

Sketch: John Murray, A Collection of Records

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

This sketch addresses the question – Who is John Murray? To elaborate further – Who is the John Murray that married a daughter of David Mathews and Sarah Seymour? Actually, I have never seen a marriage record for John Murray and a daughter of David Mathews, but it is hinted at in family genealogies, and in one historical record.

20 November 1797; Sydney; David Mathews to Secretary of State (Portland). Death of Murray, Provost – Marshal, leaving a widow unprovided for; has appointed his son, Tryon Mathews, to succeed, so that he may assist the widow, who is his sister.

[source] Report, Public Archives of Canada; Information Canada, 1896.

There are a variety of records given below that may assist in revealing John Murray's story, but it is not certain that all of these records identify the same man. They are presented here for consideration.

List of people of Cape Breton includes – John Murray; died 1797; Sydney; 63rd Regiment; son-in-law of D. Mathews?

Pam Garrett's notes, based on an article for the British 63rd Regiment at Wikipedia: The 63rd Regiment (British) served in numerous conflicts both before and after the American Revolution. In 1782 it was designated as the 63rd (the West Suffolk) Regiment of Foot. The regiment sailed from Ireland to America in 1775, and participated in a number of engagements during the American Revolution. They were first stationed in the area of Boston Massachusetts, but moved on to Halifax Nova Scotia Canada in 1776. During the period 1776 – 1781 the 63rd Regiment participated in a number of engagements on the American continent. The regiment went to Jamaica in 1782, and then returned to England in 1783. It is unknown when or where John Murray joined this regiment, but it seems likely that he signed up after the regiment's arrival in America, as he is probably the young Ensign Murray who was wounded in the Battle of Eutaw Springs (South Carolina) in 1781.

. . . The battle of Eutaw Springs was fought on the 8th September (?1781). The enemy attacked us with great impetuosity, and compelled the 3rd Buffs to give way, it being composed of new troops. The remains of those veteran corps, the 63rd and 64th regiments, who had served the whole of the war, lost none of their fame in this action . . . The loss of the British was also very great . . . Captain St. Leger, Lieutenants Campbell and Lloyd, and **Ensign Murray**, were wounded.

[source] The history of the late 63rd (West Suffolk) Regiment; James Slack, 1884.

Pam Garrett's comment:

John Murray (of the 63rd Regiment) may have spent some time in Halifax, New Brunswick and Sydney, Cape Breton following the war. He then "returned" to London before 1790, as there are a series of records in the early 1790's related to a John Murray who is seeking a "pension".

Records from a Report in the Canadian Archives:

1790, October 22, London, Brook Watson to Nepean. On behalf of Murray, deprived of his office of Provost Marshal.

1790, October 28, London; Memorial of John Murray, for the salary for life, attached to the office of Provost Marshal, of which he had been deprived on the appointment of sheriffs.

1790, Dec 29; London Murray to Nepean. States the circumstances of his appointment to the office of provost-marshal, his disappointment at the subsequent settlement for the amount of the salary made by the Lt Governor and Council, his appointment to be sheriff which instead of furnishing subsistence proved to be a heavy burden, so that he was obliged to leave New Brunswick to avoid a prison. Applies to him (Nepean) for relief as his only friend. In his memorial he asks for the salary of provost-marshal as he is so totally invalidated by wounds that he is unable for employment where personal exertions may be necessary.

1791, 3 January; London; same to the same. In reference to the suggestion that the only place which might be found for him was that of Provost Marshal in the new province, explains that such an office was the last he could think of, as he was unable for the necessary personal

exertions. What he wished was to have the salary of the Provost Marshal of New Brunswick granted to him as a pension.

1791, 13 January; London; same to same; Should he be unable to obtain the salary of Provost Marshal, asks for the appointment of commissary of musters in New Brunswick, to which no one has be appointed.

1792, 30 March, Haymarket; Murray to Nepean. Forwards memorial soliciting that his salary as Provost Marshal be paid him from the date of his mandamus and continued to him during life. Note – His original appointment signed “Sydney.”

1793, 25 April, London; Memorial of John Murray for payment of half salary to enable him to sail for Cape Breton to take possession of his appointment of Provost Marshal.

[source] Report on Canadian Archives and on the System of Keeping Public Records; Public Archives of Canada; Maclean, Roger & Company, 1896.

Pam Garrett's comment:

The John Murray above, who had received the appointment of Provost Marshal of Cape Breton colony, must surely be the same as the man who married David Mathews' daughter.

20 November 1797; Sydney; David Mathews to Secretary of State (Portland). Death of Murray, Provost – Marshal, leaving a widow unprovided for; has appointed his son, Tryon Mathews, to succeed, so that he may assist the widow, who is his sister.

[source] Report, Public Archives of Canada; Information Canada, 1896.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to John Murray in database](#)

[Link to Sarah Mathews in database](#)

John Murray, A Collection of Records; compiled by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.