

## CHURCH, MERRICK, COMSTOCK, JOHNS FAMILIES of ONTARIO & QUEBEC

Nathaniel Church married on 3 Jan. 1727 in Hadley, Hampden Co., MA to Rachel McCranney. Nathaniel died in 1790 at Brattleboro, VT. (VIR)

Their son, Malachi Church was born 24 June 1732 in Hadley MA (VIR) and married on 30 April 1756 at Westfield MA (VIR) to Elizabeth Mills who was born 7 Oct. 1734 at Salem. MA. Malachi died in 1776 in St. Jean, Quebec. (VIR)

Malachi Church moved to Brattleboro VT and in April 1771, Daniel Whipple, High Sheriff of Cumberland Co., VT, issued a warrant, executed by Constable John Alexander, to number the inhabitants of Brattleborough. From that list the following Church families are listed by heads of household:

Nathaniel Church  
Timothy Church  
Nathaniel Church the second  
David Church  
Jonathan Church

Malachi was not the only Loyalist in the family and was a servant of the British forces during the Revolutionary War as were two of his sons: (Hist. Of Vermont-Brattleboro). Sonia Glines, a descendant, reported: "Malachi was employed in the Intelligence Service and was appointed a Captain in the corps of Queen's Rangers, being formed by Col. Robert Rogers of Rogers' Ranger fame. The father and son joined the British on Lake Champlain in 1776 and retired to Montreal for the winter where his father died soon after."

Sonia adds further information: "At the outbreak of the American Revolution, three of Nathaniel's sons declared for the King, while the remaining four sided with the rebels. Malachi, the second son, and pioneer of the Church family of the Bay of Quinte district, joined Gov. Tryon in 1775 accompanied by his son, Oliver, then a youth of 20."

1. Oliver Church born 1756; married 1792 to Jemima Richards born 1765. She was the daughter of John Richards, U.E. Oliver died 9 July 1817
2. Jonathan Mills Church was born 26 Oct. 1760 and died 31 May 1846 in Ontario but he is buried in Aylmer, Quebec. Jonathan was married three times:
  1. Jerusha Johns married on 22 May 1786 in VT; she died 1 July 1795
  2. Mary Munsall married on 11 May 1797; she died 3 Dec. 1812
  3. Ursula Row married on 14 Jan. 1814.

The known children of Oliver Church and Jemima Richards are:

1. Elizabeth Church bc 1783; O.C. May 1803
2. Mary Church born 24 Sept 1786; died 1 Oct. 1853; she married William T. Pruy of Fredericksburgh Ontario on 3 April 1807. O.C. 26 Jan. 1808.
3. Malachi Church, son of Oliver and Jemima, bapt. 9 July 1788 and died 16 Feb. 1789
4. Eleanor Church, bapt. 26 Dec. 1789; died 3 Dec. 1869. O.C. 16 Feb. 1811
5. William Church bapt. 5 Feb. 1791; died 1851. O.C. 9 July 1817

It is thought that Jemima died as the next child was baptized at Fredericksburg, Ontario:

6. John Oliver Church, son of Oliver and Mary, baptized 25 Aug. 1804
7. Archibald Garrett, son of Oliver and Mary, bapt. 9 Aug 1807
8. James Alexander Church, son of Oliver and Mary, bapt 20 Dec. 1812.

The known children of Jonathan Mills Church b 1760, d 31 May 1846 and his first wife Jerusha Johns whom he married on 22 May 1786 are as follows. (See end notes on Jerusha Johns)

Jonathan Mills Church and Jerusha Johns – children:

1. Susannah Church born 25 Feb. 1787; married Samuel Brooker of Elizabethtown. O.C. 25 March 1806
2. Hannah Church born 14 Jan. 1790; married Abel Newman of Elizabehtown. O.C. 2 Dec. 1806. Abel was born about 1785 based on the census of Wolford Ont. in 1817.  
Children (Newman)  
Jonathan bc 1807  
Jacob bc 1809  
Jerusha bc 1813  
Sally bc 1815
3. Daniel John Church b 17 Sept 1791. He married Claramanda DeWolfe who was born 6 Sept. 1808 and died 21 Oct. 1896 and is buried in the Barber Cemetery in Leeds, Ontario O.C. 5 Nov. 1835
4. Jonathan Mills Church born 19 May 1794 and died 31 May 1843. O.C. 5 April 1820

Known children of Jonathan Mills Church and his second wife, Mary Munsell, whom he married on 11 May. 1797. Mary died 3 Dec. 1812.

5. Sarah Church b. 18 Oct. 1799; married William Booth of Elizabethtown (Smart Marr.) on 31 Dec. 1823. O.C. 23 June 1824 and 17 Dec. 1840.
6. Jerusha Church born 4 May 1798; died 27 Dec. 1856 at 60 years; buried Barber Cemetery in Leeds. She married Selah Hawks who was born 11 Dec. 1790, probably in Deerfield, MA, son of Waitstill Hawks (1741-20 Feb. 1811) and Ann Spofford, whom he married on 22 April 1771. They lived in the Turnip Yard in Deerfield, Franklin Co., MA. Ann died in Oct. 1838 in Canada. Selah Hawks had a sister, Abigail Hawks, (1776-1839) who went to Canada, and a brother, George Hawks (b. 1782) who also went to Canada. Selah Hawks died 10 Jan. 1857 at 67 years and his wife, Jerusha Church Hawks, died 27 Dec. 1856 at 60 years. Both are buried in the Barber Cemetery, Leeds Co., Ont.
7. Basil R. Church of Wolford Canada b 8 Oct. 1801; married 1)Emily Lawrence on 26 Feb. 1822 (Smart Marr.). O.C. 28 Nov. 1839. Emily was bc 1797 and died 23 Sept. 1831 at 34 years; she is buried in the Union Cemetery at Merrickville, Canada 2)Jerusha \_\_\_ died 10 Mar. 1835 at 21 years 8 mos and is buried in the St. James Cemetery in Maitland, Canada. 3)Mary Ann Hayden born 18 April 1807; died 5 Feb. 1877. Basil's actual dob was 28 Aug. 1800 (and the 1801 date is probably a baptismal date) and he died 5 April 1858; Basil and Mary Ann Church are buried in the Union Cemetery at Merrickville.
8. Hiram Turner Munsell born 15 Jan. 1804 and died 14 Sept. 1804
9. Peter Howard Church of Wolford, born Brockville Canada on 12 Aug. 1805 and

died 20 April 1875 at Hull Quebec. He married Sylvia Comstock Collar, born 27 June 1815, daughter of Elisha Collar Jr . (1785-1854) and Charlotte **Merrick** (1791-1867). Sylvia died at Aylmer Quebec on 8 July 1881. Sylvia's mother, Charlotte **Merrick**, was the daughter of William **Merrick** and his wife, Sylvia **Comstock** who were Loyalists. Sylvia **Comstock** was a sister of Levi **Comstock** and Lavinia Smyth and Aaron **Comstock** who were Loyalists and claimed their UE status through stepfather, Ephraim Eysers. William **Merrick** received part of his land which he petitioned for as an early settler. (Source: Archives of Canada)

10. Benjamin Ruggles Munsell born 15 Nov. 1807.

11. Horatio Nelson Church of Wolford born 14 Dec. 1810 . O.C. 19 Dec. 1833

Known children of Jonathan Mills Church and his third wife, Ursula Rowe whom he married on 14 Jan. 1814:

12. Hiram Turner Church born 1815; died 24 Mar. 1816

13. Emily Church born 12 Sept. 1820

Additional notes on Peter Howard Church and wife, Sylvia Comstock Collar:

Peter was a doctor and moved with wife, Sylvia, to Aylmer Quebec in the early 1830's. Two of their homes are listed on the local Aylmer historic register. The first home was on Eardly Road and Front St. in Aylmer. It was a one and one-half level log house, built about 1832. A one level frame extension which was attached was the portion where Peter saw his patients. That house remained in the Church family until 1880. The second home of Peter and Sylvia was on Friend St. and built of stone, which Peter purchased in the 1860's. Subsequently one of their sons, Dr. Ruggles Church, occupied the house. Stone additions at the rear and east side date from the 1860's.

Known children of Dr. Peter Howard Church and his wife, Sylvia Comstock Collar:

1. Levi Ruggles Church, M.D., born 1836 in Aylmer and died 1892. He married 3 Sept. 1859 in Montreal to Eliza Erskine Bell who was born 1 June 1836 and died 24 June 1900. She was the daughter of William Bell.
2. Coller Munsell Merrick Church M.D., was born 1834 at Hull, Quebec and died 1 Sept. 1889 at Aylmer. He married Susan Hodgins who died in 1911
3. Charles Howard Church M.D., born 15 Aug. 1838 at Hull Quebec and died 1 Sept. 1873 in Montreal. He married Fannie Morrison

## JOHNS FAMILY

Notes on Jerusha Johns, first wife of Jonathan Mills Church:

It would seem that Jarusha Johns, who died in VT in 1784, wife of Benjamin was not the Jarusha who married Jonathan Mills Church, but Jonathan's first wife was probably the daughter of Solomon Johns and Susanna Bucklin.

Sharon Starkey, a direct descendant of Solomon Johns (born 24 Feb 1750, Sharon Twp, Litchfield CT VIR) and Susanna Bucklin, tells of Solomon Johns born in the town of Sharon, New Haven Litchfield Co, CT. He was the son of Benjamin Johns and Mary Allis. Because his mother died shortly after his birth it is likely that Jerusha Johns, his stepmother, took care of him as he grew up in Amenia, New

York. Solomon and his father acted as land speculators and Solomon acquired land prior to 1775 in Clarendon, Rutland Co VT. He married Susanna Bucklin on 8 October 1775 in Rhode Island (VIR) and their first son, David Bucklin Johns was probably born in Vermont in the latter part of 1776. Solomon died at the age of 35 in the spring of 1786 from the fall of a tree at their new home in Elizabethtown Canada. The VIR of Vermont show the death of Jarusha Johns on 23 April 1784 at Clarendon, VT (VIR) age 71, bc 1713, wife of Benjamin Johns.

Other children of Benjamin Johns and Mary: 1)Solomon Johns b 20 Feb. 1745 in Sharon and died 31 July 1750 2)Stephen Johns born 14 Oct. 1734 at Bolton Twp, in Tolland CT 3)Benjamin Johns b 17 Oct. 1731 in Bolton 4)Sarah Johns born 30 May 1748 in Sharon CT 5)Daniel Johns born 4 Mar. 1737 in Bolton CT 6)Mary born 2 Jan 1729 in Bolton 7)Naomy born 4 Mar. 1740

Susanna Bucklin was the daughter of David Bucklin and Abigail Waldo who were married in 1749 and became residents of Pomfret, Windham Co, Ct. Susanna was born there and her parents removed to Coventry, Kent Co., RI about 1760. Sharon Starkey speculates that Susanna's very wealthy family, which was involved in many ventures, provided the opportunity for Solomon Johns and Susanna to meet. It was after their marriage in 1775 and the move to the Green Mountains of Vermont that they began their family with David Bucklin Johns. Although Starkey states that Solomon's father and stepmother lived in the area, it was a harsh standard of living, one that was completely opposite of the lifestyle she had enjoyed before her marriage. Solomon's involvement in the Rev. War in 1777 created a condition of exile and Solomon, Susanna and their children were in a refuge camp at Machiche. It was from Machiche that they began the long journey to Elizabethtown and began the years of additional hardships. After Solomon's death in 1786, his brother Daniel, came from Vermont to help the family and later became the guardian of his nephews David and Solomon, Jr. Daniel, the third son apparently died as an infant. However, the ration list drawn up between Sept. 1783 and June of 1784, lists the family of Solomon Johns as including 2 female children under 6.

As an interesting side note, the Land Board Minute Book lists the petition for Daniel Jones, after the petition notices for Levi and Abigail Comstock who the great aunt and uncle of Sylvia Comstock Collar who married Peter Howard Church.

“Daniel Jones on behalf of the Heirs of the deceased Lt. Solomon Johns—received a petition from Daniel Jones as Guardian to the Heirs of the deceased Lt. Solomon Johns, in behalf of said heirs, Praying the benefit of the Order of the 22 October 1788. He informs the Board that the deceased Solomon Johns received 500 acres of Land under the Instructions of the year 1783 and 200 acres the bounty of 1787. There remains due to his Heirs by virtue of said Order 1300 hundred acres: which the Board beg leave to recommend may be granted to the aforesaid Guardian, for the benefit of the Heirs of the deceased.” RG1,L4,Vol. 9, Reel C 14027 Canada Archives. Note: Daniel Jones is the actual spelling in the Minute Book, whereas the balance of the petition spells Johns as the surname.

Sources: Lorraine Lattimer, Marg Hunter, Sharon Starkey, Sonia Glines, Myrtle Johnson; Janet Schalk, Archives of Canada; cemetery records and tombstone records; census records; Hist. Soc. Of Aylmer, Quebec; Loyalist records; vital records in Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and Canada; Reids Loyalist Sons and Daughters; Hist. Of Brattleborough VT; descendants of the Church families in Brattleborough – private records.

Compiled by M. Sapienza 7/2012