

*The American Loyalists in the Eastern Seigniories and Townships of the Province of Quebec.*

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The great triangular district lying north of New York and Vermont, with the St. Lawrence and the St. Francis forming the other two sides, was a favoured region for loyalist immigration during the Revolutionary War. To the south was the valley of the Hudson filled with adherents of the Crown, while Lake Champlain served as a connecting link between the valley and the River Richelieu, along which were situated several British posts,—the Isle aux Noix on the New York frontier, and at distances farther north, St. Johns, St. Ours, Chambley, and Sorel, the last named marking the junction of the Richelieu and the St. Lawrence. These posts, and others along the St. Lawrence, offered refuge to those whose opinions and activities rendered them obnoxious to such of their fellow-countrymen as espoused the cause of American independence. It is not surprising, therefore, that many sought escape from conditions which they found intolerable by what may be called the Lake Champlain route. However, not all the American refugees who entered the Province of Quebec came by way of the lake: numbers of those from the Mohawk Valley followed one of several western routes, by way of Oswego or points farther east, whence they passed to the St. Lawrence and so down the beautiful river to Montreal or Quebec.

With the beginning of the Revolution the movement of Tories into Lower Canada began. Lieutenant Colonel Allan Maclean fled from Schenectady by the Oswego route in the early summer of 1775, taking with him a party of "Royal Highland Emigrants," composed chiefly of Scotch refugees and disbanded soldiers, in whose enlistment Guy Johnson had aided. These men were enrolled under instructions from General Thomas Gage, authorizing the formation of a corps of two battalions to consist of ten companies each, each company to comprise nine officers, two drummers, and fifty privates.\* On its arrival in Quebec, the party numbered eighty men. A local officer described them in disparaging terms as "Irish fishermen unacquainted with the use of arms." In September, Maclean and his men were dispatched

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\*Haldimand Papers, B. 173, p. 1.