REFERENCES - Chart No. RUNCHEY-1


2. Tombstone inscriptions from Rockway Presbyterian Churchyard, Louth, Lincoln, ON. Photographs appear later in this compilation.


4. Ibid., 1899, Aaron Bradt No. 10611. Film No. 1854390. FHL.

5. Extractions from an old Dutch Bible which in 1978 was owned by Darius Ryckman of Beamsville, ON. Charlotte Luckhurst Papers, Rensselaerville (NY) Historical Society.

6. Ontario, Canada, Office of the Registrar General, Toronto. Marriage Register, Lincoln Co., Gainsborough Twp., p. 348, Nancy Catherine Bradt, #10260, 17 Oct 1900. Film No. 1871077. FHL. The marriage of Nancy Catherine Bradt records her parent’s names as Aaron Bradt and Sarah Runchey.

7. 1851 Canadian Census, Louth Twp., Lincoln Co., ON, p. 11/21, Robert Runchey. Film No. 349222. FHL.


9. 1861 Canadian Census, Louth Twp., Lincoln Co., ON, Dist. 1, p. 5, William, Cyrus and Reuben Runchey. Film No. 349294. FHL.


14. Lincoln County, ON, Probate Papers 1813-1833, Will of Robert Runchey, Sr. [213/1819, 25 May 1819/23 Sep 1819. Film No. 579158. FHL.

15. 1871 Canadian Census, Port Dalhouse, Grantham Twp., Lincoln Co., ON, Dist. 21,C, p. 37, William Runchey. Film No. 349149. FHL.

16. 1881 Canadian Census, Dist. 144 Monck (Haldimand Co.), Dunn Twp., ON, Div. 2, p. 9, Cyrus Runchey. Film No. 1375890. FHL.

17. Lincoln County, ON, Land Records, Louth Twp., Deed Register Book 1-2, Deed 235, 1 Dec 1868/19 Feb 1869. Film No. 170168. FHL.


19. Ontario Death Register, Haldimand Co., Dunn Twp., No. 13401, 1910, Cyrus Runchey. Film No. 1854625. FHL.

20. Ibid., Welland Co., Port Colborne, No. 10713, 1874, Lucy Runchey. Film No. 1846472. FHL.

21. Ibid., Haldimand Co., Dunn Twp., No. 14388, 1815, Mary Melinda Runchey. Film No. 1862267. FHL.

22. Ibid., Haldimand Co., Moulton Twp., No. 12112, 1909, Simon Dodge. Film No. 1854489. FHL.

23. Ibid., Haldimand Co., Moulton Twp., No. 4104, 1876, Margaret Dodge. Film No. 1846475. FHL.

24. Ontario Registrar General, Talbot District Marriage Register, v 22, 1838-1857 [Haldimand]. Film No. 1030054. FHL.


26. Lincoln County, ON, Land Records, Louth Twp., Deed Register Book A-B:9454, 19 Oct 1838/27 Oct 1858. Film No. 170167. FHL.

27. Upper Canada Land Petition of Michael Huffman, C-2044 H3/129, 2 May 1797, Library and Archives of Canada [hereafter LAC], Ottawa. This proves only that Michael and Elizabeth (Ramsier) Hoffman had a child born about 1788, but does not name that child.

28. Bible record of Isaac Huffman, son of Michael Huffman. Photocopies included in the Huffman Section of this compilation.


30. 1901 Canadian Census, Dist. 67, Haldimand & Monck, Moulton, Twp. I-1, page 2. Film No. T-6470. LAC.

31. Ibid., I-1, page 1.

32. Ibid., Dunn Twp., F-1, page 4. Film No. T-6470. LAC.

33. 1901 Canadian Census, Dist. 123, Welland, Thorold, L-2, page 2. Film No. T-6503. LAC.


1. While the will of the elder Robert Runche (reference 14) makes no mention of a son Robert, his oldest son Reuben also went by the name of Robert.

2. The wife of Reuben /Robert Runche is listed variously as Ann, Mary and Nancy. Nancy is a nickname for Ann. No explanation has been found for why she is shown also as Mary, but there is no evidence that Reuben /Robert Runche had more than one wife. Ann's surname was Huffman which would appear to have been German or Swiss, so perhaps she was christened Anna Maria.

3. According to the 1828 Canadian Census for Louth Township, Lincoln County, Ontario, p. 1, (LDS Film No. 1414871) Reuben Runche had 2 M+16, 1 M-16, 2 F+16 and 3 F-16 living in his household. This accounting corresponds exactly with the first six children recorded on this group sheet, but does not preclude the possibility that there were additional children besides Cyrus after 1828.

Compiler:
(Mrs. Sam) Elizabeth Meredith, C.G.
1720 South Gessner Road
Houston, Texas 77063  April, 1995

Additions:      July, 2002
# FAMILY GROUP

## HUSBAND: RUNCHEY, Robert

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Town(ship)</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Prov/Country</th>
<th>Misc. Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Born</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1759</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ireland?</td>
<td>War of 1814-1814, Captain of Corps of Artificers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Died (bur.)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>1819</td>
<td>Louth</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>Ontario CAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Father:**
- B. d.

**Mother:**
- B. d.

**Cemetery:** St. Andrew's Church Cemetery, Grimsby

**Religion:** Anglican

## WIFE: BONNAT, Eléonarde/Eleanor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Town(ship)</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Prov./Country</th>
<th>Misc. Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Born</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Died</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Father:**
- B. d.

**Mother:**
- B. d.

**Cemetery:**

**Religion:** Catholic?/Anglican

## CHILDREN & spouses

1. **Amable Robert/Reuben RUNCHEY**
   - B. 8 Sep 1788
   - D. 19 Mar 1864
   - Father: B. d.
   - Mother: B. d.

2. **George RUNCHEY**
   - B. 19 Dec 1788
   - D. 11 May 1856

3. **Thomas RUNCHEY**
   - B. abt 1789
   - D. 17 Feb 1866

4. **b.**
5. **b.**
6. **b.**
7. **b.**
8. **b.**
9. **b.**
10. **b.**

**References are found on the following page.**

**Not Proven.**
REFERENCES - Chart No. RUNCHEY-2


2. 1851 Canadian Census, Louth Twp., Lincoln Co., ON, p. 11/21, Robert Runchey. Film No. 349222, Family History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, UT [hereafter FHL].


5. Ruby Johnson and Jean Peterson, transcribers, Transcription of St. Andrew's Anglican Church Cemetery, (St. Catharines, ON: Ontario Genealogical Society, Niagara Peninsula Branch, 1985), p. 139.


9. 1861 Canadian Census, Louth Twp., Lincoln Co., ON, Dist. 1, p. 5, William Runchey and Reuben Runchey. Film No. 349294. FHL.

10. Ibid., Oneida Twp., Haldimand Co., ON, Dist. 5, p. 2, Nancy Runchey (widow). Film No. 349273. FHL.

11. 1851 Canadian Census, Oneida Twp., Haldimand Co., ON, Dist. 2, p. 8, Thomas Runchey. Film No. 349211. FHL.

12. Ontario Death Register, Haldimand Co., Dunn Twp., No. 13401, 1910, Cyrus Runchey. Film No. 1854625. FHL. The death certificate of Cyrus Runchey, son of Reuben (child #1 on the reverse page), states his father was born in Pt. St. Charles, Quebec, and that his mother's name was Ann Huffman.

13. Tombstone inscriptions from the Anderson Family Plot, Oneida Township, Haldimand County, Ontario.

14. Tombstone inscriptions from the Fairfield United Church Cemetery, Burford Township, Brant County, Ontario. George Runchey's age at death, 67 years, 4 months and 16 Days.

15. Tombstone inscriptions from Rockway Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Pelham Township, Lincoln County, ON. Photographs appear later in this compilation.


NOTES

1. Reuben Runchey was christened and sometimes referred to by the name of Robert. In Robert Runchey, Sr's will Reuben, George and Thomas are identified as "by my wife Eleanor." This might indicate that the elder Robert Runchey had additional children, legitimate or otherwise.

2. In the 1861 Louth Township census (Reference 9 above) the birthplace of Reuben Runchey is recorded as "Atlantic," the assumption being that he was born at sea. Pt. St. Charles (Reference 12 above) was probably a reference to Saint Charles-sur-Richelieu, Quebec. Reuben's tombstone inscription (Reference 15 above) indicates he was born on December 21, rather than December 22.

3. Transcribed records of Rev. Robert Addison (Reference 1 above) show Thomas Runchey and wife Rachel had a daughter Eleanor baptized 17 December 1820. The same records indicate Thomas Runchey and wife Ann had a daughter Eleanor baptized earlier on 9 March 1820. This appears to present a conflict, since as far as is known, there was only one Thomas Runchey in this area in this time frame. The records contain an earlier baptism for a child of Thomas and Rachel, and later baptisms for children of Thomas and Ann.

Compiler:
(Mrs. Sam) Elizabeth Meredith
1720 South Gessner Road
Houston, Texas 77063
December, 1998
Revised August, 2002
The name Robert Runchey was found on an old map of St. Andrew's churchyard, Grimsby, on Lot 6, Range 13. There is no stone marking his grave but the church records give the date of his burial as 17 July, 1819.

Further research revealed the following history of the Runchey family.

Robert Runchey owned land in Louth township—Lot 15, Concs. IV and V. He built a tavern on the main road about one mile east of Jordan and as early as 1798 it was a stage coach stop for travellers passing through the Niagara peninsula. In that year the Moravian missionaries on their way from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to Fairchild, Upper Canada, stayed overnight here. In 1801 it was a stopping place for a young eloping couple—William Dummer Powell Jr. and little Sarah Stephenson on their way to Niagara to be married by the Rev. Robt. Addison. And during the War of 1812, American prisoners taken after the battle of Stoney Creek were held in the cellar of the tavern. It is claimed that during their stay several young farmer prisoners helped Robert Runchey erect one of his barns.

Runchey's Tavern, Jordan, was built before 1798 on Lot 15, Conc. V, Louth township. This property now owned by Mr. George Nelles, Grimsby.

Capt. Robert Runchev, as he was termed in Irving's "Officers of British Forces in Canada 1812-1814", lead a company of colored men in the battles of Queenston Heights, 13 October, 1812, and at Fort George 24 May, 1813. He received a Prince Regent land grant for his services during the war. The following are believed to have been his sons:

- Reuben Runchey, who lived in Louth township. His wife's name was Nancy. They lie buried at Rockway churchyard Louth. Inscription and dates:
  - Reuben Runchey, 1788-1867.
  - Nancy, wife of, 1789-1864.
  - John, son of, 1812-1842.

- Thomas Runchey, he lived at Grimsby for a time. His wife's name was Rachel. Two daughters were baptised at St. Andrew's church. Rachel, bapt. 13 March, 1818. Eleanor, bapt. 17 December, 1820.

- George Runchey, served as a Lieutenant in the Colored Corps with his father, Robert. He had been a Sergeant with McEwen's company, 1st Lincoln Regiment. He also received a land grant for his services. He married Margaret, daughter of John Nelles of the Grand River. A daughter Jane, b. 17 December, 1824, was baptised at St. Andrew's church, 19 May, 1826.

- William Runchey, lived on Lot 17, Conc. VIII, Louth township.
- Cyrus Runchey, had a tavern on the Pelham road fairly close to Hamilton's Mills.
- Robert Runchey Jr., son of Robert Sr. He was a private in the Niagara Light Dragoons in the War of 1812.

Corrections to RUNCHEY from


Robert Runchey, Jr. and Reuben Runchey, the first and last sons on the above list are the same person, that is, the oldest son of Robert Runchey, Sr. William Runchey and Cyrus Runchey are not the sons of Robert Runchy, Sr., but rather the sons of Robert/Reuben Runchey, Jr. It appears George Runchey was married to Margaret Anderson rather than Margaret Nelles. E. H.
THE UPPER CANADIAN MILITIA.

NIAGARA DISTRICT (Continued.)

1st REGIMENT OF LINCOLN MILITIA.

Engagements:—Queenston, Crooks' and McEwen's Companies.
    Fort George, 27th May, 13.
    St. David's, 19th July, 14.
    Lundy's Lane, 25th July, 14.

1 Colonel Ralfe Clench.
2 William Claus.
3 Lt.-Colonel — Kerr.
4 Major James Muirhead.
5 Lt.-Colonel 27 June, 12.  Lt.-Colonel 27 June, 12.
6 Lt.-Colonel 27 June, 12.
7 Adjutant John Clark. Lieut. 28 June, 12.
8 — Thorne.
9 Quartermaster Daniel Secord.

FLANK COMPANY.

10 Captain James Crooks, 13 May, 07.
11 Lieutenant Martin McClellan. Captain 2 July, 12.
12 Lieutenant William Powers, 4 Jan., 08.
13 Lieutenant Anselm Foster. Ensign 5 Jan., 09; Lieut. 2 July, 12
14 Ensign P. Vancourientani Secord, 2 July, 12.

FLANK COMPANY.

15 Captain John McEwen, 13 May, 11.
16 Lieutenant Robert Runchey.
17 Lieutenant William Servos.
18 Lieutenant George Adams, 6 May, 12.
19 Ensign Peter Mann Ball, Jr., 2 July, 12.

BATTALION COMPANIES.

20 Captains Andrew Heron.
21 George L. Lawe.
22 George Lawrence. George Read. Resigned 2 July, 12.
23 John Powell. See Powell's Artillery.
24 George Hamilton. See Niagara Dragoons.
25 John Jones. (To Niagara Dragoons, 2 July, 12?)
26 James Secord.
27 Jacob A. Ball, 2 July, 12.

Transferred to the command of the Coloured Company.

THE UPPER CANADIAN MILITIA.

NIAGARA DISTRICT (Continued.)

CAPTAIN RUNCHEY'S COMPANY OF COLOURED MEN.

Engagements:—Queenston, 13th Oct., 12.
    Fort George, 27th May, 13.

A Robert Runchey was also a private, Niagara Light Dragoons.

2ND REGIMENT OF LINCOLN MILITIA.$

Engagements:—Queenston, Hamilton's and Rowe's.
    Frenchman's Creek, Hamilton's and Kerby's,
    11th July, 13.
    Niagara, 18th Dec., 13.
    Black Rock, 30th Dec., 13.
    Lundy's Lane, 25th July, 14.

1 Lt.-Colonel Thomas Clark.
2 Thomas Dickson, 5 Jan., 14.
3 Major David Secord.
4 Adjutant James Kerby.
5 Andrew Rorback, 10 Aug., 13—11 Mar., 14. Captain
7 David Thompson, 11 Mar., 14.
8 1st COMPANY OR ARTILLERY COMPANY.
9 Captain James Kerby. Joined Incorp't'd Militia.
10 First Lieut. Lewis Clement, 26 June, 12.
11 John McLellan. (McClellan in Crown Lands.)
12 Second Lieut. Jacob F. Ball.
13 Alexander Bryson.

$ "The conduct of the Officers and men of this Regiment has also been highly praiseworthy." General Rall's despatch, London Gazette, 9 Aug., 14.
Chapter 12

Robert Runchey and the "Coloured Company"

IN THE YEARS BEFORE THE WAR OF 1812-14, Niagara was home to a greater number of blacks than any other district of this province. Many were slaves, a few free men.

Blacks in considerable numbers served with British forces during the revolutionary war and arrived in the Peninsula with their units. Others came with their United Empire Loyalist masters who had British permission to bring slaves. Six of the original 16 members of the first Legislative Assembly convened by Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe were slave owners. Nine who sat on the Legislative Council, the appointed "upper house," owned slaves or belonged to slave holding families. There were enlisted men with Butler’s Rangers who were known as "black soldiers"; Colonel John Butler himself owned two slaves. There were 300 slaves in Niagara in 1791.

Simcoe spoke out strongly against slavery. He initiated anti-slavery legislation in 1793 and though he was unable to have the measure passed, he did succeed in forbidding further importation of slaves.

This story is about a onetime Louth man, Robert Runchey, his family and "Captain Runchey’s Company of Coloured Men."

Little is recorded of Robert Runchey’s background. Born in 1759, he apparently arrived in Niagara after lengthy service with a British regiment that served both in Canada and in the American colonies. He was commissioned 25 June, 1802, as an Ensign with the 1st Lincoln Regiment. In the Ontario Archives is shown a Robert "Renchey" (the same man) who said he was "late of the 5th Regiment where he served for many years" and was "paying for 300 acres of land" under a Prince Regent’s grant. "Prayer of petition granted" was the laconic notation, but this land was likely elsewhere than Louth Township.

The land Runchey owned in Louth, part of Lot 15, Concessions IV and V, he must have purchased; early township records show other owners. He built a tavern on the property, about a mile east of Jordan on Regional Road 81, probably just prior to 1798. This makes Runchey one of the early settlers of the Town of Lincoln.

In 1798, Moravian missionaries on their way from Bethlehem, Pa., to Fairchild, Canada West, stayed overnight at Runchey's. In 1801 the tavern was a stopping place for a young eloping couple, William Drummer Powell Jr. and Sarah Stephenson, on their way to Niagara to be married by Rev. Robert Addison. An unconfirmed story has it that during the war of 1812-14 American prisoners captured in the battle of Stoney Creek were held in the cellar of the tavern and that during their stay the young farmer soldiers were put to work helping Runchey erect one of his barns.

The tavern and inn, also a coach stop, was described by Leslie R. Gray in 1954. "The shingle-sided building, used as a tenant house for casual help on the fruit farm of George Nelles of Grimsby, gives little evidence of its age until its interior is examined. Here we find the split-board lath construction, partly squared and partly hand-hewn beams, rafters numbered in Roman numerals, a centre fireplace of very early construction, steep stairs and other evidences of age. On the other hand, we saw few wide boards and no early hardware. The many alterations and repairs to the house might account for their absence."

Nothing remains above ground today of the historic road-

---

The only evidence of where it stood, before falling prey to fire some years ago, are the stone walls of the foundation, almost obscured by tall grasses and weeds. The location is marked by a few horse chestnut trees on a little knoll on the south side of the highway.

Runchey himself has been described as a violent man. It is recorded that in 1803 "the Smith boys of Louth" assaulted Runchey and his wife, Eleanor, and were fined for the deed. The innkeeper’s reputation was severely mauled by an old military adversary, Colonel Ralfe Clench; in 1811, in a report to the Adjutant General, Clench labelled Runchey a "worthless, troublesome malcontent." An earlier report from the same source referred to him as a "tavern keeper and discontented demagogue."

Nonetheless, after the outbreak of hostilities along the border, Robert Runchey, Ensign with the 1st Lincoln Regiment, was gazetted Captain and set about raising "Captain Runchey’s Company of Coloured Men." Credit for proposing such a move goes to Richard Pierpont of Grantham, former slave and Butler’s Ranger. The blacks in Niagara, many of them experienced soldiers, were enthusiastic volunteers for service with the side they identified as fighting for their rights to remain free men. They were enlisted with the same status as whites even though in the early part of the 19th Century all slaves still had not been freed. Slaves of Loyalists could lawfully be held in that condition until August, 1838, the effective date for the abolition of slavery by the Act of British Parliament five years earlier. 2

The Company of Coloured Men was formed in July, 1812. Its nucleus comprised Corporal William Thompson and 13 fellow blacks from the 3rd Regiment York Militia who voluntarily transferred to Runchey’s company. The men were promised six months’ pay as a gratuity upon discharge, plus a land grant. A lieutenant in the company was George Runchey, son of Robert; he had been a sergeant with the 1st Lincoln and had been listed as a prisoner on parade in the summer of 1813.

The Coloured Company saw service at Queenston Heights on 13 October, 1812, when it was commanded by Captain James Cooper of Stamford. With 27 all ranks the Company was part of the force defending Fort George the following May. Runchey’s Company retired through Lincoln with the British forces, moving westward past the roadside tavern on their way to Burlington Heights. After reaching Burlington, the Lincoln Militia regiments were temporarily disbanded but the Coloured Company was retained on active service. In June of 1813 the Company took part in the battle at Stoney Creek and returned triumphantly back through Lincoln in pursuit of the enemy. Runchey’s Company remained in service until the end of the war.

Besides his activities as a tavern keeper, Robert Runchey aspired to become a stage operator. On 27 August, 1817, the following advertisement appeared in the Spectator: It was headed "York and Niagara Stage."

"The subscriber wishes to inform the public that he has now commenced running a Stage between York and Niagara once a week, which will leave York every Monday morning, and Niagara every Thursday afternoon. Every attention paid to the accommodation of Gentlemen who may favour him with their support. The Stage fare will be sixpence per mile. All baggage at the risk of the owners." The advertisement was signed "Robert Runchey, May 7, 1817."

2 One black soldier, after service with the British forces and who was granted land in recognition of his loyalty, was Adam Lewis, of Clinton Township.