

Biography of Jasper Stymest UEL (1751–1826)



Jasper Stymest, a United Empire Loyalist, was born on **September 10, 1751**, in Peekskill, New York. The twelfth child of Benjamin Stymiest I and Sara Emmans (Emmons), Jasper came from a family deeply rooted in loyalty to the Crown. Alongside his brother, Benjamin Stymiest II, Jasper swore an oath of allegiance to King George III during the tumultuous years of the American Revolution.

Early Life and Revolutionary Turmoil



Initially residing in Peekskill, Westchester County, New York, Jasper later moved to Hempstead, Long Island, NY and then to Tappan, New York. Historical records place him in Tappan, New York, at a critical moment in history—his property was the site where British Major John André was executed on October 2, 1780. As the revolution reached its peak, Jasper faced increasing hostility due to his Loyalist allegiance. Seeking

safety for his family and a future aligned with his principles, Jasper fled the American Colonies. In 1783, he joined other Loyalists, including his brother Benjamin and family and emigrating to British North America on the “*John & Jane*,” eventually settling in **Parr Town, Nova Scotia** (modern-day Saint John, New Brunswick) in the fall of 1783.

Settling in Saint John

In Saint John, Jasper quickly established himself as a man of means and influence. He built a stately home at the corner of Duke and Prince William Streets. The residence, noted for its ten rooms and seven fireplaces, stood as a testament to his craftsmanship and vision. Despite its grandeur, Jasper sold the property in 1789, continuing to play an active role in the development of Saint John. His contributions to the city included witnessing its incorporation by Royal Charter as the ‘*Loyalist City*’ in 1785 and building a legacy that would endure for generations.

Family and Legacy

Jasper married **Milcah (McKeel) Stymest**, a native of Peekskill, New York, and together they had eight children. Their family grew as they settled into their new life in Saint John. However, tragedy was not far: Milcah passed away in 1838, and their son Jesse drowned while traveling to

England in 1828. Both Jasper and Milcah are interred in the **Old Loyalist Cemetery** in Saint John, where their graves stand as enduring reminders of their journey. The gravestone was modernized in 1975 following a Stymiest Family Reunion when donations were made for the new stone.

Jasper Stymest UEL

Sacred to the memory of Jasper STYMEST, a native of Long Island, State of New York, and for many years a resident in this city; he was born on the 10 Sept, 1751, and died on the 2nd March, 1826; also of his wife, Milcah, a native of Peekskill, North River, New York, who was born on the 23rd of September, 1762, and died in this city on the 17th January, 1838; also of their Son, Jessie Stymest, who was born in this city on the 25 October, 1803 and unfortunately drowned on his passage to England, Dec 12, 1828.

***Shrinking from the cold hand of death,
I too shall gather up my feet.
Shall soon resign the fleeting breath
and die- my father God to meet.***



Jasper's descendants inherited not only his name but also his unwavering dedication to family and community. His eldest son, Benjamin Michael Stymest, became a freeman of Saint John in 1813, continuing the family's prominence in the region.

Character and Recognition

Described as “*an old and respectable inhabitant of this city,*” Jasper was revered by his peers as one of the earliest settlers of the province. His obituary in 1826 honored him for leaving

“numerous offspring and a large circle of acquaintances by whom he will be long held in remembrance.” Jasper’s enduring contributions to the Loyalist cause and the establishment of Saint John are commemorated through his story, which exemplifies the resilience and tenacity of the Loyalist spirit.

Jasper Stymest’s life is a narrative of steadfast loyalty, resilience in adversity, and a commitment to building a new future in the face of profound challenges. His legacy lives on in the annals of New Brunswick’s history and the hearts of his many descendants.

Carl Stymiest UE,
UELAC National President and,
4th Great Grand Nephew of Jasper Stymest UEL

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