

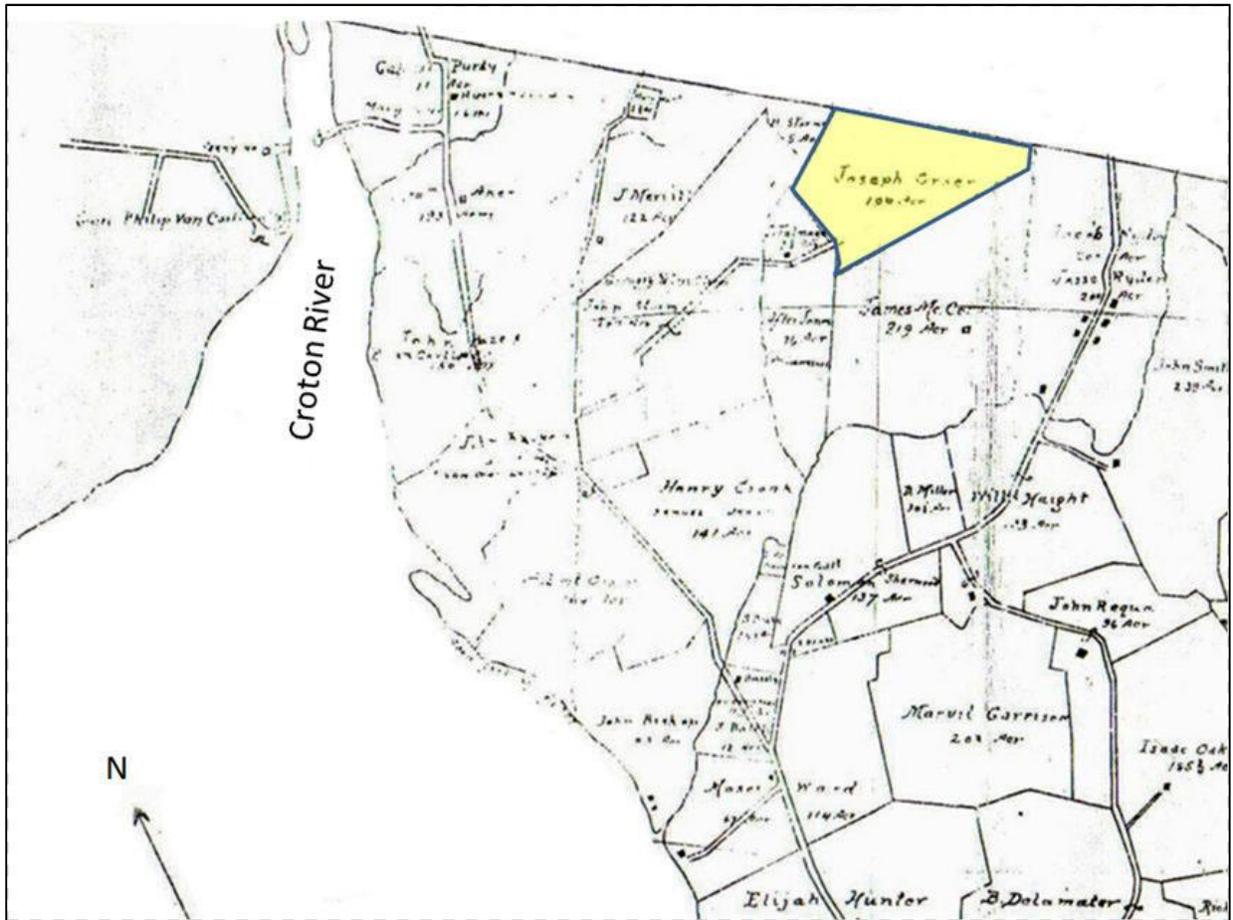
By Paul E. Orser, Jr.

December, 2014

Generation 4: Joseph Orser (~1723-1783) & Ann Jurckes (1726-1818)

Joseph Artse was born about 1723 in Philipsburg, and was baptized in The Old Dutch Church in Sleepy Hollow on August 23, 1723. He married Ann (Anntje) Jurckes on September 13, 1746 in the Dutch Church in Sleepy Hollow on the same day Joseph's cousin Jan married Rachel Bulyea. Ann was born in 1726 in Tarrytown. Her father's family came from the Albany area, and may have been among the early settlers in the northern part of the New Netherland colony. Her mother was Rachel Willemse from an early Philipsburg family.

Joseph was a farmer in the northernmost part of Philipsburg Manor, near the Croton River. His land adjoined the town of New Castle which lay to the north of the property. The location of Joseph Orser's farm is highlighted on this map from 1785.



We know from the property inventory that was filed in Canada in 1787, that he was a relatively prosperous farmer. Paul found the document on the next page in the Public Record Office in London

when he was there working on his doctoral dissertation in 1970. 18th century handwriting is a little challenging to read, so we have provided a transcription following the document.

Account of Losses Sustained by the Heirs of the Late Joseph Orser of Colonel Phillips Manor in the Province of New York During the Unhappy Dissention in America

100 Acres of Land improved @ £5 per acre	500	
95 Ditto tenantable @ £4/10s per acre	427	10
Frame of a house just not finished burnt to the ground by rebels	100	
1 yoke of steers	12	
8 cows @ £6	48	
A stone house	30	
2 fine promising horses @ £20	40	
2 mares @ £12	24	
2 calf yearlings @ 40s	2	
2 mares @ £12	24	
2 calf yearlings @ 40s	2	
20 hogs @ 15s	15	
Household furniture includes farming utensils	60	
33 sheep @ 16s	26	8
	1286	18

Account of the losses sustained by the heirs of the late Joseph Orser of Colonel Phillips Manor in the Province of New York during the Unhappy Dissention in America

100 acres of land improved @ £5 per acre.....	£500
95 "ditto" tenantable @ £4/10s per acre.....	£427/10
Frame of a house just not finished burnt to the ground by rebels.....	£100
1 yoke of steers.....	£12
8 cows @ £6.....	£48
A stone house.....	£30
2 fine promising horses @ £20.....	£40
2 mares @ £12.....	£24
2 calf yearlings @ 40s.....	£2
2 mares @ £12.....	£24
2 calf yearlings @ 40s.....	£2
20 hogs @ 15s.....	£15
Household furniture includes farming utensils.....	£60
33 sheep @ 16s.....	<u>£26/8</u>
	£1,286/18

Joseph and Ann had a very large family, not unusual in those days. In all, they had nine children, 6 boys and 3 girls; **John, Gabriel, Solomon, Gilbert, Isaac, Arthur, Rachel, Phoebe, and Rhoda**. John, the eldest son, was born about 1748. We descend from their son Gilbert.

What was unusual, and disappointing to learn, was that they were also slave owners. In 1783 when they left for Canada, they brought two black slave children with them, listed as servants; Abigail, who was 14, and Oliver, who was just 11. Most likely, they were children of the adult slaves that operated the mill at the nearby Manor House. There is no record of what happened to them after the Orser family arrived in Canada.

Revolution comes to Westchester County

The successful separation of the American colonies from British rule was a momentous accomplishment. American historical tradition tends to focus attention on the independence movement as a clash of ideologies and the triumph of new world freedom over old world despotism. The reality of the revolutionary movement, particularly in New York, was a more complex and far darker story. In Westchester County, New York City, and Long Island, support for independence was much less widespread, and opinion far more divided, than in most other parts of the thirteen colonies. New York was both the headquarters, and the last bastion of British rule. It was the refuge to which beleaguered Loyalists could retreat “within the lines” for protection, and it was the place from which many Loyalists eventually evacuated when the war was finally lost in the summer of 1783.

For much of the war, Westchester County was a no man’s land lying between the camps of the opposing British and Continental armies. It was a dangerous place punctuated by irregular guerilla warfare and vigilante action, often exploding in very personal nastiness and brutality. There was such a deep divide in that county between Loyalists and Patriots that is best described as civil war. Families, including members of ours, found themselves on opposing sides of the conflict. Our branch of the family was actively or passively Loyalist, but, for example, a neighborhood cousin, Jonas Orser, served as a Captain in the Continental Army.

Joseph Orser’s quiet agricultural life was completely upended by the seven years of war that followed the Declaration of Independence. The owner of Philipsburg Manor at that time was Frederick Philipse III. A staunch Loyalist, he was attainted for treason in 1777 and all his property declared confiscated, including Joseph’s manor leasehold farm. If the patriots won the war, Joseph would lose his land and his source of livelihood. He was in his fifties at the time and too old to fight, but although he kept a low profile, he was firmly in the Loyalist camp. Testifying after the war at a hearing on the Orser family’s claim for damages, Emanuel Ellerbeck, a fellow Loyalist, who was “often backwards and forwards on secret service” stated “that the old man [Joseph] often supplied the witness with provisions for himself and other Loyalists.”

With the exception of his eldest son John, four of his other sons served in the military on the side of the British. Solomon, Gilbert, Isaac, and Arthur were part of a pretty notorious irregular Loyalist volunteer

force known as DeLancey's Refugees. Its leader, James DeLancey, was a staunch Loyalist who had been Sheriff of Westchester County from 1769 to 1776. In 1777, he recruited force of up to 500 horsemen that harassed their patriot neighbors, mostly in his home county. His unit went by several names: *Westchester County Militia*, *Westchester Light Horse*, or *Westchester Chasseurs*, but most patriots called them "*DeLancey's Cow-boys*". They received no pay, but earned their keep by rustling cattle and looting supplies from their patriot neighbors and selling them to the British army. One such a raid was described with sympathetic approval by the Tory leaning *New York Gazette and Weekly Mercury* on October 16, 1777:

Last Sunday Colonel James DeLancey, with sixty of his Westchester Light Horse went from Kingsbridge to the White Plains, where they took from the rebels, 44 barrels of flour, and two ox teams, near 100 head of black cattle, and 300 fat sheep and hogs.

DeLancey also conducted more traditional and effective military operations, and was dangerous and elusive enough to get the attention of General George Washington. On May 17, 1781 Washington wrote to Congress about an attack by "surprise near Croton River by 60 Horse and 200 Foot under Colonel James DeLancey...44 killed, wounded and missing...attempted to cut him off but he got away."

Against this background, it is not surprising that the local clashes between Patriots and Loyalists were particularly personal and ugly. For example, in June 1779, *The New York Gazette and Weekly Mercury* carried this report:

We hear from Sing-Sing [Ossining] on Croton River that Thursday last nine rebels, amongst whom were John Oakley, Isaac Oakley, and John, son of William Fisher, went to the house of Elbert Artse, seized the man and severely whipped him, tied him to a the stump of a tree, and then for their diversion, fired small shot at him, till he became a miserable spectacle.

They also apprehended one Isaac Artse, tied him up, and whipped him inhumanly, they made him run from them. Then they fired at him with ball, which wounded him in the leg. After, they proceeded to Arthur Jones's, seized his wife and whipped her in a manner shocking to relate.... The reason assigned for these cruelties were their refusing to appear when called upon to take up arms against the King's troops, with the Militia.

The instances of intimidation and reprisals against Loyalists intensified in 1782 and 1783 after the tide of war turned in favor of the patriots. Joseph Orser's family was subjected to intimidation and vigilantism. The Orser family's experiences were recorded in a series of sworn depositions, recorded in 1783 and preserved in the British Headquarters Papers. Even Joseph's eldest son John, who had not joined the military conflict as his brothers had, did not escape:

John Orser, of West Chester in the County of West Chester, Farmer, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God,

Deposeth, that on Friday last being at work on his farm in West Chester aforesaid, a party of men consisting of about twenty, and armed with swords, pistols and Clubs and under the

Command of a certain Israel Honeywell, as this Deponent then understood, came aiding up to the Deponent as he was at work and also demanding the Deponents name, instantly knocked him down and repeated their blow until they had laid his Skull bare in several places, when one of the party called out to the others to Strike lower, upon which they began at his knees and beat and bruised his thighs and body until he lay motionless. That they then stole three horses from him, and went off with them.

That during the whole transaction (?) this Deponent did not speak a word to them, unless it was to spare his life, and all that he recollects to have heard them say, was, that he should go to Nova Scotia.

(Signed) John Orser

Sworn the 20th day of May 1783, Before me, D. Mathews Mayor

Here is John's brother Arthur's experience:

Arthur Orser of West Chester in the County of West Chester, Farmer, being duly Sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God,

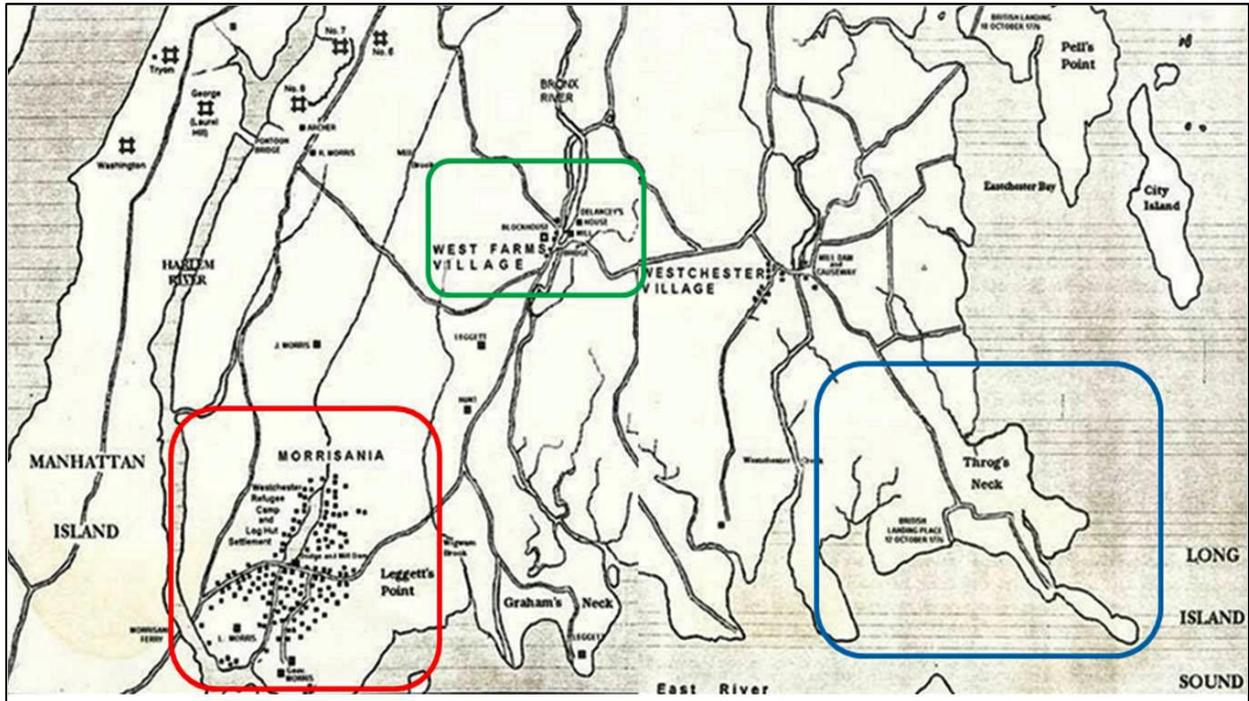
Despoeth that on Friday last being at Work on this Farm at West Chester aforesaid he discovered a party of five men armed with swords pistols and clubs coming towards him mounted on horseback. That the Deponent suspecting they came on some bad design, thought it most prudent to retire behind a stone fence in hopes to prevent their coming at him. That on their coming up to the said fence they demanded the Deponents name and what he did there, he told them his name and that he lived there and that he would come over the fence in case they would not hurt him which they engaged not to do. And the Deponent accordingly came over to them, when they instantly began to beat him with their Clubs which they continued to do for a considerable time and then demanded his money, but this Deponent persisted in denying that he had any, that they then took away a mare and suit of cloaths (sic) belonging to this Deponents brother and went off. That the said party of five men were a part of a larger body commanded by one Israel Honeywell as this Deponent then understood.

(Signed) Arthur Orser,

Sworn the 20th Day Of May 1783, (signed) Mathews, Mayor

A year earlier, in May of 1782, again under the leadership of Israel Honeywell, a band of patriot neighbors attacked Joseph and Ann Orser on their farm, burning down their home and confiscating their animals, furniture, and clothing. Joseph and Ann were forced to leave what was left of their farm and live the last year of the war exiled in a refugee camp inside the British controlled part of New York near James DeLancey's base of operations in the Bronx. The map reproduced below shows its location. DeLancey's house is in the green rectangle, and the Westchester refugee camp is in the red rectangle. The blue rectangle is where Joseph and Ann's sons Arthur and Isaac were captured while trying to visit

their mother in June 1783.



In May, 1783, Joseph Orser was back on his farm, probably trying to salvage whatever remained of his property in preparation to leave for Canada, when Honeywell showed up again with his thugs, as Joseph later testified:

Joseph Orser of West Chester in the County of West Chester, Farmer, aged about sixty years, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God,

Depose that on Friday last the Deponent then being at his house in West Chester aforesaid, a party of men consisting of about thirty, and armed with swords, pistols and clubs under the Command of a certain Israel Honeywell came to this Deponents said house.

That the first man that entered was the said Israel Honeywell with a large club in his hand and without saying a word to the Deponent instantly struck him over the head with the said club, which laid the Deponents skull bare and knocked him down. That others of the said party then joined in beating the Deponent, and repeated their blows until they had nearly put an end to the Deponents life, and then left him weltering in his blood and his head cut in several places.

That the Deponent has never given any occasion for such treatment. That he has not bore arms during the late contest but has endeavored to live in a peaceable mAnnr during the whole time. That he has often been abused by the said Israel Honeywell, and had his house and barn burnt by the said Honeywell's orders. That he is now in a most deplorable situation and hardly able to move by reason of the wounds and bruises he received from the said Honeywell and his party.

(Signed) Joseph Orser

Sworn the 21st day of May 1783. Before me, Mathews, Mayor

Finally, there is this story from Arthur, Isaac, and Arthur's brother-in-law James Bulyea who were trying to visit their mothers in the Westchester refugee camp:

Information of James Bulyea a Native of the Manor of Cortlandt, Isaac Aerse of the Manor of Philipsburgh, and Arthur Aerse of the same place. That they were of the corps called DeLancey's Refugees, and by their colonel's order above a month ago quitted the county of West Chester, and have since spent their time on Long Island and York Island.

That yesterday three weeks, they cross'd in a boat from Long Island to Frog's Neck to visit their mothers, who then resided on the Neck and get from them cloaths and some supply of provisions. That they had scarcely landed and fastened the boat before they discerned a party that were armed and commanded by Lt. Hill of Col. Sproat's Corps, advancing towards them. Taking them to be Continental Soldiers, they put off their boat, but were called back and fired upon, and verily believe had thirty shot at the boat before she got to the Shore.

The Party promised before they landed that they would be well used and yet as soon as they were landed they were beaten several blows, and had their cloaths or part of them taken from them, vis: from James Bulyea, a pair of shoe buckles and a pair of knee buckles, both of silver, a plated stock buckle, a pair of stockings, a Manchester jacket and britches; and from Isaac Aerse a silk handkerchief, a pair of fustian overalls, a pair of shoes and brass buckles; and from Arthur Aerse a new Castor hat.

They then led them to a house possessed by Joseph Castin on Frog's Neck, where they were detained that night, and conveyed them next morning to West Chester Jail. This happened on a Thursday morning. On the Saturday following they were taken out jail, and sent under a guard to Frog's Neck, where they were allowed to get their things together, and ordered to begone by that night, threatening that if found there afterwards they should be treated as thieves and robbers.

They were twice examined before they were dismissed from jail by Mr. Morris, who was stiled the judge. They were treated very civilly by him. The scope of his questions respected their being out in service during the war on the side of the Crown, and that cattle or other property had been at any time taken, and he declared at the close that in his opinion none that had been in arms for the King would be permitted to continue in the country.

*(signed) James Buylea, Isaac Orser, Arthur Orser
Sworn the 19th June, 1783, before me, Wm Smith (Chief Justice)*

By the end of the war in the early summer of 1783, the Loyalist Orser family had been harassed, intimidated, beaten, robbed, and burnt out of their home. They were now huddled in a refugee camp inside the British lines with almost nothing left, beyond the need to evacuate to some other safe British possession.

New York in the summer of 1783 was chaotic. Thousands of soldiers and nearly destitute Loyalist refugees crowded into the city and severely taxed the ability to house and feed them. The need for a massive evacuation of people who had few personal resources left posed a daunting problem. And with the peace settlement being negotiated, time was running out. Some Loyalists, those with the personal economic means, had already left for England or the Caribbean colonies, but most folks had nothing left. The destination of choice for most of them was Nova Scotia. It had an already developed a maritime economy and there were some settlements in place. It is possible that the Orsers considered this option, but then they met Michael Grass.

“A Voyage of a Different Kind” (with thanks to Larry Turner)

Michael Grass presented a daring alternative to relocating to Nova Scotia. Grass wanted to settle instead near the site of the old French Fort Frontenac, on the northeast shore of Lake Ontario, at the



head of the St. Lawrence River. It appears that, when serving with a provincial company attached to the British army during the French and Indian War in the 1760s, he was captured and held for some time in or near the French fort and came to know the area.

Grass called a meeting at his house in New York on May 20, 1783 to explore the idea and gauge

interest. A week later, on May 27, 1783, the *Royal American Gazette* printed this notice:

Those Loyalists who have had a meeting at the house of Michael Grass, in the outward of this city, on the evening of the 20th inst. & have signed their names to form a settlement on Fort Frontenac, at the mouth of Lake Ontario & head of the River St. Lawrence, in Canada, The only eligible place left by the late treaty for the King's subjects, to carry on the Indian & fur trade, etc. are hereby notified, that their request has been communicated to his Excellency the Commander in Chief, by the gentlemen appointed for that purpose, & that his Excellency was pleased to give them the encouragement they desired. A list of the names of those who may be inclined to settle in this new country, is opened at the house of the said Mr. Grass, in Chatham Street, near the Tea-Water Pump, New York May 26, 1783.

Apparently undaunted by the fact that there was absolutely nothing in this remote area but miles and miles of untamed wilderness, Joseph Orser and his family put their faith in Michael Grass and signed up to go. He had been back in Philipsburg in May, probably packing whatever was left of their belongings, when the last savage attack by Honeywell took place. That was, no doubt, yet another incentive to relocate as far away from “civilization” as possible.

The commander in New York, Sir Guy Carleton, (himself a former governor of Quebec Province), enthusiastically endorsed the Grass plan. On June 7, he wrote to General Frederick Haldimand, the current Governor of the Province of Quebec, that while many thousands of Loyalists have taken refuge in Nova Scotia,

There are others, Sir, of the above description in Number about Two Hundred Families as I am informed who wish to pass into Canada and find Grants and Habitation there, and I think it my Duty, Sir, to recommend in the strongest Terms to your Excellency's consideration, the making Grants of Land to those Persons in the Neighbourhood of frontenac where they are desirous to settle and without any Reservation of Rents or the Payments of any Fees or Expenses whatever, to which I hope your Excellency will add Aid of a years Provisions in like manner as has been given in Nova Scotia.

By early July, a fleet of eight ships was assembled to take the Loyalist refugees to Quebec, on the first leg of their trip to begin a new life. A total of 106 people originally signed up to leave with Michael Grass: 33 men, 21 women, 40 children, and 12 servants. There were unrecorded additions and

Names	Men	Women	Children		Servants	Total
			Over 10	Under 10		
Umeunt Broug ^t forward.	1	1	1	1	1	5
Michael Grass Capt ^t	1	1	5	2	2	9
Emar ^t Hilderbeck Lt. Junr.	1	1	1	1	1	3
William Utkinson 2. ditto.	1	1	1	1	1	3
Joseph Orser	1	1	2	2	3	9
Samuel Swett	1	1	1	1	1	2
Arthur Orser	1	1	1	2	1	3
Isaac Orser	1	1	1	1	1	2
Solomon Orser	1	1	1	1	1	2
Gilbert Orser	1	1	1	1	1	1
George Shippy	1	1	1	1	1	1
George Fudge	1	1	2	1	1	4
John Fudge	1	1	1	1	1	1
James Adams	1	1	1	1	2	3
Isaac Duffins	1	1	1	1	1	1
John Winstony	1	1	3	3	1	9
Robert Leonard	1	1	1	1	1	3
John Jackson	1	1	1	4	1	6
Michael McChenalt	1	1	1	1	2	5
Samuel Wright	1	1	1	3	1	4
John Holmes	1	1	1	1	1	4
Richard Hall	1	1	1	1	1	1
Christopher Danby	1	1	1	1	1	1
Samuel Brady	1	1	1	1	1	1
John Grant	1	1	1	1	1	2
Isaac Shaffer	1	1	1	1	1	3
Michael Bator	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sam ^r Humberston	1	1	1	1	2	6
Isaac Deuten	1	1	1	1	1	1
Clara Brewer	1	1	1	1	1	2
Elijah Groomes	1	1	1	1	1	2
Wm ^r Mearney	1	1	1	1	1	3
John Palmer	1	1	1	1	1	1
	33	21	20	20	12	106

cancellations to this list prior to sailing, so it is not a completely accurate record of those who actually boarded the ship, but Joseph Orser's family, along with adult sons Arthur, Isaac, Solomon, and Gilbert were among those who actually departed.

The Orser family sailed with Michael Grass on the 293 ton transport ship "Camel" under the command of Master William Tinker. The "Camel" departed, probably from Staten Island, sometime between July 5 and July 12. Joseph Orser boarded the ship no doubt still feeling the effects from the nearly fatal attack he endured at the hands of Honeywell back in May. Sometime during the four week voyage to Canada, Joseph Orser died at sea. We do not know if he died from complications associated with his injuries, or from reported outbreaks of

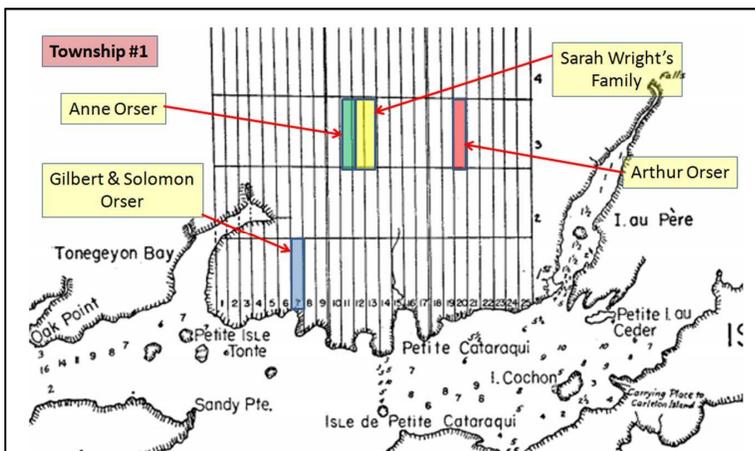
measles and smallpox aboard the ship. Later, Ann Orser, appearing at the loyalist compensation board hearings in Montreal, simply testified that her husband had "died on his passage from New York." When the ship reached Quebec about four weeks later on August 16, ninety-five passengers were accounted for: 40 men, 15 women, 37 children, and 3 servants.

The Loyalist exiles arrived far too late in the short growing season to move on to their final destination on Lake Ontario. The area had not even been surveyed, nothing was built, and there was no way to sustain them through the oncoming winter without food, shelter or supplies. Instead, they were sent to spend the winter at a military base at Sorel, on the St. Lawrence River, about 100 miles up-river from Quebec. Sorel was still over 200 difficult river miles short of their final destination. By the time the Loyalist refugees finally arrived at Sorel on August 28, 1783, their numbers continued to dwindle. Grass's party numbered only seventy-four: 27 men, 13 women, and 34 children. However, many were sick with smallpox and had been quarantined, so they may not have been included in this number. Others may have decided to stay in Quebec.

The grim reality of life on short rations on a frontier military base crowded together with nothing to do in the middle of a Canadian winter, took its toll. Discontent with the harsh reality they faced compared to what they thought they had been promised in New York, led to bitterness and complaints. Grass was increasingly self-important and vocal, and antagonized Governor Haldimand with a stream of complaints and unwanted suggestions. Haldimand, though well meaning enough, was rigid in his military style thinking, frugal, and greatly annoyed by what he considered to be affronts to his power and authority.

Haldimand had not sought this resettlement but had to find ways to accommodate it. One of his concerns was that he did not want to settle the British American exiles in the middle of the French speaking eastern part of Quebec Province. That was asking for trouble. He was also concerned that settling several hundred Loyalist families in the Indian country to the west was also problematic. But, he also did not want to see a revival of American style dissent among the restive and impatient Loyalists encamped at Sorel.

In the end, he agreed with Grass and thought it best to send the Loyalists where they wanted to go. He backed the Frontenac settlement concept, and put the wheels in motion to survey the area. He also needed confirmation from London to give him the authority to establish the settlement, which was finally granted on June 12, 1784.



A New Home at Last

In May and June, 1784, the remaining Loyalists finally began the long difficult trek up river from Sorel to Cataraqui (as the Kingston area was called at that time) and the prospect of new homes. The survey work was finally finished.

This survey map shows the original Orser land grants in what is now the city of Kingston, Ontario. In October 1784 a list of the 94 original adult settlers of Township 1 was compiled. Our Orser ancestors were among those who survived the “voyage of a different kind” to carve a new life out of the Ontario wilderness.

Generation 5: Gilbert Orser (1765-1851) & Sarah Wright (1765-1845)

Gilbert was Joseph Orser’s second youngest son. He was about 18 years old when he left New York with the rest of his family. After arriving in Sorel, he joined the survey crew that laid out Township 1, his family’s future home. He was an assistant to Deputy Surveyor John Collins, and testified at a subsequent inquiry into the survey, that Kingston Township had been surveyed first, and Kingston town after that. Apparently Collins had been instructed to do it the other way round.

In about 1788, Gilbert married Sarah Wright, the daughter of Samuel and Mary Wright. He was 23 and she only about 16. The Wright family left New York on the “Camel” with the Orsers as part of the Michael Grass group. And, like Joseph Orser, Samuel Wright did not survive the trip to Kingston. Ann Orser and Mary Wright were the only two women grantees listed as widows in the 1784 landowner list of Township 1, and their land grants were next to each other. They must have had a lot in common in the struggle to establish a new home. This is most likely how Gilbert and Sarah met.

Once married and settled, we have just a couple of documents related to their life. In 1789, Gilbert was sworn in as a member of the first recorded jury in Kingston, to try a case of assault and battery. From 1789 through October 5, 1790, Gilbert was the Rev. Dr. John Stuart's first clerk in the Parish of Kingston, Church of England. The records of St. George's Church show that Dr. Stuart baptized their son Samuel Orser, on February 23, 1790.

In 1793, after she reached the legal age of 21, Sarah submitted a petition for a land grant, to which she was entitled as an adult child of a Loyalist parent. A copy of that petition still exists and is reproduced on the following page. It is the oldest document I have that contains an actual signature of one of our ancestors. In transcription it reads as follows:

The memorial of Sara Orser alias Wright Daughter of Samuel Wright, deceased

Humbly showeth

That your Excellency’s Memorialist being married to Gilbert Orser humbly begs that the portion of land under the Order in Council of 9 November 1789, may be assigned as the daughter of a Loyalist that has made due improvement on his farm.

And your Memorialist as on duty bound shall ever [illegible]

[signed] Sarah Orser alias Wright

She was granted 200 acres of land on April 17, 1793.

The Memorial of Sarah Orser alias Wright Daughter of
Samuel Wright Deceased

Humbly Sheweth

That Your Excellency's Memorialist being married to Gilbert
Orser humbly begs that the portion of Land, Under the order
of Council of 9th November 1789, may be assigned
as the daughter of a Loyalist. that has made due
improvement on his farm

And your Memorialist as in duty bound shall ever pray

Sarah Orser alias Wright

Perhaps one reason that Gilbert and Sarah do not appear more often in the public records is that they were very busy developing their frontier farm land and raising a spectacularly large family. In all, they had 15 children, easily winning the procreation championship in our family history! For the record, their children's names were: **Samuel, Phebe, Jesse, Elijah, Abraham, David, Enoch, Joseph, Gilbert, Ann Hannah, William, Elizabeth, Martha, and Mary.** We descend from William, who was born in 1811.

Possibly to secure more room for his rapidly expanding family, and because much of the land around Kingston had already been claimed, in June 1806 Gilbert applied for and received a 400 acre Loyalist land grant in Hallowell Township in Prince Edward County, about 35 miles west of Kingston.

To His Honour Alexander Grant Esquire President
Administering the Government of the Province
of Upper Canada in Council &c &c &c.
Gilbert order of the Townships
of Hollowell Humbly petitions
for a Piece of a Gore of Land Lying and
Being Between the Townships of Hollowell
and Sopsiasburgh on such Conditions as
Government may be pleased to Grant the
Same and your petitioner will
Hollowell Ever pray Gilbert order.
June of 11th 1806

The 1808 Tax Assessment of the Township of Hollowell, shows that Gilbert had 330 acres of uncultivated and 70 acres of cultivated land. There was clearly a lot of work left for the family to do. Gilbert and Sarah spent the rest of their lives there.