

## GENERAL COFFIN.

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All the old and many of the young citizens of Saint John, New Brunswick, have heard of General Coffin, and few tourists have travelled on the River Saint John without having had their attention called to the site of the Coffin manor at the foot of the Long Reach. But yet there are very few persons, even amongst those who live near the General's old home in the Province, who know anything of him except his name and the tradition as to his place of residence.

Prior to the fire which, in June, 1877, consumed the greater part of Saint John, including Trinity Church, there was in the latter building a mural tablet which helped to keep the memory of the departed soldier alive. Upon this was inscribed the following :

Sacred to the memory of General John Coffin and Anne Matthews his wife one of the first settlers on the River Saint John in the year 1784 and until the time of his death was a member of the Legislative Council of this province ever endeavouring to increase the agricultural and commercial interests of the province: he died May 18. 1838 in the 85 year of his age. This tablet is erected to his memory by his surviving children.

It is to be regretted that the writer of this was apparently unable to recognize the fact that the unity existing between husband and wife is not generally apparent in the discharge of duties in the legislature or of a public character. The inscription in addition to its disregard of grammatical rules, is inaccurate as to the date of the death, which occurred on the twelfth, not on the eighteenth day of May, although the latter might well have been desired by a Loyalist of New Brunswick as a fitting time for entering into rest.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The remains of General Coffin lie in the Church of England burial ground, Westfield, a beautiful spot on a hill overlooking the St. John River, about a quarter of a mile distant from the site of the Coffin manor. To the left, on entering the burial ground from the road which runs close by it, two graves are seen with the following inscriptions on the tombstones:

GENERAL  
J. COFFIN  
aged 87.

NATH'L COFFIN  
aged 15.

Near the head of the graves is an oak tree, a shoot from which — not more than of two seasons' growth, when the writer visited it in September of this year — has sprung up from the general's grave near the head.—[EDITOR.