

Jesse Mills UE (1750 - 1825)

15 Mar 2022

Ancestors 

Son of [John Mills](#) and [Sarah \(Holmes\) Mills](#)

Brother of [Reuben Mills UE](#)

Descendants 

Father of [Henry C. Mills](#), [Stephen Mills](#), [Sarah \(Mills\) Hunter](#), [Rebecca Mills](#), [Samuel Mills](#), [Daniel Mills](#), [Peter Mills](#), [Sherwood Mills](#), [Joseph Mills](#), [Amos Mills](#) and [Jesse Mills Jr.](#)

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Biography

Jesse MILLS was born 1750.^[1] Jesse is the son of [John Mills](#) and [Sarah](#)

[Holmes](#).^[2]

The precise place of Jesse's birth is not know, but he was a Loyalist during the American Revolutionary War and relocated to Cumberland County Nova Scotia with the Westchester Refugees. It is most likely that he was born in Westchester County, New York and family tradition holds that he was born in the town of Bedford. However, the marriage register (see below) indicates that Jesse's parents were from Connecticut. See research notes.

Jesse Mills lived in British Colonial America prior to the American Revolutionary War. During the war, Jesse fought on the side of the British Loyalists. According to the Nova Scotia Public Archives, Reuben Mills was from Bedford, Westchester County, New York.^[3] Jesse's status as a United Empire Loyalist is confirmed by the land grant he received in 1785 in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia.

Jesse was evacuated from New York City with the Westchester Refugees, arriving in Nova Scotia in 1783.

Jesse Mills married Martha (Patty) Mills, 15 Oct 1784 at Ft. Cumberland. The marriage register has the following: Jesse Mills, son of [John Mills](#) and [Sarah Holmes](#) of Hanford (Conn) in New England, and [Martha Mills](#) daughter of [David MILLS](#) and [Rebecca Mills](#), of Franklin Manor, were married October 15, 1784.^[4]

He was awarded a land grant in Ramsheg (Wallace area), Cumberland County, Nova Scotia in 1785 (see Land Grant: Ackerley and others). However, rather than settle in Wallace, Jesse acquired a parcel of land in the River Hebert area where he settled and raised his family.

Jesse died 3 Feb 1825 and is buried in the Linden Hillside Cemetery in Linden, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia.^[5] ^[6]

Westchester Loyalists land in Nova Scotia

The United Empire Loyalists were settlers in the 13 original American colonies who remained loyal to the King of England during the American Revolutionary War. When it was apparent that the revolutionary forces gained the upper hand, the Loyalists held out in two locations: St. Augustine (East Florida) and New York, New York.^[7] According to James MacDonald, an estimated 100,000 people fled the new United States with an estimated 30,000 settling in Canada. Most of these settled in present day Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.^[8] New Brunswick was part of Nova Scotia until 1784 when it officially became a separate province. Part of the motivation for this change was to help with the settlement and land petitions of Loyalists who were streaming into Canada by the thousands.

The Westchester Loyalists left New York city June 6, 1783 aboard two vessels; the "Thetis" and the "Nicholas and Jane", arriving at Fort Cumberland on 14 July, 1783 (near Amherst Nova Scotia). There were approximately 450 Westchester Loyalists who were given land grants in Ramsheg (now known as the community of Wallace), Cumberland County, Nova Scotia.^[9]

The first land grant to record the name of Jesse Mills was "Ackley, Isaac and others, 1785, Cumberland County (Nova Scotia)." See ^[10] ^[11] The grant was signed by Governor Parr in Halifax on behalf of King George III in 1785. It includes the names of Reuben Mills, Jesse Mills, and Samuel Mills. There is also a printed version of the same document (since the original has suffered water damage).^[12]

The grants were located on the North shore of the Northumberland Strait, and a proposed community of Fanningboro was surveyed.^[13] These plots were surveyed, then the loyalists drew lots. They stretched from Remsheg

(Wallace) all the way to Tatamagouche (Malagash) in Cumberland County.

Nova Scotia archives confirm that Jesse Mills was originally from Westchester, New York. The other Mills who were granted land in 1785 were also from Westchester, New York including David Mills, Reuben Mills, and Samuel Mills. In the Nova Scotia Archives publication *Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia*, the following information is recorded:

Name	Date	Situation	Acres	Origin or Rank
Mills, Daniel	1788	River Macaan E	500	
Mills, David	1785	Cobequid Rd	500	Westchester, N.Y.
Mills, Jesse	1785	River Remsheg	200	Westchester, N.Y.
Mills, Reuben	1785	River Remsheg	200	Westchester, N.Y.
Mills, Samuel	1785	River Remsheg	200	Westchester, N.Y.
Mills, Samuel	1788	River Macaan E	500	

[14]

Please note: Daniel Mills and Samuel Mills, who both received land grants in River Macaan in 1788, do not have an indication of their former place of residence. They may have come from another area, or they may have applied for a subsequent land grant.

The [Crown Land Information Management Centre](#) maintains a website with the land grants for the whole province, including the original Wallace grants. Click the link (above) and use this map of Nova Scotia as the starting point for locating the grants. For Jesse click the [index sheet #78](#). Navigate to the top right and locate the community of Malagash (on the south shore of Tatamagouche Harbour), and Jesse's plot is #?. On the north side of Tatamagouche Harbour are the plots for Reuben Mills #18, and Samuel Mills #7.

However, many of the soldiers did not fare well when it came to settling the land. Many quickly sold their land or traded them and moved to other places, most commonly in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick. In 1788, Governor Parr wrote that the soldiers who received land grants "sold ... for a dollar or a pair of shoes - or a few pounds of tobacco - but most for a gallon of New England rum and quit the country without taking any residence."^[15] At that time, Ramsheg was isolated and many left for more populated places such as Halifax or Saint John.

Documentation

Westchester Loyalist Land Grants

The following land grants were given to Westchester Loyalists when they arrived in British North America following the American Revolution.

- Ackley, Isaac and others, 1785, Cumberland County.^[16] Containing the names: Reuben Mills, Jesse Mills and Samuel Mills.
- Seaman, Stephen and others. 1785. Cumberland County.^[17] Containing the name David Mills.
- Mills, Samuel and others. 1788. Cumberland County.^[18] Contains the names of Samuel Mills and Daniel Mills.

Research Notes

Jesse's Parents, John and Sarah (Holmes) Mills

Parents John Mills and Sarah (Holmes) Mills. There are many GEDCOM family trees identifying John Mills as the father of Jesse, Reuben and the other Loyalist Mills who settled in Cumberland County. Tradition says John & Sarah are from Bedford, Westchester County, New York. However, in the

marriage registration for Jesse and Martha, John and Sarah are from Hanford Connecticut (is that a transcription error? Should it be Hartford? Or should it be Stamford?). For example, see [Geni profile for Jesse Mills](#).

John Mills: [John Mills](#) Born 3 July 1734 and died ca. 1793 in River Hebert, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia. See the profile of John Mills for more detailed research questions.

Mills Loyalist Relationships

There are several Loyalists with the surname Mills who arrived in Cumberland County with the Westchester Refugees. Among them are **Jesse Mills**, [Reuben Mills](#), Samuel, and [David Mills](#).

Observation #1: David Mills is older than the others. David Mills was much older. He was born in 1730, and arrived in Nova Scotia with a wife and children. He received a 500 acre land grant, while Jesse, Reuben and Samuel only received 200 acres each because they were all single.

Observation #2: Jesse is David Mills' son-in-law. The clearest relationships can be traced to Jesse Mills. In the marriage register it is clear that he was the son of John & Sarah (Holmes) Mills, and he married Martha Mills who was the daughter of David and Rebecca (Holmes) Mills.

Question #1: Are Jesse, Reuben and Samuel Brothers? Traditionally, Jesse, Reuben and Samuel are believed to have been brothers.

At this point, there is circumstantial evidence to support the theory that *Jesse and Reuben were brothers*. This is because Reuben moved to Moncton (New Brunswick) around 1785 and the marriage register for Westmorland New Brunswick (incl. Moncton) shows that two of Jesse's sons traveled to Moncton in order to marry. They both returned to Nova Scotia,

suggesting a relationship between Jesse and Reuben. Documentary and/or DNA evidence is still being sought to validate this theory.

Conjecture: Samuel Mills is David Mills' Adult Son While there is good evidence to support the sibling relationship between Jesse and Reuben, Samuel's roots may point in another direction. David Mills had a son named Samuel born in 1764. He would have been an adult by the time he arrived in Nova Scotia and therefore was likely given a land grant as a single Loyalist, apart from his father's land. My suggestion is that the Ramsheg / Wallace [Samuel Mills](#) is the son of David Mills. [Mills-4919](#) 00:58, 14 March 2022 (UTC)

Seeking Documentary or DNA Evidence. This reconstruction is based on the evidence at hand in 2022. Further documentary and/or DNA evidence is being sought to settle these conclusions.

Sources

1. ↑ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/162440019/jesse-mills> : accessed 14 February 2022), memorial page for Jesse Mills (1750–3 Feb 1825), Find a Grave Memorial ID 162440019, citing Linden Hillside Cemetery, Linden, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, Canada ; Maintained by Kathy Clark (contributor 47302083).
2. ↑ A Register of Marriages, Births, Deaths and Marks of Cattle in the District of Maccan, Nappan and Southampton for the County of Cumberland County, Nova Scotia. (Luke Harrison, Town Clerk, March 20th 1788. James Jenks, Town Clerk, 1821. Thomas Read, Town Clerk, 1831). Transcribed in 1999 by Bev Sumpter. (<https://www.libris.ca/yrkfam/yrks03.htm>)
3. ↑ Gilroy, Marion *Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia*.

Publication No. 4. (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Clearfield Publisher under the authority of the Trustees of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia: 2000). Page 40. This book confirms Westchester County, NY but does not specifically mention Bedford. A published source for Bedford is yet to be found although it is widely believed to be the location of Reuben's home.

4. ↑ A Register of Marriages, Births, Deaths and Marks of Cattle in the District of Maccan, Nappan and Southampton for the County of Cumberland County, Nova Scotia. (Luke Harrison, Town Clerk, March 20th 1788. James Jenks, Town Clerk, 1821. Thomas Read, Town Clerk, 1831). Transcribed in 1999 by Bev Sumpter.
(<https://www.libris.ca/yrkfam/yrks03.htm>)
5. ↑ Find a Grave, database and images
(<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/162440019/jesse-mills> : accessed 14 February 2022), memorial page for Jesse Mills (1750–3 Feb 1825), Find a Grave Memorial ID 162440019, citing Linden Hillside Cemetery, Linden, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, Canada ; Maintained by Kathy Clark (contributor 47302083) .
6. ↑ Cemeteries of North Cumberland. North Cumberland Historical Society, 2008. Revised Edition. See Page 43.
7. ↑ Landry, Peter. *Settlement, Revolution, and War: Nova Scotia between 1763-1815*. (Trafford Publishing. 2009). Page 87.
8. ↑ Landry, Peter. *Settlement, Revolution, and War: Nova Scotia between 1763-1815*. (Trafford Publishing. 2009). Page 91.
9. ↑ Wallace and Area Museum. [Virtual Museum; "The Story of the United Empire Loyalists of the Ramsheg grant, 1783](#).
10. ↑ [Nova Scotia Archives, Land Papers 1765-1800](#). Direct link is not permitted. Go to the N.S. Land Papers and in the search box type "Ackley, Isaac and others"; in the drop down menu (default "all") select "Cumberland". The land grant document is listed according to the first

name on the grant; in this case it is Isaac Ackley.

11. ↑ [Ramsheg Land Grant Document: www.virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/histoires_de_chez_nous-community_stories/pm_v2.php?id=display_original&lg=English&fl=0&rd=264758]
12. ↑ [http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/sgc-cms/histoires_de_chez_nous-community_stories/pm_v2.php?id=record_detail&fl=0&lg=English&ex=00000852&hs=0&rd=264874# Ramsheg United Empire Loyalists, Land Grants. 1785. Wallace Museum.
13. ↑ Wallace and Area Museum. "[The British thought the new settlers would want to live together in the new settlement of Fanningboro.](#)"
14. ↑ Gilroy, Marion *Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia*. Publication No. 4. (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Clearfield Publisher under the authority of the Trustees of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia: 2000). Page 40.
15. ↑ *The Loyal Americans: The Military Role of the Loyalist Provincial Corps and Their Settlement in British North America, 1775-1784*, (Ottawa: National Museums of Canada, 1983), p. 70.
16. ↑ [Nova Scotia Archives. Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1800](#). In the search box enter "Ackley, Isaac"; in the "other" drop down menu select "Cumberland"; then search. Look for the land grant "Ackley, Isaac and others"
17. ↑ [Nova Scotia Archives. Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1800](#). In the search box enter "Seaman, Stephen"; in the "other" drop down menu select "Cumberland"; then search. Look for the land grant "Seaman, Stephen and others"
18. ↑ [Nova Scotia Archives. Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1800](#). In the search box enter "Mills, Samuel"; in the "other" drop down menu select "Cumberland" then search. Look for the land grant "Mills, Samuel and others"

See also:

- <http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Info/detail.php?letter=m&line=999>

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