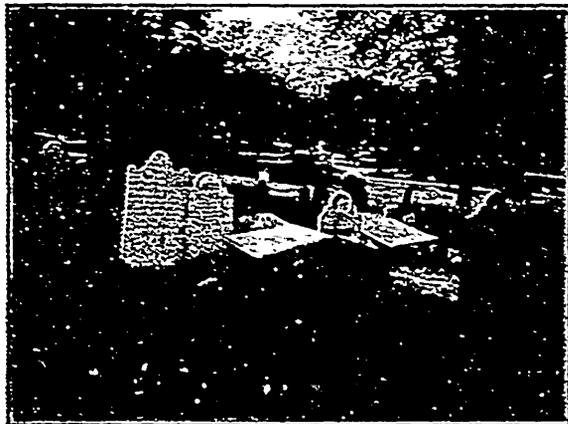


My grandfather, having had his property confiscated, sailed with his family and a large number of others to New Brunswick and settled in St. John, 1783, where he died on the 23rd of March, 1821, at the great age of nearly 92 years (born 12th April, 1729), and his headstone still exists in the old burying ground on King St. East, St. John, N. B., now used as a public park.

My uncle, Shubal, who was a brave, powerful, determined character, took advantage of the permission to the Loyalists to return to their homes on the proclamation of peace. The Whig rebel party stood in awe of him. The loose, idle fellows feared him and gave him a bad name. If a man were found dead it was Merritt's doing. If another were taken prisoner it was all owing to Shubal. At length these lawless fellows determined to rid the country of one who was considered an enemy to liberty, and in the way of their unlawful proceedings. They at length waylaid him and shot him.*

*(One Kniffin is said to have done the shooting.)

My Uncle Nehemiah died at Saint John, New Brunswick, 1842, a strict U. E. Loyalist, leaving descendants who erected a tombstone with the following inscription:— "To the memory of Nehemiah Merritt, a native of New York. At an early age he left that country to retain unsullied his allegiance to his Sovereign and accompanied the Loyalists, who, in 1783, landed in this province, where, by an unwearied course of industry, prudence and honesty he acquired the respect and esteem of the community. He was for several years one of Her Majesty's Justice of the Peace for the city and county of Saint John's. This stone is erected by his children as a testimony of esteem."



*The Merritt plot in the Old Grave yard, on King St. E., St. John, N.B.
—Now a public park.*

My late father, Thomas Merritt, ex-Sheriff of this district, was born at the family homestead, Mile Square, West Chester County, 28th October, 1759.