PREFACE

THIS IS THE STORY OF JAMES MOODY, an American Loyalist hero from New Jersey who later settled, and became a prominent figure, in Nova Scotia. Famous in his own day, he deserves new recognition today. His life gives us a picture of the Loyalist experience, from the turbulent times of the American Revolution through to the subsequent refashioning of a British colony to the north.

James Moody was a New Jersey farmer who believed that rebellion was constitutional anarchy. He enlisted in a Loyalist provincial corps and was sent out on special, often dangerous, missions behind the Patriot lines. Suffering from what would later be called battle fatigue, he went to England in 1782, just as the war was ending. There he wrote and published his *Narrative of his Exertions and Sufferings in the Cause of Government since the Year 1776*, a compelling story that explained the convictions that had made him a Loyalist and chronicled his exploits during the Revolution. Settling in Nova Scotia after the war, he threw his energies into the new community, building ships, working toward the establishment of an Anglican parish, representing his county in the House of Assembly, enlisting again in the wars with France, and more.

He was one of nearly sixty thousand Loyalist refugees from the American Revolutionary War who settled in what is now Canada. As Americans, they knew the land and understood its challenges. They brought with them their political and civil institutions and worked to remake a society that furthered the ideals for which they had been fighting: a better society, they hoped, than the one they had left, a society where there would be no need to rebel.

The story of James Moody gives us a glimpse of the American Revolution from the other side. Through his *Narrative*, we gain an insight into the issues that made this colonial war a civil war. Finally, James Moody's experience in Nova Scotia provides a personal account of the vision this second, transplanted, American society had of themselves and their attempts to make that vision a reality. Men like Moody brought to the province new money and skills, a spirit of entrepreneurship, but also a sense of public service and political responsibility that helped the province to grow and prosper on a sound institutional base. Their legacy remains important to Canada today.

*
Gathering material for the story of an American Loyalist presents special problems. There is, to begin with, the scholarly border of 1783. What happened before the close of the revolutionary war is considered American history; what happened after, for the Loyalists, is Canadian history. One reads in American county histories that So-and-So after the war “removed” to Nova Scotia only to die “ignominiously,” and often obscurely. In the Canadian account, one learns that So-and-So came from New York — the point of evacuation, though he may have really been a native of New Jersey or Pennsylvania or wherever — lived a worthy life in his new land, and died regretted by all who knew him. One hardly recognizes the same human being. The two sides of one life have become separated, and must be uncovered in quite different locations.

The second difficulty is that much of the Loyalist material is held in bits and pieces in scattered and little-known collections. The fact that the Loyalists were refugees, dislocated, and forced to abandon most of their effects, including personal papers, makes the task of reconstructing their lives both more arduous and more fun. It is not simply an issue of finding needles in a haystack: one must first discover which haystacks, in which fields, contain the needles.

The starting point of this biography was James Moody’s Narrative. My chance discovery of a rich collection of Moody family papers in the possession of a direct descendant of James Moody in Ottawa, where I live, gave me copious additional primary material.

For the American section of James Moody’s life, the sources are both English and American. The Loyalist claims are the greatest single repository of material for Loyalist studies; the originals are held in the Public Record Office in England with microfilm copies in the National Archives of Canada and in a few major American libraries. In addition, the papers of British commanders in chief contain valuable information. So also do the letters of Anglican clergymen reporting back to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. There is, of course, contemporary material in the form of diaries, letters, petitions, court records, newspaper accounts, and so forth. Local nineteenth century county histories provide some clues, though these are not always reliable. There is also much to be found on Loyalists in the papers of Patriots, material that is often omitted, perhaps for lack of interest, when these papers are published under the direction of American scholars, so that it is often necessary to go back to the original manuscripts. This was so even for the Washington papers.
For the Nova Scotia end of the story, the material is scattered between England and our eastern seaboard. Shipping registries, vestry records, journals of the House of Assembly, letter books, the long confidential correspondence between the governor and the undersecretary of state in England are just some of the sources. Unfortunately, the Nova Scotia letters in the Moody papers are, with one minor exception, all to James, so that what he wrote to his correspondents has had to be extrapolated from their replies. Some of the Nova Scotia material has been drawn on for two articles in the *Nova Scotia Historical Review*, cited in the bibliography.

All this is to say that there are a great many people without whose kindness and generosity of time and thought, this book would never have been written. I would first like to thank John Wentworth Moody of Ottawa, who allowed me free access to his collection of James Moody papers and who, with his late wife, Betty, welcomed me into their house several afternoons each week over several years while I studied documents and talked about James Moody. Professor Willard Randall, historian and biographer of William Franklin, Benedict Arnold, Thomas Jefferson, and George Washington, generously guided my reading in the Loyalist literature, indicated where I might find original material, added vital rare books to my collection, and continued to be a stimulating scholar with whom I could discuss the project. I must also thank Mrs. Pauline Miller, of Tom’s River, New Jersey, Director of the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, historian and author, who accepted me into her house and drove me around the New Jersey shore. She also found extensive information about the Little Egg Harbour region, including maps and sources, and arranged for photographs of rare portraits and prints. Brian Cuthbertson, historian, archivist, and heritage officer, gave me invaluable help in sharing and locating material on the Nova Scotia part of the book and in providing useful criticism. Charles Armour, archivist and author, lent me his own tapes and other shipping information from the British Trade Office, essential to discovering the full extent of James Moody’s shipbuilding. Professors Carl E. Prince and Mary Lou Lustig, editors of *The Papers of William Livingston*, allowed me a preview of volumes 3 and 4; this gave me valuable material about Moody and Livingston, some of which for reasons of space was eliminated from the published volumes. David Fowler of the David Library of the American Revolution, helped me find obscure but significant documents.
I must also mention the kindness of William Mead Stapler, businessman and local historian, for help, and his wife, Mary, for hospitality, in Sussex County; Thomas Wilson, historical researcher and publisher, for rare New Jersey material; Brereton Greenhous, military historian, for Loyalist military material; Ambassador Joseph Small of Ireland for documentary publications; James Burant for prints from the National Print Collection of the National Archives of Canada; Bernard Pothier, historian, formerly of the Canadian War Museum, for material concerning Father Sigogne; Mrs. Francis E. MacNeill for access to Weymouth vestry records; Margaret McKelvey for advice on publishing; H. Basil Robinson for wise counsel; Helen Small for the use of her copying machine; Professor Antonio Gualtieri for continued support; and the late Theodore Brush, whom I never met but whose articles on James Moody led me to John Wentworth Moody in Ottawa, which in turn made this biography possible.

I would also like to thank for their unfailing help, the staffs of the National Archives of Canada, the National Library of Canada, the libraries of the University of Ottawa, Carleton University, and the Canadian War Museum, and the Library of Parliament, Ottawa; the Robarts Library and the Thomas Fisher Rare Books Library at the University of Toronto, and the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library; the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, the Killam Library of Dalhousie University, and the Legislative Library of the House of Assembly, Halifax; the Land Registry Office, and St. Peter's Anglican Church, Weymouth; the library at Fort Anne and the Court Records Office for Annapolis County in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia; the New Brunswick Archives, Saint John; the Library of Congress and the National Archives, Washington, DC; the State Archives of New Jersey, Trenton; the New Jersey Historical Society, Newark; the library of Princeton University; the Sussex County Public Library, the Sussex County Court Records Office, and the Sussex County Historical Society, in Newton, New Jersey; the David Library of the Revolution, Washington's Crossing, Pennsylvania; the New York Historical Society and the New York Public Library, in New York City; the William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor; the Public Record Office at Kew; the Guildhall Library, London; and the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle.

I must also thank Doctor Naomi Griffiths of Carleton University, for her unwavering critical support of this book in manuscript; Professor Barry Moody of Acadia University, for his patient and tact-
ful historical editing; David Raymond, for his elegant adaptation of the
two Moody maps and the discovery of the unpublished 1816 John
Harris map; Rosemary Shipton and Mary McDougall Maude for their
early invaluable advice; Jennie Strickland, the cheery and devoted
production manager of Carleton University Press, as well as Heather
Sherratt, my copyeditor, and all those who so kindly saw this manuscript
through its final stages.
Finally, I would like to thank my family: my cousins Felicity Leung
and Edward and Jean Harrington, my children, and my patient, sup-
portive, and untiringly helpful husband, Michael.