOHN AND MARGARET (REYNOLDS) MAJOR. THEY HAD MARRIED WHILE THEY WERE BOTH STILL IN THEIR TEENS, AND WERE ALWAYS KNOWN BY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AS GOOD BAPTISTS. HANNAH DIED YOUNG, AND YEARS LATER PETER MARRIED FOR A SECOND TIME ON OCTOBER 26, 1831, IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP, TO THE WIDOW, HANNAH (SMITH) MAJOR. SHE WAS THE WIDOW OF HIS FORMER BROTHER-IN-LAW, THOMAS MAJOR.

AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, PETER WAS A FARMER WITH LARGE LAND HOLDINGS IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP, IN THE THEN COUNTY OF YORK. (NOW ONTARIO COUNTY) HE SERVED WITH HIS BROTHER THOMAS IN THE MILITIA WITH BROCK VOLUNTEERS DURING THE WAR OF 1812 AS A SERGEANT, AND FOUGHT CLOSE BY THE SIDE OF GENERAL BROCK. THE FAMILY WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE RURAL INHABITANTS BY THE GOVERNMENT IN TORONTO. ALTHOUGH NOT AS PROMINENT A PUBLIC FIGURE AS HIS FATHER HAD BEEN, PETER WAS INVOLVED IN LOCAL REFORM POLITICS IN A SMALL WAY AND WAS DRAWN INTO THE EVENTS PRECEDING THE REBELLION OF 1837. HE WAS ACTIVE IN THE POLITICAL UNION MOVEMENT IN THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 1837 WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO PRESURE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO GRANT REFORMS.

THE LEADER, AND ORGANIZER OF THE REBELLION, WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE CHOSE PETER AS HIS CAPTAIN FOR THE HOME DISTRICT AREA. PETER WAS TO LEAD THE MEN FROM PICKERING AND NEARBY VILLAGES WHO JOINED THE REBELLION. DECEMBER 7th, 1837 CAME, AND THE REBELLION WAS CRUSHED. PETER WAS CAPTURED ON DECEMBER 10th, 1837 AT THE FARM HOUSE OF A FRIEND NAMED JOHN DUNCAN IN EAST YORK. HE WAS TRIED FOR HIGH TREASON BY CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN BEVERLY ROBINSON. LIKE MANY OF THE REBELS, PETER WAS DEFENDED BY THE EX-PATRIOT, ROBERT BALDWIN. NOT ONLY DID HE CHARGE A HIGH PRICE FOR THE LITTLE HE DID, BUT HE ADVISED HIM TO PLEAD GUILTY. PLEADING GUILTY PLAYED INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDS AND WAS TO SEAL PETER'S FATE.

IN WHAT IS NOW REGARDED AS A CLEAR CASE OF JUDICIAL MURDER, THOSE WHO TRIED PETER MATTHEWS AND SAMUEL LOUNT HAD BEEN DEFEATED ON THE POLITICAL HUSTINGS. THEY HAD TRIED FIRST TO SILENCE THEM IN ELECTORAL CONTESTS BY VIOLENCE, GERRYMANDERING, AND OTHER ILLEGALITIES. WITHOUT ANY REAL TRIAL, PETER WAS SENTENCED TO HANG IN TORONTO ON APRIL 12th, 1838.

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-SECOND GENERATION-

A MASSIVE PETITION FOR CLEMENCY WAS SIGNED BY OVER 30,000, IN THOSE DAYS A VAST NUMBER OF PEOPLE, AND A TESTAMENT TO THE PROFOUND PUBLIC SUPPORT ENJOYED BY THE LEADERS OF THE REBELLION. THE NEW LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, SIR GEORGE ARTHUR, WHO REPLACED THE RECALLED HEAD, ABRUPTLY TURNED THE PETITION DOWN. PETER MET HIS DEATH ALONG WITH SAMUEL LOUNT ON THE GALLOWS, OUTSIDE THE OLD TORONTO CITY GAOL NEAR TORONTO AND KING STREETS. FOLLOWING THE EXECUTIONS, THE FAMILY WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO GIVE PETER A CHRISTIAN BURIAL IN ST. JAMES' CEMETERY, AND CONSEQUENTLY WAS INTERRED IN THE YORK GENERAL, OR STRANGERS' BURYING GROUND, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS "POTTER'S FIELD". PETER AND SAMUEL REMAINED BURIED THERE FOR OVER 21 YEARS.

ON NOVEMBER 28, 1859, PETER AND SAMUEL LOUNT WERE REMOVED FROM THE "POTTER'S FIELD" CEMETERY AND REBURIED IN ONE COMMON GRAVE AT THE TORONTO NECROPOLIS CEMETERY. PETER MATTHEWS AND SAMUEL LOUNT LIE IN GRAVE NUMBER 19, SECTION C, WHICH IS LOCATED AT THE WESTERN END OF THE CEMETERY NEAR SUMACH STREET. THE FIRST STONE OVER THEIR GRAVE WAS A SMALL PLAIN TABLET OF WHITE MARBLE WITH THE SIMPLE INSCRIPTION:

SAMUEL LOUNT
PETER MATTHEWS
1838

THIS TABLET RESTS ON THE PLOT, NEAR THE MONUMENT. IN 1893 A LARGER MEMORIAL WAS RAISED. THE COMMITTEE IN CHARGE BEING, THOMAS W. ANDERSON, CHARLES DURAND, AND WILLIAM DOEL. IT WAS UNVEILED ON JUNE 28, 1893 AT 2 P.M.. THE MONUMENT IS OF GRAY GRANITE, SOME FIFTEEN FEET HIGH, AND BROKEN OFF AT THE TOP TO INDICATE THAT THEIR LIVES HAD BEEN CUT SHORT. IT WAS ERECTED BY THEIR FRIENDS AND SYMPATHIZERS, A.D., 1893. OF PETER'S EIGHT CHILDREN, TWO SONS ARE LISTED:

HIRAM MATTHEWS, BORN IN 1812 OR 1813 AT BROUGHAM, IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP, ONTARIO. HE HAD MARCHED WITH HIS FATHER IN THE REBELLION, AND WAS ARRESTED AND PUT IN PRISON FOR HIS ROLE. HE WAS LATER GIVEN A PARDON BY GOVERNOR ARTHUR, AND RELEASED IN MAY OF 1838, FOLLOWING THE EXECUTION OF HIS FATHER. HIRAM DIED MARCH 24, 1847 IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP. HE WAS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE, DEBORAH SPENCER, AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN, HENRY AND MARY.

THOMAS MATTHEWS, BORN ON JANUARY 25, 1822 AT BROUGHAM, IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP, ONTARIO, CANADA.



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ressources historiques

395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
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395, rue Wellington
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0N3

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

6 March 1992

4140-92-Ma-Md-8032

Richard D. Matthews
327 Montague Avenue
Caro, Michigan 48723
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Matthews,

Your letter of 21 February gave me the opportunity to learn about the systems followed in granting pardons and the records created as a result. The manner in which historians have referred to the pardoning of individuals causes a great deal of confusion, creating false trails to distract us. We tend to think exclusively of the document issued by the governor (as representative of the Crown) as the instrument used to remit or commute a penalty imposed by the courts. Statutes could also be used, although it was much less common to do so.

Many of the sentences passed by the civil courts and courts martial in 1838-1839 were altered by conditional or unconditional pardons issued (in the form of letters patent) by the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada and the Governor-in-Chief of Lower Canada. After 1840, pardons for political offenders are conspicuous by their absence from the Registrar's entrybook of documents issued over the Great Seal (our RG 68). [The pardons allowing persons transported to Australia to return home were issued and recorded there; I saw some of them at this time last year.]

Thinking to find a shortcut to locating the documents you asked for, I reviewed the entry for William Lyon Mackenzie in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. That directed me to the amnesty statute, 12 Victoria chapter 13 (An Act for the Queen's Most Gracious, General and Free Pardon), where I found references to four other relevant statutes. I took another look at the DCB entries for Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews as well, particularly noting the sources identified by the author (R. J. Stagg). Copies of the biographies and the statutes are enclosed.

Professor Stagg said, in reference to both Lount and Matthews that their properties were confiscated. The source for that is supposedly the Archives of Ontario MS 88, Robert Baldwin et al. Opinion Book, p. 226. He must have interpreted the authorization for confiscation as proof of its having taken place. He identifies no proof of actual seizure.

Canada

The amnesty statute as passed in February 1849 had the effect of pardoning all persons implicated in the Rebellions of 1837-1838. Although the biography of Mackenzie implies that he was specifically named in the statute of 1849, no individual offender was mentioned in its general provisions. Individuals were named in its reference to two other statutes: 8 Victoria chapter 106 (An Act to vest in John Montgomery and Thomas Ewart the property forfeited to the Crown by the attainder of the said John Montgomery), and 9 Victoria chapter 105 (An Act to reverse the attainder of Peter Matthews and to avoid the forfeiture of his Estates and Property).

Two years earlier, the statute 10 Victoria chapter 106 (An Act to restore the rights of certain persons attainted for High Treason) had reversed the forfeiture of property for persons found guilty of high treason during the Rebellions of 1837-1838. It was a long-standing custom that when a person was convicted of a felony -- from High Treason down through a range of capital crimes such as murder and burglary -- his real and personal property was forfeit to the Crown. It could be seized and sold, but the Crown did not necessarily exercise its right. Indeed, I have found many pardons to ordinary criminals contain a clause restoring their goods and chattels. Often, the pardon remitted only the forfeiture and was issued after the person had served his term of imprisonment.

The statute of 1846 reversing the attainder of Peter Matthews implies that the Crown abstained from enforcing the forfeiture. That could be interpreted as allowing his widow to remain on the family farm, but without clear title and thus no right to sell it -- or possibly even to lease it. The statute restored unquestioned title to his widow and children; any property held by the government should then have been returned. R. J. Stagg may be wrong in stating that Mrs Matthews did not return to the farm until 1848. Is there proof she left it?

My first thought was to recommend you investigate the possibility of the land being leased, by Mrs. Matthews or by the Sheriff on the Crown's behalf, through a search at the Land Registry office. Occupancy of the farm between 1838 and 1848 should be specified in the assessment records (the responsibility of the provincial archives). On second thought, I went looking for a petition from Mrs. Matthews -- the action likely to have resulted in the statute of 1846.

Hannah Matthews was a dauntless, persistent petitioner. Her 1841 petition could not be found, though it is mentioned in her petition of 22 January 1844, where she quotes the reply made by S. B. Harrison, the Provincial Secretary, on 17 June 1841. That reply included the statement "that the property in question has not yet been vested in the Crown but that steps are now in progress for that purpose ...". (The 1841 petition may survive in RG 5, C 1; the indexing for 1841 is incomplete and I must limit my searching to the indexes.)

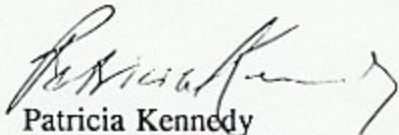
The most revealing petition is that of 23 October 1843 (RG 5, C 1, vol. 117; PSO/CW file 6642 of 1843; pages 46483-46487 on microfilm reel C-15756); between her statement and the government's commentary it becomes clear that she had been dispossessed (of her dower rights) by the "heir at law" of her husband, Peter Matthews having died intestate. No answer was made to this petition before she wrote again on 22 January 1844 (RG 5, C 1, vol. 122; PSO/CW file 7081 of 1844; pages 48165-48168 on microfilm reel C-15757). The text of the Provincial Secretary's reply is found on page 48165: the matter was under consideration. It was referred to the Executive Council 19 July (see the Minutes in RG 1, E 1, Canada State Book C, page 464).

A further petition (apparently dated 4 September 1845) was referred to the Executive Council in May 1846. The petition is missing from the file; only a copy of the Order-in-Council of 5 May 1846 and the text of the Provincial Secretary's reply to Hannah Matthews were kept (RG 5, C 1, vol. 176, PSO/CW file 13262 of 1846; a photocopy is enclosed). The text of the Minutes of Council (RG 1, E 1, Canada State Book E, page 370), being virtually the same as the Order-in-Council, will not offer additional information. Hannah Matthews' petition may have been referred to Parliament and been lost to fire with other records of that institution.

Copies of the two files on microfilm are being made for you (under Work Order B 93946) and will be sent under separate cover. At this point, I would recommend a search of the probate court records, as there should be Letters of Administration for the estate of Peter Matthews. (A centralized index is available at the Archives of Ontario). The files here do not name the "heir at law" who refused Hannah Matthews her dower rights, but the probate court records should do so.

I hope that my recommendations of potential sources will prove beneficial. The treatment of widows and orphans in such circumstances is a matter of some interest to me, so I hope that you will keep me informed of your findings.

Sincerely,



Patricia Kennedy
State & Military Archives Programme
Manuscript Division

(613) 996 7348
FAX: 943 8112

encl.



A N N O N O N O

V I C T O R I Æ R E G I N Æ .

C A P . C V .

An Act to reverse the attainder of Peter Matthews, and to avoid the forfeiture of his Estates and Property.

[9th June, 1846.]

WHEREAS Peter Matthews, in his lifetime of the Township of Pickering, in the Home District, having been lawfully convicted of and attainted for High Treason by him committed, did in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, suffer capital punishment for his said crime; And whereas by the said attainder and the corruption of blood wrought thereby, the estates and property real and personal of the said Peter Matthews became forfeited to Her Majesty; And whereas Her Majesty hath in the exercise of Her Royal Clemency hitherto abstained from enforcing the said forfeiture, and hath been graciously pleased to signify Her Royal Pleasure that such forfeiture should never be enforced; And whereas for giving full effect to the gracious intentions of Her Majesty in the behalf aforesaid the intervention of the Provincial Parliament is desirable: Be it therefore enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of an Act passed in the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and intituled, *An Act to re-unite the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, and for the Government of Canada*, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the attainder of the said Peter Matthews shall be and is hereby reversed, and the corruption of blood and forfeiture wrought by the said attainder shall be and are hereby taken away, and avoided, and all and singular the estates, property and effects which immediately before his said attainder were of him the said Peter Matthews, shall be and are hereby vested in the same person, persons or parties, in the same manner and with the same effect to all intents and purposes whatsoever, in as full and ample a manner, and with the same and no other effect or consequence as to the rights of third parties in, upon or with regard to such estates, property or effects, as if he the said Peter Matthews had died without being so attainted as aforesaid.

Preamble.
Recital of the
case of Peter
Matthews.

The attainder
of Peter
Matthews re-
versed, and his
estates and
property to be
vested and
dealt with as
if such attain-
der had never
taken place.



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Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0N3

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

2 March 1993

4140-93-Ma-Md-8323

Richard D. Matthews jr.
327 Montague Avenue
Caro, Michigan 48723
U. S. A.

Dear Mr Matthews,

In response to your letter of 11 February, I am forwarding a request to our Photoduplication staff for copies of the petition from Peter Matthews, with all the accompanying certificates or depositions (our RG 1, E 3, volume 45, pages 34-42), and the various reports by the Chief Justice (J. B. Robinson) and Attorney General, with the Minutes of Council on the matter (our RG 1, E 3, volume 50, pages 1-47). A copy of the work order (C 01267) is enclosed. The invoice will be sent under separate cover, on completion of the work. The charge is 25 cents per page for these copies, taken from the microfilm. Neither federal nor provincial taxes are charged on orders from outside Canada.

A succession of fiscal restraints and cut-backs has severely reduced our ability to undertake research on any question, so I have not been able to examine the afore-mentioned documents on your behalf. The page references were taken from our index for the series, which provides only a general outline of contents. As you are concerned with the petitions from Matthews, statements by him, or the legal opinions on his case, I have not ordered copies of several petitions in his favor (RG 1, E 3, volume 46, pages 131-179 and 239-264; on reel C-1195). Should you want to examine them, you could request a loan of that microfilm through your local library. You might also like to review the documentation in the Upper Canada Sundries (RG 5, A 1, pages 99107-99108 and 99030-99033 on reel C-6894; pages 104652-104667 and 104969-104989 on reel C-6897; and pages 107043-107048 and 107144-107183 on reel C-6899) -- which I mentioned to you in my letter of 25 July 1989.

The inclusion or exclusion of documents from Read & Stagg's book on the Rebellion reflects both their interest in various questions and space constraints. Their failure to alert readers that they had edited the petition, and other documents, saddens but does not surprise me. Far too many editors fail to highlight where cuts have been made to texts.

Canada

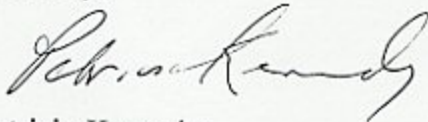
An officer investigating the Matthews case for the National Parole Board called me last month; he and I have consulted with a member of the Carleton University law faculty who has made a special study of treason trials. The prosecution and sentencing of Lount and Matthews were undoubtedly legitimate. The papers of Robert Baldwin (who had counselled Lount and Matthews, and later served as Attorney General) include his Opinion Book (Archives of Ontario, MS 88, reel 2). It records a lengthy opinion on the broad questions regarding amnesty for those implicated in the Rebellion and reversal of attainder -- written before passage of the general amnesty Acts of 1847 and 1849. He states very clearly (at page 226)

"The case of ... Peter Matthews was dealt with by a special Act (9 Vic. C. 105) by which the attainder is removed and the corruption of blood and forfeiture wrought by such attainder taken away and avoided and his estates, property and effects vested in his real and personal representatives *as if he had died without being attainted* [my italics]. The attainders of Lount and the other sufferers remain unremoved."

In other words, to the extent that the penalty could be remitted it had been. Hannah Matthews had done a thorough job of clearing her late husband's name.

The copy of your family history arrived on my desk while I was on holiday last August. Much to my chagrin, I set it aside before acknowledging the gift. Please accept my belated thanks for it, and the photographs of the monument and historical plaque.

Sincerely,



Patricia Kennedy
State & Military Archives Programme
Manuscript Division

(613) 996 7348
FAX: 943 8112

encl.



Ontario
Heritage
Foundation

Fondation
du patrimoine
ontarien



10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3
(416) 325-5000

10, rue Adelaide est
Toronto (Ontario)
M5C 1J3
(416) 325-5000

PROVINCIAL PLAQUE COMMEMORATES REBEL MARTYR

On Sunday, December 6, 1992, a provincial historical plaque commemorating Peter Matthews, a martyr of the Rebellion of 1837, was unveiled in the community of Brougham. The plaque is located in the Brougham Parkette, Brougham Road and Highway #7, in the Town of Pickering. This is one in a series of plaques erected throughout the province by the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

The bilingual marker reads:

PETER MATTHEWS c.1789-1838

Peter Matthews farmed the lands immediately northeast of here in the early nineteenth century. On December 2, 1837, neighbours asked him to lead men from the area to join an uprising against the government in Toronto planned by William Lyon Mackenzie. Matthews supported democratic reforms, was popular in his community, and had served in the War of 1812. He agreed to the request and played a leading role in the confused events of the Rebellion of 1837. When the rebellion failed, Matthews was captured by government militia. Authorities decided to make an example of Matthews and another prominent rebel, Samuel Lount. Convicted of treason and publicly hanged, they became martyrs of the rebellion whose memory would be invoked by reformers for generations to come.

PETER MATTHEWS, v.1789-1838

Peter Matthews exploite les terres au nord-ouest d'ici au début du dix-neuvième siècle. Le 2 décembre 1837, des voisins le prient de mener des hommes de la région qui se joignent au soulèvement fomenté par William Lyon Mackenzie contre le gouvernement à Toronto. Partisan des réformes démocratiques et membre populaire de la communauté qui a servi dans la guerre de 1812, Matthews accepte et joue un rôle important dans les événements désordonnés de la Rébellion de 1837. Lorsque la rébellion échoue, Matthews est appréhendé par la milice gouvernementale. Les autorités décident de faire un exemple de Matthews et d'un autre rebelle connu, Samuel Lount. Déclarés coupables de trahison et pendus publiquement, ils deviennent martyres de la rébellion dont le souvenir sera invoqué par les réformateurs pendant des générations.



The Ontario Heritage Foundation

welcomes you

to the unveiling of a

Provincial Historical Plaque

PETER MATTHEWS c.1789-1838

Brougham, Ontario

December 6, 1992

1:30 p.m.

Programme

Opening Remarks

*Dorothy Duncan
Chair, Ontario Heritage Foundation*

Historical Background

*Dr Ronald Stagg
Chairman, Department of History
Ryerson Polytechnical Institute*

Remarks

Mr Jim Wiseman, M.P.P. for Durham West

*His Worship Wayne Arthurs
Mayor of Pickering*

Unveiling

*Mr Richard Matthews and other descendants
of Peter Matthews
Mr Gordon Duncan
Mr Mark Frank*

*Refreshments will be served in the Community Hall following the unveiling.
Everyone is welcome!*

RE: Peter Matthews

The Colonial Advocate Newspaper
May 1, 1834, Pickering

NOTICE:

We hereby forbid any person purchasing a note of hand dated 29 November 1833 given by the subscribers to Waterman A. Spencer for 19 pounds 5 shillings, payable 15 February 1834 as said Spencer agreed to give up the note to the subscribers on condition of them giving bail for him which they did. After which he left the province without giving up said note according to agreement.

Pickering

22 April 1834

Peter Matthews

George Spencer

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

This is a copy of the petition of Adeline Elizabeth Matthews, on behalf of her husband, Joseph Matthews, brother of Captain Peter Matthews, to Governor George Arthur, for his release and pardon from prison. Following the "execution" of Peter Matthews and Samuel Lount on April 12, 1838 Joseph was released and pardoned in May of 1838.

Kind sir, I now write you a letter concerning my sufferings since my husband has been in prison, which is very great indeed. I am left with three little children and nothing for there support, and what to do I cannot tell, unless you will bless me with my companion that is so near and dear to me. It is now coming on cold weather and I have neither food nor fuel. I am poor and have nothing to make my little innocent children comfortable and my connections live eight hundred miles from here and I have no friend but my husband and you can judge for yourself how unpleasant my life is therefore I wish you could consider my husband's case as light as possible as he was led away by some evil minded men. My husband has always bore the name of a peaceable man, and I hope you will forgive him, as this is the first wrong step he has taken in your land.

I will pledge my word that he will do the thing that's right for time to come if you will set him free. Unless you do, I must suffer still for I have no means to support my family, and how hard it is to see little innocent children crying around and nothing for them to eat, and I have seen that since my husband has left me. It is a painful thing to think of, I will assure you now kind sir. If you grant me my wishes you shall have my prayers while life remains. I could willingly bow at your feet if it would do any good. Kind sir, if you did only know what trouble I do see. You open wide the prison door and let my husband free.

This is from you well wishor

Adeline Elizabeth Matthews

MATTHEWS FAMILY RECORD
REBELLION PAPERS

William
Adeline & Matthews

Dr. McCall of New
York send me
To ~~your~~ ~~papers~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~year~~

01309

Cost

01308

Dear Sir I now write you a litten concerning my sufferings
 since my husband has been in prison which is very great
 indeed I am left with three little children and nothing for their
 support and what to do I cannot tell unless you will bless me
 with my companion that is so near and dear to me it is now
 coming on cold weather and I have neither food nor fuel I am poor
 and have nothing to make my little innocente children comfortable
 and my connections live eight hundred & miles from here and I
 have no friend but my husband and you can judge for yourself
 how unplesent my life is therefore I wish you would consider
 my husband case as light as possible as he was led away by some
 evil minded men my husband has always bore the name of a
 peaceable man and I hope you will forgive him as this is the
 first wrong step he has taken in your land I will pledge my
 word ~~that~~ ^{that right} that he will do the thing ^{for} time to come

if you will set him free unless you do I must suffer still
 for I have no means to support my Family and how hard it is
 to see little innocente children a crying around and nothing for
 them to eat and I have seen that since my husband has left me
 it is a painful thing to think of I will assure you now kind sir
 if ^{you will} grant me my wishes you shall have my prays while life remain
 I could willingly bow at your feet if it would do any good

This is from your well wisher
 Adaline Elizabeth Mathers

Governess Mathers

Kind sir if you did only know
 What trouble I do see
 You open wide the prison door
 And let my husband free

MATTHEWS FAMILY RECORD
REBELLION PAPERS

City of Toronto 14 Dec. 1838

SIR

A MEMORANDUM HAS JUST BEEN PUT INTO MY HANDS WRITTEN BY COL. COX, STATING THAT HE HAD AUTHORIZED THE ARREST OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS: I HAD SENT THEM TO JAIL IN CUSTODY OF A CONSTABLE AN ARMED PARTY.

JOSEPH MATTHEWS
HIRAM BENTLEY
SAMUEL BENTLEY
JONATHAN STEPHENS
JOHN STEPHENS
JOHN O'BRIEN
HIS FATHER
GEORGE SPENCER
ABRAHAM KNOWLES
WOODRUFF

I FIND ON EXAMINING THE PRISONERS THAT THE PERSONS ACTUALLY ARRESTED AN BROUGHT HERE ARE

GEORGE SPENCER
NELSON WOODRUFF
ABRAHAM KNOWLES
NELSON MATTHEWS

HUGH L. O'BRIEN
WILLIAM O'BRIEN
WILLIAM BENTLEY
JOHN VERT

YOU

FROM: NATIONAL ARCHIVES CANADA
RG 1 E 3 VOLUME 52
FILE: PAGE 45
REEL: C1196
DATE: AUG. 24, 1989

MATTHEWS FAMILY RECORD
REBELLION PAPERS

95

City of Toronto 14th Dec. 1835

A memorandum has just been sent into my hands, written by Col. Cox, stating that he had authorized the arrest of the following persons & had sent them to be in custody of a constable & armed party viz

Joseph Matthews
 Maria Bentley
 Annal Bentley
 Jonathan Stephens
 John Stephens
 John O'Brien &
 his father
 + George Spencer
 + Abraham Knowles
 + Woodruff

I find on examining the prisoners that the persons actually arrested & brought here are

+ George Spencer	John O'Brien
+ Nelson Woodruff	William O'Brien
+ Abraham Knowles	William Bentley
Nelson Matthews	John Kent

Yours

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-THIRD GENERATION-

THOMAS MATTHEWS, WAS BORN IN WHAT IS NOW THE VILLAGE OF BROUGHAM, IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP, UPPER CANADA. (NOW ONTARIO) HIS DATE OF BIRTH IS JANUARY 25, 1822. THOMAS WAS A SON OF PETER MATTHEWS AND HANNAH MAJOR MATTHEWS OF PICKERING. BOTH OF HIS PARENTS BEING FROM UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST FAMILIES. THOMAS MARRIED A LOCAL PICKERING GIRL NAMED MARGARET SPENCER, THE DAUGHTER OF GEORGE AND MARY (STEVENS) SPENCER, WHO ALSO LIVED IN THE PICKERING AREA. THOMAS AND MARGARET MARRIED IN 1846. IN 1847 THE YOUNG COUPLE HAD THEIR FIRST CHILD, A DAUGHTER, THEY NAMED SAMANTHA A. MATTHEWS. FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF THOMAS'S OLDER BROTHER HIRAM, THEY DECIDED TO LEAVE CANADA IN THE SPRING OF 1848.

THEY SETTLED IN A LITTLE VILLAGE IN WORTH TOWNSHIP KNOWN AS AMADORE. IT IS LOCATED IN SANILAC COUNTY, IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN. LATER THAT SAME YEAR THEIR FIRST SON WAS BORN, CHARLES WILLIAM MATTHEWS. THEY WERE TO HAVE TWO MORE SONS IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS. THOMAS WAS A GOOD CARPENTER AND IN JUST A COUPLE OF YEARS HAD BUILT A BEAUTIFUL FARM HOUSE AND TWO BARNs ON HIS THEN, EIGHTY ACRE FARM. HE HAD SETTLED IN WORTH TOWNSHIP HAVING CLOSE FAMILY FRIENDS ALREADY LIVING THERE FROM PICKERING TOWNSHIP, THE WIXSON FAMILY. THEY WERE FAMILY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS PRIOR TO THE REBELLION IN 1837, AND SUPPORTED THE FAMILY FOLLOWING IT. MARGARET DIED SOMETIME BETWEEN 1860 AND 1862. THOMAS AND MARGARET HAD FOUR CHILDREN TOGETHER, THEY WERE:

- I SAMANTHA A. MATTHEWS, SHE WAS BORN IN 1847 IN WHAT IS NOW THE VILLAGE OF BROUGHAM, PICKERING TOWNSHIP, ONTARIO, CANADA.
- II CHARLES WILLIAM MATTHEWS, WAS BORN NOVEMBER 9, 1848, IN AMADORE, WORTH TOWNSHIP, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- III DENNIS MATTHEWS, WAS BORN IN 1852 IN AMADORE, WORTH TOWNSHIP, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- IV MARTIN L. MATTHEWS, WAS BORN SEPTEMBER 13, 1855 IN AMADORE, WORTH TOWNSHIP, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

FOLLOWING MARGARET'S DEATH, THOMAS MARRIED FOR A SECOND TIME ON DECEMBER 21, 1862. HIS SECOND WIFE WAS CATHERINE COOK, THE DAUGHTER OF DAVID AND CATHERINE COOK, THIS FAMILY BEING FROM ONTARIO, CANADA ALSO. THE FARM, WITH HIS MARRIAGE TO CATHERINE GREW ANOTHER 40 ACRES, MAKING IT A TOTAL OF 120 ACRES. THOMAS MATTHEWS DIED AT THE AGE OF 71, AT HOME, ON HIS FARM. THE DATE WAS MAY 19, 1893. HE WAS PUT TO REST AT THE CROSWELL CEMETERY, CROSWELL, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN. THOMAS AND CATHERINE HAD THREE CHILDREN TOGETHER, THEY WERE:

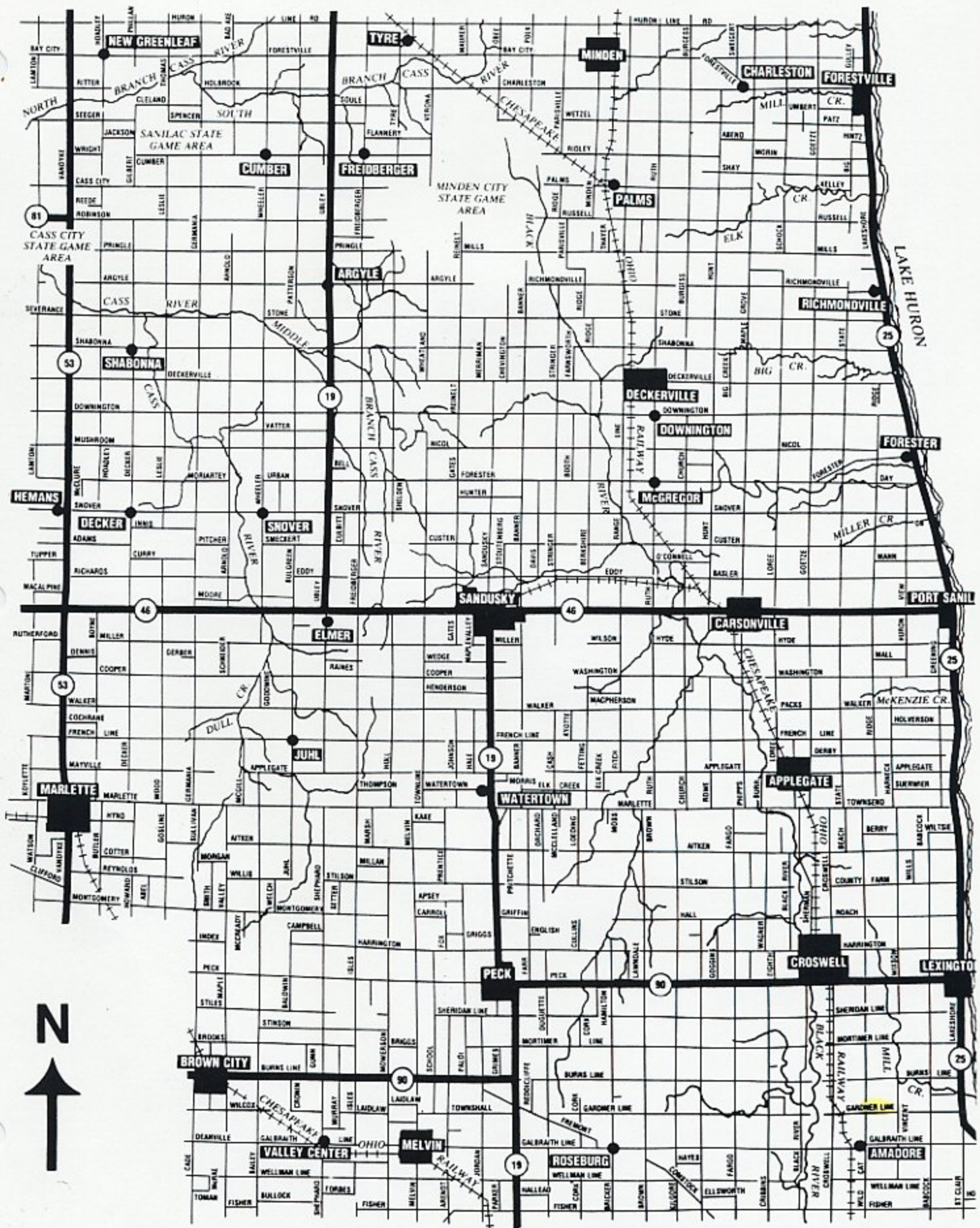
- I SARAH MATTHEWS, BORN IN 1864 IN AMADORE, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- II THOMAS WALTER MATTHEWS, BORN MAY 27, 1867, IN AMADORE, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- III ETHEL L. MATTHEWS, BORN IN 1882 IN AMADORE, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

153

Thomas Matthews & Catharine Cook } Received for Record December 27. 1862
State of Michigan } Samuel Ruyter C. Clerk
Sanilac County }
and State } I hereby certify, that on the 21st
any of December, ¹⁸⁶² at length in said County
aged 40 years and Catharine Cook aged 18 years in presence
of David Cook and Catharine Cook all of town in said
County and State
Samuel Ruyter
Justice of the Peace

THIS IS A PHOTO-COPY OF THE MARRIAGE RECORD OF THOMAS MATTHEWS,
AND HIS SECOND WIFE, CATHARINE COOK, DATED DECEMBER 21, 1862. THE
RECORD OF MARRIAGE IS LOCATED AT THE SANILAC COUNTY COURT HOUSE
IN SANDUSKY, MICHIGAN.

MAP OF SANILAC COUNTY



Two-post marker
Same Text Both Sides
2" Caption
1-1/2" Text
Sanilac County
Worth Township

MATTHEWS FARM

1 In 1848 Thomas and Margaret Spencer
2 Matthews came to Worth Township from
3 Ontario, Canada, following other farm
4 families who migrated from Upper
5 Canada to Michigan. Matthews's
6 grandfather, Thomas Elms Matthews, a
7 Loyalist during the American Revolution,
8 left New York for Upper Canada
9 after the war. Young Thomas's father,
10 Peter, was executed in Toronto in 1838
11 for his role in the 1837-38 Rebellion
12 of Upper Canada. Today, historians
13 consider him a patriot and a martyr.
14 This farmhouse, built in 1852,
15 exemplifies plank-frame construction
16 commonly used in Upper Canada during
17 the early nineteenth century. An
18 English hay barn also survives. Thomas
19 lived quietly, farming and raising his
20 seven children. He died in 1893 at age
21 seventy-one. The Matthews Farm is
22 listed in the National Register of
23 Historic Places.

Bureau of Michigan History, Michigan Department of State
Registered Local Site No. 1926
Property of the State of Michigan, 1995

BUREAU OF MICHIGAN HISTORY
Michigan Department of State

INVENTORY FORM

Michigan Historical Commission Meeting
February 16, 1995

Site (Historic Name): Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews Farm
(Other Names): Meadowcroft Farm
Address/Location: 5916 East Gardner Line Road
Municipal Unit: Worth Township
County: Sanilac

Owner: Gerald W. Nyquist, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: 5916 East Gardner Line Road
Post Office, Zip Code: Croswell, MI 48422

Description

Original Use: farm
Present Use: residence

Description Statement:

The Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews Farm is located in the Thumb Region of Michigan in rural Sanilac county between the Black River and Lake Huron. The house and its outbuildings sit on a ten-acre parcel of land, a portion of which is being leased for agricultural production. The farmhouse was constructed in 1852, according to Matthews family oral traditions, by Thomas Matthews after the Canadian farmhouse he grew up in Pickering Township, Ontario. Further, the tax rolls show an increase consistent with an 1852 date of construction. In addition, the present owner describes a construction technique based on his various restoration projects that can only date to the 1850s. It is believed Matthews influenced its design and had a hand in its construction. The house is a one-and two-story gable-front-and-wing building of classical design, constructed with locally available building materials. The structure has vertical plank framing with weatherboard siding, a fieldstone foundation and an asphalt roof. There is a shed porch within the L formed by the upright and wing. The decorative porch trim as added later, perhaps as late as the 1870s. The vergeboards are a recent addition. The only surviving outbuilding is an English rectangular hay barn with a gabled roof. There are three historical archaeological sites: they include a well, rubbish mound and the remains of a log house. The property is well-maintained and retains a high degree of historic integrity. The only change to the original footprint of the house is a recent, ten-by-ten-foot addition at the southeast corner. The structure remains in its original location, and its setting is nearly unchanged. The original design and workmanship have also been retained.

This dwelling is located about 25 yards south of East Gardner Line Road, on a rectangular parcel with a north-south axis, one-quarter of a mile deep by 110 yards wide. The property includes a garage, pole building and barn along with the historical archaeological sites. The garage is just off of the southwest corner of the house, the barn is 92.3 yards south of the garage with the pole building approximately 13.3 yards east of the barn. The layout of the house and outbuildings is perfectly linear. The garage and pole building are recent constructions and are non-contributing structures.

The Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews House is roughly two perpendicular rectangles with the ten-by-ten-foot addition projecting from the rear corner of the front gable end. The construction technique of this house is Canadian in its derivation. According to the present owner, the exterior walls are composed of vertical, rough-sawn planks two inches thick and twelve inches wide. These planks stand on a hand-hewn sill beam that rests on a stone foundation. The first floor walls feature a double layer of planks, overlapped halfway onto one another producing a four inch thickness. The second-story floor level, creating a two-inch wide shelf that supports beams that support the floor joists. All of the beams are attached to one another at the corners of the house with wooden pins. The vertical planks are attached to one another and to the beams with cut nails and the occasional wooden pin. The weatherboard is nailed to the vertical planks on the outside, and the wooden lath and trim are nailed to the plank on the inside. This plank frame method of construction is commonly found among the early 19th-Century farmhouses of Ontario. The architecture of the house is said to resemble the farm home in which Thomas spent his first sixteen years back in Pickering, Ontario, Canada, according to the Matthews family historian.

The gable-front portion of the house is two stories in height with the one-story wing. There is an enclosed back porch on the south side of the wing. The house has fieldstone basement walls with a concrete floor; the original floor was dirt. Below the kitchen there are remnants of a cistern in the southwest corner of the front-gable section. The gable front is symmetrical facing East Gardner Line Road having two-over-two sash windows with shutters. There is an attic vent, as well, on the front. All windows are two-over-two sash windows with shutters and a fronton cap. The same treatment can be found on the doors, including the new addition, the only exception being the door to the screened porch on the wing. The corners of the one- and two-story sections of the house are treated with attenuated classical antae, with center panels, topped with capitals. Under the eave overhang is a broad frieze band. The final decorative element under the eave is the vergeboard, a modern addition.

The interior retains the original floor plan. The gable-front upright has the parlor across the front of the house with the stairways, pantry with an added bathroom, and kitchen behind. The ten-by-ten foot addition was put on the southeast corner of this section of the house. The one-story wing has the dining room and a bedroom. The front and back porches extend off this wing. A deck has been added by the current owner to the southwest corner of the one-story wing giving the house a square appearance. There are three bedrooms and a bathroom, which has been added by the current owner, on the second floor of the gable-front. All of the original pine woodwork remains on both levels; however, it has been heavily repaired, so that the current owner has painted it rather than using stain.

The hay barn is the only original outbuilding remaining on the farm. This is a basic English rectangular barn with a gabled roof. It is roughly thirty-four by fifty feet in ground dimensions. Constructed of hand-hewn beams with mortise and tenon joints, it has vertical rough-sawn siding. In the gable of the barn is a trolley that runs on a wooden rail to support a hay rope used with a fork to unload wagons and lift hay to the mow. The date of the barn is not known; however, it is believed to date to the construction of the house.

Finally, there are three historical archaeological sites contributing to this nomination. There is a well, a rubbish mound, and the foundation of the log house. The house was occupied by the Thomas Matthews family from 1852 to 1854, when the farmhouse was completed. The deposits in the well and on the rubbish mound likely date from 1848 through the 1940s. These archaeological sites are well preserved and protected by the current land owner. In addition, there was a privy, the location of which has been lost.

Significance

Themes: P3\P4\AV\EX

Construction Dates: 1852-1893

Architect/Builder: unknown

Significance Statement:

The Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews Farm represents a period in our history during which a large number of Canadian farm families migrated to the Thumb Area of Michigan. Initially these families came in flight from prosecution for their involvement in the Rebellion of Upper Canada of 1837-38; others, like the Matthews family, came because their families and friends had migrated into the area before them. Most of the pioneer families were actively involved in the rebellion against the government in Toronto. The settlement of Sanilac County by these Canadians culminated a pattern from New York to Upper Canada in response to being loyalist during the American Revolution and then to Michigan. The farmhouse built by Matthews exemplifies plank-frame construction commonly used in early nineteenth-century Upper Canada. There were several outbuilding including

a common New England rectangular hay barn that remains to this day. There is also evidence of three potential historical archaeological sites that are likely to yield insights into nineteenth and early twentieth century farm life for these Canadian emigres.

Thomas Matthews was born in 1822, into a family with a long tradition of patriotism and loyalty to Canada and the Crown. His grandfather, Thomas Elmes Matthews, was a United Empire Loyalist and a resident of New York prior to the American Revolution. After the war, he left New York for Canada and is said to have gotten lost in the woods and to have been rescued near starvation by Captain Peter Ruttan, another United Empire Loyalist, who had taken up residence in British North America. Thomas Elmes Matthews was nursed back to health in the Ruttan household and fell in love with the captain's seventeen year old daughter Mary. After her eighteenth birthday, she and Matthews eloped. Mary Nast Wherry in The Family and I, indicated their first son, Peter, was born within a year of the marriage.

Thomas Elmes Matthews was "granted land in Marysburg Township and then in Sidney Township" according to Mary Bentley's Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol. VII, near Belleville, Ontario, Canada at the headwaters of the St. Lawrence River at Lake Ontario. The same source indicates that "about 1799 the family moved to Pickering Township, where Thomas obtained 350 acres and Mary 200 acres" from the Canadian government for their loyalty to the Empire. "In Pickering the Matthews family was quite public-spirited, contributing to the building of a school and working to improve the major road in the area" again, according to Bentley. During the War of 1812, father and sons served in the Canadian militia. Thomas Elmes Matthews died in August 1819. Matthews and his widow, Mary Ruttan Matthews, had been very patriotic and seem to have imbued their children with the same sense of patriotism and civic mindedness.

Son, Peter followed closely the family tenets of service to community and country. Peter was a sergeant in the Canadian militia during the War of 1812. He married Hannah Major, probably in 1810, and they had eight children. Thomas was one of their sons. Bentley says, the Peter Matthews family "was unhappy with the services provided to the rural inhabitants by the government at Toronto." The Constitutional Act of 1791 had given power to "an official oligarchy . . . known as the Family Compact." The Family Compact identified with the Church of England, "a decided minority in the province; and thus the political struggle took on the colour of a religious issue, into which economic grievances entered as well," according to the Encyclopedia Canadiana. As a result, Peter became actively involved "in the political union movement of the summer and fall of [1837], which was designed to pressure the British government to grant reforms," Bentley said.

Matthews was selected for a leadership role in the rebellion because he was a prosperous farmer, who was well-respected and liked by his neighbors.

During the Rebellion of 1837-38, Peter Matthews was given responsibility for about sixty men from the local community, who all volunteered "to take part in the uprising planned by William Lyon Mackenzie," Bentley said. Matthews and his men were assigned responsibility for creating a diversion to prevent the government forces from attacking their headquarters, until reinforcements were in place. "Matthews's party killed one man and set the bridge and some houses on fire before being driven off by Loyalist forces. The rebellion failed that day and Matthews fled, but he was captured in a farmhouse in York Township," also according to Bentley. Peter Matthews was arrested on December 14, 1837, and he pleaded guilty to a charge of treason. His case was heard and determined by a specialoyer and terminer, he was found guilty and was sentenced to be executed. The execution was carried out on April 12, 1838, according to the author of The Life and Times of Wm. Lyon Mackenzie, the leader of the rebellion. Peter was pardoned in 1848 and had come to be known as a patriot and a hero.

Thomas was a lad of sixteen when his father was executed. There are scant details of his life from 1838-48 when he migrated to Worth Township. According to the family historian, his mother, Hannah, left Canada and migrated to Michigan after the unsuccessful rebellion that cost her husband his life. It is not known whether Thomas accompanied his mother on this trip. The oral history suggests she remained in the states for a short time before returning to Canada. Thomas did not permanently leave Canada until 1848 after the death of an older brother, according to the family historian, Richard Matthews, in Kindred Spirits. It was also in 1848, when the crown returned Peter Matthews's property, which it had seized after his conviction.

Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews and their infant daughter settled in Worth Township in the Spring of 1848. "A number of the former rebel families had settled in this area following the uprising. Among these families were the Wixsons, formerly of Pickering Township, and close friends of the Peter Matthews family," Matthews said.

Public records indicate Thomas Matthews was granted a patent by the State of Michigan to forty acres of land in Section 16 on March 2, 1848. According to the patent, Matthews purchased the forty acres for one hundred and sixty dollars. There is no evidence, however, that a structure was ever constructed on this parcel. The abstract indicates he sold it on March 24, 1852, one month before he purchased the eighty acres in Section 22 for six hundred dollars on which he built his farmstead. The eighty acres consisted of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter.

Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews had four children, Samantha born in Canada and three sons all born after they migrated to Michigan. There is little official information concerning Margaret Spencer. We can deduce she was born in Canada in 1829 or 1830. She married Thomas in 1846, at the age of sixteen or seventeen. Margaret appears on the 1850 and the 1860 U.S. Population Schedules as the wife of Thomas Matthews. Then on December 21, 1862, at the age of forty Thomas Matthews married Catharine Cook, a girl of eighteen. It is presumed Margaret died during the interim; however, there is no record of Margaret's death. There is little mention of Matthews except in public documents recording births, deaths, deeds, and the U.S. census. He appears to have lead a rather uneventful life as compared to that of his ancestors. Prior to his death on May 19, 1893, the Matthews farm even managed to escape destruction from three forest fires in Sanilac County, namely the 1864 fire and two fires one in 1871 and the other in 1881. There is no record of public service, the only mention of him is that he was a farmer. The Matthews farmstead survives to represent the early migration of Canadians to the Thumb in the wake of the 1837-38 rebellion. The house on the property, although a typical midwestern American upright-and-wing building, reflects the Upper Canada origins of its early owners in its plank frame construction.

The farmstead is also significant for its historical archaeological potential. Farmstead sites are a source of data on agricultural settlement in Michigan. Individual sites may yield a variety of types of information, including data on the types of buildings that made up the complex, the spatial layout of the buildings and land, and the way the landscape in and around the complex was altered over the years. Examining these aspects of a number of farmsteads from different time periods can contribute to understanding agrarian development in a region over time. This development process might be manifested in changes in the size and composition of farm complexes, the distribution of farmsteads across a region, the economic status of farmers, household size, and so forth.

An example of the kind of research to which farmstead sites are important is a study on agricultural settlement patterns in southern Michigan which focuses on the evolution of frontier economies. Sanilac County is ideal for this kind of research because Thomas Matthews and his friends were the initial settlers in the mid-nineteenth century, following on the heels of the land speculators and the lumbermen.

The farm's potential to provide archaeological data has not been evaluated. However, such locations as foundation remains, garbage dumps, wells and privy sites are all likely to retain cultural material which could provide insights into nineteenth century farm life for this group of Canadian settlers in Sanilac County.

BUREAU OF HISTORY
INVENTORY FORM

The Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews Farm meets the criterion for designation in the State Register of Historic Sites under criteria I for the pioneer settlers who left Canada to make their home in the Thumb of Michigan in response to the political upheaval following the Rebellion of 1837-38; criteria III for the plank frame construction technique derived from Upper Canada; and, criteria IV for its historical archaeological potential to yield information regarding early farm life in Sanilac County. The State Historic Preservation Office recommends listing under the local level of significance.

State Register Designation

(L/S and number): L1926

Marker Name:

Form Prepared by: Carrel Cowan-Ricks

Michigan Historic Site No. L1926

THOMAS AND MARGARET SPENCER MATTHEWS FARM

was listed in the

STATE REGISTER

February 16, 1995

on

by the
MICHIGAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Walter Gordy Edwards

President



of the
MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT
OF STATE

Carolin A. Miller

Secretary of State



Michigan Historical Center, State Historic Preservation Office
717 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48918-1800

May 1, 1995

Gerald W. Nyquist, Ph.D.
5916 East Gardner Line Road
Crosswell, MI 48422

Dear Dr. Nyquist:

The National Register of Historic Places Branch of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, has listed the Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews Farm, 5916 East Gardner Line Road, Township of Worth, Sanilac County, MI, in the National Register of Historic Places. The register listed the property on April 7, 1995. Nominations of Michigan properties to the national register are made by the Michigan Historical Center of the Michigan Department of State, in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Any questions you may have concerning this nomination and the national register program should be directed to the State Historic Preservation Office, Michigan Historical Center, 717 West Allegan, Lansing, Michigan 48918 (telephone 517/335-2719).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn B. Eckert".

Kathryn B. Eckert
State Historic Preservation Officer
Michigan Historical Center

cc: Enclosure

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-FOURTH GENERATION-

CHARLES WILLIAM MATTHEWS, WAS BORN IN THE VILLAGE OF AMADORE, IN WORTH TOWNSHIP, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN ON NOVEMBER 9, 1848. HE WAS THE FIRST OF OUR FAMILY TO BE BORN IN THE UNITED STATES. HIS PARENTS WERE THOMAS AND MARGARET (SPENCER) MATTHEWS. CHARLES MARRIED LENA CAROLINE BARNES ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1870 IN LEXINGTON, WORTH TOWNSHIP, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN. SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF JOHN AND MINNIE (BRUNSWICK) BARNES. LENA AND HER FAMILY HAD COME TO THE UNITED STATES FROM GERMANY, LENA HAVING BEEN BORN THERE. AFTER HIS MARRIAGE TO LENA, CHARLES LEFT WORTH TOWNSHIP AND BOUGHT HIS OWN FORTY ACRE FARM IN PORT SANILAC, WHEATLAND TOWNSHIP, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

CHARLES FARMED, BUT HIS LOVE IN LIFE WAS HORSES. HE RAISED THEM FOR THE BETTER PART OF HIS LIFE. WHEN CHARLES AND LENA RETIRED, THEY MOVED TO HARBOR BEACH, IN HURON COUNTY, MICHIGAN. CHARLES DIED NOVEMBER 1ST, 1931 AT THE AGE OF EIGHTY-TWO, JUST EIGHT DAYS BEFORE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN EIGHTY-THREE YEARS OLD. HE DIED AT HIS HOME IN SEIGEL TOWNSHIP, HURON COUNTY, MICHIGAN. HE WAS BURIED AT THE VERONA CEMETERY, VERONA, IN HURON COUNTY, MICHIGAN. HIS WIFE LENA IS BURIED THERE ALSO, BESIDE HIM. LENA HAD DIED MAY 14, 1931. THEY HAD BEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS. DURING THOSE YEARS, CHARLES AND LENA HAD SEVEN CHILDREN, FIVE SONS, AND TWO DAUGHTERS. THEIR CHILDREN WERE:

- I WILLIAM MATTHEWS, BORN AUGUST 8, 1871 IN AMADORE, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- II THOMAS HIRAM MATTHEWS, BORN JUNE 29, 1873 IN AMADORE, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- III JOHN IRA MATTHEWS, BORN JUNE 29, 1873 IN AMADORE, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN. (THOMAS AND JOHN WERE TWINS)
- IV WILBERT MARTIN MATTHEWS, BORN AUGUST 17, 1876 IN PORT SANILAC, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- V SARAH HELEN MATTHEWS, BORN JULY 17, 1879 IN PORT SANILAC, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- VI MINNIE LENA MATTHEWS, BORN JUNE 2, 1882 IN PORT SANILAC, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- VII ARTHUR HERBERT MATTHEWS, BORN APRIL 19, 1886 IN PORT SANILAC, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-FIFTH GENERATION-

WILBERT MARTIN MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON AUGUST 17, 1876 IN PORT SANILAC, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN. HE WAS BORN ON HIS FATHER'S FARM. HE WAS A SON OF CHARLES WILLIAM AND LENA CAROLINE (BARNES) MATTHEWS. HIS MOTHER WAS KNOWN TO FRIENDS AS "CARRIE". WHEN WILBERT MARRIED HE WAS 24, AND HIS WIFE WAS 18. HE MARRIED VERNA LOUELLA WELLS, A FARMER'S DAUGHTER, ON DECEMBER 25, 1900, IN DECKERVILLE, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN. SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF BENJAMIN AND EMMA (MERIDITH) WELLS. SHE WAS KNOWN TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY AS "VERNIE".

WILBERT AS A YOUNG MAN FARMED AND RAISED HORSES WITH HIS FATHER CHARLES, BUT WAS NOT VERY CONTENT DOING THIS FOR A LIVING. YEARS LATER HE BECAME A PLUMBER, ALTHOUGH HE LOVED MUSIC AND TRIED TO MAKE A LIVING PLAYING THE VIOLIN IN HIS EARLY TWENTIES. AS HIS FAMILY GREW IT BECAME TOO HARD TO PURSUE MUSIC AS A CAREER. HE MANAGED TO PLAY WEEK ENDS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. VERNIE DIED ON MARCH 11, 1934 IN ARGYLE, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN. SHE WAS PUT TO REST AT THE JOHN R CEMETERY, CEMETERY LOT #17, IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

WILBERT DIED AT THE AGE OF 75 IN VASSAR, TUSCOLA COUNTY, IN MID-MICHIGAN. HE DIED ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1951, AND WAS PUT TO REST AT BYRAN CEMETERY, BYRAN, IN SHIAWASSEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN. WILBERT AND VERNIE HAD FIVE CHILDREN TOGETHER, THEY ARE:

- I LILLIAN L. MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 16, 1904 IN ARGYLE, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- II ROY WINFRED MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 23, 1906 AT HARBOR BEACH, HURON COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- III LEE OTIS MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1908 AT HARBOR BEACH, HURON COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- IV CLEMONS OSCAR MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON JANUARY 3, 1911 AT HARBOR BEACH, HURON COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- V CLARENCE MARTIN MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1913 AT HARBOR BEACH, HURON COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-SIXTH GENERATION-

ROY WINFRED MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 23, 1906 AT HARBOR BEACH, HURON COUNTY, MICHIGAN. HE WAS THE FIRST BORN SON OF WILBERT MARTIN AND VERNA LOUELLA (WELLS) MATTHEWS. ROY, ALONG WITH HIS BROTHERS AND SISTER GREW UP ON THE FARM OF THEIR GRAND-FATHER, CHARLES WILLIAM MATTHEWS. UPON REACHING HIS MID-TEEN YEARS, WENT OUT ON HIS OWN. HE SETTLED HIMSELF IN THE PORT HURON AREA, IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN. THIS IS WHERE HE MET, LATER TO WED, IRENE MARY WARNER. SHE WAS A DAUGHTER OF JONATHAN WESLEY AND MATILDA "TILLY" (PRICE) WARNER. THEY MARRIED ON MAY 8, 1926 IN PORT HURON, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

ROY DID SOME FARMING IN HIS EARLY YEARS, BUT LATER WAS TO BECOME A TOOL & DIE MAKER IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY. HE BOUGHT HIS OWN FORTY ACRE FARM IN YALE, GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN. AFTER RETIRING FROM THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY HE FARMED ON HIS OWN LAND AS A HOBBY, AND TO KEEP HIMSELF BUSY. HE ENJOYED IN HIS LEASURE TIME TO PLAY THE VIOLIN. HE OWNED A FINE ONE THAT HAD BEEN PASSED DOWN TO HIM FROM HIS FATHER. THE VIOLIN HAD BEEN IN THE FAMILY FROM THERE DAYS IN PICKERING TOWNSHIP, ONTARIO, CANADA. IT WAS BROUGHT TO MICHIGAN WITH THOMAS MATTHEWS (A SON OF PETER MATTHEWS) WHEN HE SETTLED HIS FAMILY IN AMADORE, IN THE YEAR 1848.

ROY DIED AT HIS HOME IN YALE ON MAY 15, 1988. HE DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES, IN HIS SLEEP, AT THE AGE OF 81. HE WAS BURIED AT THE PARKVIEW MEMORIAL CEMETERY, LIVONIA, MICHIGAN. DURING ROY AND IRENE'S MARRIAGE THEY HAD THREE CHILDREN, ALL SONS. THEY ARE:

- I WILFRED MARTIN MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON OCTOBER 29, 1926 IN PORT HURON, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- II RICHARD DALE MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1927 IN PORT HURON, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN.
- III KENNETH LLOYD MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 25, 1928 IN PORT HURON, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

THE
MICHIGAN
CENTENNIAL
FAMILY
CERTIFICATE



THE MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

*Takes pleasure in presenting
This special tribute to a descendant of*

CHARLES W. MATTHEWS

*Who settled and lived in
The State of Michigan
In the year 1876 or before*

Roy W. Matthews

Presented, December 31, 1976

Lansing, Michigan

Marian Merrill Dawson *Mary Jane Trout*
President *Director*

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-SIXTH GENERATION-

CLEMONS OSCAR MATTHEWS, WAS BORN AT HARBOR BEACH, MICHIGAN, JANUARY 3, 1911. HE WAS THE SON OF WILBERT MARTIN AND VERNA LOVELLA (WELLS) MATTHEWS. CLEM GREW UP IN HURON COUNTY, MICHIGAN. HE STARTED WORKING ON FARMS FOR HIS ROOM AND BOARD WHEN HE WAS ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD. THIS CONTINUED UNTIL HE WAS FOURTEEN, WHEN HE WENT TO DETROIT, WHERE HE WORKED AT VARIOUS JOBS. IN 1933 HE MARRIED DOROTHY MARIE RICHLEY, AND HAD TWO DAUGHTERS: KATHRYN JEANETTE MATTHEWS, AND BEVERLY JUNE MATTHEWS. KATHRYN NOW LIVES IN FLINT, MICHIGAN, AND BEVERLY IN SPARTA, TENNESSEE. CLEMONS AND DOROTHY WERE DIVORCED IN 1939.

ON JUNE 14, 1941, HE MARRIED LILLION ELEANOR MARSHKE IN DETROIT. THEY HAD TWO SONS: DOUGLAS ROGER MATTHEWS, BORN IN MARCH OF 1942, AND FRANK MARTIN MATTHEWS, BORN IN MAY 1945. CLEM, AS HE WAS KNOWN BY EVERYONE, WORKED IN DETROIT IN THE INDUSTRIAL SHEET METAL TRADE. IN 1959 THEY MOVED TO HOWELL, MICHIGAN, WHERE EACH DAY CLEM HAD TO DRIVE INTO LANSING TO WORK. HE SPENT ABOUT 35 YEARS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SHEET METAL TRADE. IN 1974 CLEM AND LILY MOVED TO ST. GEORGE, UTAH, WHERE THEY RETIRED. IT WAS BACK IN DETROIT, ON JUNE 7, 1959, WHEN CLEM JOINED THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, AND HE HAS LIVED THE GOSPEL FAITHFULLY EVERY DAY SINCE JOINING THE CHURCH.

IN ST. GEORGE EVERYONE KNEW CLEM AS THEIR "HANDY-MAN". BUT HE ALSO PLAYED GUITAR AND SANG IN MANY REST HOMES. HE LOVED HIS FAMILY, HIS WORK, AND HIS MUSIC. IF CLEM HAD LIVED UNTIL JUNE 14, 1991, HE AND LILLY WOULD HAVE CELEBRATED THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. HE MISSED IT BY FIFTEEN DAYS. CLEM HAD ONE SISTER AND THREE BROTHERS: CLARENCE, THE YOUNGEST, WHO LIVES IN SEVIERVILLE, TENNESSEE. CLEM'S SISTER AND TWO BROTHERS PASSED AWAY A FEW YEARS AGO. LILLIAN WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE HER HOME IN ST. GEORGE AMONG HER MANY FRIENDS. CLEM DIED AT HIS HOME IN ST. GEORGE ON THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1991, OF CANCER. HE WAS EIGHTY YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH. CLEM WAS BURIED IN THE ST. GEORGE CITY CEMETERY. HE HAD 19 GRANDCHILDREN, AND 37 GREAT GRANDCHILDREN.

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-SEVENTH GENERATION-

RICHARD DALE MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1927 IN PORT HURON, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN. HE WAS A SON OF ROY WINFRED AND IRENE MARY (WARNER) MATTHEWS. HE WAS A VETERAN, HAVING SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. FOLLOWING THE WAR WAS STATIONED AT THE CHARLESTOWN NAVY BASE IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS. THIS IS WHERE HE MET, LATER TO WED, HELEN FRANCIS SUCKIEL. SHE HAD BEEN A LIFE LONG RESIDENT OF CHARLESTOWN. HELEN WAS A DAUGHTER OF MICHAEL AND ANTONINA (GOSZCYNKA) SUCKIEL. BOTH OF HER PARENTS HAD BEEN BORN IN POLAND, SHE WAS A FIRST GENERATION AMERICAN. DICK AND HELEN WERE MARRIED JULY 13, 1946. THE WEDDING CEREMONY TOOK PLACE IN BOSTON, SUFFOLK COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS WITH THE RECORD OF MARRIAGE RECORDED AT BOSTON CITY HALL.

DICK WAS A MAN WHO LIKED TO WORK WITH HIS HANDS. HE WAS SKILLED IN THE BUILDING TRADES, WITH ELECTRICAL WORK, AND FURNACE REPAIR AND INSTALLATION. IN HIS SPARE TIME HE VERY MUCH ENJOYED RIDING MOTORCYCLES, BOWLING, AND LISTENING TO CHRISTIAN AND COUNTRY MUSIC. HE WAS A KIND AND GENTLE MAN WHO WOULD GIVE A STRANGER A HELPING HAND. DICK'S MARRIAGE TO HELEN FAILED, AND ENDED IN A DIVORCE. THEY HAD TWO CHILDREN DURING THEIR MARRIAGE, BOTH SONS. THEY ARE:

- I RICHARD DALE MATTHEWS JR., HE WAS BORN ON APRIL 12, 1948 AT BOSTON, SUFFOLK COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.
- II ROBERT LOUIS MATTHEWS, HE WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1950 AT PORT HURON, ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

DICK LATER REMARRIED ON NOVEMBER 28, 1953 TO SARAH ELLEN JEFFERY OF CROSWELL, SANILAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN. THEY HAD EIGHT CHILDREN TOGETHER DURING THEIR MARRIAGE. DICK MOVED TO TUSCOLA COUNTY, MICHIGAN IN THE LATE NINETEEN SIXTIES. FIRST LIVING IN THE SMALL VILLAGE OF MAYVILLE LATER TO LIVE IN CARO. AT THE YOUNG AGE OF 57 DICK DIED OF A MASSIVE HEART ATTACK AT HIS HOME IN CARO. HE DIED ON SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1985, AND WAS PUT TO REST AT THE ALMER CEMETERY, CARO, TUSCOLA COUNTY, MICHIGAN. HIS CHILDREN FROM HIS SECOND MARRIAGE ARE:

1. DALE E. MATTHEWS
2. JEFFERY A. MATTHEWS
3. JONATHAN E. MATTHEWS
4. MARY ELLEN MATTHEWS
5. LORRAINE A. MATTHEWS
6. RONALD R. MATTHEWS
7. RHONDA E. MATTHEWS (RHONDA AND RONALD WERE TWINS)
8. JOY ANN MATTHEWS

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-SEVENTH GENERATION-

THE CHILDREN OF RICHARD DALE MATTHEWS SR., AND HIS SECOND WIFE,
SARAH ELLEN (JEFFERY) MATTHEWS:

- I DALE EUGENE MATTHEWS, BORN FEBRUARY 3, 1955, IN POLK COUNTY,
DES MOINES, IOWA.
- II JEFFERY ALLEN MATTHEWS, BORN JUNE 8, 1957, IN ST. CLAIR COU-
NTY, PORT HURON, MICHIGAN.
- III JONATHAN ERROL MATTHEWS, BORN JULY 29, 1960, IN ST. CLAIR
COUNTY, PORT HURON, MICHIGAN.
- IV MARY ELLEN MATTHEWS, BORN SEPTEMBER 29, 1961, IN ST. CLAIR
COUNTY, PORT HURON, MICHIGAN.
- V LORRAINE ALLISON MATTHEWS, BORN JULY 15, 1964, IN POLK COUN-
TY, DES MOINES, IOWA.
- VI RONALD R. MATTHEWS, BORN MAY 25, 1965, IN POLK COUNTY, DES
MOINES, IOWA.
- VII RHONDA E. MATTHEWS, BORN MAY 25, 1965, IN POLK COUNTY, DES
MOINES, IOWA. (RONALD AND RHONDA WERE TWINS)
- VIII JOY ANN MATTHEWS, BORN MARCH 8, 1967, IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY,
PORT HURON, MICHIGAN.

ALL OF DICK AND ELLEN'S CHILDREN LIVE IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.
THE MAJORITY LIVING IN THE PORT HURON AREA OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY.

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-EIGHTH GENERATION-

RICHARD DALE MATTHEWS JR. WAS BORN IN BOSTON, SUFFOLK COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS ON APRIL 12, 1948, AT THE BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL. HE WAS THE FIRST BORN SON OF RICHARD DALE AND HELEN FRANCIS (SUCKIEL) MATTHEWS. HE WAS A VETERAN, HAVING SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY, DURING THE VIETNAM WAR ERA. RICK MARRIED THE FORMER, ROSE MARIE WELCH WHILE STILL IN THE NAVY. THEY MARRIED MAY 23, 1966, AT THE QUONSET POINT NAVAL AIR STATION, QUONSET POINT, RHODE ISLAND. THEIR RECORD OF MARRIAGE IS RECORDED AT CITY HALL, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND. ROSE WAS THE FIRST BORN OF LAWRENCE EMERY AND MILDRED JEAN (HARRINGTON) WELCH. SHE WAS BORN ON JULY 28, 1948, AT MERRY HOSPITAL, IN BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS.

RICK SPENT HIS CHILDHOOD IN CHARLESTOWN, SOUTH BOSTON, AND DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS. WHEN HE WAS STILL 15 YEARS OLD, ROSE AND HER FAMILY MOVED NEXT DOOR TO WHERE RICK AND HIS FAMILY LIVED. ROSE AND RICK WERE TO MARRY THREE YEARS LATER. RICK WAS NEVER MUCH ON SPORTS, BUT ENJOYED MUSIC, DRAWING, AND WORKING WITH HIS HANDS. BY THE END OF THE SIXTIES, BOSTON HAD CHANGED FROM THE CITY THAT ROSE AND RICK HAD GROWN UP IN! IT HAD BECOME AN UNSAFE PLACE TO TRAVEL IN, OR TO RAISE A FAMILY. THE PACE OF THE CITY HAD CHANGED ALSO, IT HAD BECOME A LOT FASTER THAN THEY LIKED. THEY DECIDED TO TRY MID-MICHIGAN, IN TUSCOLA COUNTY, WHERE RICK'S FATHER LIVED. RICK LEFT HIS JOB, AND IN SEPTEMBER OF 1976 HEADED FOR MICHIGAN WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN. HE HAD WORKED IN BOSTON IN SHOPS, IN THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY.

IN MICHIGAN, RICK WORKED WITH HIS FATHER, LEARNING TO BE A FINISH CARPENTER. ROSE WENT BACK TO SCHOOL IN THE MID-EIGHTIES, AND IN 1988, GRADUATED FROM GREAT LAKES JUNIOR COLLEGE, CARO CAMPUS, CARO, MICHIGAN. SHE GRADUATED WITH HONORS, (DEAN'S LIST) AND NOW WORKS IN THE MEDICAL FIELD AS A MEDICAL BILLER. BOTH ROSE AND RICK WERE FROM OLD MICHIGAN PIONEER FAMILIES THAT CAME OVER FROM CANADA. MEMBERS OF BOTH OF THEIR FAMILIES HAD BEEN FORMER UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS. WHEN TIME PERMITS, THEY ENJOY WORKING ON THEIR FAMILY HISTORY, AND TO VISIT THE PLACES THEIR ANCESTORS ONCE LIVED. RICK AND ROSE HAD FOUR CHILDREN, THEY ARE:

- I DORRINE MARIE MATTHEWS, BORN AUGUST 18, 1966 IN BOSTON, SUFFOLK COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.
- II RICHARD WALTER MATTHEWS, BORN AUGUST 17, 1970 IN BOSTON, SUFFOLK COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.
- III MELISSA ANN MATTHEWS, BORN JANUARY 20, 1976 IN BOSTON, SUFFOLK COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.
- IV LAWRENCE DAVID MATTHEWS, BORN JULY 21, 1978 IN LAPEER, LAPEER COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

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- IV LAWRENCE DAVID MATTHEWS, BORN JULY 21, 1978 IN LAPEER, LAPEER COUNTY, MICHIGAN.



The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

TORONTO BRANCH

234 Eglinton Ave. E., Suite 601
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1K5

Phone 489-1783



U.E.L. Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard before the Treaty of Paris in the year 1763 and all their Children and their Descendants by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals affixed to their names

U.E.

*Obiding to their great principle
The Unity of the Empire.*

November 1, 1991

Richard Matthews
707 37th Street S.E. #41
Auburn, Washington
USA 98002

Dear Mr. Matthews,

On behalf of the Toronto Branch Executive and Members, I would like to congratulate you upon receiving your U.E. Certificate, and welcome you as an United Empire Loyalists' member.

You are to be commended for the successful search and proof of your genealogy back to one of Canada's founding families,

We look forward to your continuing support and your encouragement in preserving our history.

Loyally,

Martha Hemphill, U.E.

Martha Hemphill, U.E.
Membership Chairman
Toronto Branch
The United Empire Loyalists'
Association of Canada



"N. B. Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire; and joined the Royal Standard before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their Children, and their Descendants, by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals affixed to their names

U. E.

Alluding to their great principle
The Unity of the Empire."

N^o. MC 6927-91



United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

This is to Certify

that Richard Dale Matthews, Jr.

has provided acceptable documentation proving descent

from Thomas E. Matthews

A United Empire Loyalist

and is therefore registered as a member of this Association

Given under our hands at

*the head office of the
Association, Toronto.*

this 11th day of July 1991

Donald W. Webster
PRESIDENT

Shedden Smith
SECRETARY

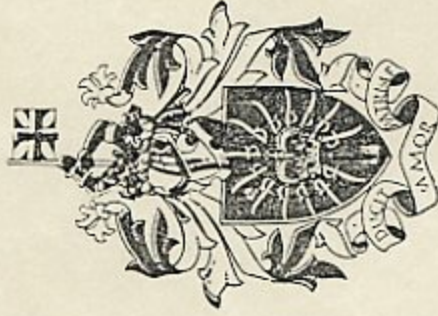


"N. B. Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their Children, and their Descendants, by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals affixed to their names

U. E.

Alluding to their great principle
The Unity of the Empire."

N^o. MC. 6557-90



United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

This is to Certify

that Richard Dale Matthews, Jr.

has provided acceptable documentation proving descent

from Captain Peter Ruttan

A United Empire Loyalist

and is therefore registered as a member of this Association

*Given under our hands at
the head office of the
Association, Toronto.*

this 23rd day of February 1990

A. F. Cooper

PRESIDENT

Angela Johnson

SECRETARY

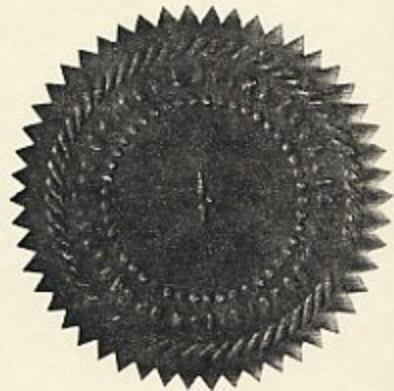


"N. B. Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their Children, and their Descendants by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals affixed to their names

U. E.

Alluding to their great principle
The Unity of the Empire."

N^o. MC 6763-90



United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada

This is to Certify

that Rose Welch Matthews

has provided acceptable documentation proving descent

from Thomas Tondon

A United Empire Loyalist

and is therefore registered as a member of this Association

Given under our hands at

the head office of the
Association, Toronto.

this 17th day of October 1990

David W. Belcourt
PRESIDENT

Angela Johnson
SECRETARY

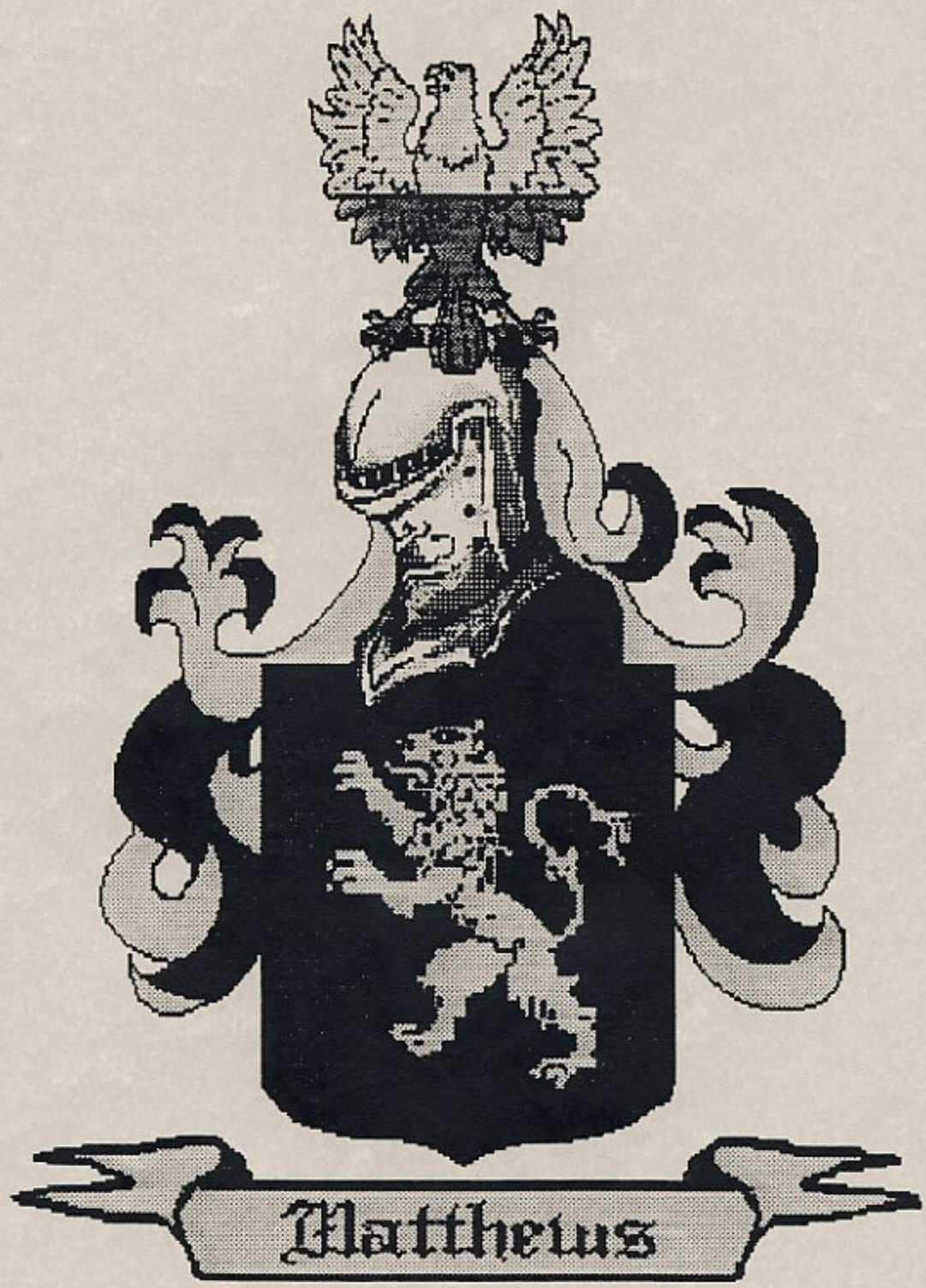
"MATTHEWS FAMILY HISTORY"

-EIGHTH GENERATION-

ROBERT LOUIS MATTHEWS, WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 24, 1950 IN PORT HURON, MICHIGAN WHICH IS LOCATED IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY. BOB WAS THE SECOND BORN CHILD OF RICHARD DALE AND HELEN FRANCIS (SUCKIEL) MATTHEWS SR.. ALTHOUGH BEING BORN IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN BOB GREW UP IN MASSACHUSETTS. SHORTLY AFTER THE BIRTH OF BOB THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN HIS PARENTS FAILED AND ENDED IN DIVORCE. HELEN RETURNED TO MASSACHUSETTS WITH HER TWO SONS FROM HER MARRIAGE TO RICHARD DALE MATTHEWS SR., AND THE TWO BOYS WERE RAISED IN THEIR YOUTH IN CHARLESTOWN, SOUTH BOSTON, DORCHESTER, AND LATER IN THE SUBURBS OUTSIDE OF BOSTON IN A SMALL TOWN CALLED ROCKLAND. IN THE MID-FIFTIES HELEN REMARRIED A MAN BY THE NAME OF ERNEST ROSS LUNBECK III, WHO WAS BORN AND RAISED IN SUMNER, WASHINGTON. (NEAR TACOMA, WASHINGTON) HE WAS STATIONED AT THE BOSTON NAVAL BASE WHILE SERVING IN THE U.S. NAVY.

IN THE SUMMER OF 1967 THE FAMILY MOVED FROM MASSACHUSETTS TO THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. (EXCEPT FOR RICHARD DALE MATTHEWS JR. WHO WENT INTO THE U.S. NAVY) THE FAMILY SETTLED IN A LITTLE TOWN NEAR TACOMA KNOWN AS PUYALLUP. WHILE ATTENDING PUYALLUP HIGH SCHOOL BOB MET, AND DATED HIS FUTURE WIFE, LINDA CAROL DEDMON. LINDA WAS BORN ON FEBRUARY 23, 1951, IN COMPTON, CALIFORNIA WHICH IS LOCATED IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY. THEY WERE LATER TO MARRY ON OCTOBER 11, 1968 IN AUBURN, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON. FOLLOWING SCHOOL BOB WENT TO WORK FOR HIS FATHER-IN-LAW WHO WAS A BUILDING CONTRACTOR. YEARS LATER HE BECAME A BUILDING CONTRACTOR HIMSELF. BOB AND LINDA HAD TWO CHILDREN:

- I ROBERT LEWIS MATTHEWS JR., BORN ON JULY 14, 1970 IN RENTON, WASHINGTON, IN KING COUNTY.
- II CHRISTINA RAQUEL MATTHEWS, BORN ON JULY 18, 1974 IN RENTON, WASHINGTON, IN KING COUNTY.



Mattheus

200th birthday

Our freedom martyr

by Richard Matthews Jr.
This is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Peter Matthews, late of Pickering Township, Ontario.

He was born in Belleville, in the Bay of Quinte Region of Upper Canada in the year 1790.

He was the first born child of Captain Thomas Elmes Matthews, a United Empire Loyalist, and Mary Ruttan Matthews, a United Empire Loyalist herself.

His grandfather was Captain Peter Ruttan of Adolphustown who was a Loyalist as well as a descendant of French Huguenots.

Childhood

Peter was of the first generation to be born in the new country of Canada following the "American Revolutionary War". He spent his childhood working on the family farm with his father and brothers.

The first 10 years were hard ones for the family, as the farm was unspoiled virgin land. Peter married Hannah Major while they were both in their teens.

Volunteered

They were always known by friends and neighbors as good Baptists.

When the War of 1812 came, the Matthews men were eager to defend their new country. The father and oldest sons volunteered.

The father served as a lieutenant in the 3rd Regiment of York (Township, Upper Canada) Militia.

Peter and his brothers Thomas and Daniel served and fought in various battles in the Niagara region. This was a sad time for the family, as two the sons were killed.

Battles

Thomas fell at Lundy's Lane and Peter helped bury him near where he fell. Daniel died in service in the Niagara region also.

Peter and his father returned home safely after the war to work the family farm. Peter's wife Hannah dies young, as life was difficult in those early days.

Peter later married for a second time, and as a result of the two marriages had eight children.

The family was unhappy with the services provided to the rural inhabitants by the government in Toronto. Peter got involved in local reform politics in a small way, and was drawn into the events preceding the Rebellion of 1837.

He was active in the political union movement in

the summer and fall of 1837 which was designed to pressure the British government to grant reforms.

Rebellion

The organizer and leader of the rebellion, William Lyon MacKenzie, chose Peter as his captain from the "Home District Area". Peter led the men from Pickering and nearby townships who joined.

December 7, 1837 came, and the rebellion was crushed. Peter and 10 of his men escaped for a couple of days.

But he was captured on December 10, 1837 at the farm house of John Duncan in the third concession of East York. Like many of the rebels, Peter was defended by the ex-patriot Robert Baskin. Peter was advised to plead guilty.

Hanged

Pleading guilty played into the government's hands and sealed Peter's fate. He was convicted and sentenced to hang in Toronto on April 12, 1838.

The 12th of April arrived, and the hangman was ready for his two victims, Peter Matthews and Samuel Lount.

The other political prisoners were called to the gratings of their cells to witness the executions which were to take place in front of the goal.

With head erect, with calm

eye and firm tread, each of the doomed men mounted the scaffold steps.

Liberties

The last words they had spoken to their comrades were full of hopefulness for the liberties of Canada, and they gloried in the sacred cause for which they were about to die.

Two noble hearts were stilled forever. Their wives were widowed, and their children were made orphans on that fatal day.

Let those call them rebels who will, but surely the Canadian people, whom they loved so well, should only think of them as patriots in life, and as martyrs in their cruel death.

...

(Editor's note - Writer Richard Matthews Jr of 326 Norman St., Caro, Michigan, U.S.A. is a descendant of famous Pickering freedom fighter Peter Matthews. He took the last two paragraphs of this piece from the unveiling speech of J.D. Edgar, member of Parliament, made at the monument to Peter Matthews and Samuel Lount of June 28, 1893, at the Necropolis Cemetery in Toronto.)

Pickering to erect plaque to freedom hero Matthews

By Michael Maunder

A Pickering man who was hanged for treason and buried in a pauper's grave will finally be honored by his home town, nearly 160 years after his ignoble death.

Peter Matthews was a local farmer, one of hundreds who joined William Lyon Mackenzie in 1837 to take up arms against the wealthy oligarchy then entrenched in power in Upper Canada.

They came from all over the new colony: Matthews from the family farm near Brougham; Samuel Lount, a blacksmith from Holland Landing; farmers, merchants and other small people who felt disenfranchised by colonial guardians of privilege.

Examples

It was a futile resistance movement: the brief rebellion quickly flared and was as quickly routed; the farmers who marched down Yonge Street scattered; and in the aftermath, the Brougham farmer and the Holland Landing blacksmith were captured and dealt with, as an example.

They were hanged in Toronto and buried in Potter's Field in April, 1838.

In 1893, benefactors moved their bodies to the Toronto Necropolis.

Although the rebellion itself was futile, it planted the seeds for freedom. British authorities appointed Lord Durham to examine the causes of the unrest, and his report led to responsible government in Canada.

100 years

Next year, on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the memorial at the Necropolis, descendants of Peter Matthews hope to erect a plaque over their forefather's grave, setting the historical record straight and acknowledging him as one of Canada's first fighters for freedom, rather than a traitor.

The plaque would read:

This memorial is to honour the memory of Peter Matthews and Samuel Lount, who, without praise or glory, died for political freedom and a system of responsible government.

Their minds were tranquil and serene

No terror in their looks were seen

Their steps upon the scaffold strong

A moment's pause...their lives were gone.

Peter Matthews was the son of Captain Thomas Elmes Matthews, a United Empire Loyalist, and Mary Ruttan Matthews. He was born in the Bay of Quinte region of Ontario, spending most of his life in Pickering township, in Brougham, on the family's farm.

Here too

Driving force behind the memorial is Matthews' descendant, Richard Matthews, of Caro, Michigan.

Acting Pickering Mayor Maurice Brenner says the town will erect a similar plaque at the Pickering Museum on June 28, 1993 — the same day the Necropolis plaque is unveiled.

The Pickering plaque will be about six miles from the vanished farmstead of the Matthews family.

The poet

In the late 1800's, British poet Rupert Brooke wrote about Canada's promise for the future:

"The breezes have nothing to remember and everything to promise. There walk, as yet, no ghosts of lovers in Canadian lanes...it is possible, at a pinch,

to do without gods. But one misses the dead."

It's Richard Matthews' hope his long-forgotten ancestor will not be missed.

THIS PROJECT HAS TURNED OUT TO BE AN UNEXPECTED PLEASURE FOR ME TO DO OVER THE LAST FIVE OR SO YEARS NOW! IT STARTED OUT AS SOMETHING I FELT I WAS SOMEWHAT FORCED TO DO! I WAS AFRAID THE OLD FAMILY STORIES AND LEGENDS WOULD BE LOST FOREVER IF ANYMORE TIME WENT BY WITHOUT RECORDING THEM. THIS WORK IS THE VERY BEST I FEEL I'M CAPABLE OF DOING WITH MY LIMITED WRITING SKILLS. IT IS MY HOPE THAT IN THE NOT TO DISTANT FUTURE SOMEONE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON RESEARCHING OUR FAMILY HISTORY. IT WAS MY DESIRE TO FIND OUT WHERE CAPTAIN THOMAS ELMES MATTHEWS, THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST HAD LIVED PRIOR TO THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN THE COLONIES. MY LATE GRANDFATHER, ROY WINFRED MATTHEWS HAD TOLD ME THE FAMILY HAD LIVED IN PENNSYLVANIA. I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DOCUMENT THIS.

ANOTHER GOAL I HAD WAS TO FIND OUT WHO HIS PARENTS WERE, AND WHERE THEY LIVED DURING THE TIME OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR. THE NAME "ELMES" IS NOT A COMMON NAME. I THINK THIS NAME MAY BE THE KEY TO FINDING WHERE THE FAMILY LIVED IN EARLY PENNSYLVANIA. PERHAPS THE NAME IS TO BE FOUND ON SOME OLD PRE-REVOLUTIONARY WAR CENSUS! I HAVE COLLECTED AND RECORDED AS MANY OF THE OLD STORIES AS I COULD FROM THE EXISTING SOURCES AVAILABLE TO ME. AT THIS WRITING ONLY ONE MEMBER OF THE FAMILY SURVIVES THAT KNOWS THE OLD STORIES, MY GREAT-UNCLE CLARENCE MARTIN MATTHEWS. LAST MONTH HE TURNED 82 YEARS OLD. HE IS A WONDERFUL MAN WHO I AM VERY FOND OF. HE WAS A LOT OF HELP WITH NAMES AND DATES OF FAMILY EVENTS. I HAD HOPED THAT MORE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY WOULD HAVE TAKEN AN INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT, BUT GENEALOGY ISN'T OF INTEREST TO EVERYONE I GUESS!

I MUST ADMIT I WASN'T REALLY INTERESTED IN THE FAMILY HISTORY UNTIL MY GRANDFATHER HAD PASSED AWAY WITHOUT RECORDING IT! HE HAD BEEN DOING RESEARCH FOR ABOUT TEN YEARS BEFORE HIS DEATH, BUT ALL HIS WORK WAS LOST WITH HIS PASSING! I WISH WHEN I WAS YOUNGER AND WAS BEING TOLD THE OLD STORIES THAT I HAD PAID MORE ATTENTION TO MORE OF THE DETAILS! I'M PRETTY MUCH SATISFIED WITH THE WAY THIS HAS TURNED OUT. IT HAS BEEN A LOT OF FUN FINDING DISTANT CANADIAN COUSINS THAT WERE LOST TO THE MICHIGAN BRANCH OF THE FAMILY SINCE OUR LEAVING ONTARIO, CANADA SO MANY YEARS AGO. WE ALL SHARE A WONDERFUL EXCITING HERITAGE.

RICHARD DALE MATTHEWS JR., U.E.
OCTOBER 15, 1994

Richard Dale Matthews Jr.

Two-post marker
Same Text Both Sides
2" Caption
1-1/2" Text
Sanilac County
Worth Township

MATTHEWS FARM

1 In 1848 Thomas and Margaret Spencer
2 Matthews came to Worth Township from
3 Ontario, Canada, following other farm
4 families who migrated from Upper
5 Canada to Michigan. Matthews's
6 grandfather, Thomas Elms Matthews, a
7 Loyalist during the American Revolu-
8 tion, left New York for Upper Canada
9 after the war. Young Thomas's father,
10 Peter, was executed in Toronto in 1838
11 for his role in the 1837-38 Rebellion
12 of Upper Canada. Today, historians
13 consider him a patriot and a martyr.
14 This farmhouse, built in 1852,
15 exemplifies plank-frame construction
16 commonly used in Upper Canada during
17 the early nineteenth century. An
18 English hay barn also survives. Thomas
19 lived quietly, farming and raising his
20 seven children. He died in 1893 at age
21 seventy-one. The Matthews Farm is
22 listed in the National Register of
23 Historic Places.

Bureau of Michigan History, Michigan Department of State
Registered Local Site No. 1926
Property of the State of Michigan, 1995



BUREAU OF MICHIGAN HISTORY
Michigan Department of State

INVENTORY FORM

Michigan Historical Commission Meeting
February 16, 1995

Site (Historic Name): Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews Farm
(Other Names): Meadowcroft Farm
Address/Location: 5916 East Gardner Line Road
Municipal Unit: Worth Township
County: Sanilac

Owner: Gerald W. Nyquist, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: 5916 East Gardner Line Road
Post Office, Zip Code: Croswell, MI 48422

Description

Original Use: farm
Present Use: residence

Description Statement:

The Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews Farm is located in the Thumb Region of Michigan in rural Sanilac county between the Black River and Lake Huron. The house and its outbuildings sit on a ten-acre parcel of land, a portion of which is being leased for agricultural production. The farmhouse was constructed in 1852, according to Matthews family oral traditions, by Thomas Matthews after the Canadian farmhouse he grew up in Pickering Township, Ontario. Further, the tax rolls show an increase consistent with an 1852 date of construction. In addition, the present owner describes a construction technique based on his various restoration projects that can only date to the 1850s. It is believed Matthews influenced its design and had a hand in its construction. The house is a one-and two-story gable-front-and-wing building of classical design, constructed with locally available building materials. The structure has vertical plank framing with weatherboard siding, a fieldstone foundation and an asphalt roof. There is a shed porch within the L formed by the upright and wing. The decorative porch trim as added later, perhaps as late as the 1870s. The vergeboards are a recent addition. The only surviving outbuilding is an English rectangular hay barn with a gabled roof. There are three historical archaeological sites: they include a well, rubbish mound and the remains of a log house. The property is well-maintained and retains a high degree of historic integrity. The only change to the original footprint of the house is a recent, ten-by-ten-foot addition at the southeast corner. The structure remains in its original location, and its setting is nearly unchanged. The original design and workmanship have also been retained.



This dwelling is located about 25 yards south of East Gardner Line Road, on a rectangular parcel with a north-south axis, one-quarter of a mile deep by 110 yards wide. The property includes a garage, pole building and barn along with the historical archaeological sites. The garage is just off of the southwest corner of the house, the barn is 92.3 yards south of the garage with the pole building approximately 13.3 yards east of the barn. The layout of the house and outbuildings is perfectly linear. The garage and pole building are recent constructions and are non-contributing structures.

The Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews House is roughly two perpendicular rectangles with the ten-by-ten-foot addition projecting from the rear corner of the front gable end. The construction technique of this house is Canadian in its derivation. According to the present owner, the exterior walls are composed of vertical, rough-sawn planks two inches thick and twelve inches wide. These planks stand on a hand-hewn sill beam that rests on a stone foundation. The first floor walls feature a double layer of planks, overlapped halfway onto one another producing a four inch thickness. The second-story floor level, creating a two-inch wide shelf that supports beams that support the floor joists. All of the beams are attached to one another at the corners of the house with wooden pins. The vertical planks are attached to one another and to the beams with cut nails and the occasional wooden pin. The weatherboard is nailed to the vertical planks on the outside, and the wooden lath and trim are nailed to the plank on the inside. This plank frame method of construction is commonly found among the early 19th-Century farmhouses of Ontario. The architecture of the house is said to resemble the farm home in which Thomas spent his first sixteen years back in Pickering, Ontario, Canada, according to the Matthews family historian.

The gable-front portion of the house is two stories in height with the one-story wing. There is an enclosed back porch on the south side of the wing. The house has fieldstone basement walls with a concrete floor; the original floor was dirt. Below the kitchen there are remnants of a cistern in the southwest corner of the front-gable section. The gable front is symmetrical facing East Gardner Line Road having two-over-two sash windows with shutters. There is an attic vent, as well, on the front. All windows are two-over-two sash windows with shutters and a fronton cap. The same treatment can be found on the doors, including the new addition, the only exception being the door to the screened porch on the wing. The corners of the one- and two-story sections of the house are treated with attenuated classical antae, with center panels, topped with capitals. Under the eave overhang is a broad frieze band. The final decorative element under the eave is the vergeboard, a modern addition.



The interior retains the original floor plan. The gable-front upright has the parlor across the front of the house with the stairways, pantry with an added bathroom, and kitchen behind. The ten-by-ten foot addition was put on the southeast corner of this section of the house. The one-story wing has the dining room and a bedroom. The front and back porches extend off this wing. A deck has been added by the current owner to the southwest corner of the one-story wing giving the house a square appearance. There are three bedrooms and a bathroom, which has been added by the current owner, on the second floor of the gable-front. All of the original pine woodwork remains on both levels; however, it has been heavily repaired, so that the current owner has painted it rather than using stain.

The hay barn is the only original outbuilding remaining on the farm. This is a basic English rectangular barn with a gabled roof. It is roughly thirty-four by fifty feet in ground dimensions. Constructed of hand-hewn beams with mortise and tenon joints, it has vertical rough-sawn siding. In the gable of the barn is a trolley that runs on a wooden rail to support a hay rope used with a fork to unload wagons and lift hay to the mow. The date of the barn is not known; however, it is believed to date to the construction of the house.

Finally, there are three historical archaeological sites contributing to this nomination. There is a well, a rubbish mound, and the foundation of the log house. The house was occupied by the Thomas Matthews family from 1852 to 1854, when the farmhouse was completed. The deposits in the well and on the rubbish mound likely date from 1848 through the 1940s. These archaeological sites are well preserved and protected by the current land owner. In addition, there was a privy, the location of which has been lost.

Significance

Themes: P3\P4\AV\EX

Construction Dates: 1852-1893

Architect/Builder: unknown

Significance Statement:

The Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews Farm represents a period in our history during which a large number of Canadian farm families migrated to the Thumb Area of Michigan. Initially these families came in flight from prosecution for their involvement in the Rebellion of Upper Canada of 1837-38; others, like the Matthews family, came because their families and friends had migrated into the area before them. Most of the pioneer families were actively involved in the rebellion against the government in Toronto. The settlement of Sanilac County by these Canadians culminated a pattern from New York to Upper Canada in response to being loyalist during the American Revolution and then to Michigan. The farmhouse built by Matthews exemplifies plank-frame construction commonly used in early nineteenth-century Upper Canada. There were several outbuilding including

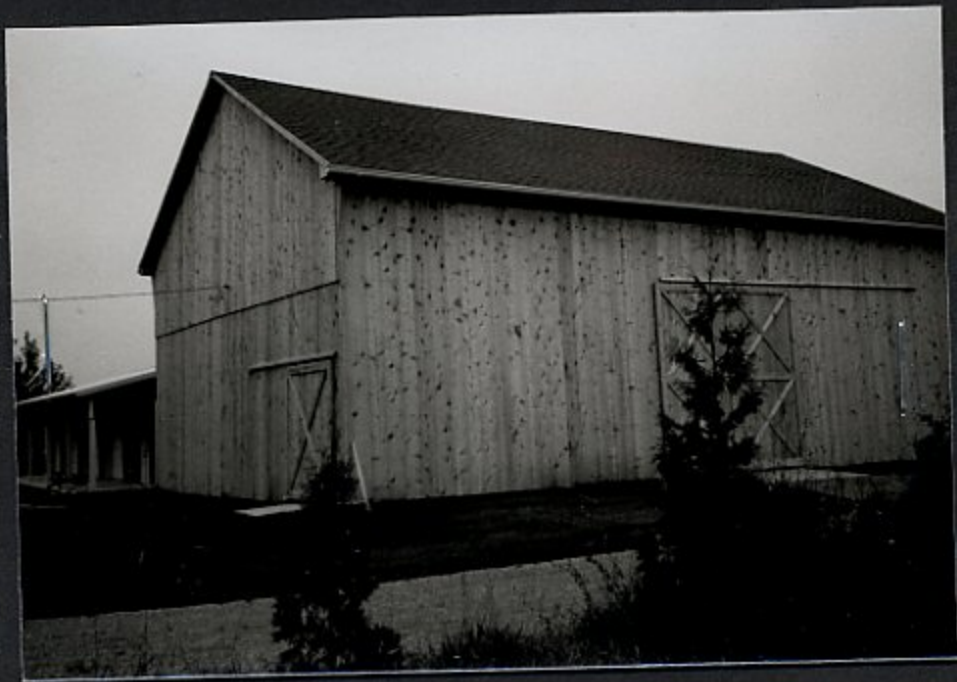
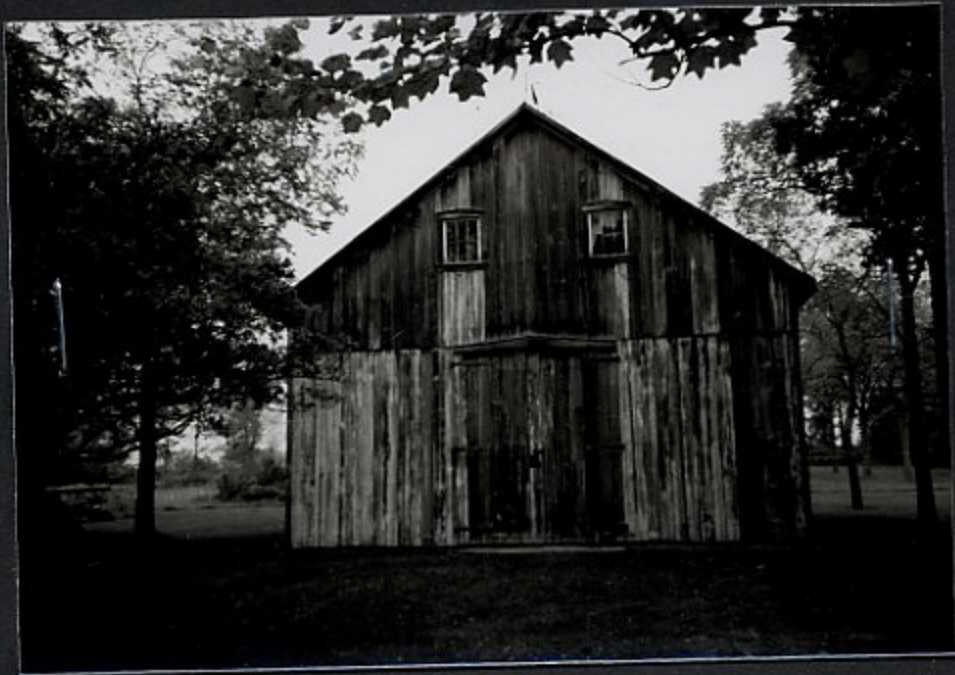


a common New England rectangular hay barn that remains to this day. There is also evidence of three potential historical archaeological sites that are likely to yield insights into nineteenth and early twentieth century farm life for these Canadian emigres.

Thomas Matthews was born in 1822, into a family with a long tradition of patriotism and loyalty to Canada and the Crown. His grandfather, Thomas Elmes Matthews, was a United Empire Loyalist and a resident of New York prior to the American Revolution. After the war, he left New York for Canada and is said to have gotten lost in the woods and to have been rescued near starvation by Captain Peter Ruttan, another United Empire Loyalist, who had taken up residence in British North America. Thomas Elmes Matthews was nursed back to health in the Ruttan household and fell in love with the captain's seventeen year old daughter Mary. After her eighteenth birthday, she and Matthews eloped. Mary Nast Wherry in The Family and I, indicated their first son, Peter, was born within a year of the marriage.

Thomas Elmes Matthews was "granted land in Marysburg Township and then in Sidney Township" according to Mary Bentley's Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol. VII, near Belleville, Ontario, Canada at the headwaters of the St. Lawrence River at Lake Ontario. The same source indicates that "about 1799 the family moved to Pickering Township, where Thomas obtained 350 acres and Mary 200 acres" from the Canadian government for their loyalty to the Empire. "In Pickering the Matthews family was quite public-spirited, contributing to the building of a school and working to improve the major road in the area" again, according to Bentley. During the War of 1812, father and sons served in the Canadian militia. Thomas Elmes Matthews died in August 1819. Matthews and his widow, Mary Ruttan Matthews, had been very patriotic and seem to have imbued their children with the same sense of patriotism and civic mindedness.

Son, Peter followed closely the family tenets of service to community and country. Peter was a sergeant in the Canadian militia during the War of 1812. He married Hannah Major, probably in 1810, and they had eight children. Thomas was one of their sons. Bentley says, the Peter Matthews family "was unhappy with the services provided to the rural inhabitants by the government at Toronto." The Constitutional Act of 1791 had given power to "an official oligarchy . . . known as the Family Compact." The Family Compact identified with the Church of England, "a decided minority in the province; and thus the political struggle took on the colour of a religious issue, into which economic grievances entered as well," according to the Encyclopedia Canadiana. As a result, Peter became actively involved "in the political union movement of the summer and fall of [1837], which was designed to pressure the British government to grant reforms," Bentley said.



Matthews was selected for a leadership role in the rebellion because he was a prosperous farmer, who was well-respected and liked by his neighbors.

During the Rebellion of 1837-38, Peter Matthews was given responsibility for about sixty men from the local community, who all volunteered "to take part in the uprising planned by William Lyon Mackenzie," Bentley said. Matthews and his men were assigned responsibility for creating a diversion to prevent the government forces from attacking their headquarters, until reinforcements were in place. "Matthews's party killed one man and set the bridge and some houses on fire before being driven off by Loyalist forces. The rebellion failed that day and Matthews fled, but he was captured in a farmhouse in York Township," also according to Bentley. Peter Matthews was arrested on December 14, 1837, and he pleaded guilty to a charge of treason. His case was heard and determined by a special oyer and terminer, he was found guilty and was sentenced to be executed. The execution was carried out on April 12, 1838, according to the author of The Life and Times of Wm. Lyon Mackenzie, the leader of the rebellion. Peter was pardoned in 1848 and had come to be known as a patriot and a hero.

Thomas was a lad of sixteen when his father was executed. There are scant details of his life from 1838-48 when he migrated to Worth Township. According to the family historian, his mother, Hannah, left Canada and migrated to Michigan after the unsuccessful rebellion that cost her husband his life. It is not known whether Thomas accompanied his mother on this trip. The oral history suggests she remained in the states for a short time before returning to Canada. Thomas did not permanently leave Canada until 1848 after the death of an older brother, according to the family historian, Richard Matthews, in Kindred Spirits. It was also in 1848, when the crown returned Peter Matthews's property, which it had seized after his conviction.

Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews and their infant daughter settled in Worth Township in the Spring of 1848. "A number of the former rebel families had settled in this area following the uprising. Among these families were the Wixsons, formerly of Pickering Township, and close friends of the Peter Matthews family," Matthews said.

Public records indicate Thomas Matthews was granted a patent by the State of Michigan to forty acres of land in Section 16 on March 2, 1848. According to the patent, Matthews purchased the forty acres for one hundred and sixty dollars. There is no evidence, however, that a structure was ever constructed on this parcel. The abstract indicates he sold it on March 24, 1852, one month before he purchased the eighty acres in Section 22 for six hundred dollars on which he built his farmstead. The eighty acres consisted of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter and the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter.



Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews had four children, Samantha born in Canada and three sons all born after they migrated to Michigan. There is little official information concerning Margaret Spencer. We can deduce she was born in Canada in 1829 or 1830. She married Thomas in 1846, at the age of sixteen or seventeen. Margaret appears on the 1850 and the 1860 U.S. Population Schedules as the wife of Thomas Matthews. Then on December 21, 1862, at the age of forty Thomas Matthews married Catharine Cook, a girl of eighteen. It is presumed Margaret died during the interim; however, there is no record of Margaret's death. There is little mention of Matthews except in public documents recording births, deaths, deeds, and the U.S. census. He appears to have lead a rather uneventful life as compared to that of his ancestors. Prior to his death on May 19, 1893, the Matthews farm even managed to escape destruction from three forest fires in Sanilac County, namely the 1864 fire and two fires one in 1871 and the other in 1881. There is no record of public service, the only mention of him is that he was a farmer. The Matthews farmstead survives to represent the early migration of Canadians to the Thumb in the wake of the 1837-38 rebellion. The house on the property, although a typical midwestern American upright-and-wing building, reflects the Upper Canada origins of its early owners in its plank frame construction.

The farmstead is also significant for its historical archaeological potential. Farmstead sites are a source of data on agricultural settlement in Michigan. Individual sites may yield a variety of types of information, including data on the types of buildings that made up the complex, the spatial layout of the buildings and land, and the way the landscape in and around the complex was altered over the years. Examining these aspects of a number of farmsteads from different time periods can contribute to understanding agrarian development in a region over time. This development process might be manifested in changes in the size and composition of farm complexes, the distribution of farmsteads across a region, the economic status of farmers, household size, and so forth.

An example of the kind of research to which farmstead sites are important is a study on agricultural settlement patterns in southern Michigan which focuses on the evolution of frontier economies. Sanilac County is ideal for this kind of research because Thomas Matthews and his friends were the initial settlers in the mid-nineteenth century, following on the heels of the land speculators and the lumbermen.

The farm's potential to provide archaeological data has not been evaluated. However, such locations as foundation remains, garbage dumps, wells and privy sites are all likely to retain cultural material which could provide insights into nineteenth century farm life for this group of Canadian settlers in Sanilac County.

Unveiling Gerald W. Nyquist and
Richard D. Matthews, Jr.

Acceptance Gerald W. Nyquist

Reflections Richard D. Matthews, Jr.

Closing Lee Cork

Reception

**ABOUT THE MARKER
LANDSCAPING**

The two flower urns were generously donated by the Richard D. Matthews Family, in memory of Rick's great-great-great grandfather Thomas Matthews. These antique urns were originally located at Thomas's grave in the Croswell Cemetery, six miles from this Farm, and are thought to have been placed there in 1893, the year of his death.

Native American and Canadian lilies, planted on opposite sides of the Marker, commemorate the historic efforts of the Matthews pioneers on both sides of the U.S.A. - Canadian border.

BUREAU OF HISTORY
INVENTORY FORM

The Thomas and Margaret Spencer Matthews Farm meets the criterion for designation in the State Register of Historic Sites under criteria I for the pioneer settlers who left Canada to make their home in the Thumb of Michigan in response to the political upheaval following the Rebellion of 1837-38; criteria III for the plank frame construction technique derived from Upper Canada; and, criteria IV for its historical archaeological potential to yield information regarding early farm life in Sanilac County. The State Historic Preservation Office recommends listing under the local level of significance.

State Register Designation

(L/S and number): L1926

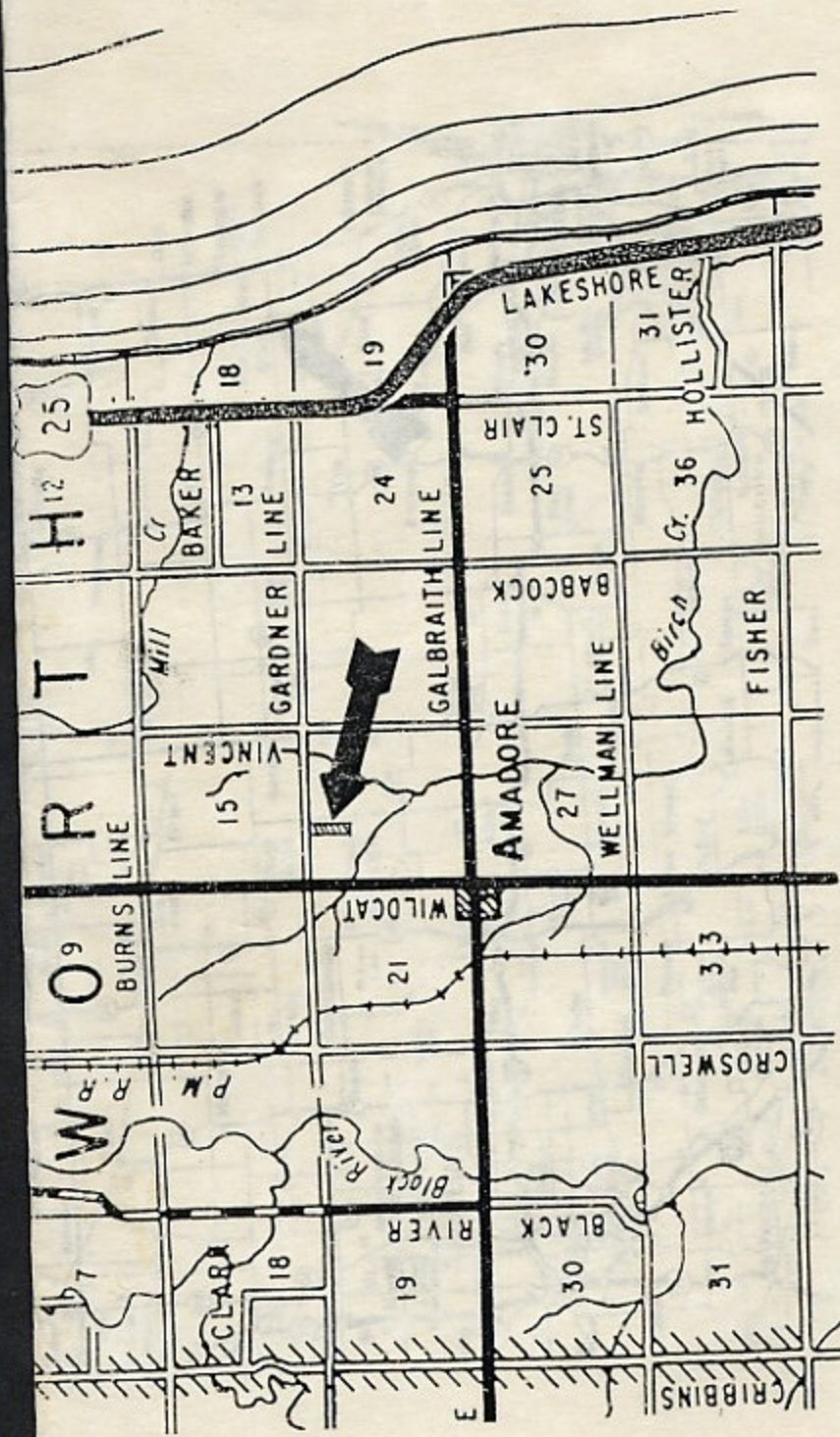
Marker Name:

Form Prepared by: Carrel Cowan-Ricks

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION



MATTHEWS FARM



MAP OF WORTH TOWNSHIP, LOCATING AMADORE
 AND THE MATTHEWS FARM (AT ARROW)
 (One inch = 1.2 miles)

Michigan Historic Site No. L1926

THOMAS AND MARGARET SPENCER MATTHEWS FARM

was listed in the

STATE REGISTER

on February 16, 1995

by the
MICHIGAN
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

President

Robert J. Edwards



of the
MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT
OF STATE

Secretary of State

Carroll D. Miller

