

William England UEL 1740-1796

By Denis Fortier

The life of my 5 times great grandfather, **William England**, is very well documented thanks a long military career and having settled in the Province of Quebec as a Loyalist following the American Revolutionary War. All we know of his childhood however is that he was born in England in 1740 and immigrated to America in 1753. No ship records have yet been found to shed light on whether he came alone or with family.

Service during the Seven Year War 1754-1763 (also known as the French and Indian War)

William served in the 60th Regiment during the Seven Year War of 1754-1763. The 60th Regiment was formed in 1755, it's also known by the name King's Royal Rifle Corps. I have yet to search muster lists to figure out when he joined, had to have been before 1758. We do know he was a British Soldier at the Plains of Abraham in Sept 1759, a Private in the 60th Regiment of Foot – 3rd Battalion; Gottlieb Gmelling's Company. His name can be found in the database of the French and British army soldiers in Québec in 1759 and 1760, [here](#) (do an advanced search with England in the lastname field). The 3rd Battalion was assigned to the forces of General Amherst for operations in Eastern Canada. The Battalion sailed from Boston in April 1758 and was present in the battle of Louisbourg before moving on Quebec City with General Wolfe. In 1760, the Battalion participated in the final advance on Montreal.



British Movement during French and Indian War

The 3rd Battalion was idle for most of 1761, late in the year it was sent to the West Indies (Caribbean's). In January and February 1762, the battalion took part in the expedition against Martinique and in the siege of Fort Royal. Then from March to August, it participated in the siege and capture of Havana.

After the Seven Year War, **William England** appears on a list of soldiers discharged from the 3rd Battalion who appeared for land in New York on 20 Feb 1764. Yet he doesn't seem to grow tired of military life as he is next found on a Colonial muster roll for the Company of Captain Barnaby Byrns, dated 9th May 1764 in New York. **William** is described as 23 yrs old, born in England, labourer, 5' 9" tall, having a fresh face, round visage, fair hair and gray eyes.

Life between wars 1764-1776

No documentation has been found for the following 10 years in William's life. What we know of this period is from Loyalist claims after the Revolutionary War, see later. He married **Mary Schneider** (name

anglicized to Snyder) in the early 1770's. She was of German ancestry; her ancestors came to New York during the Palatine Immigration of 1710. Mary was born 9 July 1751 in Ancram NY, the daughter of Johann Peter Schneider and Anna Maria Maul. William and Mary lived in Saratoga NY from 1773 to early 1775. They went to live in Kingsbury, Washington Co, NY in spring of 1775. William purchased 25 acres from Michael Hoffnagle in April 1775. He cleared 8 acres and built a house. The land, house, grain, tools and furniture were later confiscated by the American Rebels.

Johannes Melchior Hoffnagle had arrived in Kingsbury in 1768 (see link). His name first appeared in land records there in 1771. Between 1771 and 1776, he accumulated over 1800 acres of land and built his home on Moss Street. On the various deeds, he is listed as a yeoman, which in loose terms means a country gentleman or gentry. His occupation in Kingsbury was variously recorded as a merchant, sawyer, and farmer. In the preparation of the deeds, his name was nearly always anglicized to Michael, but in examining the documents it is found that he invariably signed his name as Melchior Hoffnagle.

William was a sawyer by profession. Perhaps he came to Kingsbury to work for Micheal Hoffnagle.

Revolutionary War 1776-1783

William England joined General Burgoyne's army at Skenesborough in July 1777. He served in the McAlpin and Jessop's Corps till the end of the American Revolutionary War in 1883. William can be found on multiple muster rolls during the war (part of the Frederick Haldimand Papers collection). The very first entry for William England is the following list of men enlisting as His Majesty's American Volunteers. They joined the Army of General Burgoyne under the command of Captain McAlpin and commenced pay on 1st day of Aug 1777. This list was signed by Daniel McAlpin, it's a list of those presently mustered at Verchere on 24 Jan 1778. Source Haldimand Papers, Muster Rolls for Corps of American Loyalists: http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/occihm.lac_reel_c1475/860?r=0&s=3

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55. 178-179 (See also pp. 155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000)

His Majesty's American Volunteers Commanded by Capt. Commandant M^r. Alpin Obed by Order of General Sir William Howe for reducing the Rebels in America, & joined S^r. Genl. Burgoyne's Army, and commenced pay the 1st day of Aug^r 1777 by that Generals Orders.

Common ^d by M ^r . Alpin	Don ^t . M ^r . Alpin Capt. 60 th Reg ^t . Hugh Munro Capt. 1 st Aug ^r 1777 Niel Robertson Lieut. 8. M ^r . Fraser Lieut. 9. J ^r . M ^r . Alpin Lieut. 9.	Under the Convention	Alon ^o . Campbell 1 st app ^t . 24 th Sep ^r 1777. Donald Fraser Lieut. 1 st Aug ^r 8. James M ^r . Donald Surg ⁿ . 26 th Sep ^r 8.
Not under Convention	Will ^m . England Don ^t . Robertson James M ^r . Greer	Under the Convention	Alon ^o . Clarke Duncan Robertson
Not under the Convention	Jonath ⁿ . Wright James Mackin Robt. Misher Manny Caen John M ^r . Deane Willm. Clow Hugh Connor John ^o . Frost Lucas Lynn Nicks Ruffell	Under Convention	J ^r . M ^r . Dougall Jun ^r . J ^r . Katschlan M ^r . Perry Jesse Thomson Mich ^l . M ^r . Druell Chris ^t . Mosher J ^r . Greenhal J ^r . M ^r . Strang Lieut. James M ^r . Lora Henry Cole
Not under the Convention	Benner Perkins Thomas Braden Arch ^d . Nicholson Jas ^t . Cannon John Saunders John Fraser		

Sergeant William England is “not under convention”; this means he was not present at Burgoyne’s surrender. Those who had surrendered in Saratoga were “under the convention” and were banned from doing any further military duty under the terms of the surrender.

Captain Daniel McAlpin was a veteran of the Seven Year War, in the fall of 1776, he initiated a campaign to recruit a corps of soldiers who would aid the Crown in its goal of suppressing the American rebellion. He raised and created a loyalist corps in the Albany County.

After the defeat at the battle of Bemis Heights, Burgoyne allowed loyalist troops to quietly escape before his surrender at Saratoga. On October 11, 1777, Burgoyne ordered remaining elements of Native Americans and McAlpin’s Corps to take possession of the army’s military chest and transport it back to Canada. That evening, the corps slipped out of camp and rushed north towards Lake George and the safety of the Royal Navy. On October 25, 1777, rebel militia intercepted McAlpin’s party and a large skirmish erupted. When the battle ended, fifty of McAlpin’s men were captured or left behind as casualties. Nevertheless, McAlpin was able to push past the enemy and successfully reach Canada with the military chest. Was William part of this group?

In another document, [not dated](#), Sergeant **William England** is listed in the return of Officers who served in General Burgoyne’s Campaign of 1777 under the command of Captain McAlpin’s and who are now in Canada.

In early 1778, McAlpin was promoted to major and was given the arduous task of overseeing the flood of refugees who poured into Canada following Burgoyne’s defeat. For McAlpin this was a monumental task. The British government controlling Canada was ill prepared for the arrival of thousands of men, women and children who Haldimand fittingly described as “loyalists in great distress.”

Under McAlpin’s guidance, a loyalist refugee settlement was first established at Machiche, near Three Rivers. Conrad Gugy, a Frenchman and companion of Haldimand, was named superintendant of the site. As more refugees streamed in, additional refugee camps were established in Sorel, Chambly, Quebec and Saint John’s.

Throughout 1778 and most of 1779, McAlpin’s Corps remained in Sorel, a town located in southwestern Quebec Province. When not engaged in garrison duty, McAlpin’s men were employed in the construction and repair of earthworks around the town. Sergeant William England appears on a Muster Roll for men paid for service from Dec 25 1777 to June 24 1778 under McAlpin ([see link](#)). By July, 1779, Sorel had become a refugee camp and active military base that was occupied by five provincial units.

William England Sgt appears on list of the Men belonging to Captain McAlpin’s Corps, Isle aux Noix, Sept 4th 1778, see [link](#). This is a short list of men; William was the senior officer. Were they preparing to scout in enemy territory? A few weeks later a small group of 11 including Sgt William England returned sick from St-Johns, belonging to Captain McAlpin’s camp at Sorel, see [link](#).

Life at Sorel was often difficult. Besides a lack of supplies, shelter was almost non-existent. Worse yet, the volunteers in McAlpin’s Corps often found themselves at odds with their fellow refugees. Competition for limited supplies, including fresh food and clothing, proved to be a source of constant irritation. On more than one occasion, Major McAlpin described incidents of large groups of loyalist refugees engaged in fights with his soldiers.

For 1779, the only muster list with William’s name on it is dated [May 1779](#) at Point Levy, under the command of McAlpin.

In 1780, McAlpin’s Corps of American Volunteers returned to New York for series of raids. For these loyalists, participation in the 1780 military raids ordered by Carleton against New York was more than

opportunity to get away from the boredom of garrison duty. Instead, these raids represented an opportunity of revenge for the failures of Saratoga. On April 13, 1780, the loyalist detachments of the raiding party were ordered to also assemble at Ile-aux-Noix – I have not seen any muster roll for those involved.

The troops were transported by water from Ile-aux-Noix down Lake Champlain to Crown Point. Once on land, the soldiers travelled to the south-west, skirting around Schroon Lake. On May 21, 1780, the raiders attacked Kingsborough Patent, located north of Johnstown, and rescued one hundred forty-three loyalists, including women and children, and thirty slaves. Johnson then led his troops into Johnstown, burned several buildings, rescued dozens of loyalists and captured twenty-seven rebels. Afterwards, the raiders burned one hundred and twenty barns, mills and houses located in a four mile arc south of Johnstown.

In the weeks following the Raid on Johnstown, Daniel McAlpin's health deteriorated drastically. On July 22, 1780, McAlpin succumbed to his illness and passed away. The unit was referred to as the "Late Major McAlpin's Corps" for some time after his passing.

On August 24, 1780, Governor Haldimand proposed a series of coordinated raids into New York to "destroy the enemy's supplies from the late plentiful harvest and to give His Majesty's loyal subjects an opportunity of retiring to this province." The raids into New York would move in multiple columns down the Mohawk, Lower Champlain and Hudson River Valleys. The attack of the Lower Champlain and Hudson River Valleys fell to Major Carleton. On September 27, 1780, Carleton's forces assembled at St. John's. Over 950 men from regular and loyalist units assembled for the mission. McAlpin's Corps was one of the units drafted for service with Carleton. The October Raids were a complete success. Not only had Carleton destroyed two forts, captured dozens of enemy soldiers, burned several towns and kept rebel forces in check, but Carleton had done so with minimal casualties.

Following the October raids, McAlpin's Corps returned to garrison life at Sorel. For most of 1781, the soldiers watched as an unending stream of loyalist refugees poured into the garrison town. The reality of war was ever present and soldiers from the corps were recruited for various military operations outside of garrison duty. It is possible that soldiers from McAlpin's were drafted for "secret service" missions into Vermont and New York. In January 1781, Sergeant **England** was appointed to maintain order amongst his compatriots at the Machiche camp and keep them isolated from local inhabitants:

*On January 22, 1781, Major Nairne receives orders to have all able bodied loyalist return to their regiments, with the exception of "Sergeants **William England** and Henry Clow are represented by Mr Guky to be very careful in managing the disorderly set, they are therefore to remain". Everyone was to be reminded that Machiche had been built to care for women and children exclusively. [Link to original.](#)*

Can't tell how long this appointment lasted. On a muster list for the Corps of the Late Major Daniel McAlpin, dated [1st May 1781](#), Sgt Wm England is listed as "on leave" in Machiche. On another list dated [Jul 1781](#), he is still appointed at Machiche.

Another series of raids into New York State was organized in October 1781. Among those soldiers and under the command of Captain Jessup were the volunteers of McAlpin's Corps, likely including **William England**.

On November 12, 1781, Haldimand released his proposal for forming the Loyal Rangers. In his order, Haldimand instructed that Jessup's, Peter's and McAlpin's Corps be amalgamated into a single battalion of Loyalist and Edward Jessup, was promoted to major and placed in command of the battalion. The men and officers of McAlpin's Corps were dispersed amongst the ten companies in Jessups' Corps.

Following the formation of the Loyal Rangers, the battalion was transferred from Sorel to Verchere, Yamaska and Dutchman’s Point. The Loyal Rangers did not participate in any raids into New York and spent most of its time garrisoning the blockhouses at these three posts. However, as Jessup correctly reported “we are obliged to keep up a Constant round of Scouts . . . and that I have already been obliged to furnish several of the men . . . for Secret Service and must furnish Several More Soon or not get any Scouting from them.” **William England** served with the Loyal Rangers, he was Sergeant in Capt Peter Drummond's Company in muster rolls dated July 1st 1782; and Sergeant in Captain John Peters’ Company, 1st Jan 1783 at Rivière du Chêne, Quebec [Source: *Rolls of the Provincial (loyalist) Corps, Canadian Command, American Revolutionary Period* by Mary Beacock Fryer, William A. Smy, p 84]:

Captain John Peters' Company of Invalids (3rd company)

Lieutenant Gershom French

Ensign Thomas Sherwood

No.	Names	Age	Size		Time of Service		Country
		Years	Ft	In	Yrs	Mos	
<u>Sergeants</u>							
1.	Francis Scott	26	5	11	6	2	Scotland
2.	John Beach	40	5	7	5	8	America
3.	William England	43	5	8	6	2	England
<u>Drummer</u>							
	Jeremiah Mallory	14	4	10	1	4	America
<u>Corporals</u>							

The years of Service indicated here imply **William** enlisted in the Fall of 1776. He may have been one of McAlpin’s or Jessup’s recruits.

When peace was declared in 1783, the most pressing issue for Haldimand was what to do with the thousands of loyalist refugees who occupied the Quebec Province. Many were without clothing and few had received sufficient supplies. By July 1783 many loyalist officers, including Edward Jessup, proposed the settlement of land south-west of the Quebec Province. The suggestion was quickly adopted and land grants were issued to loyalist soldiers and refugees alike.

On December 11, 1783, the Loyal Rangers were disbanded and its soldiers and families were permitted to depart for the grants of lands issued to them. Sergeant **William England**, sawyer, formerly of New York, is listed in the Return of Loyal Rangers, Company of Pensioners under Captain John Peters ([link](#) document not dated, looks like at dissolution, 603 men are listed).

While most Loyalist departed for land in New Brunswick or in the new territories west of Montreal, **William England** decided to remain in Yamachiche where he ran Conrad Gugy’s grist mill.

Mary's Escape to Canada

While William was fighting on the British side, his wife **Mary** was left behind with their three young children. After over a year on her own, she was now a ward of the State (their land having been confiscated by the rebels). She appeared in front of the Commission on Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies to ask for permission to go to Canada to join her husband. The excerpt on the right is from the "Minutes of the Commissioners on Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies", Albany County, NY, Sept 1778.

Her request was accepted and it was recommended that she be sent to Canada "with a Flag". This meant being escorted to the line with a flag of truce and being transferred peacefully to the other side. It's comforting to know that Mary was provided with an escort to Canada. Much better than my previous thoughts - I had visions of her escaping at night with her three young children and finding her way alone in the wilderness.

Unfortunately crossing the line for Mary did not mean re-unification with her husband as **William** was a Sergeant with the British troops. Instead she had to join a refugee camp set up for families of Loyalist soldiers.

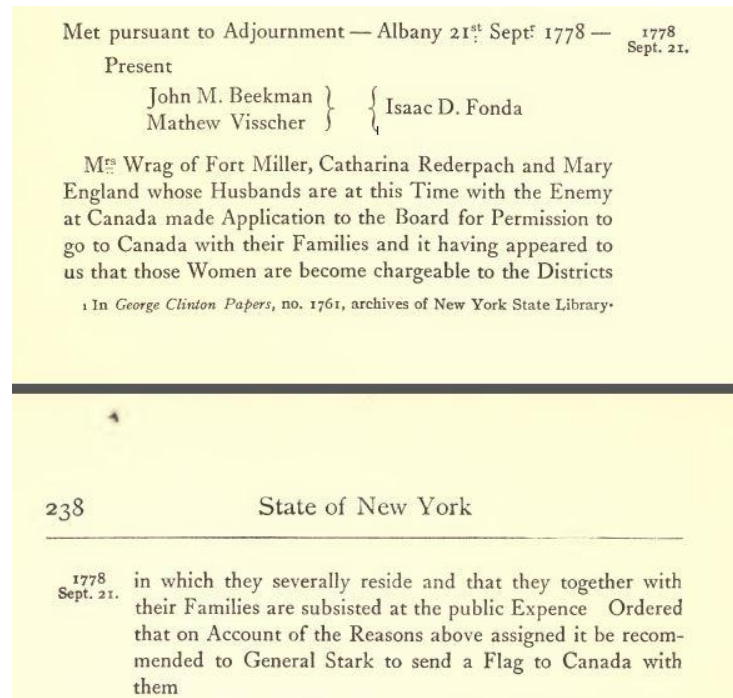
Loyalist Refugee Camps

Faced with the disorder generated by the presence of the loyalists in the midst of local residents, Frederick Haldimand, Governor and Commander in Chief of the British forces, ordered the loyalist families grouped in camps where they would receive shelter, food, clothing and instruction. In September 1778, the loyalist families following John Johnson reached Machiche (today called Yamachiche). Conrad Gury had built housing for them on his lands, at first accommodating 157 families. This number varied in the following months, peaking at 442 in October 1779. By the end of the operation in December 1784, there were 185 families.

The refugee camp in Yamachiche is where **Mary England** ended up after fleeing her home in New York. The nearest Protestant Church was St-James at Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, about 25 km East of Yamachiche, that's where family events were recorded.

The first muster roll with her name is dated 2 Dec 1778, **Mrs England** is listed with three children.

The next list gives more details ([Dec 1778 / Jan 1779 Muster roll](#)), dated Dec 78/Jan 79, it lists Mrs England as formerly of Albany NY, with 3 children, 2 boys and one girl at the Machiche Camp. Also, shows she is affiliated with a Sergeant in Captain McAlpin Corps.



Mary England lived for 6 years in the refugee camp at Machiche! Mary can be found on 12 muster rolls between 1778 and 1785, the date is a hyperlink to the digitized image at <http://heritage.canadiana.ca>. Comments in square brackets [] added by this author:

- [2 Dec 1778](#) – Mrs England with 3 children
- [Dec78/Jan 1779](#) – Mrs England of Albany NY, 3 children, 2 boys and 1 girl children all under 10, receiving 2 ½ rations, husband Sgt in McAlpin's Corps
- [24 Aug 1779](#) – Mrs England with 2 boys and 1 girl all under 10, receiving 2 ½ rations
- [24 Oct 1779](#) - Mrs England with 3 children all under 10, receiving 2 ½ rations. Husband belongs to McAlpin's Corps as Serg't
- [10 Aug 1880](#) – William England, born in England, with wife and three children under 12 at Machiche, belonging to McAlpin's Corps
- [24 Nov 1780](#) – Wm England of McAlpin's Corps, 1 adult man, 1 adult woman, 2 boys and 2 girls, receiving 4 rations
 - [the new family addition, *Mary Anne was born 25 August 1780*]
- [24 Apr 1781](#) - Mrs England with 3 boys and 1 girl, receiving 3 rations, associated with McAlpin
 - [*this and next 2 entries note should be 2 boys and 2 girls*]
- [24 Sept 1781](#) - Mrs England with 3 boys and 1 girl, receiving 3 rations, McAlpin's
- [24 Jan 1782](#) - Mrs England with 3 boys and 1 girl, receiving 3 rations, Jessup's
- [24 Mar 1783](#) - Mrs England with 2 boys and 3 girl, receiving 3 ½ rations, Loyal Rangers
 - [*note birth of third daughter Catherine in Sept 1782*]
- [24 Jul 1783](#) - Mrs England with 2 boys and 3 girl, receiving 3 ½ rations, Loyal Rangers
- [No Date 1783](#) – Mrs William England, 2 boys, 1 under 6, 1 between 6 and 12, 3 girls, 2 under 6, 1 between 6 and 12, receiving 3 ½ rations
- 7 Feb 1784

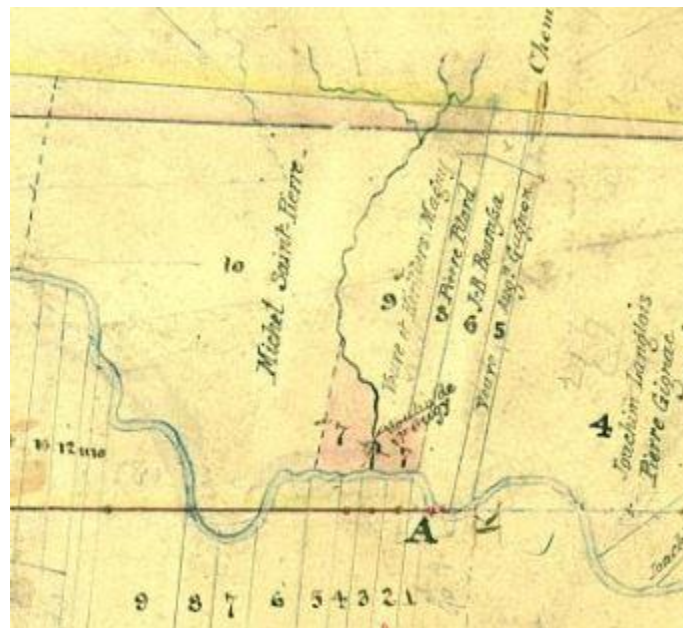
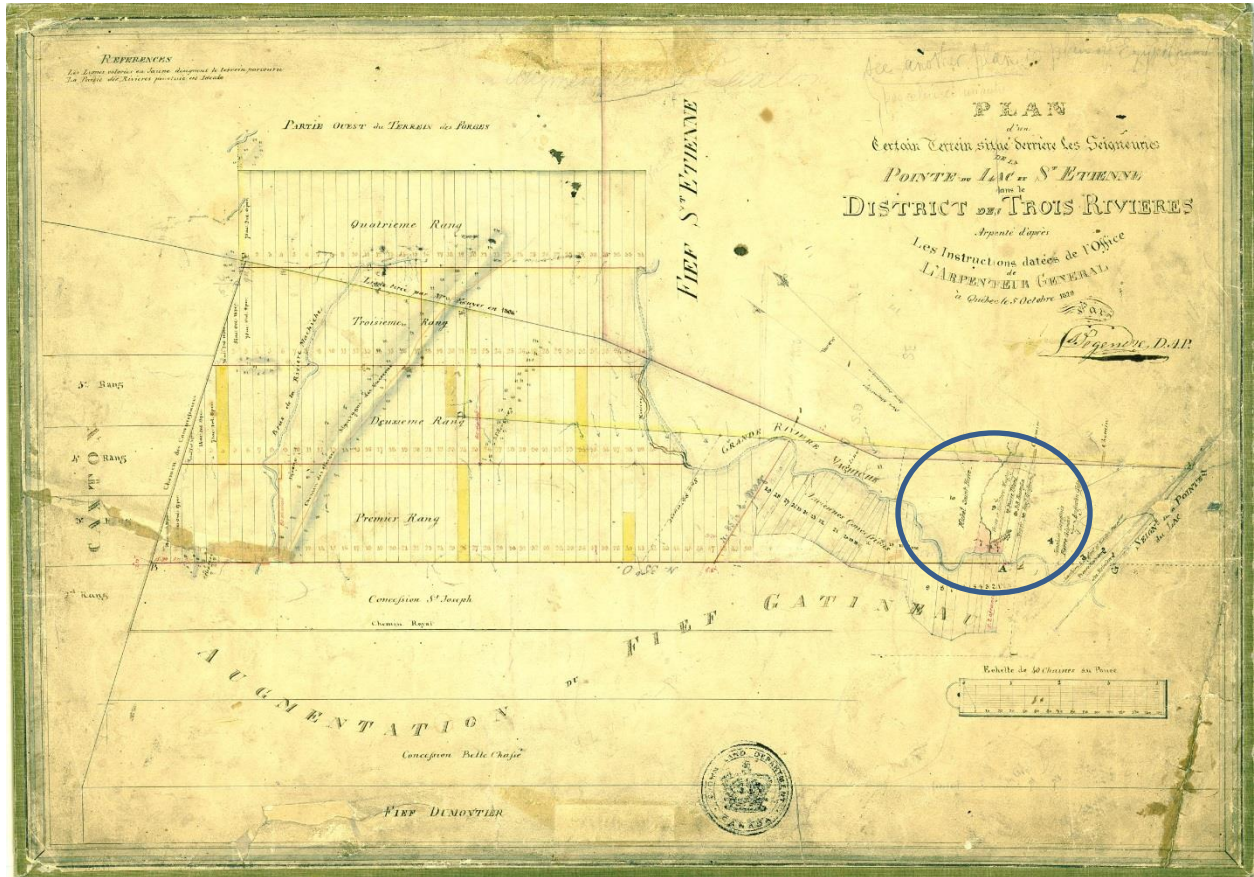
Living condition in the camp was horrible. There was a shortage of provisions such as food and clothing. Her husband likely visited while on leave, as two children were born while at the camp. William only appears twice on the Machiche camp muster roll, in August and November 1780, one of their daughters was born during this period. As mentioned earlier, Sergeant **England** was appointed in Jan 1781 to maintain order amongst his compatriots at the Machiche camp and keep them isolated from local inhabitants. It's noteworthy that there was a large population of Acadian refugees in Yamachiche who had been taken from their homes by British forces and exiled in 1755. I can imagine there being tension between the British troops and the locals!

Life Post-Revolutionary War

At the closing of the camp at the beginning of 1784, the **England** family stay and settle in Machiche with their five children. No doubt impressed by his military conduct, Gogy hired **William England** for his sawmill and flour mill in the Fief Frederick. One of the muster roll listed William's profession as sawyer, so he likely had relevant sawmilling experience.

After the death of Conrad Gogy on April 16, 1786, Elizabeth Wilkinson, Gogy's companion of 30 years, takes over his affairs. She gives **William England** a land concession "*adjacent to the two acres reserved for the mill, bordered to the West by the Grand River Yamachiche, and to the other side by the arm of the stream that feeds the mill, about 300 acres in area*" (Notary records Leroy, 6 Sept 1786). This stream was long known as the "Ruisseau des St-Pierre" (St-Pierre Stream).

Map dated 1829 showing the location of the Moulin de Gugy (Gugy Mill, shaded in pink) and adjacent property belonging to Michel St-Pierre (acquired from his in-laws, the England family). The circled area is enlarged in the lower map. The mill and land are on the North East side of the River.



In 1790, Mrs Wilkinson and William England agreed that William would operate the mill for another 5-year lease (Notary records Leroy, 8 Oct 1790).

The location of the Gugy mill and the England family estate goes by many names over the years, Fief Frederick, Machiche, Yamachiche, and later St-Barnabe when Yamachiche was divided into multiple smaller parishes in the mid 1800's. The location of the Gugy mill on a current map would be best described as where the "Avenue de St-Thomas de Caxton" crosses the Grande Riviere Yamachiche. There is a stream that follows the road on the North-East side of the bridge, that is likely the Ruisseau St-Pierre that is the South-East border for the St-Pierre lands.

After Miss Wilkinson's death, **William England**, a miller, inventories part of her estate, including the Frederick Mill and the wind and water mills. The inventory states that **Mary Snyder** lives at the Frederick mill (Notary records Antoine Isodore Badeau, 18 Mar 1794). This confirms that **England** oversaw these mills at the time of Miss Wilkinson's death.

William England died suddenly on 6 January 1796 at Yamachiche and was buried two days later in the cemetery of the St-James Protestant Church in Trois-Rivières. His wife Mary was pregnant at the time; their last child Margaret was born 12 days later.

Loyalist Claims

Following the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), British commissioners were appointed to examine claims of losses sustained by those loyal to the British crown or "Loyalists" during and following the war. William England filed such a claim, a petition for compensation for the lost land, tools and furniture. The petition is on top of the next page, showing his signature at the bottom of each page, signed and witnessed in Feb 1786 in Sorel. This petition was reviewed at Sorel by the Commission on Apr 15th of the same year. Decision on his claim was deferred. A couple of years later, on 27th of March 1788, he appeared in front of the Royal Commission on the Losses and Services of American Loyalists (RCLSAL) in Montreal, again seeking compensation, this time in person. The commission report appears at the bottom of the next page.

He claimed 62 Pound Sterling in losses (land, buildings, furniture, grain, tools, etc) and eventually received 24 Pound in compensation.

Of interest is the witness than William brought to the Commission to help substantiate his claim – Patrick Smyth. Patrick says he knew the Claimant (William) prior to the war and supports William's claim. Patrick Smyth and his brother George were renowned British spies during the revolutionary war. George was a "master spy" and second in command to Governor Haldimand's spy network as Deputy Head of Secret Service. In William's original claim dated 1786, he names both Patrick and George Smyth as references. Was William part of the Smyth's network of spies prior to joining General Burgoyne's army? The service record shown on p5 implied he had served since the fall of 1776.

It's thanks to these Memorials that we know that the William England living in Yamachiche in 1788 arrived in America in 1753, served in the 60th Regiment during the Seven Year War, lived in Saratoga NY in 1773-1774, bought land in Kingsbury NY in 1775, joined Burgoyne's army at Skeenesborough in July 1777, and served in the McAlpin and Jessop's Corps during the American Revolutionary War. Thanks to these Memorials, we can confirm that these facts all belong to the same individual, this is important as they were 2 or 3 men by the name of William England living in the Province of Quebec during these times.

To the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for Enquiring into the Losses and Services of the American Loyalists, at the Office of American Claims, at Whitehall

The Memorial of William England, Miller and Sawyer, late King'sbury, but now of Yamachichee: the Province of Canada. Sheweth that from the unhappy Rise of the late Revolution in America, he was strongly attached to the British Sovereign and English Constitution, and he adhered steadfastly to his Allegiance and exerted himself to the utmost of his Ability, using his utmost Endeavors to promote the interests of the British Nation, that he served in the 60th Regiment during the last French War untill the year 1787 when he joined Col. Gage's Corps and served in a Regiment untill Nov. 1789 as may fully appear from the Evidence and References of Patrick Smyth of York George Smith of New York Michael Stafford of Wells Pair of State of New York John Pichell of St Johns and others of whom

That in consequence thereof your Memorialist has truly been a great sufferer in his Occupation and sustained great Losses. A Brief Estimate of which is as follows

25 Acres of Land in good Cultivation	£ 20 15 9
1000000	20 15 9
Grain of different sorts and other Produce	13 1 0
Spinning and Carpenter's Tools	4 15 9
Household Furniture	9 15 6
1000000	1 15 0
1000000	68 0 16

Your Memorialist therefore Prays, that his Loss may be taken into Consideration, in order that your Memorialist, may receive such Compensation, as his Losses and Services may be found to deserve
William England

William England late of King'sbury, but now of Yamachichee, Makchall oath and built that he was not in the Kingdom of Great Britain or Ireland between the 25th of July, 1789, until the 25th of March, 1794, and this Deponent further saith that he was utterly incapable of performing or delivering to the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament Passed in the twenty third year of the Reign of his Present Majesty, entitled an Act for Appointing Commissioners to Enquire into the Losses and Services of all such Persons who have suffered in their Rights Properties and Professions during the late Unhappy Disputations in America in consequence of their Loyalty to his Majesty, and Attachment to the British Government, or of their Office, any Memorial, Claim or Request for Aid or relief, on Account of their Dependent Losses during the late unhappy Disputations in America, within the Time allowed by the said Act, or receiving of such Claims by reason that this Deponent during all said Times, viz. between the 25th July 1789, and the 25th of March, 1794, Lived or resided at Yamachichee.

And this Deponent further saith that he did not know that Parliament had Passed an Act for Appointing Commissioners for Enquiring into the Losses and Services of America Loyalists until the time limited for receiving such Claims for Losses had expired

Witness my hand and Seal this 2 day of February 1796.
J. Marshall

Public Record
Office Reference - A.O.13/12
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(New claim)
To the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for enquiring into the losses and Services of the American Loyalists.

The Memorial of William England late of Kingsbury New York.

Sheweth That from the unhappy rise of the late Revolution in America he was strongly attached to the British Sovereign and English Constitution, and he steadily adhered to his Allegiance and exerted himself to the utmost of his Ability, using his utmost Endeavors to promote the interests of the British Nation. That he served in the 60th Regiment during the last French War until the year 1787 when he joined Colonel Gage's Corps and served as a Sergeant until December 1789.

That in consequence thereof your Memorialist has truly been a great sufferer in his Occupation and sustained great Losses, a Brief Estimate of which is as follows

25 Acres of Land in good Cultivation	£ 20 15 9
1000000	20 15 9
Grain of different sorts and other Produce	13 1 0
Spinning and Carpenter's Tools	4 15 9
Household Furniture	9 15 6
1000000	1 15 0
1000000	68 0 16

Your Memorialist therefore Prays, that his Loss may be taken into Consideration, in order that your Memorialist, may receive such Compensation, as his Losses and Services may be found to deserve
William England

Montreal 27th March 1796

+ Evidence in the claim of William England late of Kingsbury New York.
Claimant's Sworn.

Says he lived at Marshfield in 1783. The native of England - came to America in 1783. In the year 1773 or 1774 lived at Kingston. Went to live in Kingsbury in March 1775, never joined the Americans except having a military Language learned General Burgoyne at Montpelier in 1777. Lived in the 60th Regt. and 20th Regt. Regt till the Revolution.

Now lives at Marshfield. Says he purchased 25 Acres in April 1775 from Michael Hoopraut. Was to pay 215 York in Work to be done. Paid 100 York. Cleared 4 Acres and built a House. This Land has been confiscated as the Property of Michael Hoopraut, and does not know whether he has not claimed for it.

Lost Grain, Spinning and Carpenter's Tools, Household Furniture.

Patrick Smyth Sworn. Says Claimant before the War, was always Loyal. He had a House on Michael Hoopraut's Land, does not know under what Title. He has the Land from Hoopraut.

Public Record
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William England's estate

William died without a will. Upon inventory of the **England-Snyder** communal estate (Notary records Antoine Gagnon, [19 Mar 1798](#)), Mary Snyder is said to be the tutor of 6 minor children, William, Conrad, Jacob, Elizabeth, Robert and Margaret. Also living are 4 other children, adult or married, Hannah, John, Marie-Anne and Catherine [all are mentioned in the inventory, Marie-Anne is mentioned as the wife of Augustin Gagnon and Catherine as the wife of John Snider].

The inventory takes all day and covers 20 pages in the notary's notebook. It lists household items, furniture, tools, farm equipment, livestock, land, building, debts and titles. Land includes the same 200 acres mentioned earlier, adjacent to the old Gudy mill in Fief Frederick. A sale takes place the following day to pay debts. A wide range of household items are sold, but the land and buildings stay with the family. Every transaction is recorded by the notary. Mary buys back some of the items on sale.

The next year, **Mary Snyder**, widow of the late William England, sells her half of the communal estate to her son-in-law and eldest daughter; Michel St-Pierre Jr. and his wife **Hannah England**, in return for an annuity (Notary records Ant. Gagnon 18 Jul 1799). In 1835, the obligation to provide Mary Snyder a pension passes to Michel and Hannah's sons Michel, Jean and Louis. Michel died shortly afterwards.

Hannah England, and her husband Michel St-Pierre also bought her sibling's share of the England estate in Yamachiche (over 300 acres with a house and barn). William, John and brother-in-law Augustin Gagnon sold their inheritance rights in 1799. (Notary records Ant. Gagnon, 18 September 1799). Conrad in turn sold his inheritance rights to M. St-Pierre and his wife Hannah on reaching the age of majority in 1806. Conrad was present in Yamachiche for the sale, the record describes Conrad as resident of Lancaster Township in Upper Canada and brother-in-law to Michel St-Pierre (Notary records Ant. Gagnon, 19 Feb 1806).

Mary Snider remarries and moves to Lancaster Township

On 21 Oct 1799, **Mary (Snyder) England**, widow of William marries Jean-Maurice Ouellette (phonetically written as Morice Wollett or Williet in English records) at St-James Protestant Church in Trois-Rivières. Witnesses are Michel St-Pierre, nephew to Morice Williet, and Pierre La Casse, cousin to Morice Williet. Thus, Mary's new husband is the uncle of her son-in-law Michel St-Pierre. Maurice was a widower, his first wife Jos-Louise Hudon aka Beaulieu was buried at Kamouraska on 3 May 1799.

In 1801, Mary, her unmarried children, daughter Catherine, son-in-law John Snyder and second husband Maurice Ouellette move to Lancaster Township, Glengarry County, Ontario. There were many Snyder families already in the Lancaster area at the time, including Mary's brother Jacob and his family. On Feb 17 1801, Maurice signs a power of attorney as he is "about to leave the Province" (Notary records Ant. Gagnon). Later that same year, Maurice sold his land in Yamachiche to Jos Bellemare (Notary records Ant. Gagnon, 1st Nov 1801).

Of William and Mary's children, only John Peter, Hannah and Mary Anne remained in the Yamachiche / Louiseville area of Quebec past 1801.

There are many land grant applications by heirs of William England filed in Lancaster Township between 1801 and 1817, indicating the family settled there for good. Mary is mentioned in Jacob Snyder's will in 1823 (her brother). Jacob's will, dated 13 Mar 1823 in Lancaster Tp, Glengarry Co, proved 5 Jun 1823 in part says: "to sister Mary Violette; a cow" [should be Ouellette].

Mary came back to the family home in Yamachiche (now officially in St- Barnabé since the parish of Yamachiche was split) and spent her last years at the home of her daughter Hannah St-Pierre and died on 7 Jan 1838 at St-Barnabé, she was buried at the closest Protestant cemetery in Louiseville.

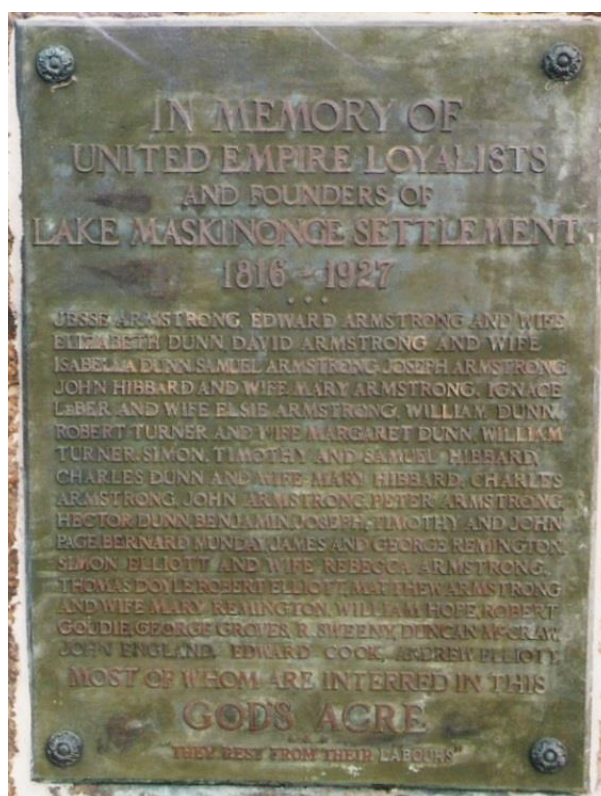
Children of William England and Mary Snyder

Here are the family's 10 children, in order of birth:

1. **Hannah**, the eldest, born around 1770 in NY married Michel St-Pierre Jr. on the 21 Jan 1799 at St-James, he's a farmer in Yamachiche. Michel St-Pierre Sr. is a witness. Hannah and Michel St-Pierre are my 4 times great-grandparents. They had nine children, all baptised and married at the Sainte-Anne D'Yamachiche Catholic Church (even though Hannah never converted to Catholicism). Michel passed away in 1837. Hannah is still alive in the 1852 census, age 82, protestant, and living in the household of her son Jean St-Pierre in the parish of St-Barnabé. The parish of St-Barnabe was carved out of the territory of Yamachiche. I believe the family still occupied the same land Hannah purchased from her mother and siblings. She passed away at the age of 87 on the 12th May 1857 and was buried at the Protestant cemetery in Louiseville.

2. **John Peter** (Jean-Pierre), was born around 1775 in NY. He was a laborer in the Seigneurie of Carufel, sold his inheritance rights at the same time as his brother William and brother-in-law Augustin Gagnon to their sister Hannah and her husband Michel St-Pierre. At the age of 32, he married Margaret Turner, 13 years old at St-James on the 18 Sept 1807. John and Margaret had 6 children, all baptised at the Louiseville Episcopal Church. John re-married on 5 Mar 1832, again at St-James Protestant Church in Trois-Rivières. He had 5 children with his second wife Marie Angélique Giroux.

John was a pioneer of the Episcopal Church of Rivière-du-Loup (Louiseville). He was also a founder of the Loyalist settlement at Lake Maskinonge (today part of St-Gabriel-de-Brandon). He is mentioned on a memorial plaque on a monument dedicated to Loyalist Settlers, shown on the right (first name on last line). More details on this memorial can be found on the UELAC website: [Loyalist Monuments at St-Gabriel-de-Brandon](#). His date of death is unknown, last known documentation is a notarized petition signed in 1849; John's residence is listed as Brandon Township.



3. **William**, born around 1777 in New York. Was still a minor upon his father's death. He sold his inheritance rights to his brother-in-law Michel St-Pierre and his sister Hannah in 1799, indicating he had reached the age of maturity by then. (Notary records Ant. Gagnon, 18 September 1799). William died shortly afterwards and is buried 30 Sept 1800 at Trois-Rivières (St-James).

4. **Mary-Anne**, born 25 Aug 1780 at Yamachiche, baptised 15 Aug 1782 at Trois-Rivières (St-James). At the age of 16, she married Augustin Gagnon, of St-Maurice also at St-James on 17 Aug 1796. Their 10 children were born in Yamachiche and are baptised and married in the Catholic Church. Augustin passed away 9 Feb 1829 in Yamachiche at the age of 56. Mary-Anne died 16 May 1861 at Berthierville, she was 80 years old.
5. **Catherine**, born at Yamachiche 28 Sept 1882 and baptised 8 Mar 1783 at St-James. She marries John Snyder at St-James on 22 Jan 1798. They first live at Ste-Ursule, Crête-de-Coq area. Couple later move to Lancaster township where Catherine applied for a land grant as the daughter of a UEL in 1801. Catherine passed away a few years later as John re-married in 1806 to Janet Agnes Wood. John Snyder applied for a land grant in 1810 on behalf of his late wife Catherine England. Says Catherine had an heir, but I have never found any details on this child(ren).
6. **Conrad**, born at Yamachiche 8 Feb 1785, baptised 14 Aug 1785 at St-James. On reaching the age of majority, he sells his inheritance rights to M. St-Pierre and his wife Hannah (Notary records Ant. Gagnon, 19 Feb 1806). At the time Conrad lives in Lancaster Township in Ontario, possibly with his mother and her second husband. Conrad was granted a patent for 200 acres of land in Osgoode Ontario as a son of a UEL in 1808. Haven't been able to find any subsequent record.
7. **Jacob**, born at Yamachiche 31 Jan 1787, baptised 8 Apr 1787 at St-James. Likely passed away before reaching the age of majority in Lancaster, Glengarry Co, Ontario. No application for land grant found.
8. **Elizabeth** born at Yamachiche 23 Jun 1789, baptised at St-James 30 Aug 1789. She married Anthony Young on 13 Jan 1807 at St-Andrews Presbyterian Church in Williamstown, Glengarry Co. They had two children born in Lancaster and baptised at St-Andrews. They sold their land in Lancaster Township in 1810. There are records for Anthony in Scarborough York Co between 1810 and 1817, no indication whether Elizabeth was alive. Anthony served in the 1st Regiment of Glengarry Militia in 1812/13.
9. **Robert** born at Yamachiche 7 Mar 1791, baptised 19 Jun 1791 at St-James. Robert married Elizabeth "Betsy" Philips (1796-1870) around 1812. They lived in Dundee Quebec before moving to New York State in the mid 1830's. They had at least 13 children born between 1813 and 1851. The first seven were baptised at St-Andrews Presbyterian Church in Williamstown, Glengarry Co. Mary, the eldest, was baptised a couple of months after her birth in Feb 1814, the other six were all baptised together on 26 Oct 1831, between the ages of 6 mos and 12 yrs. Last known record is the 1860 census data from Canton, Saint Lawrence, New York, USA. One of Robert's son died in action during the American Civil War.
10. **Margaret**, born at Yamachiche 18 Jan 1796, 12 days after the death of her father. Baptised 18 Feb 1796 at St-James. She applied for a land grant from Lancaster Township upon reaching maturity in 1817. Have not found any proven subsequent records. However, I strongly suspect that she may have married Philippe Brunette. A Mrs Margaret Brunette living in Lancaster Township supports John England's land petition in 1841 and in the 1852 census is listed next to Margaret England (would be her niece, d of John). This Margaret Brunette moved to Michigan with Margaret England (now married to Alexander Scott) and appears in the 1880 census with the Scott's as Margaret Brown, widowed, now 84, father born in England.

Land Petitions of Upper Canada – Heirs of William England, UEL

William England was recognized as a United Empire Loyalist by Order-in-Council on 19th Nov 1807, see [here](#).

Surname	Given Name(s)	Place	Year	Volume	Bundle	Petition	Reference	Microfilm
England ^{1,2}	Mary	Lancaster	1801	175	E 5	17	RG 1 L3	C-1887
England/Wollett ^{1,3}	Mary	Lancaster	1807	525	W 8	63	RG 1 L3	C-2952
England/Snyder ²	Catherine	Lancaster	1801	452	S 5	5	RG 1 L3	C-2808
England ⁵	Conrad	Lancaster	1807	176	E 8	34	RG 1 L3	C-1887
Snyder ⁴	John	Lancaster	1811	456	S 10	14	RG 1 L3	C-2810
England ⁵	Margaret	Lancaster	1817	177A	E 11	10	RG 1 L3	C-1888
England	Robert	Cornwall	1840	180	E 22	16	RG 1 L3	C-1890
England ⁶	John	St-Maurice	1841	181	E1	2	RG1 L3	C-1891
England ⁷	John	Brandon	1849	182A	E5	15	RG1 L3	C-1892
Gagnon/England ⁸	Mary Anne	Yamachiche	1849	217	G 5	37	RG 1 L3	C-2039
St. Pierre ⁹	Hanna	Yamachiche	1849	483	S5	94	RG1 L3	C-2826

Source: Library and Archives Canada. The highlighted petition number in the table is a link to each petition. They open on the first of multiple pages. You need to navigate on the website to see the following pages.

Notes:

¹Mary England /Wollett is William England's widow. Her maiden name is Snyder.

²Mary and Catherine's first petitions in 1801 were denied as William England did not appear on the UE list at that time. See OC for [Mary](#) and [Catherine](#)

³Mary Wollett of Lancaster, Glengarry Co, formerly Mary England, re-applied in 1807. She successfully petitioned to have William England's name added to the UE list so that her children be able to petition for their own lands. Her petition says in part that "her late husband William England served in the late American War as a Sergeant under the command of Major Jessup in the late Loyal Rangers to the year 1783. He was an inhabitant of the American province to the year 1774 when he joined the Royal Standard. He died previous to the time of the loyalists drawing their lands; in consequence he was not entered in the UE list. Your petitioner's late Husband left seven children which are now living in the province" (of Canada). The order in Council dated 19th Nov 1807 recommends the addition of William England's name to the UE list, link above (she's about ½ way down the left hand page) http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/ocihm.lac_reel_c102/622?r=0&s=1

⁴John Snider re-applied in 1811 on behalf of his late wife Catherine England. Says Catherine had an heir. [Approved](#).

⁵Conrad and Margaret, children of William England UEL, their petitions were filed after reaching the age of 21 yrs. Margaret's petition says she has resided in Upper Canada for 16 yrs, i.e. since 1801. Conrad's petition was approved by [OC](#) on 17 nov 1807. Margaret's petition was approved by [OC](#) 16 Apr 1817.

⁶John England, petition says he is 66 yrs old now of Cornwall. On the testimony is from a Mrs Margaret Brunette of Lancaster Township. His claim appears to be approved in the Land Book on 13 Oct 1841. See link: http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/ocihm.lac_reel_c107/219?r=0&s=2

⁷John England petition in 1849 is on behalf of his late father, William England UEL as his eldest son and heir at law. Says William died suddenly in 1796 without a will while in the employ of the late Conrad Gagy. John's oath says John was born at Saratoga in the United States of America in 1775. See link and following pages: [John England application on behalf of William England, UEL](#).

⁸Mary Anne England / Gagnon, widow of the late Augustin Gagnon, currently residing in Berthier. Her petition gives us lots of information regarding the family. Mary Anne was born in Yamachiche on 25 Aug 1880; her father the late William England was a UE Loyalist and served in Captain Jessup Company between 1776 and 1783; William came to the Province of Canada in 1779 and resided therein until his death at Yamachiche in 1796 at the age of 55 years; William's lawful wife, Mary Snyder passed away in the year 1838; there are ten children from the union of Mary and William England, namely: Hanna, John, William, Catherine, Mary Anne, Conrad, Jacob, Elizabeth, Robert and Margaret.

⁹Hanna St.Pierre's petition is missing from the microfilm; but her petition appears in the Land Book on 25th Jan 1850: "Hanna St-Pierre of the Parish of Ste-Anne de Yamachiche, widow of the late Michel St-Pierre and daughter of late William England". See link: http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_c108/798?r=0&s=2

Sources:

Library and Archives Canada: Frederick Haldimand Papers in the chapters dealing with loyalists: correspondence and censuses

"Who are William England and Mary Snyder", article written by Origène Maillette in the magazine "L'Ancêtre" published by the "Société de généalogie de Québec", in 1993 (Volume 19, p 301-302).

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Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec (BaNQ) : Archives des notaires du Québec des origines à 1937