

same month, with the exception of the two ships, "Martha" and "Esther." Of these the former was wrecked on a ledge near the Seal Islands, afterwards known as "Soldier's Ledge," and out of 170 individuals on board more than half were drowned. The "Esther" arrived at her destination several days after her sister ships, having narrowly escaped destruction by getting out of her course. She had on board the third battalion of the New Jersey Volunteers.

As already mentioned, the Dutch element was predominant in Colonel VanBuskirk's battalion, and by reason of the settlement of so many of the men of this corps in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the same thrifty element that figures conspicuously in the development of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, was planted in the Maritime provinces. Among those who arrived at St. John in the "Esther" were Lodewick Fisher,¹ his wife Mary, and their three children, Eliza, Henry and Peter, all of whom were born on Staten Island during the turmoil of events connected with the war.

The story that follows does not pretend to be quoted verbatim from the lips of the good old lady who was the narrator, but is based upon the notes made by one of her granddaughters containing recollections of her grandmother's story of the founding of Fredericton.

THE GRANDMOTHER'S STORY.

Your grandfather, Lewis Fisher, joined the New Jersey Volunteers on the 7th of December, 1776, and was taken prisoner by the rebels a few weeks afterwards along with his brother Peter and fifteen others. After an absence of a year and nine months he returned to his duty October 2, 1778, having made his escape from confinement.

When the war closed the New Jersey Volunteers lay encamped at New Town creek near Brooklyn, Long Island. We sailed in the ship "Esther," with the fleet for Nova Scotia. Some of our ships were bound for Halifax, some for Shelburne and some for St. John's river. Our ship going the wrong track was nearly lost. When we got to St. John we found the place all in confusion: some were living in log houses, some building huts, and many of the soldiers living in their tents at the Lower Cove.

Soon after we landed, we joined a party bound up the river in a schooner to St. Ann's.² It was eight days before we got to Oromocto, and there the captain landed us, being unwilling on account of the lateness of the season or for some other reason, to go further. He charged us each four dollars for the passage.

¹ After his arrival in New Brunswick, Mr. Fisher bore the name of Lewis, the English equivalent of Lodewick.

² The old name for Fredericton.