

INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF LIEUT. JAMES MOODY.

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In the brief sketch here given of Lieut. James Moody, the writer is indebted to Calneek's History of Annapolis, which contains, among other interesting notes, portions of the autobiography of this remarkable man quoted at secondhand from Sabine's History of the Loyalists.

Such narratives as this are of great historical value; for, while the facts may not in themselves be important, they represent with faithfulness the daily lives and actions of the men who took part in these great events. The story, for which we have only space for a few leading incidents, is told with a wholesome simplicity that impresses us with the rugged sincerity of the man, who, when once his course of action was made plain, pursued it without flinching to the end, even though it involved sacrifices from which men naturally shrink.

Lieut. Moody was from conviction and sense of duty a loyalist, and when the Revolutionary War broke out he left his farm and became a soldier, giving to the royalist cause a faithful and unswerving support until its close. In return for his valuable services he was granted a pension and a tract of land at Weymouth, N. S. Here he lived from 1785 until his death in 1809. He was a member of the Nova Scotia Legislature for six years, and testimony is borne to the exact manner in which he performed his duties. Many families in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick trace their descent from Lieut. Moody.

In his autobiography he tells us that up to the outbreak of hostilities between the colonies and the mother country he cultivated his farm "in the best climate and happiest country in the world," happy in the love of his family and neighbors and seldom thinking much of state questions. The gathering clouds warned him that the peaceful security which he had long enjoyed was at an end, and he was compelled to seek the British lines for protection. Once his decision was made, he threw himself into the struggle with all the ardour of a patriotic devotion. He was employed by the British commanders on the most hazardous and delicate missions for which his physical strength and endurance, his undaunted courage, his integrity and caution well fitted him. His prowess soon made him well known and feared among his enemies. When he was known to be near a