

Captain Simeon Covell

A.O. 12 Vol . 21 1784, Mar. 18 Memorial of Simeon Covell
pp. 334-53 with Schedule of Estate, Evidence etc.

A.O. 12 Vol.100 1784, June 24. Statement & decision
p. 325

A.O. 12 Vol. 109 No. 39 Allowances etc.
p. 104

Editors Note:

The following is a copy of Capt. Simeon Covell's claim to the British Government for losses incurred as a result of his loyalty to the Crown during the Revolutionary War. Simeon led a group of 53 other men, who were loyal to the King, to join Burgoyne in his ill-fated march on Albany, N.Y. in 1777. Simeon was made a Captain and led the 6th company in Col Peter's Corp of the Queens Loyal Rangers for 72 days before the defeat of Burgoyne at Bennington. Simeon and three others decided to flee to Canada rather than be captured by the rebels after the surrender. His property in White Creek, N.Y. was subsequently confiscated and sold.

This document is a transcript of a copy of the original claim that is held by the British Archives. The handwritten copy, held by the National Archives of Canada, was made in 1925 in an effort to make this and other important pieces of Canadian history available to researchers. The A.O. 12 refers to the Audit Office records where the claim was filed. The decision which was recorded three months after the claim was made is attached to the Archives copy as was the statement allowances which was presumably done at a later date.

transcribed by David Williams, Ottawa, Ontario.

To the Commissioners appointed
by the Act of Parliament for enquiring
into the Losses and Services of the
American Loyalists –

The Memorial of Simeon Covell
Captain in the late Queens
Loyal Rangers –

Sheweth

That he resided in the Precinct or District of
Cambridge in the Province of New York where he was a
Farmer and Country Store Keeper till 1777 when he joined
the Royal Army under Lieut^t. Gen^l. Burgoyne with Fifty six
Men duly Inlisted to serve his Majesty.

Your Memorialist from the year 1774
opposed the Measures of the Malecontents against the King
and British Government and, although a Supervisor for the
District of Cambridge aforesaid, was twice put into the
Common Goal at Albany at great expense to himself by the
Rebels before he joined the Royal Army.

Gen^l. Burgoyne ordered your Memorialist &
his Company to be attached to the Queens Loyal Rangers
and they were mustered in that Regiment the 22nd of Aug^t.
1777 and he has ever since served according to the Order of
the Commander in chief - But by the Vicissitude of Affairs
your Memorialist never received his Commission.

The evening before the Convention of
Saratoga was signed your Memorialist went off by the
permission in Writing of Gen^l. Burgoyne with Col^l. Peters
and others to Canada through the Woods and Dangers rather
than be Prisoners to an ungenerous Enemy. Your
Memorialist and his three Children have been great
Sufferers and your Memorialist has Lost the whole of his
Estate as is hereafter Mentioned in the annexed Schedule in
consequence of his Loyalty to his Sovereign and
Attachment to the British Government-

Your Memorialist therefore prays that his
Case may be taken into your Considerat^on. in
Order that your Memorialist may be enabled
under your Report to receive such Aid or
relief as his Losses and Services may be
found to deserve.

Simeon Covell

March 18th. 1784 –

A Schedule of the Estate of Captain Simeon Covell late of the District of Cambridge in the Province of New York in Consequence of his Loyalty to his Majesty and Attachment to the British Constitution -

	Sterling		
N ^o .1. A Farm situated in the District of Cambridge in the County of Albany and the Province of New York containing One hundred and Twenty seven Acres well Fenced and Improved on which is a good Dwelling House, Store, Barn and Stables with a very Good Garden and an Orchard contain ^g 125 Apple Trees. The whole of this Land includ ^g the Buildings and Improvements is valued by Appraisalment at £1000 New York Currency equal in Sterling Dollars 4/6 to	562..	10..	-
No.2 A Leasehold Farm situate in Cambridge aforesaid containing 340 Acres of which Lease there was unexpired at the time of the Memo ^{sts} leaving the same 14 Years And on which farm were considerable Improvements the same valued at £300 New York Currency being the Original purchase Money.....	168..	15..	-
No.3 A Piece of land situate at White Creek in Cambridge Containing about 50 Acres partly Cleared at 32 ^o / Currency pr Acre is £80 or at 18 ^o / Sterling pr Acre is	45..	-	-
No.4 A Right of Two hundred Acres of Land in a Patent of Shaftsbury in the County of Albany mostly cleared and Improved at 30 ^o / Currency pr Acre is £300 or at 16 ^o /10 ^o 1/2 Sterling pr Acre is.....	168..	15..	-
No.5 Personal Estate - Viz ^t			
16- Acres of Indian Corn standing 80 ^o / Curr ^y pr Acre is £64 or at 45 ^o / Sterling pr Acre is £36...			
7- Acres of Oats and Flax Harvested and ready to take into the Barn at 100 ^o / Currency pr Acre is £35 or at 56 ^o /3 ^o .. Sterling pr Acre is.....		19.13.9	
3- Acres of Potatoes & Pease and 1 ditto of Turnips at £12.15 Curr ^y pr Acres is £51 or at £7.3.5 ¹ / ₄ Sterl ^g is		28.13.9	
	84..	7..	6
55 Tons of Fresh Hay at 40 ^o .. Curr ^y pr Ton is £110 or at 22 ^o /6 ^o Sterl ^g per Ton is	61..	17.	6
Farming Utensils of all kinds £100 Curr ^y or	56..	5..	-

2 Yoke of Oxen at £20 Curr ^y pr Yoke is £40 or at £11.5 Sterl ^g is	22..	10.	
8 Cows at £6 Curr ^y each is £48 or at £3.7.6 Sterl ^g is	27.	-	-
18 head of Young Cattle at £5 Curr ^y each is £48 or at £3/6/6 Sterl ^g is	50..	12.	6
36 Sheep at 10 ^o /Curr ^y each is £18 or at 5/7 ½ Sl ^g is	10..	2.	6
2 Valuable Breeding Mares at £25 Curr ^y each is £50 or at £14.1.3 Sterling is	28.	2.	6
3 Blooded Colts 2 years old at £30 Curr ^y each is £90 or at £16.17.6 is	50..	12.	6
2 Working Horses at £20 Curr ^y each is £40 or at £11.5 St ^g is..	22.	10.	-
40 Swine at 25 ^o /Curr ^y each is £50 or at 14 ^o /¾ is	28.	2.	6
4 Fifths of a School House at £20 Curr ^y or	11..	5..	-
One Negro Man aged 25 years £125 Currency			
One ditto Woman “ 25 ----- 75 -----			
One D ^o - Boy ----- 7 ----- 30			
One d ^o - Girl ---- 2 ----- <u>20</u> £250 Curr ^y is	140.	12.	6
An indented Servant 10 years of his time unexpired valued at £90 Currency	45.	-	-
Household Furniture.. £329 Curr ^y	185..	1..	3
Wearing Apparel Watch etc - 210	118..	2..	6
Merchandise consisting of English and West India Goods left at the Store } 50	28.	2.	6
500 lbs of Cheese at 1 ^o Curr ^y is £25.			
300 of Butter - 2/- ----- is <u>35</u> ----- 60	34.	6.	6
This Cheese and Butter was left at Mr. Frenches in New City and was taken by the Rebels vide Roger Stevens's deposition annexed.			
Provisions for Family use consisting of Beef Pork Butter Cheese fish & Salt etc £50 Curr ^y	28.	2.	6

1 Pearl Ash Works Compleat ---- 200 -----	112..	10..	
30 Chords of Wood prepared at 2d Work 20 ^o /- £30	16..	17.	6
2 Pot Ash Works in the District of Cambridge £400 C ^y	225..	-	-
1 Pot Ash Works at Bennington..... 250 Curr ^y	140.	14	6
Scales Weights Marking Instrum ^{ts} of Copper 16	9..	-	-
Above 50 Barrels of Pearl Ash left in the Store at £8 pr Barrel £400 Curr ^y or £4.10... Sterling.....	225..	-	-
A quantity of Salts for making Pearl Ash £100 Curr ^y	56..	5	-
Above 10,000 Bushells of Ashes at the different Works at 1 ^s / Curr ^y or Bushell £500 or 7. Sterl ^g pr Bush ^{el} is....	281..	5..	-
Money paid in Fines and Expenses in Prison in the year 1776 & 1777... £150 Curr ^y	84..	7..	6
Bonds and Notes for 400	225..	-	-
Book debts above 300 is	168..	-	-
Total Amount Sterl ^g £	3522..	9.	9

NB The Memorialist expended £112.10^s.. Sterl^g in Inlisting and procuring necessaries for upwards of 56 Men for his Majestys Service previous to joining Gen^l Burgoynes Army for which he has never received any reimbursement -

The Memorialist is Indebted to Jehial Bayely in the Sum of £100 Currency or £56.5 Sterling which is all the Money he owed to any person or persons in the United States in 1777 –

Evidence on the foregoing Memorial
of
Simeon Covell late of the
Prov.^e of New York.

The Claimant.....Sworn

Confirms the Truth of his Memorial and Narrative upon
Oath ---

Certificates of Col^l Edmiston and Roger Stevens to the
Claimants Loyalty read –

Says he is a Native of the province of New York That
notwithstanding he continued there till 1777 he continued firmly
attached to the British Cause. He was confined in the Fort in Albany
between 3 & 4 Months. He never conformed to the Measures of the
Americans except as he was obliged to do as stated in his Narrative
And Says that even then he would not take the Oath in the Form
produced to him neither did he consider it as binding. He carried in 56
Men to Gen^l Burgoyne's Army as he had stated and with them he
served in that Army. Says he served as a Volunteer for 12 Months
under Col^l James Delancy and during that time was in 12 or 15
Actions.

It is yet uncertain whether he shall receive half Pay. He
received his pay up to the 24th Dec 1783 since which time he has
received nothing –

He receives £50 a year from the Treasury.

Property

- No 1 A Farm in the District of Cambridge containing 127 Acres –
Produces Conveyance dated 18th May 1775 whereby
Abraham Ten Brock and Eliz his Wife in Considⁿ of 46..13..4 Curr^y
Convey to Simeon Covell an equal 8th part of a Tract of Land at
Wallumscack called No 14 part of a greater Tract containing 340 Acres
Also Conveyance dated 14th June 1775 whereby Gerardus
Groesbeck in Consequence of 93.6.8 Curr^y conveys to Simeon Covell
a fourth part of the said Lot 14 containing 340 Acres –
Says he had purchased the Improve^{mts} and been in
possession of the Land from 1768 and gave 85£ Currency for them.
He built a Wooden House and in 1775 he built a better. Says from

1768 to 1775 he laid out more than 900£ Curr^y in Buildings and Improvements –

Says he had above 150 Acres under Improve^{mts} although he charges but 127. The Surplus were actually in his Possession but he had not got the Deeds for it. The whole 127 Acres were under Improvements. Is of the Opinion that they wou'd have sold for £1000 Curr^y –

N^o 3. 50 Acres of Land at White Creek in Cambridge

Produces Conveyance dated 13th April 1775 whereby John Munro on Consⁿ of 43.4 Curry conveys a piece of Land in the County of Albany being part of the Tract of 2000 Acres granted to Ja^s Bean – Cont^g 54 Acres to Simeon Covell in fee –

Says that in the Latter end of 1776 he contracted for the Sale of this Land to Nicholas Mosier for £80 Curry and gave him a Deed for it taking his Bond or Mortgage for the Amount. Mosier paid him none of the Money and was afterward driven out of the Country as a Loyalist whereby he lost every prospect of Payment and for this reason he charges for the Land –

No 4. A right of 200 Acres in a Patent at Shaftsbury.

Says this Land lies in Vermont. He was in Possession of a right to it under a New Hampshire Grant and afterwards covered it by a Grant from New York –

Produces and Extract from the Minutes of the Council at New York whereby it appears that on the 3rd of Nov^r 1766 an Order of the Council was made for the making a Grant to Ebenezer Cole in Trust for the Claim^t –

Says he had agreed for the sale of this Land to W^m Farman for £300 but the Troubles coming on he was prevented giving him a Deed and the Land has been taken from Farman as his (Covells) Property *

* Farman had paid him but a Trifle of the Consideration – above 100 Acres were uncultivated

No 2. A Leasehold Farm in the District of Cambridge

Produces Lease dated 10th May 1771 from John Delancy Esq^r to John Curtis Joseph Bruton and Joseph Morgan of a Lot of Land at Wallonisechr in the County of Albany cont^g 340 Acres at the Rent of 42 Dollars to hold for 21 Years –

20th Nov^r 1773 Assignment to Simeon Covell by the Indorsement – Consoⁿ £300 Currency –

Says when he left this Tract above 100 Acres of it were improved in Corn and meadow principally the former. Of this he had cleared upwards of 40 Acres - Says it should have valued it at more but that he had received 70£ for a right in the Land which he had granted to two Men John M^cVicar and another.

Charges for a Crop in the Ground when he joined the British Army 84..7..6 – St^r

Has 4 Negroes whom he bought in 1774 and 5 One went with him when he joined the Army and afterwards sold for 70..6..3 Sterling as mentioned in the Appendix to his Memorial. The others were left at the home when he went away and were immediately taken and sold. Values them as in the Schedule.

He does not think either the Pot or Pearl Ash works cost him as much as he has charged for them, but nevertheless is of the Opinion that they were worth full as much to him as he has charged.

Supposes the first Cost of the Pearl Ash works might be 70 Sterling and of the Pot Ash Works 100^s Sterling. Swears to having been possessed of and lost the several other Articles ment^d in his Schedule and that the Sums set against them are in his opinion reasonable.

States debts £393..15 –

Says these were no Mortgage or Incumbrance on any part of his property. Produces a Certificate dated 6th June 1785 signed John Younglove Comm^r of Sequestration that he had sold all of the pers^l Estate of Simeon Covell forfeited in consequence of the part he had taken during the late War – No specification of particulars.

Produces New York Advertizer of 16th March 1780 – wherein an Advertisement from Henry Wendell Sherif of Albany dated 16th February for the Claimant (inter alia) to appear and traverse an Indictment against him for joining the British or else his Estate should be forfeited and himself be found guilty of Treason and made liable to suffer to Death.

Produces Letter dated 20th June 1785 mentioning that John Younglove had refused to give an account of the particulars of the personal Estate which had been sold and that Jo^h Van Renscellar Comm^r of Confisc^d Estates had refused a Certificate of the Confiscation and Sale of the Real Estate.

Refers to the Aff^t of Ebenezer Allen and Arch^d M^cVicar for the proof of Confiscation and also to the Aff^t Roger Stevens. Says he first settled in the District of Cambridge in 1768 he had before resided in Dutchess County and nobody was concerned in Trade with him.

Produces Certificate of Thomas Crittenden Gov^t of Vermont and Affid^t of John Solmon respecting ill usage he received in the State of New York after the Peace –

Col^l Philip Skene – Sworn

Says he knew M^r Covell from the Year 1770 – Cant speak of his Conduct after the Commencement of the troubles and previous to his joining Gen^l Burgoyne except from Report and he understood his Conduct had been exceedingly Loyal and that he had suffered much Trouble on Account thereof that he had been put into Goal and otherwise ill used.

Governor Skene considered him as a Person in very good Circumstances and who dealt very Largely in Pearl and Ashes. He had large Stores and dealt largely –

Remembers his joining Gen^l Burgoyne's Army with upwards of 50 Men –

Mary Swords W^o Sworn

First knew the Claimant in May or June 1776 when he was confined in the Fort at Albany on Account of his Loyalty - Has heard he was in very good Circumstances before the War –

Capt Moses Holt

Knew the Claimant at White Creek in the District of Cambridge two years before the War. He was a Farmer and Country Store Keeper believes he was always well attached to this Country –

Says he saw M^r Covell's Children in New York and understood they had been banished from his House this was in 1782 –

Says he was past his house twice about a year ago and his Neighbours all said the Property was confiscated and Sold and has every reason to believe that to have been the Fact –

Says he dealt considerably in Goods and was looked upon as a Man of Property and was a Man of good Character – He made a great deal of Pot & Pearl Ash –

Lieu^t James Campbell..... Sworn

Says he had seen the Claimant but was not acquainted with him till he joined the Army under Gen^l Burgoyne –

Says since the Peace he came over, the Farm which the People in the Neighbourhood informed him had belonged to Capt Covell – It was in Nov^r 1784 he saw it – Says it was a very good Part of the Country and there appeared to be good Cultivation upon it Says the Land must have been worth £5 Curr^y pr Acre. The Buildings had been destroyed before he got there as he supposes for he saw none heard it was confiscated and Sold.

Malcolm Morrison.....Sworn

Says he first knew the Claimant when he lived in Dutchess County, he afterwards removed into Albany County. Cannot speak to his Conduct at the Commencement of the Troubles as he was not at the time in that part of the Country –

Says he was upon M^r Covell's Farm where he dwelt in 1773-4 & % he understood he had 120 Acres there. They were about building a New House when he was there last - Says he thinks in the State he saw it, it was worth £5 pr Acre. There was a great deal of Improvement and a very good Barn and Storehouses but these were of no great Consequences. He had Stock about the Farm –

Says the Leasehold Farm was a very good State. He himself (the Witness) purchased the Improvements of that part of the Farm which Mr Covell had Sold. Produces that Assignment in Consⁿ

of £30 Curr^y – Thinks he would have given £300 to purchase out Mr Covell and the other together M^r Morrison had bought the Fee and received Rent of Covell for it –

Knows Arch^d M^cVicar and says he is a man of Character –

Says M^r Covell dealt a little as a store Keeper and laboured a good deal – he had a great deal to do in the line of Pot and Pearl Ash business –

Being questioned as to whether he considered M^r Covell as a man of very good Property, Says he did not, but says he never saw him from the year 1775 till he saw him in New York what he had then in the Way of Furniture was but in the Ordinary way –

Being questioned whether he should have thought the Claimant worth £1000 Sterling before the War – Says he never saw his books to form a Judgement of his Worth but if he was to Judge from his own Private Opinion he should think that was a great deal for him to be worth –

Major Edward Jessup..... Sworn

Knew the Claimant by sight before the Toubles/ Knows of his joining Gen^l Burgoynes Army in 1777, heard he had been taken up for his Loyalty Prior to that time –

Knows the Property he claims in Shaftesbury but did not at the time know it was the Claimants. In 1774 it appeared to be very forward in Point of Cultivation and Improvement. At the time he should suppose it was worth 18/ or 20/ Sterling Per Acre –

London: fs: Mary Swords widow of Thomas Swords late Lieut^t in his Majestys Fifty fifth Regiment of Foot deceased being duly Sworn Maketh Oath that she is about to depart from Great Britain for Nova Scotia And the Deponent further Saith that she had resided with her husband and family for many years previous to the late disturbances in North America at the Place called Saratoga in the County of Albany and Province of New York. That the year 1776 her said husband was seized and sent to the City of Albany where he was confined in Prison for refusing to Actor take part with the Insurgents of that place against the King and Constitution of Great Britain - That for some Months he said husband was kept in close confinement during which time she the Deponent visited him in Prison several times, at which times and place she well remembers to have seen Mr Simeon Covell, Abraham C. Cyrles Esq^r/ Mayor of Albany/ Daniel McAlpine and others who were Confined in said Prison with her husband for their refusing to Comply with the Measures adopted by the Usurpers of Government and adhering to the British Constitution – That in the Latter end of said year 1776 her husband was liberated on Parole but in the Month of March following he was again taken up and confined in the said Prison at Albany when she the Deponent soon visited him again saw the before mentioned Simeon Covell a Prisoner with her husband and as she was informed and verily believes was confined for his still

continuing his Loyalty and Attachment to the King and Constitution of Great Britain and the Deponent further saith that she returned to her Family at Saratoga and some time after she again visited her husband in the Prison at Albany but missing the before mentioned Simeon Covell on enquiry she was informed by her husband that M^r Covell was put into a Dungeon where he was kept a Close Prisoner but what particulars they had found against him, he could not tell, but was much concerned about him, as he understood the Rebels intended to hang him, the said Simeon Covell having frequently heard them express themselves to that purpose - That her husband also informed her the Deponent that he used to hand into the Dungeon to the said Covell Victuals and drink fearing that the Rebels would poison him, as they in General appeared so very malicious, and exasperated against him the said Simeon Covell – All which she the deponent verily believes to be true but did not go down herself to the Dungeon to see him, nor did she see him the said Simeon Covell after she saw him in Prison with her husband, the second time as aforesaid, until she saw him in New York in the year 1779 And she the Depon^t further saith, that she had often heard the aforesaid Simeon Covell and others say that his Little Motherless Children had been banished by the Rebels and sent to him into New York, which she the Deponent did then and now likewise verily believe to be true and further Saith not

Mary Swords

Sworn before the Commissioners
of American Claims at their Office
Lincoln Inn Fields May 24th 1785 }
John Forster
(Secretary)

London: fs: - James Campbell late of Argyle in the County of Charlotte, in the late Province of New York Farmer but since a Lieut^t in the late Corps of Loyal Rangers now reduced being duly Sworn Maketh Oath that he is about to depart from Great Britain for Canada, And the Deponent further Saith that about the year of our Lord 1768he went to reside at Argyle aforesaid and contin^d to live there as a Farmer until he joined the Kings Army under Gen^l Burgoyne in the Summer of the year 1777 that for many years before the Deponent joined the Kings Army as aforesaid he had heard frequent mention made of Simeon Covell as residing at little white creek in the district of Cambridge in the County of Albany in the said Province – That the said Simeon Covell was generally reputed to be at that time a Person of Considerable Property in real and personal Estate, and to be a Farmer and Trader Keeping a Country Store or Shop and carrying on there a Pot Ash and Pearl Ash Work, to his great Profit, all which the Deponent verily believes to be true - That the said Simeon Covell was reputed to be a Loyalist and Attached to his Majestys Government which the Deponent also believes to be true the deponent never having heard any thing to the Contrary And having understood, not only by the Common Report, that the said Simeon Covell had been

persecuted and put into Prison at Albany, on that Account alone, but was told of the same by Major Donald McAlpine now deceased, who informed the Deponent that he himself was a Prisoner with said Simeon Covell at the same time, and upon the same account. That the deponent did not know the said Simeon Covell personally until after the deponent joined the Royal Army as aforesaid when the deponent found the said Simeon Covell in the said Royal Army, serving in the rank of Captain in a Provincial Corps, there called the Queens Loyal Rangers And the deponent further saith, that he believes that the said Simeon Covell was, during the Continuance of the late War in America proceeded against by Indictment in the County of Albany aforesaid under a Law or Act of the Insurgents of the Province of new York, for adhering to his Majesty in the late War The deponent having seen in a news Paper printed in that County a Notification to the said Simeon Covell among others to appear and traverse the said Indictment And the deponent further saith that he has frequently heard and believes that such Proceedings against the said Simeon Covell were followed by a Judgement against him thereon and a Confiscation and forfeiture of the Estate real and personal of the said Simeon Covell in the said Province now State of New York And the deponent further saith that in November last on his this Depon^{ts} Route from Canada to Great Britain his business called him to white Creek aforesaid, where he was shewn a Farm, and told that it had been the said Simeon Covells, and the same on which the said Simeon Covell had resided at the Commencement of the said late War That the deponent was at the time repeatedly told by the people there and hath frequently heard from others who had been in that Neighbourhood that the same Farm had been confiscated on Account of the said Simeon Covells Loyalty and sold, and the deponent verily believes the same to be true. And the Deponent further Saith, that the Situation of the said farm was very advantageous for the Purpose of a Country Store Keeper the great highway from Vermont to the City of Albany and to the New City running through the said farm, and the same being situated in the Midst of a very Populous and well inhabited pert of the Country where there is great Business for Traders – That the Deponent went upon said Farm, but did not go all over it but saw near 100 Acres of it all cleared and fit for immediate Cultivation except for the want offences That the said Farm is free from Mountain, and rather flat that the tail of such part thereof, as the Deponent saw is exceeding good and from the general Appearance of the Lands thereabouts the Deponent Judges, that all the rest of the said Farm is of good quality. And the deponent then heard upon the Spot that the whole of the said Farm was very good. And the Deponent further saith that the Situation of the said Farm is so desirable for a Trader that when the Deponent was at said Farm as aforesaid a M^r Hammond a Store Keeper lately settled by the best information on the Farm of the said Simeon Covell, told the Deponent that he had paid £7 Currency for a Spot to build on, which spot the deponent was upon and saith that the same did not contain half an Acre and the deponent further saith that from the

advantageous situation of the said Farm the richness of its soil, the Improvements he observed thereon, in respect to clearing, which alone the deponent from Experience knows could not have cost less than £3 New York Currency per Acre and from the populousness of the surrounding County the deponent is firmly of the Opinion that the said Farm at the Commencement of the said War was reasonably worth and would have sold for £5 Currency aforesaid per Acre and that even in the disordered state in which it was without fences when the deponent saw it as aforesaid the Deponent believes it was also worth the little sum of £5 per Acre at the time and now also – the Spanish Mill Dollar at eight Shilling each –

James Campbell

Sworn before the Commissioners
of American Claims at their Office
Lincoln Inn Fields May 24th 1785
John Forster
(Secretary)

District of Montreal
Province of Quebec

Personally appeared before me James McGill Esq^r one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said District, Roger Stevens late Ensign in Major Rogers's Corps of Kings Rangers, who being duly sworn despoth and Saith, that he the deponent was well acquainted with the Person and Circumstances of Captain Simeon Covell of Little White Creek in the County of Albany, Province of new York both before and after the Commencement of the late Rebellion, that he the said Covell carried on an extensive Trade in the Mercantile Way, had a good and valuable Plantation with a good Dwelling House barn Stable and other Offices erected thereon with a Manufactory for making large quantities of Pot and Pearl Ash in which he dealt very extensively. That he the Deponent had a Considerable quantity of Cheese and Butter Transported in his own Carriages, the property of the said Covell, to the house of Benjamin French in New City, Merchant, in the year 1776. The deponent further despoth and Saith that the said Covell had a number of Negro Slaves, a large Stock of Cattle, and carried on the Farming Business very successfully, that his house was genteely furnished and his Store well supplied with Goods - The deponent further despoth and Saith that to his Knowledge the said Covell was confined in Goal in Albany, the great part of the years 1776 and 1777 on Account of his Attachment to the British Government by which Attachment the said Covell lost the whole of his real and personal Estate as this deponent after heard and verily believes but to what amount the Deponent cannot Ascertain with any degree of Precision, but believes the Amount to be very considerable. That the said Covell always sustained the Character of a fair Trader and honest Man and further the deponent saith not –

Roger Stevens

Sworn before me at
Montreal aforesaid
this 22nd October 1785

James McGill. J.P._

A.O. 12
Vol: 100 P 325.
24th June 1784

Covell Capt Simeon – Native of America

Was settled in the County of Albany at the Commencement of the troubles. In 1774 he opposed any Assistance being given to the People who destroyed the Tea - He was offered Command of a Regiment if he would change his Opinion, but would not.

In the latter part of 1775 & again in 1776 was called upon by the Rebels to take Arms & join them - This he refused & was imprisoned in Consequence.

In August 1777 he joined the Army under Gen^l Burgoyne & brought 56 Men with him, & was posted with them to the Queens Loyal Rangers, commanded by Col^l Peters, he received pay as Captain to the 24th Oct^r 1777 - He had Half Pay to the 24th Decem^r 1783 at the Rate of 4s/6p per diem in Canada. –

States a Loss of £3630 Sterling in Real & Personal Estate – says it was confiscated, and produces an American News Paper in which he is proscribed by Name.

Very sufficient Certificates to his Loyalty & Services & in General to the Loss of Property.

Col^l Kingston is well acquainted with the Circumstances mentioned by M^r Covell of joining the Army under the Command of Gen^l Burgoyne in 1777.

Produces the Deposition of Seth Benson to Mr Covell being in Possession of several Farms & his being a great Dealer in Pot Ash.

Mr Covell has no means of Support – he has three Children in America. –

No further Certificates required. –

Decision

£50 p Ann from
5th April 1784

This man brings very good Proof to every part of his Case, which is a very meritorious one - One part of it is known to Col^l Kingston who remembers him very well with the Northern Army & that he brought with him as he has mentioned between 50 & 60 Men – His Property is considerable & it is not only mentioned in general Terms in his Certificates but he produces an Affidavit to the Truth of it by one Mr Seth Benson – It is true that we do not know who Mr Seth Benson is but under all the Circumstances of it the story seems to wear the face of Truth.

He seems to have acted with great Spirit from the beginning & if his family had been in this Country we should have thought him deserving of a larger Allowance But as his family are in America & he has nobody to support in this Country but himself We think it would be sufficient to give him an allowance of £50 a Year & that it should commence from the 5th of April 1784.

p. 104

N° of Certificate	Name of Claimant	Province	Claim for loss of Property	Sum originally allowed	Sum as allowed on Revision	P. Centage to be deducted p Act of Parl ^t
139	Covell Simeon	N. York	3,129 ..	1,200 ..		

p.105

Total Sum Payable under Act of Parl ^t	Sum already received	Balance after such Receipt			Deduct ⁿ on acco ^t of Pension	Final Balance	Income Claim for loss of Income per Ann.	Sum allowed for loss of Inco per Ann.	Pension under the Add of the Ho of Com of 9 June 1788
1,200	480 ..	720	..		720 ..				