

French War, and located in the same neighborhood. The result of this marriage was seven children, all boys but one (Phoebe Lyons). He held a Captain's commission during the commencement of the troubles, and, owing to his firm allegiance to the British Crown, would not join the rebel party or act with them. For this determination he met with a great deal of ill treatment from some of his neighbors and, ultimately, after the battle of Lexington, April 19th, 1775, he was arrested by the Whigs of West Chester and put into jail. To such a pitch of enthusiasm were things carried that even one of his relations voted with the mob to take away his life, but he was rescued and escaped to New York, which the British still held. He was accompanied by two of his sons, Thomas, my father, and Shubal. Here he obtained a Cornetcy of Dragoons for my father in the Queen's Rangers. Shubal, my uncle, was a staunch Tory and joined the Cow Boys.

My grandmother at this restless period was harassed by visits from both parties. She destroyed the family register to prevent her remaining sons from being enlisted. She did not long survive these accumulated trials and died shortly after, being buried on the family property.



*Headstone of the Father of Major Thos. Merritt in the Old
Grave-yard in St John, N. B.*