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MEMOIR OF COLONEL JOEL STONE, A UNITED EMPIRE
LOYALIST AND THE FOUNDER OF GANANOQUE.

BY JUDGE HERBERT S. McDONALD, BROCKVILLE.

In June, 1884, at the meeting held at Adolphustown, to celebrate the centennial of the first settlement of Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalists, one of the speakers intimated that the celebration had been set on foot in order (to use the words of Dr. Ryerson) "to do at least a modicum of justice to the memory of a Canadian Ancestry whose heroic deeds and unswerving Christian patriotism form a patent of nobility, more to be valued by their descendants than the coronets of many a modern nobleman." Concurring entirely in the truth of the tribute to those who may justly be called the forefathers of the great Province of Ontario, it is at once a pleasure and a privilege to be permitted to prepare a memoir of one among them who risked life and sacrificed property for loyalty to his king and country.

It is impossible for us at this remote period of time to enter into the feelings and to appreciate the conduct and action of those who are known as United Empire Loyalists. It has been so much the habit to have the virtue of true patriotism accorded to the American revolutionists and to have the loyalists, under the name of Tories, depicted as men who were false to their country and cruel and cowardly in their actions, that many even of the descendants of the latter have not known the truth of the matter. For this state of things United States writers have been largely responsible, and the thanks of the Canadian people are justly due to the lamented late Reverend Dr. Egerton Ryerson, for having in his work entitled "The Loyalists of America and their Times" done justice to the loyalists and exposed the cruelty and injustice with which they were treated.

Dr. Ryerson says: "From the beginning the Loyalists were deprived of the freedom of the press, freedom of assemblage, and under an espionage universal, sleepless, malignant, subjecting the Loyalists to every species of insult, to arrest and imprisonment at any moment, and to the sacrifice and confiscation of their property."

And again: "The Americans inaugurated their Declaration of Independence by enacting that all adherents to connection with the mother country were rebels and traitors; they followed the recognition of Independence by England by exiling such adherents from their territories. But while this wretched policy depleted the United States of some of their best blood, it laid the foundation of the settlement and institutions of the then almost unknown and wilderness provinces which have since become the widespread, free and prosperous Dominion of Canada."

Joel Stone was born in the Town of Guilford in the County of New Haven, and (then), Province of Connecticut, on the 7th day of August,