

LEE DICKSON GENEALOGY: Follows the lives of Thomas Mathews and his son John through the Upper Canada land records

Lee Dickson

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Continued from the previous June and July columns, the lives of Thomas Mathews and his son John are traced forward through the Upper Canada land records. This next part of their story involves the settlement of the Town of York, established 1793.

John Mathews' Upper Canada Land Petition M1/12 to the Executive Council praying for a lot in York and granted in 1793 was recorded in Upper Canada Land Book C, September 2nd 1793, noting "No grant till after the Survey is made."

Available on microfilm, the Upper Canada Land Books record the minutes of the Executive Council (collection of the Library and Archives of Canada) and can be accessed at numerous repositories. The Ontario Genealogical Society has published indexes to these books.

While John's sight was set on the Town of York in 1793, the following year he was granted Lot 21, Concession 1 and the Broken Front, Clinton Township, Niagara District – 150 acres. This grant took the same course as his father's 1791 Clinton land grant of 200 acres. John's lot certificate and transfer by means of sale to John Scott was approved by the Land Board. Several documents of interest are found in the Township Papers: the Land Board Certificate, Transfer and John Scott's Fiat.

A report of a Committee of Council recorded in Upper Canada Land Book A, May 28th 1796, notes "Lots in the Town [of York] East side Don...[among many others] John & Thos. Mathews, Lot 10 first Con; John appeared his lot improved. Recommended." [for confirmation of deed.]

In July of this same year, Thomas Mathews' Petition M2/132 was granted for family lands and a Town Lot in York. Attached to the Petition is an illuminating letter of certification by Nath'l. Pettit [a Justice of the Peace] of 40-mile pond, Home District dated 20th May 1795: "These do certifie that the Barer Thomas Mathewes came Into this province then the provinc of Quebec In the year 1787 with his wife and one Son who is Now an Inhabetent of this District and that he hath Received as yett only a Grant of two hundred acres of Land..."

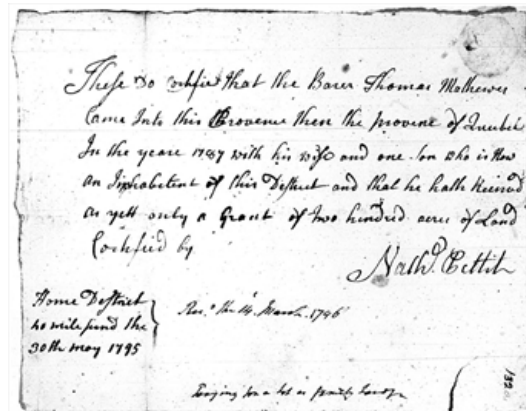
An Ontario Land Records Index search found references to these York grants. One Register for "Fiats and Warrants, Old Regulations" (Archives of Ontario, RG 1-145-3-1) summarizes the procedures required: from Crown Grant towards acquiring Patent.

In short, John was granted Farm Lot 10, Concession 1, east of Don – 243 acres; and Town Lot 6, south side Duke Street – 1/5 acre. Thomas was granted Farm Lot 5, Concession 2, East of Don – 100 acres; and Town Lot 20, south side of Duchess Street (renamed Duke) – 1/5 acre.

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<http://www.insidetoronto.com/news-story/5713826-lee-dickson-genealogy-taking-a-peek-into-a-family-s-1787-land-settlement-in-upper-canada/>

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