

dual made known such his intentions to the then Lieut. Governor Fanning, at that time an extensive proprietor on that Lot, and to the other officers of the Government here; the consequence was that nearly all the Loyalists who had Lands located on that Township received their Grants within a week afterwards. The great majority, however, less fortunate, disgusted and worn out by repeated disappointments and delays, abandoned their improvements, and either became Leaseholders in other parts of the Island, or left the Colony—and a few still retain possession of their allotments, notwithstanding the want of deeds—but such lands, it is understood, generally remain in a wilderness state, the occupiers thereof being deterred from cultivating the same from an apprehension that they might one day be deprived of them. Another case brought under the notice of your Committee, on affidavit, was that of a disbanded soldier who had drawn 100 acres on Township Number 32, which were duly laid out and located to him, and of which he took possession in the following spring, and built a house thereon, in which he lived two winters, and was often promised and expected to obtain his Grant, but never could procure it—but being necessarily absent from his place for a few months only, when his House was accidentally burnt in his absence, the then Governor of this Island (Patterson,) then also claiming to be Proprietor of the said Township Number 32, informed him that he should not have the land so located to him, in consequence of his said absence therefrom, and he, therefore, was obliged to abandon it and his improvements. Your Committee also beg to state, that the Loyalists and disbanded Troops appear to have been persecuted in almost every possible way, and that in one instance a Council Book containing entries from the year 1784 to the year 1787 was designedly suppressed or destroyed, and could never since be found; in which book were contained the locations of numerous Loyalists, which was in fact their only Title, as they had not, nor never could obtain their Grants; and it appears to your Committee that the last time this book was seen was in the year 1803, by James B. Palmer, Esq. when the same was handed to him in Court by the late General Fanning, to produce as evidence in an ejectment cause, wherein the son of General Fanning was Lessor of the Plaintiff, and Mr. Laird and Mr. Young were Defendants; and that in a few hours after, Mr. Palmer returned the book to General Fanning, or his servant; all which will appear on reference to the Journals of this House for the year 1810. In fact, your Committee feel themselves compelled to state, from the examinations of several Loyalists, and their legal representatives, who have attended hereto, and from the statements of many others, all nearly to the same purport, that the “unhappy” situation of many of the Loyalists still remains as stated in the

second preamble of the Act of 1790, hereinbefore referred to; and also from an examination of the Minutes of Council, it appears to your Committee that numbers of Loyalists and disbanded Soldiers have had Lands located to them, but have not yet received any Grants or Title Deeds of the same.

JAMES LAIRD, (Vernon River,) *called in and examined.*

Q. Did you come to this Island as an American Refugee?

A. I did—In the year 1785.

Q. Did you hear of a Proclamation of Governor Patterson's, before you came to this Island?

A. I heard of it at Shelburne, or I would not have come here. Governor Patterson had an agent at Shelburne, a Mr. Grandine, who told me that a man with a family would get 500 acres, and a single man 300.

Q. Did you apply for that land on your arrival?

A. I applied to Governor Patterson, and he gave me possession of 200 acres.

Q. Where was it situate?

A. At Vernon River, on Lot 50.

Q. Are you in possession of the land now?

A. No—the Surveyor made a mistake in laying it out, by running part of it into the adjoining Township of 49: and I had to give up all my lands and buildings, after nine years labour. I petitioned the Governor (Fanning) and Council, and got 200 acres on another part of Lot 50. The Surveyor General sent a Deputy Surveyor to lay out the land; after a delay of two years I got a grant of it. I applied for 500 acres as being a widower—and Governor Fanning told me I had already 100 acres more than I could work. Governor Fanning afterwards became proprietor of the Lot himself, and he kept the remainder of my land along with the rest.

Q. How did it happen that you only got 200 acres?

A. The Governor recommended a number of us to settle together on Lot 50, but the land would not hold out, allowing sufficient fronts, if the full quantity was granted to each. I expected to get the remainder in some other part of the Island.

Q. You stated you got a grant of 200 acres on Lot 50 after a delay of two years—what was the occasion of that delay?

A. After repeatedly applying for it in vain, I determined on going home to state the case to Lord Cornwallis, to whom I was known, in hopes of procuring redress, through his influence with His Majesty—the other Settlers agreed to pay my expenses—on informing Governor Fanning of this, my Grant was forwarded to me within a week, as well as to all the others on the Township, except James Lewis Hayden and John Ainslie. At this time General Fanning only owned half the Township, but after he became proprietor of the whole of it, I had occasion to see him, when he told me my Grant was defective, and if I would return it to him he would give me a correct one. I did not like this, and I told him I was very well satisfied with it as it was. He afterwards sent to the other Settlers on the Township to return their Grants to him, and get others in place of them, for they were all wrong, and that those who complied should have a cow a piece. They consulted me on the subject, and I advised them to hold on by their grants, and not be such fools as to part with their possessions for a cow.

PETER MUSICK, *called in and examined.*

Q. When did you come to this Island?

A. In 1782.

Q. Had you served in the army?