

Information
About
Martin Blackford UEL

By Scott Meacham

Pennsylvania.

Biographies and family histories state that Martin Blackford¹ or his father² or grandfather came to North America from Scotland,³ sometimes claiming that the Scottish immigrant⁴ was subject to transportation to the colonies following a Jacobite Rebellion.⁵

The Loyalist Martin Blackford apparently married Mary⁶ Deyo/Deaut/De Aut (also De Amt or De Ant⁷) in New Jersey. The couple had six children between about 1759 and 1777. Blackford listed the children in his will, out of birth order, as “Joseph, Jacob, John, Benjamin, Betsey and Susanna.”⁸ About 1774,⁹ Blackford bought land¹⁰ on Big Conewago Creek in Dover Township, York County,¹¹ Pennsylvania. That fall, Blackford confessed to a judgment of £10 8s against him

¹ Thomas Condit Miller and Hu Maxwell, *West Virginia and Its People* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1913), 2:539.

² John Gibson, *History of York County, Pennsylvania: From the Earliest Period to the Present Time, Divided Into General, Special, Township and Borough Histories, With a Biographical Department Appended*, s.v. “Hon. Millard J. Blackford” (1886), Part II:195.

³ *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography: Being the History of the United States as Illustrated in the Lives of the Founders, Builders, and Defenders of the Republic, and of the Men and Women who are Doing the Work and Moulding the Thought of the Present Time*, s.v. “Blackford, Eugene Gilbert” (New York: James T. White and Company, 1893), 3:394.

⁴ William Willis Blackford, Blackford family genealogical notes (unpublished, compiled 1899-1900), 1-3 (no title page, in collection of Library of Virginia, Richmond) (stating that Martin Blackford was subject to transportation); Clement A. Evans, ed., *Confederate Military History*, s.v. “Benjamin Blackford, M.D.” (Atlanta, Ga.: Confederate Publishing Co., 1899), 3:730 (stating that Martin Blackford’s father was subject to transportation).

⁵ See Mrs. John P. Outhouse, “The Ferryman Fought the Scot Pretender at Bloody Culloden” (1960s [?] article from Nova Scotia newspaper stating that Martin Blackford fought in Battle of Culloden, settled in Virginia, and came to Nova Scotia).

⁶ Joseph Blackford, petition to Orphans Court, York County, Pa. (14 January 1791), in York County Archives (identifying Joseph as the oldest son of Martin and Mary Blackford).

⁷ Miller and Maxwell, 2:539.

⁸ Martin Blackford, will (signed 12 January 1809, Digby, N.S.), page 2 (naming “the children of my first marriage whom I left in Pennsylvania”).

⁹ Survey for Martin Blackford of plot of land, Dover Township, York County, Pa. (10 May 1774), York County Archives (copy provided by Patrick Brown).

¹⁰ Tax Roll, York County, Pa. (1774) (listing Martin Blackford in Dover Township), York County Archives (information provided by Patrick Brown).

¹¹ Survey for Martin Blackford of plot of land, Dover Township, York County, Pa. (10 May 1774).

in a suit by William Mackey.¹²

During the spring of 1776, Blackford acquired about 135 acres of land¹³ in Warrington Township,¹⁴ also in York County, along what is now the south end of Warrington Road in Dillsburg. Blackford's 1782 description of the farm, written as part of his claim for compensation, would note a dwelling house, a barn, an orchard, and 30 acres of cleared land.¹⁵ Both farms are in the western part of York County, and the Warrington farm in particular is in an area known during the war to harbor a loosely-knit group of Loyalists known as the "Bermudian Creek Tories."¹⁶

The most notable loyalists in York County were brothers James Rankin of Springettsbury and William Rankin of Newberry.¹⁷ During late 1777¹⁸ or early 1778,¹⁹ William Rankin began forming a Loyalist militia:²⁰

[H]e formed into an Association a Number of his Loyal Neighbours to the number of six Hundred who chearfully took an oath abjuring the Congress of the Rebel States, an oath of fidelity and allegiance to His Britannick Majesty, and Oath of secrecy among themselves, and an Oath of Enlistment under their several officers and were ready to engage in any Enterprize however desperate to assist in restoring His Majesty's Government.²¹

Blackford joined Rankin's associators.²² As the organization grew, it allied with similar groups

¹² Confession of judgment by Defendant Martin Blackford, *William Mackey v. Martin Blackford* (York County Court, 5 Nov 1774), York County Archives (copy provided by Patrick Brown).

¹³ Map of "Martin Blackford & allowance sold to Wm. Tharp, 135 1/4 a[cres]," in Thomas Lynch Montgomery, ed., *Pennsylvania Archives, Sixth Series* (Harrisburg, Pa., 1907), 13:160 (stating that "The above Tract of Land is Mortgaged by Martin Blackford to Joseph Cook by Deed Dated the 27th Day of April 1776 Entered in Book G fol 202 for abt 141 THOS ARMOR.").

¹⁴ Inventories and Sales, in Montgomery, ed., 13:163.

¹⁵ Martin Blackford, claim submitted to Commission on Loyalist Claims (hereinafter CLC), PRO AO 13/90/140 ("Vizt, A Tract of Land in the Township Warrington in the County of York Adjoining the lands of Thomas Thornbg [sic] and Jesse Cook, containing One Hundred and Seventy five acres with a Dwelling House Barn and Orchard on said premises 30 acres of cleared land of which Seven acres was meadow, Estimated at Two Pounds & Ten Shillings pr. acre ---- £437[.]10[.]--").

¹⁶ James P. Myers, Jr., "The Bermudian Creek Tories," *Adams County History* (1997), 3, article 3, available at <http://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach/vol3/iss1/3> (viewed 25 February 2021).

¹⁷ Joseph Galloway, certificate (21 November 1786), in William Rankin, claim submitted to CLC, PRO AO 12/42/105.

¹⁸ William Rankin, memorial, in claim submitted to CLC, PRO AO 13/71/176.

¹⁹ Rankin memorial, PRO AO 13/71/190.

²⁰ Galloway certificate, PRO AO 12/42/104.

²¹ Rankin memorial, PRO AO 13/71/176.

²² Martin Blackford, memorial, in claim submitted to CLC, PRO AO 13/90/138 ("That your Memorialist is a Loyalist from Pennsylvania and came to the British Army at Philadelphia and was employed a number of times to go into the Country for to gain intilgence").

in the region, including the Maryland Royal Retaliators, led by James Fleming and Hugh Kelly.²³ The whole underground organization became formally known as *The Loyal Associators in the Provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland, and the three Lower Counties of New Castle, Kent & Sussex on Delaware*.²⁴ (The group does not appear to have been connected to the better-known group of Associated Loyalists that operated under a board of directors led by William Franklin.)

A Pennsylvania law of March 6, 1778, declared that any Loyalist was liable to be attainted of high treason and have his estate confiscated.²⁵ The Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania then issued a series of nine proclamations attainting a total of more than 450 people.²⁶ The first proclamation named James Rankin.²⁷

On March 22, 1778,²⁸ Blackford “came to the British Army at Philadelphia.”²⁹ There is no indication that he enlisted in a particular military unit,³⁰ although it is implied that he began his

²³ See *Report on American Manuscripts in the Royal Institution of Great Britain* (London: Mackie & Co., Ltd., 1904), 1:20 (listing the case of Hugh Kelly and James Fleming, 1782, and papers annexed thereto, including a copy of the resolution of the Association entered into in the year 1775 (8 December 1775) and deposited in the hands of Hugh Kelly and James Fleming of Frederick County; a copy of instructions to the nominated officers of the Maryland Royal Retaliators with copy of the oaths to be administered: “No. 1 to Menonites, German Baptists and Quakers; No. 2 for aged and infirm people; No. 3 for distinguished non-jurist loyalists who will voluntarily serve; No. 4 for those having previously taken oath of allegiance to the States.”); Joseph McKoy, affidavit (5 September 1783) in PRO AO 13/40/46, transcription by Todd Braisted, The On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies, available at <http://www.royalprovincial.com/military/rhist/mdrr/mdrraff2.htm> (viewed 25 February 2021) (stating that McKoy “is one of the Associated Loyalists in that County, who Associated themselves together and inlisted under Captain Hugh Kelly to serve His Majesty as Soldier during the War in America[.]”).

²⁴ Rankin, memorial to Lord George Germain, in Rankin claim submitted to CLC, PRO AO 13/71/178 (Rankin wrote the memorial “in Behalf of himself, and others His Majesty’s faithful Subjects the Loyal Associators in the Provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland, and the three Lower Counties of New Castle, Kent & Sussex on Delaware”).

²⁵ Wilbur Henry Siebert, “The Loyalists of Pennsylvania,” *The Ohio State University Bulletin* 24:23 (1 April 1920), 58.

²⁶ Siebert, 58.

²⁷ Siebert, 57 (stating that an act for “the attainder of divers Traitors” was passed March 6 naming Joseph Galloway, the Reverend Jacob Duche, Samuel Shoemaker, James Rankin, and others).

²⁸ Blackford, “A True account of the Real Estate of Martin Blackford which he was possessed of the Twenty Second day of March 1778 in the Province of Pennsylvania with a True estimate of the Real Value of said Estate which is confiscated and sold by the Rebels for his Loyalty and for coming over to the British Army at Philadelphia,” in claim submitted to CLC, PRO AO 13/90/140. See Christopher Harrison, claim submitted to CLC, in Diane Rapaport, Additional Records and Transcriptions about Christopher Harrison (24 June 2014), available at <http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Info/extras/HARRISON-Christopher/HARRISON-Christopher-addl-records-by-Ed-LESTER-D-Rapaport.pdf> (viewed 25 February 2021) (dating real estate estimate to day on which claimant went to the British lines).

²⁹ Blackford, memorial in claim submitted to CLC, PRO AO 13/90/138 (stating that he “came to the British Army at philadelphia”); AO 13/90/140 (stating that his property was confiscated “for his Loyalty and for coming over to the British Army at Philadelphia”).

³⁰ Muster Roll of Disbanded Officers Discharged and Soldiers and Loyalists Mustered at Digby [Nova Scotia] (29 May 1784), Public Archives Canada, MG 23 D1, Series 1 (listing Blackford as a Loyalist rather than as a discharged soldier).

espionage work at this point: he “was employed a number of times to go into the Country for to gain intilgence.”³¹

In joining the Loyalists gathering in Philadelphia, Blackford left the members of his family behind in York County. They do not appear to have shared his sentiments. His eldest son Jacob (1759³²-1847)³³ enlisted in the York County Militia in November of 1778³⁴ and would serve at various times in the Pennsylvania militia and the Continental Army.³⁵ Youngest son Benjamin (1767-1855³⁶) is said to have followed Washington’s army on its march from Philadelphia to Yorktown in 1781.³⁷ He was “adopted”³⁸ by the owner of a property that adjoined his family’s farm in Warrington, the wealthy iron master Thomas Thornburg of West Pennsborough.³⁹ (Benjamin eventually joined⁴⁰ the Thornburg family iron business and named his own son, born in 1794,⁴¹ Thomas Thornburg Blackford.)

New York.

When Sir Henry Clinton marched the British Army from Philadelphia to New York City⁴² during mid-June of 1778, Martin Blackford went along. Whether or not he had engaged in espionage while in Philadelphia, Blackford appears to have acted as a spy in New York, where he was “frequently employed well on the part of the Commander in chief and Col. Ranken [sic] on

³¹ Blackford memorial, PRO AO 13/90/138.

³² Jacob Blackford, deposition, Fayette County, Pa. (15 January 1834), in Revolutionary War land bounty file (stating that he was born in New Jersey on 10 April 1759). See also Margaret Blackford, statement in application for pension of Jacob Blackford, W2058, in C. Leon Harris, transcriber and annotator, Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters, available at <http://revwarapps.org/w2058.pdf> (viewed 16 May 2016) (stating that Jacob Blackford has his age recorded in his Bible).

³³ Margaret Blackford, statement in application for pension of Jacob Blackford, W2058, in Harris (stating that Jacob Blackford died 1 May 1847). See also Findagrave.com record of Jacob Blackford grave in Tent Presbyterian Cemetery, Fairchance, Fayette County, Pa., available at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/135365646/jacob-blackford> (viewed 25 February 2021).

³⁴ “Records of 577 New Members...,” *The SAR Magazine* 16:1 (June 1921), 72.

³⁵ Margaret Blackford, statement in application for pension of Jacob Blackford, W2058, in Harris.

³⁶ Miller and Maxwell, 2:539.

³⁷ Miller and Maxwell, 2:539.

³⁸ Miller and Maxwell, 2:539.

³⁹ Historical Society of Pennsylvania, finding aid for Collection 212, Forges and Furnaces Collection, 56, available at http://hsp.org/sites/default/files/legacy_files/migrated/findingaid212forgesandfurnaces.pdf (viewed 16 May 2016).

⁴⁰ Elizabeth Yourtee Anderson, *Catoctin Furnace: Portrait of an Iron Making Village* (Charleston, S.C.: The History Press, 2013), 20.

⁴¹ Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., *Men of Mark in Virginia: Ideals of American Life; a Collection of Biographies of the Leading Men in the State* (Washington, D.C.: Men of Mark Publishing Co., 1909), 5:37.

⁴² Siebert, 54.

confidential services,”⁴³ according to notations in British Headquarters Papers. Rankin, still in Pennsylvania and undiscovered by the rebels, was exchanging secret messages with Clinton.

Surviving records of a minor controversy in New York City illustrate the connections among a few of the Loyalist agents. During the summer of 1779, Blackford spent time with Peter Fisher at the Manhattan tavern where Fisher was boarding at the government’s expense. Blackford ended up lending Fisher seven dollars to pay for drinks there; the tavernkeeper, John Cox, apparently began charging the government for Fisher’s spruce beer and cider while Fisher was out on missions. This was noticed by Christopher Sauer/Sower, an important agent and courier of messages between Rankin and Clinton, and Sauer reported the wrongdoing to Major André.⁴⁴ (Blackford, Fisher,⁴⁵ and Sauer were all Pennsylvanians.)

From Pennsylvania, Rankin was sending to British headquarters in New York a series of proposals for several different raids in which his underground force could see its first deployment. His big plan⁴⁶ was to send 4,000 Associators to the Chesapeake Bay, where they would link up with 4,000 British troops or fellow Loyalists brought in by ship.⁴⁷ Receiving little interest from the Commander in Chief, Rankin wrote Sauer⁴⁸ to ask Colonel John Graves

⁴³ “List of Distressed and Associated Loyalists, now residing within the King’s Lines, who in Consequence of the non Performance of the repeated Promises by Sir Henry Clinton, and their too great Zeal to promote his Majesty’s cause, were obliged to take refuge here, and have not wherewithall to support themselves,” Carleton, British HQ Papers (10 June 1782), 4763(1), in Clements Library, University of Michigan (stating that Blackford “has been employed and may be commanded in the same manner as Weazer” who “has been frequently employed well on the part of the Commander in chief [General Sir Henry Clinton] and Col. Ranken [sic] on confidential services, and may be commanded by your Excellency [General Sir Guy Carleton] at any time on the same Business.”)

⁴⁴ Blackford, unsworn deposition (New York, 1779), enclosed in Sower to André (27 November 1779), in Clinton Papers Vol. 77:28, in Clements Library.

⁴⁵ “List of Distressed and Associated Loyalists . . .,” Carleton, British HQ Papers, 4763(1).

⁴⁶ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLC, PRO AO 13/71/177, page 243 of 482 (stating that with those men and British troops Rankin offered to seize the principal magazine of the rebel congress at Carlisle, and that he also offered to put Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Delaware counties into the peace of the Crown by restoring His Majesty’s government in those provinces).

⁴⁷ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/180, page 247 of 482 (“Dear Sir, Our Situation becomes so exceedingly critical and hazardous without a prospect of a speedy relief, from your Quarter, [thus?] I must [?] again by you to make all possible Interest in our Behalf. I will engage to be ready with four Thousand Men at any Time upon ten or fifteen Days Notice, to act in Conjunction with the like Number of British Troops or Loyalists, to land at the Chesapeak, or other convenient place heretofore mentioned. This Number for Pennsylvania, with proper Persons to command them, you may depend upon, and have great reason from the general disposition of the People to conclude that Ten thousand may be raised, if there should be need.”).

⁴⁸ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/180, page 247 of 482 (stating later that by Autumn 1780 the number of Loyalists actually associated under Rankin in Pennsylvania amounted to 4,000 and that in Maryland and counties in Delaware amounted to 3,000. “Matters were now arrived to such a state, that every day exposed the Associators to new Danger; and their Impatience to take Arms increased with their sense of that Danger; as they had reposed much Confidence in your Lordship’s Memorialist he conceived himself bound by every Tie of Honor and Confidence to do every thing in his Power for their safety, and the furtherance of that noble design, in which they had embarked, by his Advice, at the Hazard of their lives & Fortunes. Deeply impressed with these Reflections, your Lordships Memorialist, on the 4th Day of October 1780, wrote the following Letter to his Friend Mr. Christr Sower, who had been his active and faithful Assistant at New York from the Beginning.”).

Simcoe⁴⁹ to lead this raid, but Clinton inserted himself into the conversation and instructed Rankin to keep waiting for orders from headquarters.⁵⁰ (The 1844 edition of Simcoe's military journal includes a letter he received from Rankin praising Simcoe's "particular countenance to and zeal for the Associated Loyalists."⁵¹) Rankin even wrote to King George III⁵² "on behalf of the Associated Loyalists, imploring his Royal Protection, offering their Aid in Arms to assist his forces in reducing the Rebellion & intreating that he would accept of their Service."⁵³ He sent the letter via Joseph Galloway in London, who gave it to Lord George Germaine, who presented it to the King.⁵⁴ Nothing happened.

In 1781, Pennsylvania's Supreme Executive Council declared (in Proclamation No. 9⁵⁵) that Martin Blackford had aided the enemy by having joined its army,⁵⁶ and it attainted him of high

⁴⁹ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/180, page 247 of 482 ("We have heard so great a Character of Col. Simcoe, as a Soldier and Gentleman, and of his Interest with Sr. H. Clinton, that I wish you to relate the whole of our Situation, loyalty and Numbers to him[.]").

⁵⁰ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/181, page 248 of 482 (quoting Simcoe's message to Rankin via Sower: Clinton "is anxious not to expose, nor want you expose your selves in Aid of any Kind of desultory Expedition, neither meant nor calculated to take Possession of, or to keep your Country -- such may be made to distress the Enemy, but you are most strictly enjoined, not to consider them as intended for any other Object untill by his public Proclamation, or such private Intelligence as you can depend upon, it shall be signified to you, that you are to take up Arms and actively maintain that hallowed Cause, for which you have suffered so much, and which you have so nobly & so cons[ciously?] supported.").

⁵¹ John Graves Simcoe, *A History of the Operations of a Partisan Corps, Called the Queen's Rangers, Commanded by Lieut. Col. J.G. Simcoe, During the War of the American Revolution; Now First Published, with a Memoir of the Author and Other Additions* (New York: Bartlett & Welford, 1844), 317 (quoting an undated letter "written by one of the principal of the associated loyalists on the upper parts of the Chesapeake, and transmitted to Lt. Col. Simcoe by Mr. C. Sowers": "As they have with pleasure and satisfaction had frequent opportunities of seeing your army crowned with success so they have often experienced the marks of your favor attention and protection these acts have endeared you to them and claim their warmest gratitude Your particular countenance to and zeal for the Associated Loyalists and your ready concurrence in the measures proposed for their relief and kind solicitations on their behalf have made an impression on their minds words cannot express and time only can erase and they have exceedingly to regret that the opportunity was not afforded them of evincing to the world under your command the sincerity of these professions and their attachment to their Sovereign.").

⁵² Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/181, page 248 of 482 (describing his address to the King of 14 October 1780 "in behalf of the Associated Loyalists in the Provinces of Pennsylvania and Maryland, and Counties of New Castle, Kent & Sussex, on Delaware, after being duly authorized for the Purpose by all the Principal Persons of the Association").

⁵³ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/172, page 238 of 482 (stating that he, in October 1780, "through the Right Honorable Lord George Germaine, humbly addressed his Majesty on behalf of the Associated Loyalists, imploring his Royal Protection, offering their Aid in Arms to assist his forces in reducing the Rebellion & intreating that he would accept of their Service").

⁵⁴ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/172, page 238 of 482.

⁵⁵ William Henry Egle, ed., *Commissions Issued by the Province of Pennsylvania with Official Proclamations* (Harrisburg, Pa.: C.M. Busch, State Printer of Pennsylvania, 1896), 3:541 (transcription of Proclamation No. 9 by Joseph Reed, President, and the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania).

⁵⁶ Egle, ed., 3:542 (transcription of Proclamation No. 9, stating that certain named individuals "and Martin Blackford yeoman now or late of the Township of Warrington now or late of the County of York [...] have severally adhered to and knowingly and willingly aided and assisted the Enemies of this State and of the United States of America by having joined their Armies within this State or elsewhere").

treason.⁵⁷ Rankin was arrested and jailed in York, escaped with the help of friends, and made his way to New York.⁵⁸ (Rankin would be the subject of Proclamation No. 10.⁵⁹) Rankin became an aide to Clinton⁶⁰ and finally had a chance to file a detailed plan for his Chesapeake raid.⁶¹ This time, Clinton is said to have approved of the proposal, and he allowed Rankin to send a message of reassurance to his Associated Loyalists in the field: help would come in a few weeks.⁶² Clinton, as Commander in Chief, apparently promised to send a detachment of regulars from Virginia to Baltimore and another unit from New York City to Wilmington, Delaware, as part of this Chesapeake plan of Rankin's.⁶³ Clinton then ordered Rankin and Sauer to board a ship

⁵⁷ Egle, ed., 3:542.

⁵⁸ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/172, page 238 of 482 (“That in March 1781, General Washington having received some account of your Memorialists intention to serve the British Government, he was apprehended and committed to the Gaol at York Town, from whence he found the Means of escaping to New York. On his arrival he gave to Sr. Henry Clinton, a full account of the Fidelity, Numbers & danger & distress of the Associators, & intreated him to send a detachment to the head of the Chesapeak, in order to join & support them, offering at the same time to put the three provinces of Maryland, Pennsylvania & the Delawar Counties into the peace of the Crown, provided they were supported by a small detachment, & supplied with Arms, & Ammunition for the Purpose[.]”); see also Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/181, page 248 of 482 (stating that last spring Rankin “was seized and confined in the Common Jail of York County in Pennsylvania, by virtue of a Warrant from Thomas McKean the Rebel Chief Justice of that Province, and in Consequence of Discoveries, said to have been made by George Washington, the Rebel Chieftain, concerning the Association”); Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 12/42/104, page 119 of 228 (stating on 21 November 1786 that in March 1781 after Washington received information on his plans, he was seized, jailed in York Town, and escaped to New York).

⁵⁹ Egle, ed., 3:543-544 (transcription of Proclamation No. 10 (27 April 1781), stating that “William Rankin yeoman and late a Colonel of Militia of the County of York now or late of the Township of Newberry in the said County [...] having been apprehended by Virtue of a Warrant from the Honorable the Chief Justice of this State upon a charge of high Treason and committed to the Prison of the County of York did lately break the said Prison and make his Escape from Justice” and offering a reward of £50 state money).

⁶⁰ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/172, page 238 of 482.

⁶¹ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/182, page 249 of 482 (stating that on arrival in New York he reduced his plan “to writing in the Form of Proposals; each of which was founded on the thorough knowledge he had of the Country, and of the prevailing sentiments, Temper & views of the People” for Clinton); Rankin, “A Plan proposed by WR for subduing the Rebellion in the Provinces of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the three Lower Countys on the Delaware” (filed 27 April 1781), Clinton Papers, Clements Library. See also Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/185, page 252 of 482 (“Your Lordships Memorialist still keeps up a constant Correspondence and intercourse with the Associators he is fully authorized by them to represent their Case, and to do such other things for them as may be judged beneficial to the King’s affairs.” Rankin pledged “in Behalf of the Association, that if they shall receive Assurances of Protection and Aid from your Lordship in His Majesty’s Name -- if they are called on by such Authority as they can confide in -- are furnished with Arms, Ammunition and other Requisites, and measures are taken conformable to the proposals which were presented to Sr H Clinton, April 27, 1781: Then the Association will chearfully rise, and to the utmost of their Power, and at every hazard, will exert themselves to restore his Majesty’s Authority, and rescue their Country from foreign and domestic Tyranny”).

⁶² Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/183, page 250 of 482 (stating that the Commander in Chief approved of and consented to the proposals and authorized Rankin to encourage the Associated Loyalists and give them assurances that they should have the desired assistance in a few weeks).

⁶³ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/183, page 250 of 482 (stating that in May, Rankin and Sower, “whose great influence with the Germans in Pennsylvania and Maryland made his assistance necessary,” were ordered to embark on board a fleet carrying reinforcements to Virginia. Rankin was assured that

carrying reinforcements from New York to Yorktown, Virginia, during May of 1781.⁶⁴

The Chesapeake raid never happened. The Royal Retaliators who formed the Maryland end of the Associated Loyalists had begun to unravel in the spring of 1781, when officers Kelly and Fleming and nearly 200 other members were arrested.⁶⁵ Several leaders were executed or sentenced for transportation for life to service aboard a French man-of-war,⁶⁶ although Kelly and Fleming managed to escape and travel to New York, Kelly by growing a beard and disguising himself as a Dunkard.⁶⁷ Later that year, Yorktown fell and Cornwallis surrendered. Rankin, who had managed to leave Yorktown before the surrender,⁶⁸ wrote that “[t]he Loyalists have lost all

a Virginia detachment would be sent to Baltimore to cooperate with the Associators and that a New York detachment would occupy Wilmington).

⁶⁴ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/183, page 250 of 482; Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/172, page 238 of 482 (“That in the month of May following Sr. Henry Clinton gave your Memorialist letters to General Phillips, then commanding his Majesty’s forces in Virginia.”).

⁶⁵ Hugh Kelly, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 12/7, page 2 (“That previous to the 12th of June 1781 near 1300 fighting men had taken an oath of allegiance to His Majesty in the manner prescribed by said Kelly under the appellation of the Maryland Royal Retaliators and near 500 an affirmation to the same Effect, and in February 1781 said Kelly & upwards of 20 of the nominated officers and privates were apprehended and said Kelly then dispatched a certain James Fleming (an active officer) to Lord Cornwallis who was then at Guildford Court House in North Carolina with an account of his proceeding and situations.” “That after a few weeks confinement the said Persons were admitted to give Bail for appearances at Court and Kelly who was suspected of being their Chief without any trial was ordered for Execution by a set of Militia Officers and on preparing for Execution a dispute arose between the Civil & Military officers respecting their Jurisdiction and prerogative, and the former having a Majority of the mob in their favor rescued said Kelly and then reprieved him on condition of giving security to appear and take Trial at the next Supreme Court.”); Hugh Kelly, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 12/7, pages 2-3 (“That in June 1781 a discovery was made and information on Oath given against said Kelly and Fleming and some others for enlisting men for His Majestys Service.”).

⁶⁶ See Joseph Sands, certificate (4 September 1783), in PRO AO 13/40/52, transcription by Todd Braisted, The On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies, available at <http://www.royalprovincial.com/military/rhist/mdrr/mdrrcert.htm> (viewed 25 February 2021) (stating that Captain Adam Graves of Maryland, directed to raise a company of volunteers, had been jailed, condemned to death, and then ordered transported to serve on board a French man-of-war for life).

⁶⁷ Hugh Kelly, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 12/7, page 3 (“On which near 200 of the nominated officers and others were apprehended and seven of the officers received Sentence of Death and to be executed in a very inhuman manner, three of whom were executed and three reprieved on condition of Transportation for life to France and most part of the remainder of the people severely fined & confined, and said Kelly then secreted himself for a few days until the mob with Fleming who had returned from Lord Cornwallis with Instructions to him.” “That said Kelly & Fleming resolved to continue in secret amongs the Loyalists and prepare them for the coming of Lord Cornwallis which was soon expected and a Guide with further information to his Lordship when they met at Williamsburgh the 27th of June, and left him at York Town the 12th of August and arrived in Maryland with instructions from his Lordship for said Kelly to keep up the spirits of the Loyalists and that he would join him in three weeks.” “That said Kelly on account of large rewards being offered for apprehending him continued [searched?] until the surrender of Lord Cornwallis by which time his beard was grown a considerable length, and he otherwise so disguised himself as a Dunkard or German Baptist, a religious sect of People in Maryland and Pennsylvania to travel to New York, yet notwithstanding the disguise he was taken upon suspicion of not being a Dunkard and closely examined by General Irvin Colonel Butler and several other Military & Civil Officers and after being Twenty two days confined in Carlisle Goal was discharged with a Discovery.”).

⁶⁸ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/184, page 251 of 482 (stating that he left Virginia at the end of August, four days before the French fleet entered the Chesapeake Bay); Walter T. Dornfest, *Military*

Confidence in the Commander in Chief; as his repeated promises to them have been violated[.]”⁶⁹

The Pennsylvania government likely confiscated Blackford’s Warrington farm by 1781,⁷⁰ and the long process of a government sale began.⁷¹ At an auction held on the first two days of May, 1782, a Philadelphia merchant bought Blackford’s property, along with a pair of parcels in Newberry Township seized from William Rankin.⁷² The merchant had problems making payment,⁷³ however, and the sale was further obstructed by a suit by Blackford’s mortgage

Loyalists of the American Revolution: Officers and Regiments, 1775-1783 (Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland & Company, Inc.: 2011), 284.

⁶⁹ Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/184, page 251 of 482 (“The Loyalists have lost all Confidence in the Commandr in Chief; as his repeated promises to them have been violated; particularly in their part, [fustend?] where by their zealous efforts, and with much hazard & labour, they had brought matters to such a point, that they were sure of success. They are also much dispirited hereby; and on finding that their Endeavour, to serve Government are baffled and neglected. With these, permit your Lordships Memorialist to mention some other Causes, which, although not the immediate objects of this Memorial, yet contribute very much to dispirit & disgust His Majesty’s loyal subjects; namely the horrid & indiscriminate Plunder of the Inhabitants by the Kings army in its Movements, Friends and Foes suffering alike; of which your Lordships Memorialist was an Eye Witness whilst in Virginia; where he accompanied the Army in its several Excursions[.]”).

⁷⁰ See County of York Transcript of Taxables, Warrington Township (1781), in Samuel Hazard, John Blair Linn, William Henry Egle, George Edward Reed, Thomas Lynch Montgomery, Gertrude MacKinney, and Charles Francis Hoban, eds., *Pennsylvania Archives* (Pennsylvania: Wm. Stanley Ray, State Printer, 1898), 415 (after an alphabetical list of landowners, listing Martin Blackford as owning no property in 1781).

⁷¹ Timothy Matlock, Secretary of the Supreme Executive Council, “An account of Lands in York County forfeited to this State seized and not yet sold” (no date stated), in Thomas Lynch Montgomery, ed., *Pennsylvania Archives, Sixth Series* (Harrisburg, Pa., 1907), 13:111 (listing property to be sold by William Mitchell at York on 1 May 1782 “[o]f Martin Blackfords in Warrington Township said to contain 150 acres, adjoining lands of William Faro and others, on this place is a house, Barn, young Orchard and other improvements”); William Mitchell, notice of sale of estates seized, [Philadelphia] *Pennsylvania Packet* (9 March 1782), 2 (“No. 15, in Warrington township, joining lands of William Ferro and others, containing about 150 acres, on which is a good house, barn, young thriving orchard and other improvments [sic], late the estate of the said Martin Blackford.”); see also notices of sale in the *Pennsylvania Packet* (19 March 1782), 4; (26 March 1782), 4; (11 April 1782), 4; (25 April 1782), 4; and notices of sale in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* (27 March 1782), 4; (3 April 1782), 6 (17 April 1782), 6. Inventories and sales, in Thomas Lynch Montgomery, ed., *Pennsylvania Archives, Sixth Series* (Harrisburg, Pa.: Harrisburg Publishing Co., State Printer: 1907), 13:163 (list of estates sold at vendue 1 and 2 May 1782 by William Mitchell, Agent of Forfeited Estates of York County).

⁷² William Tharpe, petition to Governor Thomas Mifflin, in Montgomery, ed., 13:152 (stating that on 1 and 2 May 1782, Tharpe “at a Sale of confiscated Estates at York Town purchased from a certain James Mitchell Agent for the Sale of confiscated Estates for the County of York” two tracts in Newberry Township owned by William Rankin “and one other Tract of land in Warrington Township in the said county of York joining Lands of William Ferro & others containing about One Hundred and Fifty Acres late the property of Martin Blackford at One Thousand One Hundred Pounds.”); Montgomery, ed., 13:163 (list of estates sold at vendue 1 and 2 May 1782, stating that “No 15 In Warrington Township Adjoining land of Thomas Holland William Sherrer and others containing 135 1/4 a and allowance together with the buildings and Improvements late the Estate of Martin Blackford” was struck off to William Tharpe of the City of Philadelphia for £1100).

⁷³ Tharpe, petition in Montgomery, ed., 13:152-153.

lender.⁷⁴ The lender's suit was resolved by a Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision in 1787,⁷⁵ but the Governor ended up having to issue deeds to the Blackford and Rankin properties to the widow of the merchant in 1795.⁷⁶

Meanwhile, on June 10, 1782, a remarkable record was submitted by a group of Loyalists to Guy Carleton, the new commander of British forces. It bore the following inflammatory title:

List of Distressed and Associated Loyalists, now residing within the King's Lines, who in Consequence of the non Performance of the repeated Promises by Sir Henry Clinton, and their too great Zeal to promote his Majesty's cause, were obliged to take refuge here, and have not wherewithall to support themselves.⁷⁷

The list comprised six names. Along with Blackford, there were three officers in the Maryland Royal Retaliators⁷⁸ (Joseph Sands⁷⁹ of Virginia⁸⁰ and James Fleming and Joseph McCoy of

⁷⁴ Summary of *Frederick Ryder Exor. of Henry Loman Asser. of Joseph Cook v. Martin Blackford's Estate* (Pa. Sup. Ct., 29 May 1782), in *Montgomery*, 13:355.

⁷⁵ *Montgomery*, ed., 13:356.

⁷⁶ Gertrude MacKinney, ed., *Pensions paid widows and children by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the administration of Governor Thomas Mifflin*, *Pennsylvania Archives, Ninth Series* (1931), abstracted by Marsha Hoffman Rising, available at <http://www.warrencarmack.com/MarshaRising/Pardons/1795.htm> (viewed 25 February 2021) (noting that on 19 November 1795, Governor Thomas Mifflin issued deeds for the Rankin and Blackford properties to Anne Tharp, widow of William Tharp).

⁷⁷ "List of Distressed and Associated Loyalists..." Carleton, *British HQ Papers*, 4763(1).

⁷⁸ See McKoy, affidavit in PRO AO 13/40/46 (describing McKoy as being of Washington County, Maryland, and stating that he "is one of the Associated Loyalists in that County, who Associated themselves together and inlisted under Captain Hugh Kelly to serve His Majesty as Soldier during the War in America, that he is personally acquainted with Adam Graves, John George Graves and Nicholas Andres, and knows them to be Officers of a Company of the said Associated Loyalists, and the Identical Persons who were under sentence of Death for High Treason at Frederick Town in the said Province, and afterwards transported on Board of a French Man of War not to return again to the said Province[.]"). See also *Report on American Manuscripts in the Royal Institution*, 1:20 (listing the case of Hugh Kelly and James Fleming, 1782, and papers annexed thereto, including a copy of the resolution of the Association (8 December 1775) "deposited in the hands of Hugh Kelly and James Fleming of Frederick County"); Sands, certificate in PRO AO 13/40/52 (describing Sands as a colonel).

⁷⁹ Joseph Sands, certificate (4 September 1783), in PRO AO 13/40/52, transcription by Todd Braisted, The On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies, available at <http://www.royalprovincial.com/military/rhist/mdrr/mdrrcert.htm> (viewed 25 February 2021) (describing Sands as a colonel and stating that Captain Adam Graves of Maryland, directed to raise a company of volunteers, had been jailed, condemned to death, and then ordered transported to serve on board a French man-of-war for life before escaping with his brother John George Graves and Nicholas Andres); see also Rankin, memorial in claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/71/177, page 243 of 482 ("Doctor Henry Norris and Mr. Joseph Sands were the principal Men of Influence connected with" Rankin as he was raising his Loyalist Association).

⁸⁰ Sands, cover of claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/83/ page 344 (?) ("No. 2056 [/] Memorial of Jos. Sands [/] late of Virginia [/] Wm Rankin [/] agent [/] No 8. Queen Street [/] Soho [/] received 25 March").

Maryland⁸¹); Frederick Weazer⁸²/Wiser⁸³ who, like Blackford, was a Pennsylvania Loyalist who had been employed on confidential services⁸⁴; and Blackford's tavern associate Peter Fisher, who had "been sent by the Commander in chief to the associators and others, and by them to his Excellency," the Commander in Chief.⁸⁵ At the time the list was filed, Blackford and Fisher were working as carpenters on Staten Island for the Engineers Department, a civil branch of the British Army, under Capt. Alexander Mercer, Commanding Engineer.⁸⁶

Nova Scotia.

During 1783, possibly in October,⁸⁷ Blackford sailed to Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia.⁸⁸ He filed a claim for compensation for the loss of his Warrington house and farm during January of 1784, with James Rankin in Annapolis affirming the truth of Blackford's schedule of losses.⁸⁹ William Rankin, who had gone to London in 1783⁹⁰ and set himself up in Soho as an agent for Loyalist claims, presented Blackford's claim⁹¹ to the Royal Commission on the Losses and

⁸¹ McKoy, affidavit in PRO AO 13/40/46 (describing McKoy as being of Washington County, Maryland).

⁸² "List of Distressed and Associated Loyalists..." Carleton, British HQ Papers, 4763(1) ("Martin Blackford [...] has been employed and may be commanded in the same manner as Weazer").

⁸³ "Muster roll of Artificers, Sawyers, &c. employed at the undermentioned places under the direction of Captain Alexander Mercer Commanding Engineer" (26 August 1781), in Proceedings of a Board of General Officers of the British Army at New York, 1781, in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1916* (New York: Printed for the Society, 1916), 149 (listing Frederick Wiser).

⁸⁴ "List of Distressed and Associated Loyalists..." Carleton, British HQ Papers, 4763(1).

⁸⁵ "List of Distressed and Associated Loyalists..." Carleton, British HQ Papers, 4763(1).

⁸⁶ "Muster roll of Artificers, Sawyers, &c. employed at the undermentioned places under the direction of Captain Alexander Mercer Commanding Engineer" (26 August 1781), in Proceedings of a Board of General Officers of the British Army at New York, 1781, in *Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1916* (New York: Printed for the Society, 1916), 149 (listing Martin Blackford and Frederick Wiser among carpenters employed on Staten Island under Mercer).

⁸⁷ Brian McConnell, "Loyalists in Digby & the Old Loyalist Cemetery," available at <http://brian.mcconnell.tripod.com/OLBD.pdf> (viewed 25 February 2021) (stating that in early May and October of 1783, more than 1,200 Loyalists arrived on ships from New York and settled in Conway Township).

⁸⁸ Blackford, claim submitted to CLC, PRO AO 13/90/138.

⁸⁹ James Rankin, affidavit in Blackford, claim submitted to CLC, PRO AO 13/90/141 (affirmed Annapolis County N.S. (6 January 1784)).

⁹⁰ Janet Van Doren, "On to Col. William Rankin" (28 May 2005), available at http://www.illinoisancestors.org/fulton/family_histories/brannon_saga.html (viewed 25 February 2021) (stating that when the British left New York City, William Rankin went to England; he was convicted of high treason on 18 September 1802; and that he was reported to have been a wine merchant in London for many years and died in 1830).

⁹¹ Blackford, cover of claim submitted to CLC, PRO AO 13/90/following 141 ("No. 1620 [/] The Memorial of [/] Martin Blackford [/] in Nova Scotia [/] William Rankin [/] agent queen Street [/] Soho No 8 [/] Received 22d March [/] 1784").

Services of American Loyalists in London. (Rankin also would present Joseph Sands's claim,⁹² among others.⁹³)

Blackford was among the grantees in the 1784⁹⁴ Botsford grant in Digby, Nova Scotia. In early 1787, he was named in a grant⁹⁵ of land on Digby Neck at Sandy Cove.⁹⁶ The Sandy Cove settlers had problems obtaining their lands and petitioned the governor during early 1788, with Blackford listed among the petitioners.⁹⁷ The official grants were finally made during June of that year,⁹⁸ and Blackford received Lots 26 and 37,⁹⁹ property that included a portion of the beach at Sandy Cove West.¹⁰⁰ He would work to bring the land of Lot 26 "from a wilderness state" into useful form as a farm¹⁰¹ and eventually would keep "horses, neat cattle, sheep, and swine"¹⁰² on the property. (He registered his livestock mark as a swallow fork in the near ear and

⁹² Sands, cover of claim submitted to CLS, PRO AO 13/83/ page 344 (?) ("No. 2056 [/] Memorial of Jos. Sands [/] late of Virginia [/] Wm Rankin [/] agent [/] No 8. Queen Street [/] Soho [/] received 25 March").

⁹³ See Diane Rapaport, "Additional Records Re: Christopher Harrison[,] Loyalist Ancestor of Edmund Harrison Lester," available at <http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Info/extras/HARRISON-Christopher/HARRISON-Christopher-addl-records-by-Ed-LESTER-D-Rapaport.pdf> (viewed 25 February 2021) (noting that Rankin was the agent for the claim of New Jersey Loyalist Christopher Harrison).

⁹⁴ Isiah Wilson, *A Geography and History of the County of Digby, Nova Scotia* (Halifax, N.S.: Holloway Bros., 1900) 64-65 (stating that on 20 February 1784 the Governor granted land to Amos Botsford and others listed, including Blackford).

⁹⁵ Mary Kate Bull, *Sandy Cove: The History of a Nova Scotia Village* (Nova Scotia: 3rd Ed., 2013; original 1978), 17 (stating that on 4 February 1787, land was granted to Brewer and others listed, including Blackford).

⁹⁶ Marion Gilroy, *Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia*, Public Archives of Nova Scotia Publication no. 4 (1937, reprinted 1980), 8 (listing Blackford in 1787 at Sandy Cove with 199 acres and Blackford (Blashford) in 1801 in Digby Township with 200 acres).

⁹⁷ Bull, 19 (stating that the Sandy Cove settlers signed a memorial to the Governor on 14 January 1788 stating that "at the close of the late dissensions in America emigrated to his Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia under the promise that they should have land granted to them to cultivate and improve," that they had made application "for lands to settle at a place called Sandy Cove" and that Amos Botsford, their agent, had "promised that they should obtain grants in order to secure them in the quiet profession of their labour and industry." Many of them "have made repeated applications and are very unhappy to inform your excellency that their application hath hitherto proved fruitless.").

⁹⁸ Bull, 19 (stating that the warrant to survey was issued April 17 and the grants were made on June 5).

⁹⁹ Bull, 54 (stating that Blackford was one of the earliest grantees of land at Sandy Cove and received lots 26 and 37 in the 1788 grant).

¹⁰⁰ Donald E. Outhouse, *Glimpses of the Past from Long and Brier Islands* (Freeport, NS: Islands Historical Society, 1998), 50.

¹⁰¹ Blackford will, 2 ("And as to my lands in Nova Scotia, which have been brought from a wilderness state to some [] by my labour and industry and that of my present wife Elizabeth, without the aid of the children of my first marriage or of any property belonging to their dear mother, I do dispose thereof as follows, that is to say, my farm near Sandy Cove in the Township of Digby called Lot Number 26 (26) I give and devise to my said wife Elizabeth, to be held and enjoyed by her to and for her sole use and benefit as long as she shall continue my widow, and at and after her death or re-marriage, whichever shall first happen, I give and devise the said Farm unto my daughter Ruth her Heirs and Assigns forever[.]").

¹⁰² Blackford will, 1 (referring to "my Stock of Horses, Neat Cattle, Sheep and Swine").

a slit in the right ear of the animal.¹⁰³) Blackford also was described as a fisherman,¹⁰⁴ and during the 1790s he had blacksmith Stephen Fountain help him build a boat.¹⁰⁵

At some point between about 1790 and 1792, Blackford married Loyalist Elizabeth Tidd (d. ca. 1820), a widow.¹⁰⁶ Perhaps not coincidentally, back in Pennsylvania, Blackford's son Joseph filed papers during January of 1791 asserted that his father was dead and that his farm in Warrington should be sold.¹⁰⁷ Neighboring landowner Thomas Thornburg, the iron master who had "adopted" Blackford's son Benjamin, bought the land.¹⁰⁸

Martin and Elizabeth Blackford would apparently have two children in Digby. One was a daughter named Ruth, who might have been born between 1790 and 1792¹⁰⁹; nothing is known of her beyond her mention in Blackford's 1809 will. Anthony, born during 1793,¹¹⁰ was described by his father as "a Son called Ent."¹¹¹ During 1799, Martin Blackford became a charter member of the Sissaboo¹¹² (later Weymouth) Baptist Church at Lower Granville, established by fellow Botsford Grantee Rev. Enoch Towner.¹¹³ Two of the other charter members would serve

¹⁰³ Outhouse, 51.

¹⁰⁴ Wilson, 157 (stating that Blackford was a fisherman living in Sandy Cove who fished in Petit Passage).

¹⁰⁵ Bull, 34 (stating that in the 1780s and 1790s Stephen Fountain helped Maurice [sic] Blackford build a boat); Bull, 124 (citing blacksmith Stephen Fountain's account book, listing Sandy Cove customers including Blackford, Martin 1789–1808).

¹⁰⁶ John Rudzik, "The Story of Samuel Tidd/Teed, A United Empire Loyalist," available at <http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Info/extras/Tidd-Teed-Samuel/Tidd-Teed-Samuel-biography.pdf> (viewed 25 February 2021) (stating that Samuel Tidd went over to the British lines at New York on 21 March 1777 with wife Elizabeth and children Elizabeth, Thomas, Samuel Jr., Mary, and David, and joined the Loyal American Regiment. The family sailed to Digby in September 1783 and in 1788 bought land in Tiverton. He drowned in a boat in 1790 or 1791).

¹⁰⁷ Joseph Blackford, petition to Orphans Court, York County, Pa. (14 January 1791), in York County Archives (petition by Blackford's eldest son for an administrator's bond so that he may administer "all and singular the goods, chattels and credits of Martin Blackford of Warrington, deceased" in order to pay Blackford's remaining debts and provide for widow Mary Blackford).

¹⁰⁸ Joseph Blackford, administrator's report to Orphans Court, York County, Pa. (24 January 1791), in York County Archives (reporting that Joseph Blackford sold 145 acres of land formerly belonging to Martin Blackford to Thomas Thornburg for £175).

¹⁰⁹ Blackford will, 2 ("Besides my said daughter Ruth, I have by my said wife Elizabeth a Son called Ent" who was not yet apprenticed in 1809, when he was about 16 years old).

¹¹⁰ Photograph of Anthony Blackford headstone, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Tiverton, Nova Scotia, provided by Michael Blackford in email to Scott Meacham (19 October 2015) ("In Memory of / ANTHONY BLACKFORD / WHO DIED / []th. Sept. 1853. / [Ag]ed 60 years.").

¹¹¹ Blackford will, 2-3 ("Besides my said daughter Ruth, I have by my said wife Elizabeth a Son called Ent, which said Son, if not apprenticed [in?] my life time, I will my Executors to apprentice to some trade or mechanic calling").

¹¹² Bull, 47 (stating that Blackford was one of three who formed the Baptist Association of Nova Scotia in 1799 and one of seven, including Towner, who were constituted the Sissaboo Baptist Church).

¹¹³ Wilson, 90-91.

as a witness of Blackford's will, and one of those would be named as an executor of the will.¹¹⁴

Blackford sold lot 37 on Digby Neck, and part of it became the Episcopal burial ground.¹¹⁵ In 1803,¹¹⁶ Blackford bought 100 acres of farmland in East Ferry at the Petit Passage, and he and his family went to live there.¹¹⁷ The Court of General Sessions granted him a tavern license and a ferry license in 1804, and he started the Petit Passage ferry.¹¹⁸

Martin Blackford died at some time during the three years¹¹⁹ after he signed his will on February 12, 1809.¹²⁰ His will left both of his farms to his daughter Ruth, with widow Elizabeth entitled to use the Sandy Cove farm during her lifetime.¹²¹ The location of his grave is not known. His son Anthony would follow him as ferryman, as would his grandsons and further family members until 1946.¹²²

¹¹⁴ Blackford will, 3 (naming wife Elizabeth and "my worthy friend Morris Peters of the Grand Passage in the County of Annapolis to be Executors." The signing of the will was witnessed by Thomas Wescoat, Peter Harris, and Chloe Wescoat).

¹¹⁵ Isaiah W. Wilson, *A Geography and History of the County of Digby, Nova Scotia* (Halifax, N.S.: Holloway Bros., 1900), 227 (stating that Blackford sold Lot 37 to William Wilson of Digby; in 1800 he gave "part of lot 37 on the west side of the road to Joseph Gidney, Stephen Fountain, John Morehouse and all the inhabitants of Great Neck and their successors for an episcopal Church and burying ground").

¹¹⁶ Outhouse, 51.

¹¹⁷ Bull, 54 (stating that Blackford settled first at Digby, later moved to Sandy Cove, and still later moved to the east side of the Passage); Wilson, 157 (stating that soon after 1800, Blackford of Sandy Cove removed to east side of the Passage south of the highway and near the head of the Landing).

¹¹⁸ Wilson, 157 (stating that Blackford received a license to run a ferry and a tavern license from the General Sessions in 1804); cf. Sidney A. Hicks, *The Gidneys of Nova Scotia: Genealogical, Biographical and ...* (2005), 205 (stating that Blackford started the Petit Passage ferry in 1803).

¹¹⁹ See Deed from Samuel Tidd, Jr. and wife Mary to Robert Outhouse and wife Sarah, Annapolis Co., NS, Canada (15 Feb 1812) (describing Elizabeth Blackford as "the wife of the late Martin Blackford"), quoted in Donald Outhouse, 49.

¹²⁰ Blackford will (12 January 1809), 1.

¹²¹ Blackford will (12 January 1809), 2.

¹²² Bull, 54.