

In the autumn of 1793, after the alarm caused by rumors of invasion had subsided, Lieutenant James Henley retired from the King's New Brunswick Regiment to half-pay. Lieutenant Henley's life, as a Loyalist soldier, had been adventurous and checkered. In 1777 he was commissioned an ensign in the First Battalion, Maryland Loyalists; in 1781 became adjutant of the corps, and in 1783, at the close of the rebellion, a lieutenant. The battalion was sent to West Florida in 1778, and formed part of the garrison that defended Pensacola against the Spanish forces in May, 1781; and it was owing to the perfidy of a cashiered officer of that corps, Ensign Winder Cannon,* that the garrison, after a heroic resistance, was compelled to capitulate. During the siege the Maryland Loyalists lost a great many men. After the capitulation the battalion was sent to New York, and in September, 1783, on the evacuation of that city by the British forces, embarked for St. John in company with the Pennsylvania Loyalists, who had also taken part in the defense of Pensacola. Near Sable Island, Nova Scotia, the vessel was wrecked, and more than half of the battalion perished. Lieutenant Henley, Lieutenant Walter Sterling, and Dr. William Stafford, of the same corps, "got upon a piece of the wreck and floated at sea two days and two nights, nearly to the waist in water, during which time Lieutenant Sterling perished. On the third day the survivors drifted to an island, where they remained seven days poorly clad and without fire and food."† The others who escaped were taken from rafts by fishing vessels and landed at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Lieutenant Henley was a grantee of St. John in 1784, and also received a grant of five hundred acres of land on the Nashwaak, in York County. On the 1st of September, 1784, he deeded at St. John a portion of this grant to Lieutenant Richard Wilson, of the late Garrison Battalion,



(Signature of Lieutenant James Henley, from the muster roll of the Maryland Loyalists.)

"for and in consideration of the regard and affection which he hath and beareth for the said Richard Wilson, and for other good causes him thereunto moving."‡ On the portion of the grant retained, Lieutenant Henley

* Stedman's History of the American War, Vol. 2.

† Sabine's Loyalists of the American Revolution.

‡ Extract from deed recorded at St. John.