

Biography of Marmaduke Hutchinson

The three sons of Isaac Hutchinson and his second wife Phoebe of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, were Marmaduke, Isaac Storr, and Thomas Hutchinson.¹ The brothers were farmers in New Britain Township² and listed among those proclaimed as traitors, “attainted of High Treason in pursuance of the Treason Laws of the State of Pennsylvania.”³

Marmaduke Hutchinson was born 7 Apr 1755,⁴ probably in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He was listed as a non-associator in New Britain Township by the Committee of Safety in 1775.⁵ His refusal to participate in the American Revolution was presumably due to his Quaker convictions for peace and a desire to maintain membership in the Society of Friends. The charge of treason caused him to flee from Pennsylvania, by this time apparently married to wife Martha, and having at least one child. They must have stayed for a time with the Quaker community at Crosswicks, New Jersey, for he later reported being from that town.⁶ This time was difficult for many Quakers, and the Quakers in Britain and Ireland were raising relief funds for their distressed Friends in America. Marmaduke and family would, much later, be beneficiaries of these funds.

It was at Paulus Hook, New Jersey, across the Hudson River from New York City, where Marmaduke is next located, on 26 Aug 1781. At this time, New York was a garrisoned city under British control and a place of protection for thousands of Loyalists. Marmaduke was included in the muster roll of the British army’s engineering department working at Paulus Hook as a

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¹ Hutchinson Family Bible Records 1728–1837, *The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments: Newly Translated out of the Original Tongues: And with the former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised* (Oxford: printer John Baskett, 1723), family records, owned and imaged by Richard S. Hutchinson; Ruth Alsemgeest, Richmond, British Columbia, to Andrew Quackenbush, Regina, Saskatchewan, email, July 2009; Genealogy files, Hutchinson folder; privately held by Quackenbush, Ottawa, Ontario, 2026.

² Thomas Lynch Montgomery, editor, “Forfeited Estates: Inventories and Sales,” *Pennsylvania Archives*, series 6, vol. 13 (Harrisburg: Harrisburg Publishing Company, 1907), 468; imaged, “US, Pennsylvania Archives, 1660–1780,” *fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com> : accessed 5 August 2026), search “Marmaduke Huchinson [sic].”

³ George Edward Reed, editor, “List of Persons Proclaimed Traitors in Pennsylvania,” *Papers of the Governors, 1747–1785*, Pennsylvania Archives, series 4, vol. 3 (Harrisburg: State of Pennsylvania, 1900), pp. 937, 940; imaged, “US, Pennsylvania Archives, 1660–1780,” *fold3* (<https://www.fold3.com/image/3129715> : accessed 5 August 2026).

⁴ Hutchinson Family Bible Records, *The Holy Bible ... Revised*, family records pages.

⁵ William H. Egle, editor, *Pennsylvania in the War of the Revolution, Associated Battalions and Militia, 1775–1783*, vol. 2, reprint (Harrisburg: E. K. Meyers, State Printer, 1892), 232; imaged, *Google Books* (<https://books.google.com/> : accessed 5 August 2026).

⁶ A. J. Mekeel, “Quaker-Loyalist Settlers in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia,” *Bulletin of Friends’ Historical Association* 36 (Spring 1947): 29.

carpenter.⁷ Given Marmaduke's views on the war, he may have taken his job with the army reluctantly, but the influx of people and shortage of work would have left him without options. It is likely his work as a carpenter involved building British fortifications. He was not part of the British regulars, but rather working alongside the British American regiments, the Provincials.



According to Bell's interesting book, *Early Loyalist Saint John: The Origin of New Brunswick Politics*, the Loyalists became increasingly dissatisfied in New York because work was scarce, the city was strictly regulated, and the British regulars treated the Provincials with contempt. Thus, when Britain agreed to independence for all thirteen colonies without negotiating any protection for the Loyalists, many felt no choice other than evacuation. Bell contends that to suggest the Loyalists were willing martyrs for a political cause is largely false. Generally the Loyalists disagreed with the high taxes Britain imposed, but they felt fighting to become a separate nation was the wrong solution. Loyalists generally did not want to abandon their country or face exile; in fact, many tried to return to their properties rather than face the wilderness of Canada, but the Patriots forced them back to New York.⁸ Given the charges against him, Marmaduke would not have been among those who risked returning home. While waiting for a ship to evacuate them from New York, his family was listed as one man, one woman, one child 10 years old or more, and one child under 10. His former home location was not listed in the enumeration.⁹

⁷ J. E. Ruch and E. Kipp, *Carleton's Loyalist Index*, CD-ROM (Ottawa: Sir Guy Carleton Branch, UELAC, 1996), search "Marmaduke Hutchinson."

⁸ D. G. Bell, *Early Loyalist Saint John: The Origin of New Brunswick Politics, 1783-1786* (Fredericton, New Brunswick: New Ireland Press, 1983).

⁹ David G. Bell, *American Loyalists to New Brunswick: The Ship Passenger Lists* (Halifax, Nova Scotia: Formac Publishing Co., 2015), 41.

There were several fleets that left New York between May and October 1783. The nearly fifty ships leaving from Sandy Hook on May 27th, a sailing known as the Spring Fleet, were the first to go, and the Hutchinsons were on one of the 10 ships bound for Saint John. This fleet left six months before Paulus Hook was given up by the British. The Saint John group was under the control of The Bay of Fundy Adventurers, one of several private associations that organized evacuations in conjunction with the British military and Governor Parr of Nova Scotia. There were Quaker groups that organized themselves for transportation, but the Hutchinsons were not among those passengers.

The Hutchinsons were not listed as passengers on the *Union*,¹⁰ so they must have sailed on one of the other nine ships, possibly the *Duchess of Gordon* or *Sovereign*, both of which delivered passengers up the Saint John River where Marmaduke and family eventually settled.

Passengers received rations from the British government. Provisions were distributed first on board the ship by the captain, and later, after arriving about June 10th, by British government officials at the port of Saint John. The Hutchinsons were civilian refugees rather than military loyalists, receiving rations for at least 70 days. The ages of children were sometimes inflated to achieve adult rations, but if Marmaduke and Martha did not report a false age for the elder child, and if they were married prior to the child's birth, Marmaduke and Martha must have been married young, around age 17 or 18. Martha's first name is known from land documents found at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.¹¹ Her surname may have been Leigh.¹²

The colonial government was ill prepared for the vast numbers of people arriving. Saint John had only a few buildings at the landing of the Spring Fleet, so the refugees used small military tents for shelter. If the Hutchinsons were among the majority, they would have built a small shelter from supplied lumber and stayed the first winter in Saint John because their lots upriver were not yet surveyed. Wood and food were scarce, so at the earliest opportunity, they would have travelled up the Saint John River. As they were listed at the food distribution in May 1784 but not in June, it seems likely they moved between these two enumerations.¹³

Several of the arrivals on the Spring Fleet settled on a land grant near Maugerville, and the Hutchinsons were among them. Marmaduke settled on a strip of 75 acres of rich wetlands, Spray's Grant Lot 10, which spanned the isthmus between the Saint John River and Grand Lake. The land, now known as the Grand Lake Meadows, is part of a large plain prone to spring

¹⁰ Bell, *American Loyalists ... Lists*, 61–63.

¹¹ Queens County, New Brunswick, Land records, 1797–1805, book D, p. 226, no. 712, Hutchinson to Coy, registered 2 September 1800; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-69T3-SSY> : accessed 5 August 2026); citing Service New Brunswick, Burton, NB.

¹² Ruth Alsemgeest, Richmond, British Columbia, to Andrew Quackenbush, Regina, Saskatchewan, email, 2012.

¹³ Bell, *American Loyalists ... Lists*, 225.

flooding. The river end of the property is situated near the north end of the Highway 2 bridge across the Saint John River.



By April 1786, 8 acres had been improved, and the Hutchinsons had established one house and out building and had three cows and two hogs.¹⁴ In June, five acres were in crops.¹⁵

Marmaduke's petition for the land he had settled upon indicates that he had been registered on an unfavourable property at Lot 72 Gage Town. This land is on the other side of the river about two kilometres upstream. These locations are labelled on a cadastral map for Canning

¹⁴ Cleadie B. Barnett, "Account of the Settlers, Improvements and Stock on Colonel Spray's Land on the River St. John taken in April 1786," *We Lived: A Genealogical Newsletter of New Brunswick Sources*, 1979–1983; transcription, "Colonel William Spray's Grant," *Queens County GenWeb* (<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nbqueens/land.htm> : accessed 5 August 2026).

¹⁵ New Brunswick, Crown Land Office, Land petitions, vol. P, folder "Hutchison [sic], Marmaduke 1786," petition for Lot 10 Spray's grant, 21 June 1786; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-1DX4> : accessed 9 August 2026).

Parish.¹⁶ It was about this time that daughter Dorothy would have been born, but there is no record of her birth as no Quaker meeting was yet established in the area.

In the summer of 1787, Joseph Moore and Abraham Gibbons did an enumeration of Quakers in New Brunswick for the purpose of distribution of aid to the needy. Funds had been raised by Irish and British Quakers, and while distribution in the earlier years had been limited to America, a cargo ship bound for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia was funded at the cost of £503. The ship sailed in July 1788 with half of its cargo allotted to Saint John and area. Among the recipients were several who reported themselves to be from Crosswicks, Marmaduke among them. He was listed as a farmer at Maugerville. What the Hutchinsons received is unspecified, but the cargo contained clothes, farming tools, and money.¹⁷

Two years later, by September 1789, the Hutchinsons had moved to the head of Grand Lake at the mouth of the Salmon River, cleared a dozen acres, and built a house.¹⁸ Their neighbour there and good friend, Anthony Terrill, had arrived in the Spring Fleet on the *Camel*. Other neighbours had come to New Brunswick later in the 1783 season: the Arthur Branscombe family on the *William* at the end of July, and the Roger Barton family on the *John & Jane* in mid October. A Jacob Reynolds, possibly the one who became the son-in-law of Marmaduke, arrived on the *Nancy* in the same fleet as Roger Barton. Jacob had no family on the ship nor at the food distribution in May 1784.¹⁹ This Jacob is possibly the one who petitioned for land near the mouth of the Richibucto River soon after arriving but was a neighbour of Marmaduke at Grand Lake by 1795.²⁰ The father-in-law of Marmaduke's son Samuel was Timothy Wood, who arrived on the *Bridgewater* with his wife and one child under 10. Before leaving New York, there was an older child enumerated,²¹ so presumably that child was left behind, died, or was counted elsewhere after arriving in New Brunswick.

The location of the Hutchinsons' property at the head of Grand Lake can be determined from land petition descriptions and identification of his neighbours. In particular, a description of land in a sale by Anthony Terrill is helpful: "all that messuage or tenement, called Mount Pleasant situate lying and being north Eastern side of the entrance of Salmon Bay bounded by Marmaduke Hutchinsons lot on the south eastern side containing two hundred acres more or

¹⁶ *Gagetown*, map (Fredericton, New Brunswick: Department of Lands and Mines, n. d.), cadastral map no. 127; imaged, "Communities," *Provincial Archives of New Brunswick* (<https://archives.gnb.ca/en-ca/communities/queens/canning/canning> : accessed 6 August 2026).

¹⁷ Arthur J. Mekeel, "The Quaker-Loyalist Settlers in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in 1783," *Bulletin of Friends' Historical Association* 32 (Autumn 1943): 65–75.

¹⁸ New Brunswick, Crown Land Office, Land petitions, no. 478, Terrill and Hutchinson request land and islands, 25 September 1789; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-19KT-J> : accessed 9 August 2026).

¹⁹ Bell, *Early Loyalist Saint John*.

²⁰ New Brunswick, Crown Land Office, Land petitions, petition of Anthony Terrill, et al., 3 November 1795; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-BBF9> : accessed 9 August 2026).

²¹ Bell, *Early Loyalist Saint John*.

less, also a lot of land opposite on the south western side of Salmon Bay containing seventy five acres more or less bounded by Marmaduke Hutchinsons lot on the south eastern side..."²² Marmaduke's property, then, was later numbered as lots two and three, which straddle the entrance to Salmon Bay and were owned by David Sypher on the cadastral maps.²³ Driving to the end of Salmon River Mouth Road allows a view of low, partly wooded ground with a few residences. The land can be viewed easily from across the lake at the end of Range Wharf Road. In 1796, the land was described as wild meadows with "the Lands joining is nothing scarcely but burnt Land grown over with Moss and Hurtlebury Bushes."²⁴



²² Queens County, Nova Scotia, Deeds, book D, pp. 198–200, no. 694, Terrill to Earle, registered 24 December 1799; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-69T3-9Z6> : accessed 9 August 2026).

²³ Department of Lands and Mines, Untitled, cadastral map (Fredericton, New Brunswick: Department of Lands and Mines, [1954?]), no. 116, Canning, Waterborough, Chipman, and Northfield parishes, Queens County, New Brunswick; imaged, "Communities," *Provincial Archives of New Brunswick* (<https://archives.gnb.ca/en-ca/communities/queens/chipman/coal-creek> : accessed 9 August 2026).

²⁴ New Brunswick, Crown Land Office, Land petitions, Anthony Terrill, et al. petition for the protection of meadows, 27 February 1796; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-BB6B> : accessed 9 August 2026).

The Terrills were on the northwest side of Marmaduke, with Roger Barton, Arthur Branscombe, and John Miller across the lake to the south where they were granted lots 5, 12, and 17 respectively in the first Range on the south shore of Cumberland Bay. These men and many descendants are buried in cemeteries there and have stones still in good condition.

In January, 1797, Marmaduke petitioned for an additional 200 acres as his farm was too small for his growing family.²⁵ Three years later he sold his initial 75 acre property at Lot 10 in Spray's grant for £150. He continued on his farm near the village that had grown up where he had established himself a dozen years earlier at the mouth of the Salmon River. The journal of Rev. Joseph Hoag, a Quaker preacher, refers to Marmaduke's property in January, 1802: "...feeling my mind drawn towards a village at the head of Grand Lake, I proposed to Benjamin Birdsall to take us there. He took us to Marmaduke Hutchinson's, where we found Friends who were glad to see us. We had a meeting at his house the next day; and they being much beloved by their neighbors, and living near the village, the meeting was large..."²⁶

Marmaduke's son-in-law, Jacob Reynolds, granted power of attorney to Marmaduke on 20 August 1801,²⁷ apparently in preparation for a move to Prince Edward County, Ontario. On 22 March 1805, Marmaduke sold Jacob's Lot 15 Range 1 along Grand Lake and signed the instrument before the Justice of the Inferior court of Common Pleas on 27 January 1807.²⁸

Soon after this date, some of the Hutchinsons moved to Prince Edward County in what is now Ontario, settling in Hillier, but later land records indicate others stayed behind, residing on land in the Grand Lake area for decades. Hillier was where Marmaduke's older brother Isaac Storr Hutchinson would settle in later years, possibly drawn there not because of his brother Marmaduke, with whom his contact seems limited, but to be with his wife's family, whom he met in Nova Scotia.

²⁵ New Brunswick, Crown Land Office, Land petitions, Marmaduke Hutchinson, 12 January 1797; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSL6-BYBH> : accessed 9 August 2026); microfilm F1040.

²⁶ Joseph Hoag, *Journal of the Life of Joseph Hoag: An Eminent Minister of the Gospel in the Society of Friends* (Auburn, NY: Knapp & Peck, 1861), 117; imaged, *Google Books* (<http://books.google.ca> : digitized 21 November 2007).

²⁷ Queens County, New Brunswick, Land records, book E, pp. 83–84, no. 951, power of attorney Reynolds to Hutchinson, registered 11 July 1807; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-621S-L1> : accessed 9 August 2026).

²⁸ Queens County, New Brunswick, Land records, book E, pp. 85–86, no. 952, Hutchinson to Barton; imaged, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-621Q-XN> : accessed 9 August 2026)

The Marmaduke Hutchinson family became active in Quaker meetings, with Samuel, believed to be Marmaduke's son, first appearing in the Adolphustown minutes in the summer of 1808.²⁹ These records show that Marmaduke was received into membership in the fall of 1809 along with Grand Lake neighbour Anthony Terrill and their wives, Martha and Charity, about the same time.

The name of Marmaduke Hutchinson continues to appear in documents for some time, but some references are certainly for Marmaduke Jr. Isaac Storr Hutchinson was still alive in 1820, so his younger brother Marmaduke surely could have been also. They are perhaps those men of the same names who had letters waiting for them at the Kingston Post Office on the same day in 1820.³⁰

²⁹ The Trustees of the Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, *Adolphustown Monthly Meeting Minutes, 1798–1813*, transcription (<https://quaker.ca/archives/wp-content/uploads/sites/47/2015/08/Adolphustown-Monthly-Meeting-Minutes-1798.pdf> : accessed 9 August 2026); citing Archives O-2-1.

³⁰ J. Macaulay, *Kingston Chronicle*, 7 April 1820, page 3, column 5; imaged, "Kingston Chronicle," *Digital Kingston* (<https://vitacollections.ca/digital-kingston/96808/issues/1820> : accessed 9 August 2026).