



The Keith House at Græme Park, Horsham, Pennsylvania. Home of John Young

Picture courtesy of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Appendix H:

Lt. John Young's Application to the Loyalist Claims Commission

Introduction

The Loyalist Claims Commission was established in July 1783 by an Act of the British Parliament to conduct an inquiry of Loyalists claiming persecution by American forces and confiscation of property. The Commissioners conducted interviews of claimants and witnesses, took personal notes, and presented their recommendations to Parliament.

One of the Loyalists making a claim under the act was Lt. John Young, a Pennsylvania Loyalist who served as an officer in the 42nd Regt. from his initial commission as an Ensign on Aug. 15, 1778 to his reduction on half-pay on June 24, 1783 at the end of the war.

John Young, born in Philadelphia on Nov. 6, 1757, was the son of Capt. James Young of the rebel Continental Army and his wife Mary Jane Græme, daughter of Dr. Thomas Græme of the estate of Græme Park at Horsham (about 17 miles north of Philadelphia). John Young spent much of his time with the Græmes, who were noted to be British sympathizers. At the outbreak of the American Revolution, 18-year old John Young left his family in March 1776 and travelled to New York to join the British Army. Young was ordered to join the Army at Boston and sailed on the ship "*Sally*" but was driven on shore at Montauk, Long Island in a gale of wind. The passengers including Young were captured by rebel forces and sent under guard to New York. Young was granted parole and allowed to return to Græme Park until released about 18 months later.

After Young's release from parole, he was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Corps of Pennsylvania Loyalists around Sept. 1777. General Orders on Aug. 15, 1778 announced his

commission as an Ensign in the 42nd Regt. and Lt. Col. Stirling, in a letter to his brother, described Young saying: "... *Ja^s Young's son who is as Royal as his father is opposite...*"

On Mar. 6, 1778 the rebel controlled Pennsylvania Assembly passed an act for "*the attainder of diverse Traitors.*" The act declared that all subjects and inhabitants of the state who should at any time during the war voluntarily serve the King would become attainted of high treason. In accordance with the law eight proclamations were issued by the council against persons designated as traitors. In 1777 as a result of joining the Royal Army, Young was charged with treason by the rebels and his estate was seized "*...consisting of nine Hundred Acres of Land in the Counties of Northampton and Westmoreland in the Province of Pennsylvania.*"

About May 1783, Young returned to Britain and fell into hard times financially as described in a Memorial to "*The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury*" (below). Lt. Young was eventually awarded £1,100 for his confiscated estate which he estimated was worth £3,395. His full biography is provided in this volume in Appendix A: Biographies of the Officers of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment during the American War for Independence, 1775-1783.

The correspondence and endorsements of Volunteer Young captured with him after the shipwreck of the ship *Sally* are provided in this volume in Appendix I: Correspondence, Orders and Contemporary News Articles Concerning the Officers of the 42nd or Royal Highland Regiment, beginning with "Journal of Vol. John Young (Future Lt., 42nd Regt.) Describing His Trip From Philadelphia to See the Royal Governor of New York, Jan. 24 -26, 1776."

Notes to the Introduction: "The Loyalists of Pennsylvania," Wilbur H. Seibert in *Ohio State University Bulletin*, Vol. XXIV, No. 23, Apr. 1, 1920, pp. 58-59 and *American Migrations 1765-1799: The lives, times, and families of colonial Americans who remained loyal to the British Crown before, during and after the Revolutionary War, as related in their own words and through their correspondence*, Peter Wilson. Coldham, Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000, p. 497.

Documents

Memorial of John Young Received by the Loyalist Claims Commission, Jan. 8, 1784

To the Right Honourable

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

The Memorial of John Young an American Loyalist

Respectfully Sheweth

That Your Memorialist did in the month of March 1776; without the Hope [illegible] or the Prospect of Advantage incited by no Motive [illegible] Loyalty, and a lively Sence of his Duty, leave his Friends, and Property in Pennsylvania, and go on board his Majesty's Ship Phoenix, at that Time laying in the Harbour of New York with an Intention of serving his Majesty as a Volunteer in his Army at Boston.

That on his Passage to Boston he was shipwrecked on the End of Long Island, made Prisoner by the Americans and kept one Year and Six Months in Confinement. Soon after his Release he obtained a Commission of Lieutenant (from Sir William Howe) in the Corps of Pennsylvania Loyalists and on the 3^d of August 1778 was removed to an Ensigny in the 42^d Regiment in which he continued faithfully to serve till the Peace.

That Your Memorialist was, at the Time of his joining the Royal Army, seized of an Estate consisting of nine Hundred Acres of Land in the Counties of Northampton and Westmoreland in the Province of Pennsylvania.

That in the Year 1777 Your Memorialist was, f^m his Services and Attachment to his Majesty's Government, attainted of Treason to the new-created Commonwealth; and the whole of the abovementioned Estate confiscated and sold for the Use thereof.

That at the Conclusion of the Peace, and not till then, your Memorialist asked and obtained his Excellency Sir Guy Carleton's Permission to come to England to solicit a Requit for the Loss of his Patrimony: and he has accordingly given a just State thereof to the Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for inquiring into the Services and Losses of American Loyalists; and from whom he has no Doubt of receiving such Recompence as his Case may merit.

That Your Memorialist has been since his Arrival in England, (which was in May last) reduced upon half Pay as Lieutenant, Without Money, or the Means of obtaining it; plunged in Debt by the Expences of his Voyage and the further Expence of living in London, whether he came only to prosecute his Claim, he was reduced to the Necessity of parting with his last Resource, and selling the half of his half Pay, to save him from immediate Famine; The small Sum raised thereby is nearly expended, though it has been managed with penurious Frugality; and your Memorialist is now actually existing upon twenty Pounds a Year.

Your Memorialist prays therefore that your Lordships would be pleased to take his Case into your Consideration, and allot him a temporary Support until his Claims are considered and determined on by the Commissioners aforesaid.

Jn^o. Young

Source: TNA, *Records of Claims Commissions, American Loyalists Claims*, Series II at AO 13/95B, ff. 483-484.

Annotated Memorial of Lt. John Young, Jan. 1, 1784

Pensy^a
John Young
Attended 26th April
1784

To The Commissioners appointed by the Parliament for inquiring into the Services and Losses of American Loyalists
The Memorial of John Young late of the province of Pennsylvania, Gent:
Sheweth

N^o 1 of the Documents delivered

That your Memorialist, without the Hope of Reward or the Prospect of Advantage; incited by no Motive but Loyalty and a lively Sence of Duty, did in the Month of January 1776, at the Age of Eighteen leave his Friends and Property in Pennsylvania, and go on board His majesty's Ship Phoenix, at that time laying in the Harbour of New York; and did there offer himself to Lieutenant General [William] Tryon to serve His Majesty in any Capacity within the Pleasure of his Abilities that His Representatives should command.

N^o 9

This Offer was accepted by the Lieutenant General: and your Memorialist then improved the first Opportunity of embarking for Boston, with a design of serving in the Royal Army as a Volunteer: But on his Passage thither he was shipwrecked, made a Prisoner by the Americans, and kept one Year and Six Months in Confinement. At the End of which Time obtained a Commission of Lieutenant in the Corps of Pennsylvania Loyalists from Sir William Howe: and on the 3^d August 1778 he was removed to an Ensigncy in Forty second or Royal Highland Regiment in which he continued

N^o 2

faithfully and chearfully to serve till the Peace when he was reduced upon half Pay.

The original Title delivered by Henry Ferguson Esq^r as a Document of his Claim. N^o 10 N^o 3

That your Memorialist, at the Time of his joining His Majesty's Army was seized of a Freehold Estate, consisting of Six Hundred and Seventeen Acres of Land in the County of Northhampton, in the province of Pennsylvania; obtained by the bequest of his late Grand Father Thomas Grame Esq^r the Value of which was Six Pounds ten Shillings *P* Acre. Also of a Freehold of Three Hundred and Forty three Acres of land in the County of Westmorland in the said Province, whose Value was Two Pounds ten Shillings *P* Acre, Currency of Penn^{sa}.

N^o 4 and 8

confiscated & sold

That your Memorialist was for his Attachment and Service to His Majesty's Government attainted of Treason to the new created Commonwealth in the Year 1777, and the whole of the abovementioned Lands confiscated and sold for the Use thereof.

N^o 5

And your Memorialist begs leave further to represent that in the Month of Dec^r 1778 his Father died at Philadelphia seized of a Real Estate, from the Inheritance of which he well knew your Memorialist to be cut off by Attainder. He therefore in his Testament ordered that the estate to be sold by his Executors and the Money arising from the Sale to be [illegible] on Memorialists [illegible].

[Illegible – torn] of the Testament sold for the Sum of three Thousand Pounds [torn] paid at two payments of two Thousand at the first and one Thousand at the second: but the Currency depreciation between the Times of Sale and the first Payment twenty for one; and between the Times of the first and second Payment Sixty five for one; your Memorialist actually received for the said Estate only the twentieth Part of two thirds, and the Sixty fifth part of the of the other third thereof.

Your Memorialist hopes you will consider this Loss, as well as those, beforementioned, as a Consequence resulting from his adherence to his Majesty's Government; as he presumes he could not from any other Course have been subjected to it. But this with all Modesty and Deference submitted to your Wisdom and Candour.

Your Memorialist therefore prays that his Case may be taken into your Consideration, in order that Your Memorialist may be enabled, under your Repor^t to receive such Aid or relief as his Services and Losses may be found to deserve.

London
1st Jan 1784

Jn^o Young

Schedule of the Property lost [torn] John Young in Consequence of his Attachment and Services [torn] His Majesty's Government

617 Acres of Land in the County of Northampton in Pennsylvania whose Value is £6.10 <i>P</i> Acre	£4010. 10
343 Acres in the County of Westmorland in the said Province at £2. 10 <i>P</i> Acre	857. 10

The Amount of his Fathers Bequest in the Year 1778 was	£3000. 0. 0
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Of which Sum he received the 20th part of £2000£ 100
 And the 85th part of £1000 £ 15. 7. 9
£2884. 12. 3

But the Currency being depreciated at the Time of Sale 3 for
 one it leaves 1/3 part of the above Sum of £2884. 12. 3 as
 the actual Loss the Memorialist in Consequence of his
 Attainder, which is 961. 6. 8
 Penn^a Curr^{cy} £5829. 6. 8

[Illegible] Abode of the Memorialist [illegible] Street, Cavendish Square: but as [illegible] of his
 Examination he will be found [illegible] the Invalid Office White Hall

Witnesses in behalf of the Memorialist are
 Henry Ferguson Esq^r N^o 24 Edward Street Cavendish Square
 to Property –
 Joseph Galloway Esq^r N^o 8 Newnham Street Oxford Street
 to Loyalty –
 Liu^t Gen^l [William] Tryon, Upper Grosvenor Street, Grosvenor Square
 Services

Liu^t Gen^l [James] Robertson, Wimpole Street. – Services
 Liu^t Colⁿ [William] Allen [Pennsylvania Loyalists] N^o 62 South Mouton Street. – Loyalty &
 Service

Source and Notes: TNA, *Records of Claims Commissions, American Loyalists Claims*, Series II AO 13/95B, ff. 481 – 482, 485. The title at the top of the memorial and the annotations appear to have been added by the commission. Northampton County, located in the Lehigh Valley and bordering on the Delaware River, is located about 70 miles north of Philadelphia. Westmorland County is centered on the city of Greensburg, about 30 miles east of Pittsburgh.



Detail from *The Phoenix and the Rose engaged by the enemy's fire ships and galleys on Aug. 16, 1776*, by D. Serres from a sketch by Sir James Wallace

Picture Source: Wikimedia Commons

Case Summary by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

Young, John

26th April 1784

Born in Pennsylvania – says that when the troubles broke out he went on Board the Phoenix Man of War then at New York and offered his Services to Gov^r [William] Tryon which were accepted of – That on his going from thence to Boston to serve as a Volunteer, he was Shipwrecked & detained by the Americans a Year & a half, at the End of which time he was appointed a Lieutenant in a provincial regiment called Pennsylvania Loyalists. He was afterwards made an Ensign in the 42^d Regim^t and is now a Lieutenant of the same but upon Half Pay – At the time he joined the British Army he was possessed under his Grandfathers Will of near a thousand Acres of Land, which with personal Property amounting to £5829 Pennsylvania Currency (which is more than £3000 Sterling) was confiscated & sold in the year 1777 on account of his Loyalty – he is a single Man – was obliged to dispose of the Half of his Half pay for immediate Support since he came to England in May last –

Produces Certificates to Loyalty & property from Lieutenant Governor [Andreas] Elliot, General [William] Tryon, and M^r [Joseph] Galloway – has nothing at present to support himself with but £20. P Ann. Which is the Half of his Half Pay aforementioned. –

No further Certificates or Attendance required.

Source: TNA, *Records of Claims Commissions, American Loyalists Claims, Series I, Examinations, etc. on fresh claims, 1783-1784* at AO 12/100, p. 249.

Lt. John Young's Claim Coversheet

Copies of 317

Certificates concerning Lieu^t John Young of the Province of Pennsylv^a

Copy of Certificate from Lt. Col. Charles Graham, 42nd Regt., Oct. 1, 1783

London 1st October 1783

This is to certify that M^r John Young of the City of Philadelphia in North America, served in the first battalion of the 42^d Reg^t. in the two Ranks of Ensign and Lieutenant with my Approbation as his Commanding Officer, from the 3^d of August 1778 until the 24th June 1783 when he was reduced on halfpay

Signed

Cha^s Graham

L^t Col^o 42^d R^t

Copy of Certificate from Former New York Gov. Lt. Gen. William Tryon, Dec. 30, 1783

This is to certify that M^r John Young, at present a reduced Lieutenant on half Pay, came to me (whilst I was obliged to stay on board the ship Dutchess of Gordon off New York) from Philadelphia, in the beginning of the year 1776, with an Intention of serving in the Royal Army as Volunteer, for which Purpose I gave him a Letter of Introduction to the Commander in Chief &^{ca}. at Boston; but he had the Misfortune to be shipwrecked on the End of Long Island, and made a Prisoner; and such remained during several Months before he could return to the King's Lines, when he was appointed a Lieutenant in the Penn^l. Loyalists, and afterwards was removed to the 42^d R^t where he continued to serve faithfully till the Peace. and he informed me in Consequence of his Attachment to the King's Government his patrimonial Estate in Pennsylvania is confiscated; I therefore recommend him as a gentleman highly intitled to the favour and Consideration of Government.

Given under my Hand in Upper Grosvenor Street this 30th December 1783 –

(Signed)
W^m. Tryon

**Copy of Certificate from Maj. Gen. Thomas Stirling, Former Lt. Col., 42nd Regt.,
Apr. 28, 1785**

I do hereby Certify that I have known Lieutenant John Young these many years, that his Attachment to the British Government made him take an active Part at the breaking out of the Troubles in America. and that in the year 1777 he raised his Quota of Men for a Lieutenancy in the Penns^a Loyalists, and would have been a Captain in that Corps had not his friends advised him to get into a regular regiment.

That to my knowledge he has suffered much for his Loyalty, and from his good Connections lived in a comfortable and easy Style and had Prospects very advantageous.

Given under my Hand in London this 29th of April 1785

(signed) Tho^s Stirling
Major Gen^l

**Copy of Certificate of Joseph Galloway, Loyalist Administrator of Philadelphia,
Feb. 7, 1784**

I do hereby certify that M^r John Young, Lieutenant of the 42^d Reg^t behaved himself during the first Comotions in America as a Loyal Subject and that so early as the Year 1776 he left Pennsylvania and went over to the British Army in order as I was informed to enter into the British Service.

(Signed) J: Galloway

Feb^y 7th 1784

Copy of Certificate of Former Pennsylvania Lt. Governor Andreas Elliot

I certify that I was well acquainted with the Family Situation, and Circumstances of M^r John Young, late of the province of Pennsylvania, now a Lieutenant on half pay: and that he there inherited a considerable Property by the Death of his grand Father Thomas Graeme Esq^r. that very early in the War he joined the British Army in which he served in the Capacity of a Subaltern Officer 'till the Peace.

That for his Loyalty and Attachment to the British Government he was proscribed, and his Property confiscated, and sold by the Legislature of Pennsylvania. He is now exceedingly distressed in his Circumstances. and from his Conduct and Character I think him well deserving of Favour and protection.

Signed
Andreas Elliot

Extract of the Will of Lt. Young's Grandfather, Thomas Grame, Esq.

Extract of the Will of Thomas Grame Esq^r of Philadelphia; an attested Copy of which under the Seal of the Register Gen^l Office of Pennsylvania is lodged in the Office of American Claims, among the Documents of the Claim of Henry Ferguson Esq^r

“Item I do give, devise and bequeath unto my said Son-in-Law James Young, and my said Grand Children John Young and Ann Young all that my Plantation and Tract of Land Leheaton otherwise Called Buskill Creek in the Forks of Delaware in the County of Northhampton in the said Province containing about one thousand Acres; Also all that Plantation

and Tract of five Hundred Acres situated on the Branches of Monockesy, in the said County of Northampton, with their, and each of their Appurtenancies; to hold two full equal and undivided Parts to be divided, of and in the said One thousand Acres and five Hundred of Land unto ^X the said John Young, and Ann Young their several and respective Heirs and Assigns forever, to be divided equally between them and “Share alike”

^X unto the s^d James Young & his &^{ca} [illegible] for ever And to hold the other [illegible] equal undivided 8 Parts (the whole into 8 equal Parts to be divided) of [illegible] the s^d 1000 Acres & 500 Acres of Land

Account of the Distribution of £640 issued in a Debenture by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to John Young Esq^r

Sold the Debenture at the Stock Exchange at 3 ¼ P ^r Cent discount	£19. 10. 6
Paid Agency at 2 ½ P ^r Cent upon £640	16. 13.
Redeemed an Annuity which I had granted upon my half pay	120.
Paid Physician, Apothecary & Nurse	100.
Paid Sundry Debts	<u>50.</u>
	306. 3. 6
Purchased an Annuity of £50 deducting 4 P ^r Cent upon the principal	<u>300.</u>
For Insurance, which is £38 p. Ann.	606. 3. 6.
Balance in hand	<u>33. 16. 6.</u>
	£640. 0. 0.

Middlesex }

To Wit } These are to Certify that John Young of the Parish of Saint Marlebone in the County of Middlesex Esquire came before me and maketh Oath and Saith that the above Account is Just and true.

Jn^o. Young

Sworn before me this
24th Day of June 1789
W^m Hyde

Source: TNA, *Records of Claims Commissions, American Loyalists Claims*, Series II, Pennsylvania, Part 3, S-Z at AO 13/72, part 3, ff. 429- 438.