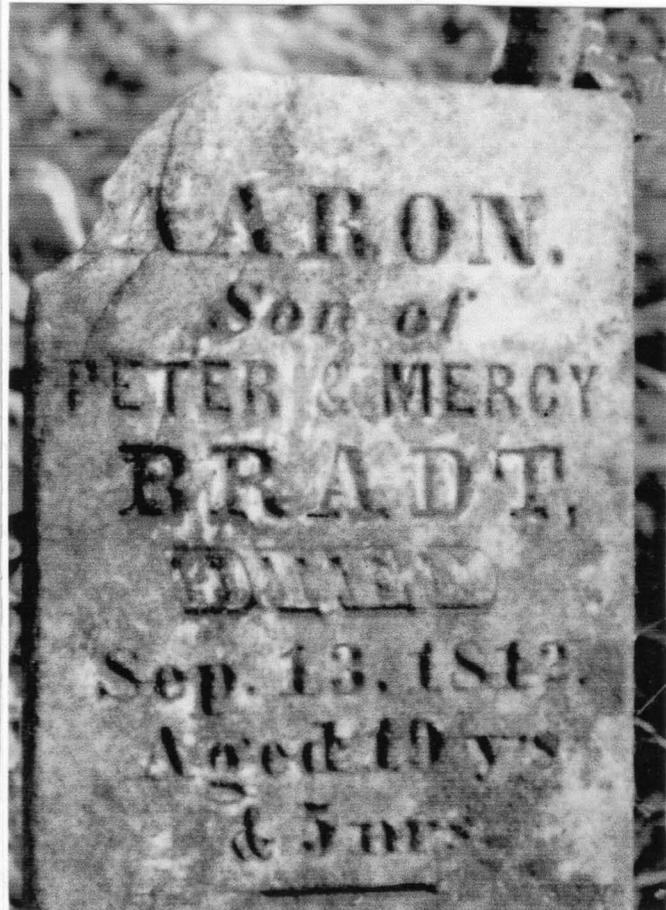


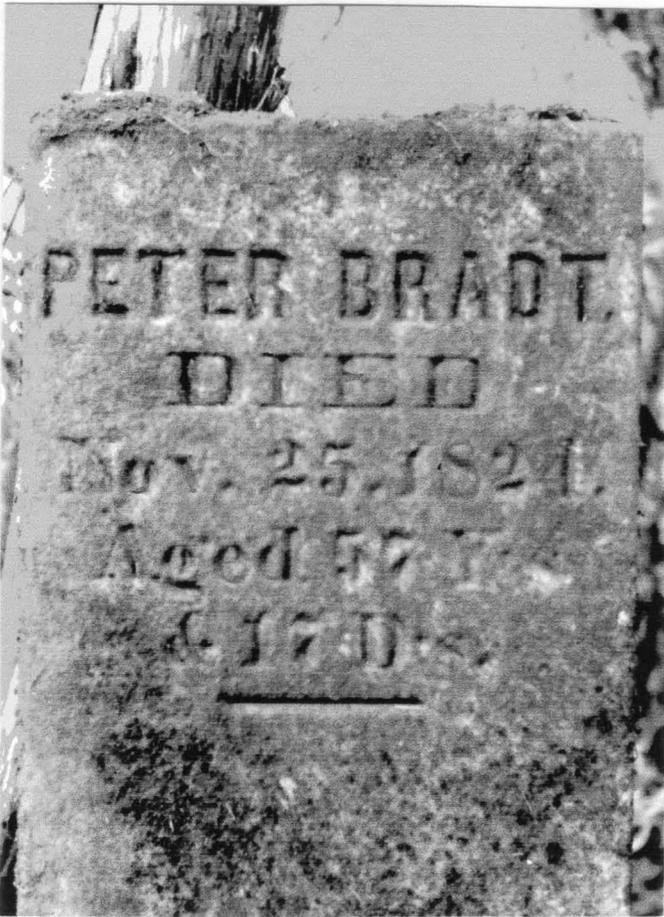


Jordan Station



OLD BRADT BURYING GROUND

Jordan Station



HILLSIDE/DAWDY CEMETERY

Ridgeville





[previous page]

[previous page]

In memory of  
MERCY  
Wife of  
Peter Bradt  
Who died  
Dec 13 1850  
E 74 yrs, 3 mos  
5 days

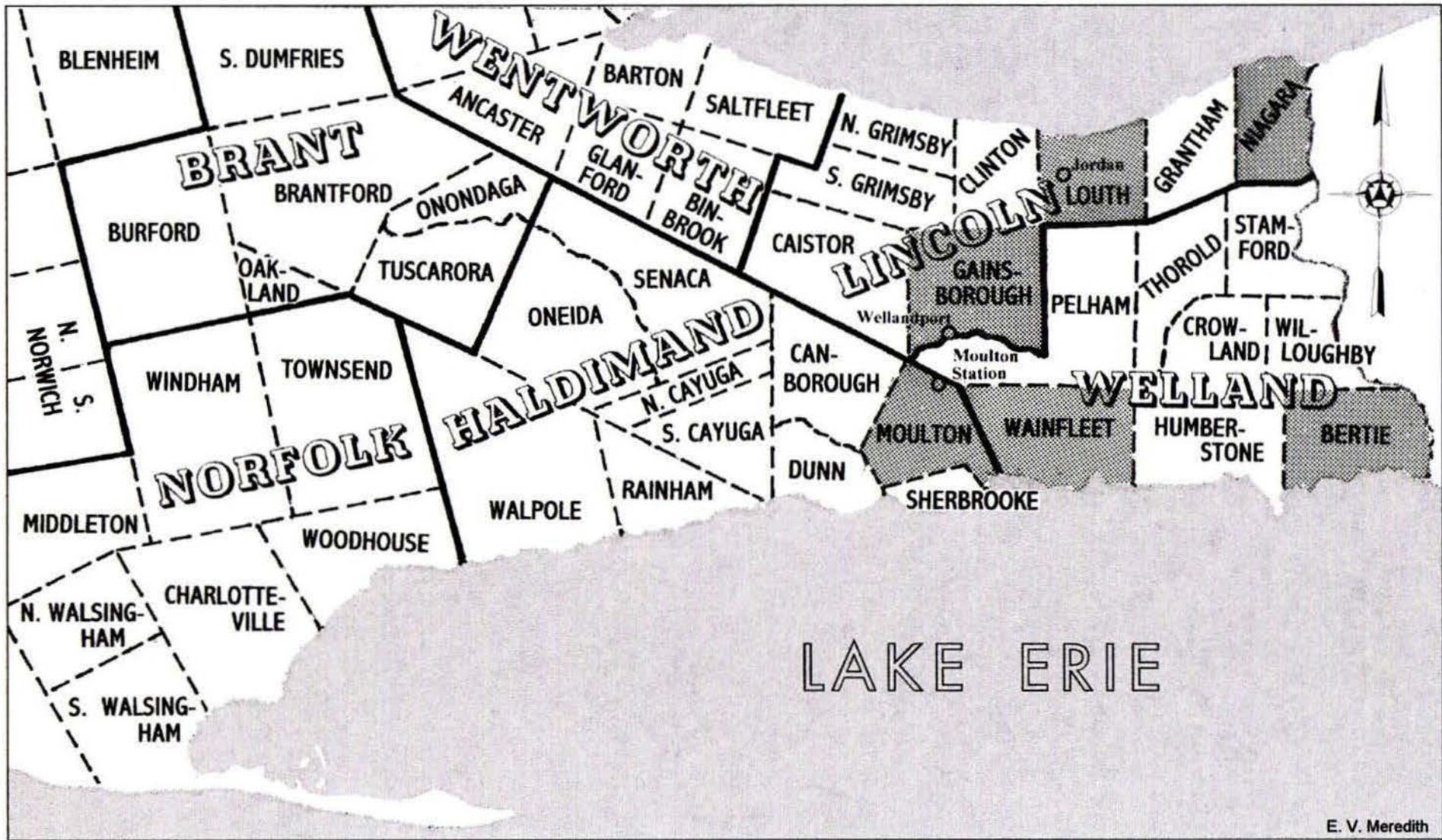
PETER BRADT  
DIED  
Nov. 25 1824  
Aged 57 Yrs.  
& 17 Das.

This stone and that of Aaron Bradt pictured on the previous page were originally located in the Bradt Family Burial Ground on the farm of Peter Bradt, Lot 13, Concession VI, Louth Township, Lincoln County, Ontario. By 1980 or earlier that cemetery had been destroyed, and these, the only remaining tombstones, had been dragged into a gully running through the property.

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BRADTS  
TO CANADA  
1786





E. V. Meredith

**NIAGARA PENINSULA, CANADA**

This map is somewhat stylized and not necessarily geographically or politically exact. The boundaries approximate those extant in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The following article is presented for the purpose of refuting certain statements presented therein. *E. M.*

R. Janet Powell, comp. *Annals of the Forty*. No. 1. *Loyalist Pioneer Families, West Lincoln, 1783-1883*. Grimsby, ONT: Grimsby Historical Society, 1950.

Paragraph 1. Albert Adresse Bradt and his family arrived in New Netherland 4 March 1637. There is no proof that they were accompanied by Albert's younger brother Arent, although they well may have been.

The brothers Bradt were natives of Norway. Their name was originally Bratt and was never preceded by "Van." Bratt evolved into Bradt through the influence of the Dutch of New Netherland.

Paragraph 3. Arent and Eva Bradt had six known children. From the list of children presented in this article, the Peter Bradt who was baptized 10 April 1763 died young. The Bradts also gave the name Peter to another son baptized 17 December 1769. This is the Peter, whose biography appears on the following page, rather than the Peter baptized in 1763.

## BRADT

Bradt is a name familiar in the annals of the Niagara district. Two brothers, by name of Van Bradt, sailed from Holland on the ship, "Renssalarwyck" 8 October, 1636, arriving in New Amsterdam (New York) 4 March, 1637. They settled in the province of New York, owning part of the land on which Schenectady is built; also 200 acres along the Mohawk river. After coming to America the families dropped the Van from their name.

One of their descendants, **Capt. Arent (Aaron) Bradt**, son of **Capt. Andries** and **Arientje Wemple**, was born in Schenectady 3 Sept., 1732. He married **Eva Van Antwerpen**, who was born in 1730. **Capt. Arent Bradt** served with the British in the Revolutionary war and, when the conflict was over and all his property was confiscated, he fled to Canada with his family.

**Capt. Arent Bradt** and his son **Peter** were granted lands in Louth—part of which was Lot 13, Conc. VI, on which he built his home. When he and his wife died they were buried in a family plot on their land now long since a part of a plowed field. The children of **Capt. Arent** and **Eva Bradt** were five in number:-

**Andrew Bradt**, b. 27 Aug., 1755. He was also a Captain in the Revolutionary war and later a Lieut. Colonel in the 5th Lincoln Regiment. He served with that regiment during the War of 1812. He was granted land in Ancaster township.

**Margaret**, b. 16 April, 1758, m. Cornelius Rychman, who was granted land in Barton. Descendants of this family lived in Clinton.

**John**, b. 28 July, 1761. This is probably the John Bradt mentioned in Petitions for land, read 14 July 1796. Simcoe Papers, Page 236, No 20—"Lieut. John Bradt, late Butler's Rangers, has received 1600 acres, prays for 400 acres in addition. Recommended that his military lands may be made up to 2000 acres."

**Peter**, b. 10 April, 1763. (See below).

**Reyer (Roger)**, b. 28 July, 1765. He was, according to family tradition, remembered as a queer little old man, who never married and lived mostly among the Indians.

There was also a **Christian Bradt**, who may have been another son or connection of this family. He held Lots 7 and 8 Conc. IV Louth (as a Reduced Ranger) transferred them to

James Miracle, who in 1793 transferred them again to Lieut. George Hill of the 5th Regiment.

In Rev. Robt. Addison's records at Niagara there is the name of Susan Bradt, who married Harmonius House 2 Jan. 1808.

☞ **Peter Bradt**, who lived on the home farm in Louth was the best known member of this Loyalist family. In 1792 he married Mercy Burtch, who was born in Fredericksburg, N.Y. in 1776, a dau. of Col. Burtch, U.E. Loyalist. Peter was a government interpreter for the Indians, with whom he negotiated on the friendliest terms. Family records give the following bit of colorful history which verifies this friendship with the Indians and shows his understanding of their language and ways:-

During the War of 1812 the Yankees, when invading Canada, brought over a company of Indians, whose duty was to follow after the U.S. army, as they marched on Stoney Creek and massacre the pitiful few families left behind to keep the home fires burning. Peter Bradt, learning of their intention, went to the Indians' overnight encampment in the valley of the Sixteen. He talked to them in their own language and persuaded them to return to the United States, thus saving many women and children from a terrible fate.

The following is a list of Peter and Mercy Bradt's children, all born in Louth township.

Aaron, b. 14 April 1793, d. 13 Sept., 1812.

David B., b. 28 Feb. 1795, m. Mrs. Sarah Crowe, a widow, d. 3 May 1864, buried in Disciples churchyard, Jordan.

☞ **Daniel** b. 10 October, 1797, m. Julia Hedden, d. 20 Aug., 1863.

Peter, b. 20 Dec., 1799, m. Jane Clark, d. 19 Nov., 1870.

Joseph, b. 18 Dec., 1801, m. Feb., 1832 to Deborah King, Clinton, moved to Iowa. See page 71

Margaret, b. 2 Oct., 1803, m. Isaac Doughty d. 1. March 1877.

Thomas, b. 7 Nov., 1805, d. 6 March, 1809.

Rebecca, b. 22 Nov., 1808, m. Jacob Snure, d. 26 Sept., 1877.

Thomas, b. 9 June, 1810, m. Elizabeth Hansler, d. Aug., 1885.

William, b. 6 May, 1812, m. Rosanna Hansler, d. 9 April, 1875.

George, b. 15 Feb. 1815, m. Mary Gregory, dau. of Col. Gregory.

Stephen, b. 18 Aug., 1818, d. 8 April, 1822.

Note—The above history was secured from Mrs. Marie (Bradt) Smith, of St. Catharines, a granddaughter of Thomas Bradt. It had been collected through the efforts of another descendant, Mrs. M. B. Kilpatrick, of Beatrice, Nebraska.

### HUNGRY YEAR

Following was extracted from the bulletin of *Ontario Historical Society* 25:260. It serves to apprise later generations of some of the severe hardships that our Loyalist ancestors endured after their immigration to the Niagara Peninsula.

"From the time that agricultural operations were first commenced, the settlers had been blessed with favorable seasons. Some of the winters were so mild that clearing operations were carried on almost without interruption, but in 1788 a great change seemed to come over the climate. Snow lingered late in the spring, rains were heavy and temperatures abnormally low. Severe frosts cut off the tender grain in June. About midsummer the weather underwent a complete reversal, heat and drought succeeding frosts and rains. The crops shrivelled in the fields, springs ceased to flow, small streams dried up, game vanished, forest fires broke out and the whole settlement seemed threatened with extermination. Similar conditions prevailed throughout Canada and the adjoining States. The impending peril was early foreseen and the highest officials of state, church and army sent their appeals for governmental aid. Restrictions on the importation of food were relaxed, provisions were loaned from army stores and gratuitous assistance given in the most extreme cases. The grain and potato crops of 1788 yielded practically nothing, so that during the early months of 1789 the settlers were face to face with starvation. Many cattle were sacrificed because of lack of fodder and for food, and no grain was saved for seed. The suffering of "the Hungry Year" gave rise to a wealth of traditions that will never die out in the old Loyalist settlements of this province."