

original settlers on the bay, was apparently the agent of the associates who, in 1803, received portions of Ascot Township in Sherbrooke County. Several of Hyatt's brothers also received grants in the same township.* In the same year, Roxton Township was erected, and again pioneer settlers east of Mississquoi Bay were among the grantees, including Elizabeth Ruiter, the widow of John Ruiter, together with her six children, and Christian Wehr, junior.†

The most notable of the loyalist associates of the Eastern Townships was undoubtedly Abraham Cuyler, former mayor of Albany, New York, who, after serving as inspector of refugees loyalist in the Province of Quebec, became the promoter of a loyalist movement to the Island of Cape Breton. In 1782, Cuyler went to London to seek compensation for his losses, and wrote thence to the Canadian authorities for the concession of the whole Township of Hemmingford. Failing in this petition, he applied for allotments in Dunham, Stanbridge, Farnham, Shefford, and Stanstead townships. Next, he claimed a part of Montreal, but, as this was not available, he was given 3,600 acres elsewhere, and, in addition, he and his two sons received grants as associates of Farnham in 1798. However, there is reason for believing that the disposable crown lands in this township were exhausted before Cuyler secured his claim.‡

The extensive district thus widely, if sparsely, seeded with loyalist stock lay east of the Richelieu. West of that river lies the elongated County of Huntingdon, adjacent to the New York boundary, and extending clear to the St. Lawrence River. It also received its sprinkling of loyalist settlers. Those who took up their residence in the eastern part of Huntingdon came from the banks of the Richelieu, from the district of La Colle adjoining, from Alburgh, Vermont, and even from Sorel. Thus, some of the pioneers of the eastern part of Huntingdon were the sons of refugee settlers along the Richelieu, who as they grew up "moved back into the bush" and made clearings for themselves. With them came a few families of loyalists from La Colle and Alburgh. The Township of Hemmingford was opened in this way in the spring of 1800 by James Fisher and his family, of Alburgh. Several years earlier a small loyalist settlement was begun on the eastern slope of Covey Hill, nine miles west of Hemmingford. So far as known the first member of this community was James O'Neill, a Tory from Pennsylvania, who served in the Royal Regiment of Highland Emigrants during the Revolution, and emigrated to Can-

*Day, *History of the Eastern Townships*, 376, 377.

†Ibid, 341.

‡Mississquoi County Historical Society, *Third An. Rep.*, 93; Day, *History of the Eastern Townships*, 272.