

# They Came on Ships: Ancestral Migrations A Genealogy Quilt

Presented by David Walker & Suzan Bouchard

OGS Ottawa Branch  
25 March 2017



# Introduction

Of the many quilts that Suzan has created over many years, this one was to be very different.

Initially, it was to be a bed quilt. It was to incorporate various images of people and homesteads.

We discussed the project further and the idea of a quilt depicting ancestral migrations from various homelands was conceived.

This is the story of the genealogy quilt that would become a wall hanging.



# Introduction

The idea of creating a quilt that would depict migrations of ancestors originated from David's genealogy web site ([www.ancestraltrails.ca](http://www.ancestraltrails.ca)).



## Ancestral Trails

Genealogy research on ancestors of  
Walker and Palmer families in eastern  
Canada, New England and the British Isles



*In the name of God amen.  
I Maria Backus of Guilford in Queens County  
Providence of New Brunswick Province  
being at this time in good health of mind  
and of a perfect mind and memory thanks be given  
to God calling unto mind the instillings of my  
Worship, and knowing that it is appointed unto all men  
once to die, do hereby declare this my last Will  
and Testament that is to say, principally and first of  
all I give and recommend my soul to the hands of  
Almighty God that gave it, and my body I becom-  
mit to the Earth to be buried in a decent burial  
in the Protestant Burial Ground in Queens County Province*

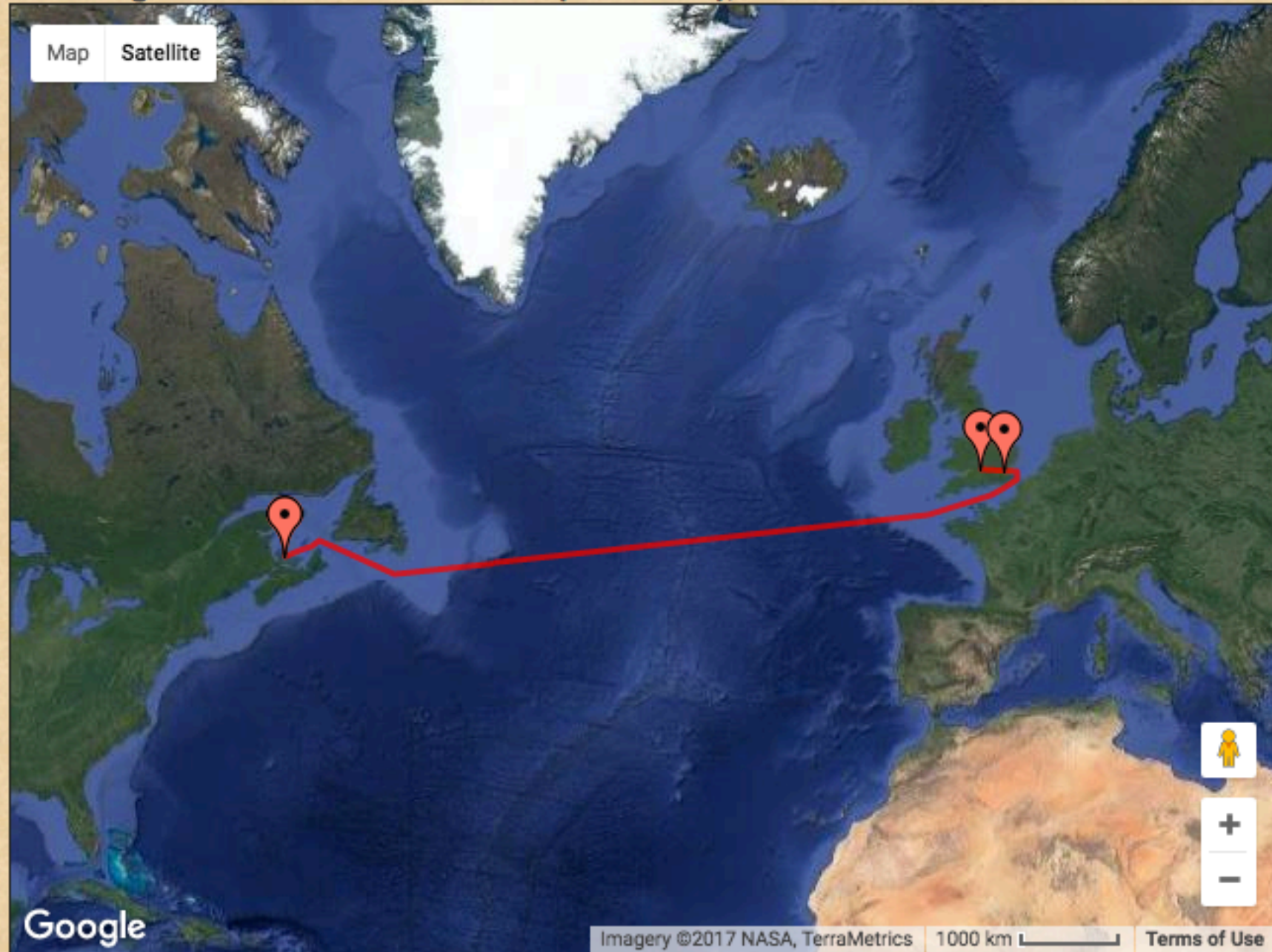




# Introduction

- The Elizabeth shipwrecked
- Ancestral home of James Townsend.
- Lake of Shining Waters
- Migration of James Townsend
- London, England
- Shrivenham, England

## Migration of James Townsend (1739-1806), in 1775



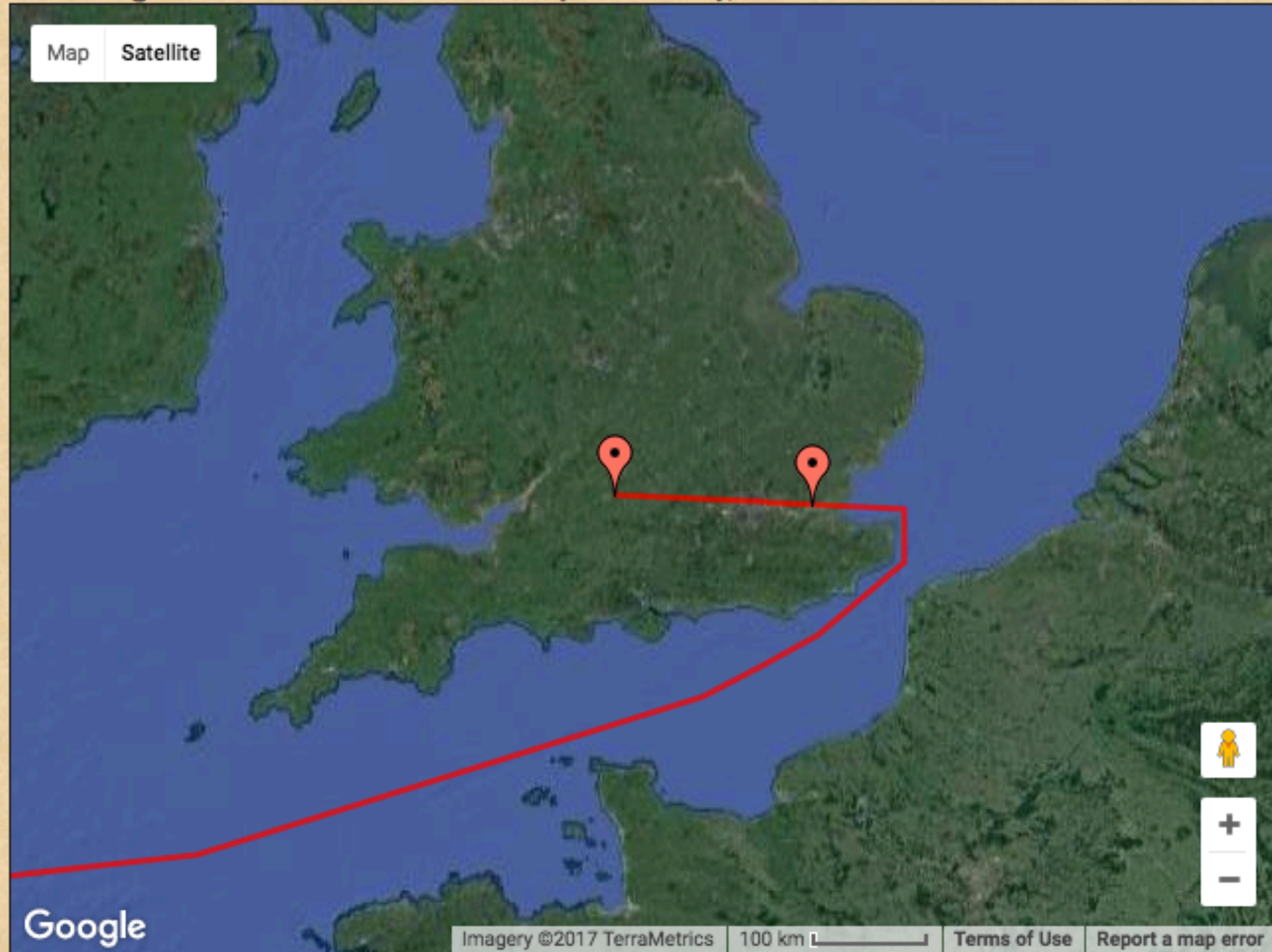
*James Townsend and Elizabeth Davis emigrated in 1775 from England to Park Corner, Prince Edward Island.*



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Google

Imagery ©2017 TerraMetrics 100 km Terms of Use Report a map error

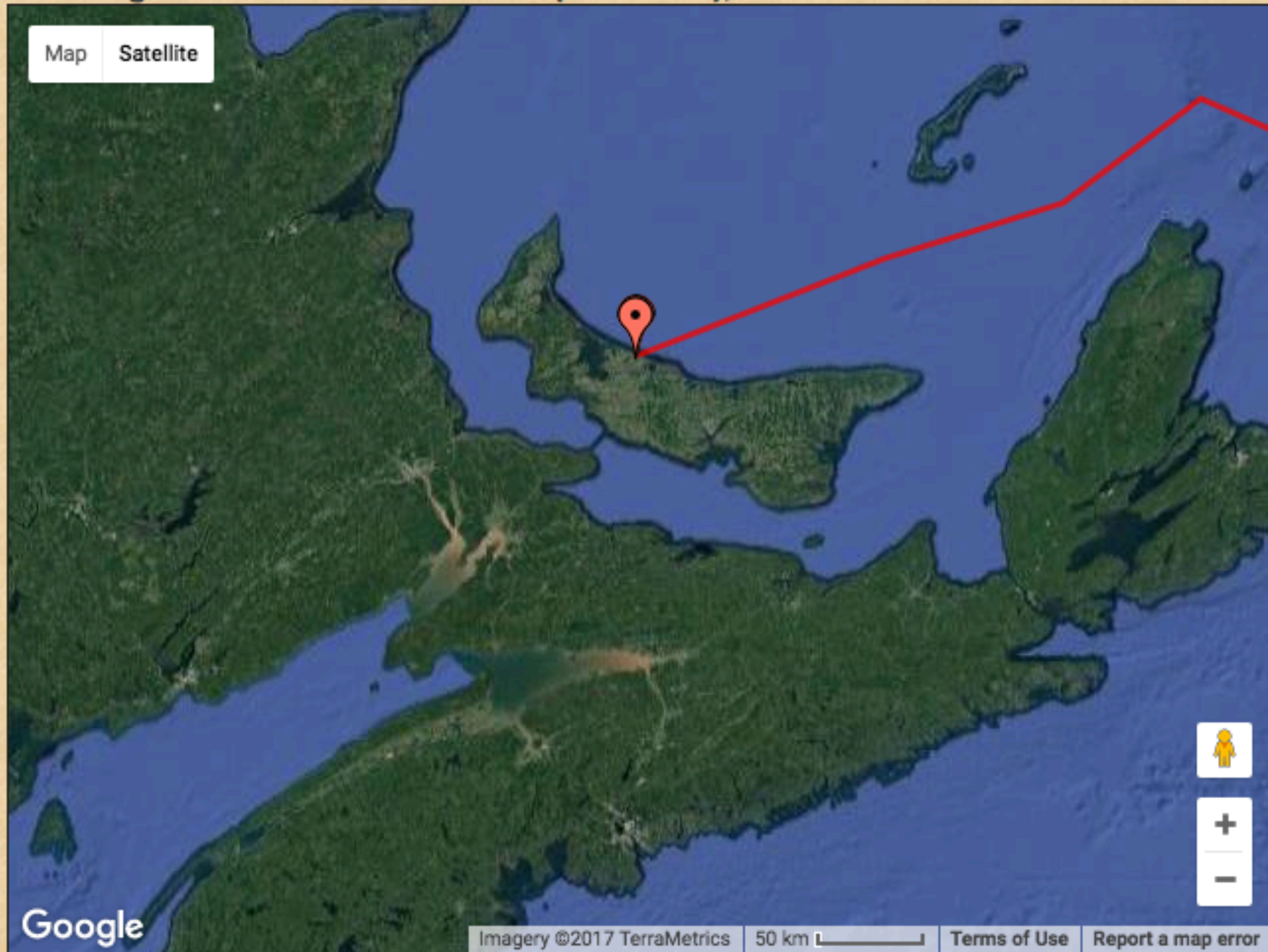
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# The Beginning

The project began with projecting a map showing the British Isles, New England and the Maritime provinces.

Each land mass was cut from fabric and laid out on the background. Let the sewing begin!



# First Showing



The first public display was at the Loyalist Reunion in Wallace, Nova Scotia, in 2008



# The Finished Quilt

*They Came on Ships*  
*Ancestral Migrations*





# The Finished Quilt





# The Finished Quilt








Scroll with 25 ancestors, colour coded to match migration routes



# The Finished Quilt

## *They Came on Ships Ancestral Migrations*

-  David Walker & Margaret Hetherington, ca. 1819  
Annan, Scotland, to New Annan, P.E.I.
-  James Townsend & Elizabeth Davis, 1775  
Shrivenham, England, to Park Corner, P.E.I.
-  John Read & Sarah Lessie, 1630  
England (the Great Fleet) to Salem, Massachusetts
-  Matthew Coye, 1638  
England (the Great Fleet) to Salem, Massachusetts
-  William Dyer & Mary Barret, 1634  
London, England, to Boston, Massachusetts

Detail of ancestors 1 to 5



# The Finished Quilt

Joseph Hull & Joanna, 1635  
from Crewkerne England to Massachusetts

Giles Slocum, ca. 1637  
Plymouth, England, to Portsmouth, Rhode Island

William White & Susanna, 1620 (the Mayflower)  
Southampton, England, to Plymouth, Mass.

Thomas Drake & Jane Holbrook, ca. 1656  
Colyton, Devon, England, to Weymouth, Mass.

Marcus Palmer Sr. (Loyalist), 1783  
New York to Saint John, New Brunswick

Edward Converse & Sarah Smith, 1630  
Yarmouth, England to Charlestown, Massachusetts  
(the Winthrop Fleet)

Robert Titus & Hannah Carter, 1635  
London, England to Weymouth, Massachusetts



# The Finished Quilt

Edward J. Coy & Amy Titus, 1761

Pomfret, Connecticut, to Maugerville, N.B.

Tristram Coffyn & Dionis Stevens, 1642

Plymouth, Devon, England, to Newbury, Mass.

John Crawford Sr. & Jane Henderson, 1733

County Tyrone, Ireland, to Stamford Connecticut

John Crawford, Jr. (Loyalist) & Mary Brann, ca 1787

Pound Ridge, New York, to Cumberland County, NS

Thomas Hooper (Loyalist), 1784

New Jersey to Lower Bedeque, P.E.I.

Ebenezer Slocum (Loyalist) & Esther Corey, 1783

North Kingstown, Rhode Island, to Saint John, N.B.

John Corey & Agnis Wauker (mother), ca. 1638

Bristol, England, to Portsmouth, Rhode Island



# The Finished Quilt

- Samuel Braddock & Hannah Elizabeth, ca. 1773  
Staffordshire, England, to the Island of St. John
- Edward Doty, 1620 (the Mayflower)  
Plymouth, England, to Plymouth, Massachusetts
- Richard Robins (Loyalist), 1783  
Amboy, New Jersey, to Lower Bedeque, P.E.I.
- John Seaman, 1630 (the Winthrop Fleet)  
Yarmouth, England, to Salem, Massachusetts
- Jacobiah Seaman Sr, (Loyallst) 1783  
Dutchess Co., New York to North Wallace, N.S.
- Thomas Cairns & Agnes Wilson, 1833  
Dumfries, Scotland to Prince Edward Island



# The Finished Quilt



British Isles



# The Finished Quilt



New England & the Maritimes



# The Finished Quilt



Embellishments



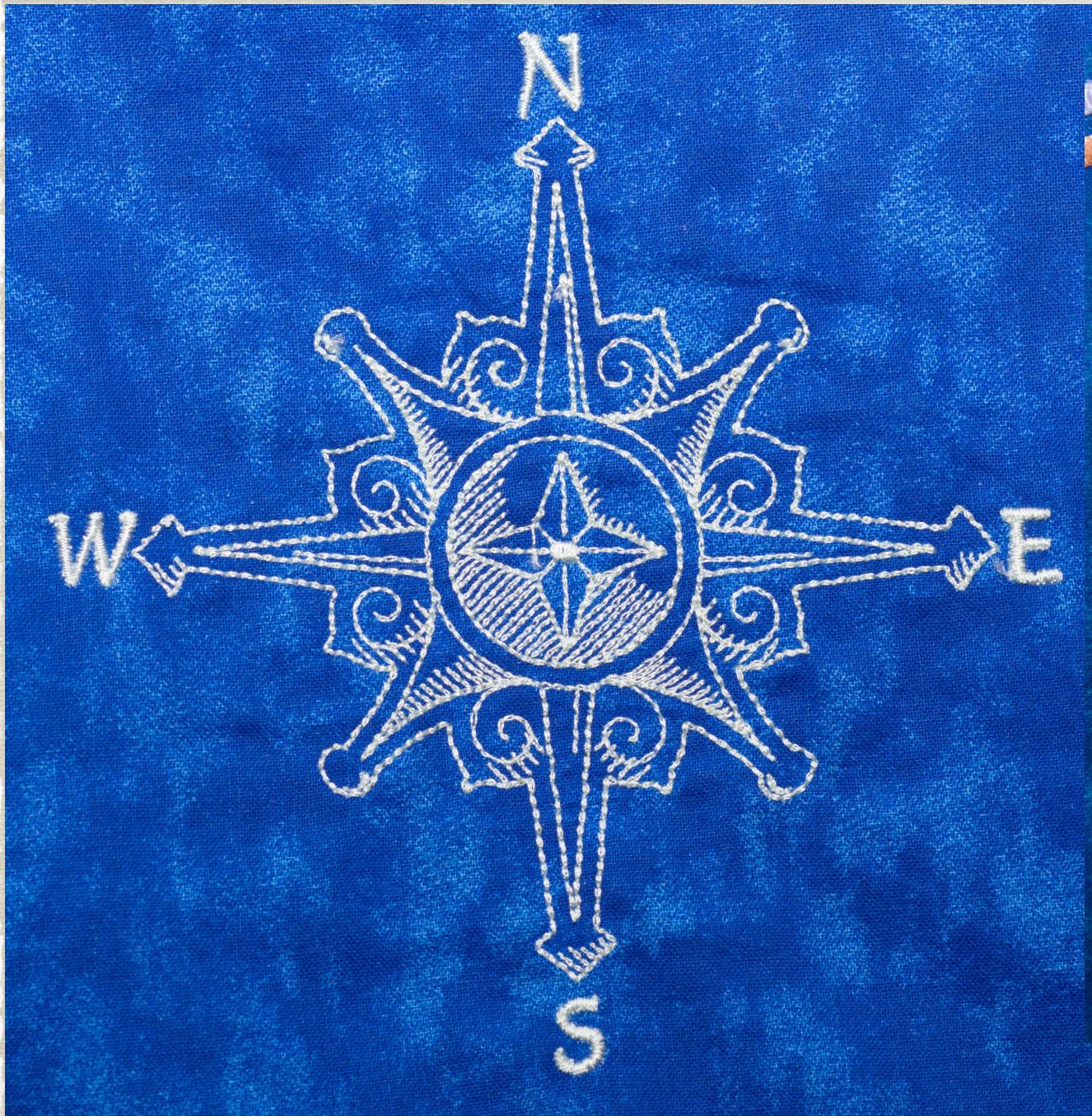
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Embellishments



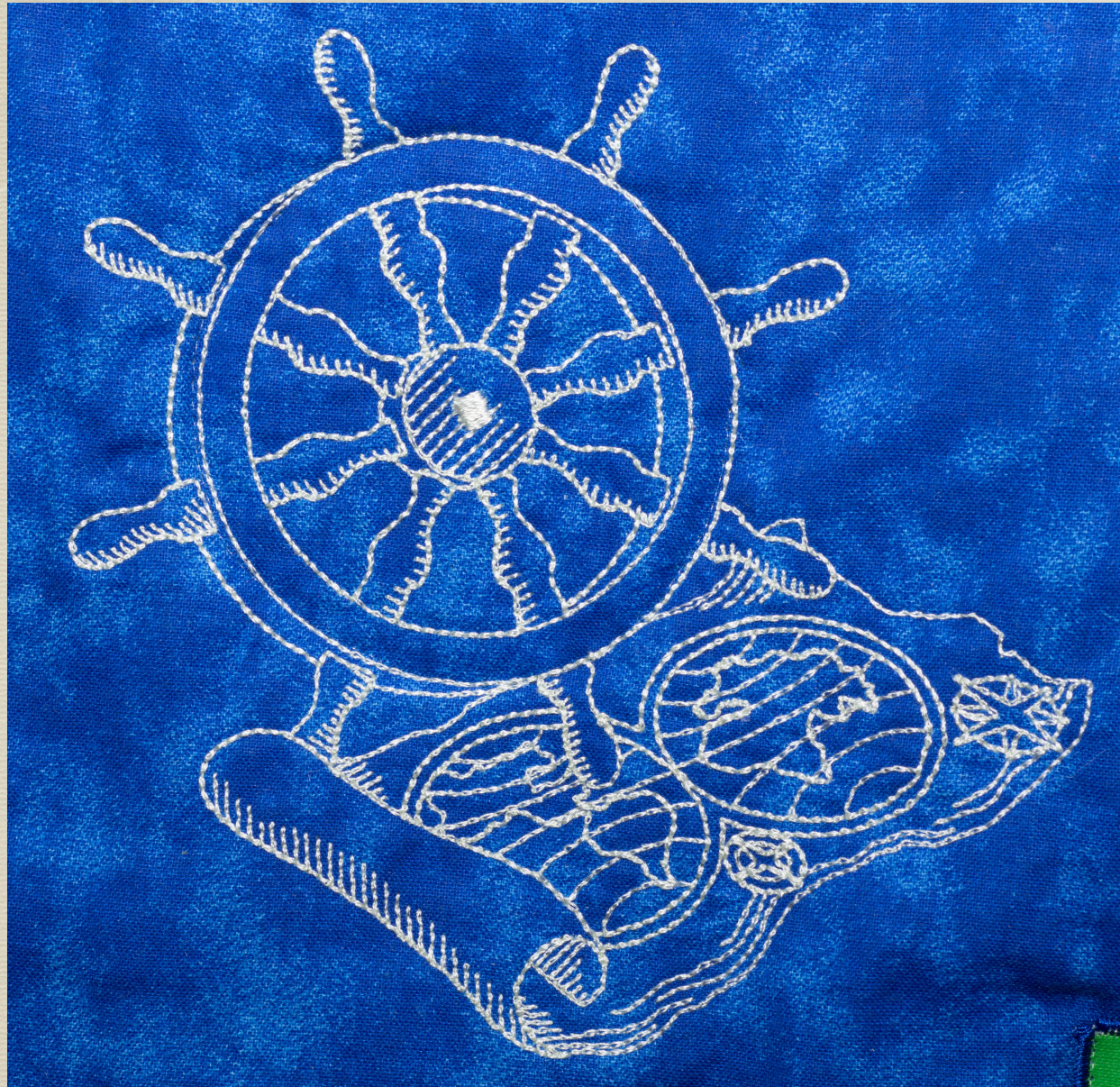
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Embellishments



# The Finished Quilt



Embellishments



# The Finished Quilt

*They Came on Ships*  
*Ancestral Migrations*



Betsy Ross  
Revolutionary Flag



New Hampshire



Massachusetts



Rhode Island



Connecticut



New York



New Jersey



New Brunswick



Prince Edward Isl.



Nova Scotia



# Second Conference



Loyalist Conference, Loyalist Inn, Summerside, 7-9 July 2016



# Media Exposure

**AB** THE JOURNAL PIONEER  
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016  
journalpioneer.com

**prince county**

**HERITAGE**

## They came on ships

Quilt showcases ancestral migration to Prince Edward Island

BY DESIREE ANSTEY  
JOURNAL PIONEER

SUMMERSIDE

It's all about the unexpected details found in the quilt.

The flags pressed onto the deep blue fabric, the ships, as well as the scroll with names and dates all embroidered, and the swirls of 25 coloured ribbons that represent ancestral migration to P.E.I.

The quilt, which took Suzan Bouchard several hundred hours to complete, showcases in an inventive way the migration of David Walker's ancestors.

The colourful ribbons trace the passage of 25 ancestors who came from England, Ireland, and Scotland to live in Eastern Canada, including P.E.I.

Walker said there are two time frames on the quilt.

"(There is) one going back to the early 1600s where there would have been migration from England, and different parts of Ireland, and, later, from the early 1800's from Scotland, so my direct Walker line came from Scotland."

The inspiration for the quilt all started on a dark and stormy night.

"I was driving from New Brunswick with my brother through a storm, and it got us talking about a shipwreck on Park Corner," said Walker. "I thought it was related to our ancestors but, as it turned out, it was the Townsend family from Rollo Bay.

Onboard the ship was the clock that belonged to Lucy Maud Montgomery."

Curious to learn more about his genealogy, Walker started his own detective work.

Digging through the archives at the MacNaught History Centre in Summerside, scrolling through historical sites online, and stringing together the loose strands, he discovered a history he never could have imagined.

"In 1634, William and Mary Dyer left London, England, for Boston.

"She was quite a religious person and was determined to spread the faith," explained Walker. "As a Quaker she got on the bad side of the colonial Puritans in Boston. They would not tolerate her methods of teaching and she was thrown out, at least three times."

He continued, "Eventually she was hanged in Boston Common, in 1660. It was the last public hanging in the New World. There is even a bronze statue of her there."

The quilt was showcased at the Loyalist Lakeview Resort in Summerside as part of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada's annual general meeting and conference.



DESIREE ANSTEY/JOURNAL PIONEER

In the quilt shown, David Walker traces 25 of his ancestors that traveled across from Great Britain and Ireland, migrating to Eastern parts of Canada, including P.E.I. The quilt took several hundred hours to complete and was carefully crafted by Suzan Bouchard.

Summerside Journal Pioneer  
11 July 2016



# Media Exposure



The Guardian, Charlottetown  
24 August 2016



# Media Exposure



CBC Charlottetown



# Media Exposure



CBC Charlottetown





End