

3, 1792, contains about 5,800 words. But this is not all: on Nov. 17th, 1794, Hardy filed the cross bill of Simonds against Hazen, Jarvis and White, containing 17,000 words, written on a roll of paper 20 inches wide and 20 feet 6 inches in length. Not to be outdone, Ward Chipman responded to this with an answer on behalf of his clients of 19,600 words, which he filed with the clerk in chancery, May 26th, 1795.

The proceedings of the old chancery suit are preserved in the record office in Fredericton. The law student will find much information in them concerning the mode of procedure pursued in the early days of the province, and will derive from their study some idea of the abilities of the men who were giants in their profession in their generation. To the student of local history these records are of even greater interest, from the fact that they throw a flood of light upon the history of St. John during the 20 years' period which preceded the landing of the Loyalists.

Enough has now been written to show the position occupied in public life by the subject of this sketch. Concerning his character in private life, all that I have been able to gather is contained in the brief obituary notice in the Royal Gazette of January 1st, 1799, in which Christopher Sower says:—

"Elias Hardy formed but few friendships, but in these he was always sincere, and the brilliancy of his wit and good humor made him the life of every circle of which he formed a part. He has left a wife and four children to lament the loss of an affectionate husband and indulgent parent."

The wife of Elias Hardy was Emma, daughter of Peter Huggeford, M. D. During the revolutionary war her father, Dr. Huggeford, was surgeon in the Loyal American Regiment raised by Colonel Beverley Robinson of New York, and of which Rev. John Beardsley was chaplain. In the settlement of Parr Town the surgeon and the chaplain drew lots side by side on Charlotte street opposite the south-west corner of King square. Several of the officers of this loyalist regiment were prominent citizens of St. John in the early days. Among the number were the Honorable John

Robinson, who was mayor of the city at the time of his death in 1828, and John Ward who died in 1846 at the patriarchal age of 92, being at that time the oldest half-pay officer in the British service. Soon after his daughter's marriage Dr. Huggeford returned to New York where he was living in 1800.

Elias Hardy was not a grantee of Parr Town. His house was built on lot 417, on the south side of King street about half way between Charlotte and Germain streets, and was a well known landmark. Mr. Hardy in the year 1795 purchased one half of this lot from the Rev. John Beardsley for the small sum of 10 shillings, the other half he procured from another party. His widow in the year 1804 sold one half of the lot to William Melick for £15, and in 1820 the other half to Robert W. Crookshank & Co. for £100.

Some years after her husband's decease Mrs. Hardy, with her children, returned to New York where her father and other relatives were living. The death of Elias Hardy, in the 54th year of his age, took place at his residence, King street, on Christmas day, 1798, "after a long illness which he bore with the greatest fortitude." Three days later his mortal body was laid at rest in the old grave yard in the presence of a large number of St. John's leading citizens. Not even the simplest headstone marks his resting place, indeed the exact spot is today unknown. Friends and kindred returned to the land of their birth, but the old Loyalist sleeps beneath his country's flag, and the city of the Loyalists retains within her bounds the ashes of one of the most distinguished of her founders.

The writer of this paper deems it an honor to have gathered the fragments which tell—albeit imperfectly—the life-story of the son of the non-conformist minister of Farnham, and to lay this humble chaplet on his nameless grave.

*Elias Hardy.*

