

Mary Ann Scott cont.

As well, Mrs. Chaffey had other problems to cope with. Seven Americans seeking employment on the Rideau project came to Chaffey's Mills and lingered around her back door, eating her food and harassing her. John Burrows, Overseer of the Works on the canal, refers to them in his field notes as "sharks" and "vultures".

Colonel By and Mrs. Chaffey corresponded on the topic of compensation for her lost mills. Mary Ann's legal right to the business was established but her actual compensation for the destruction of the complex took a number of years.

Three years after the death of Samuel (1830), Mary Ann married John Scott. Like many frontier



widows, she required a husband as an economic necessity.

In May, 1834, the Kingston Chronicle and Gazette mentions an accident at Chaffey's Mills. John Scott, while canoeing in the canal, fell into the icy waters and drowned. On May 8, 1834, Mrs. M.A. Scott purchased several yards of black muslin and crepe for mourning clothes and a gallon of port wine. She was now a 30-year-old woman, widowed twice with two small children. A daughter, Catherine had been born shortly before her father's death.

Mary Ann did not remarry. In the late 1830's she moved to her brother's farm near Newboro with her offspring. Mary Ann Scott kept house there for the bachelor John Poole until her death in 1888.

Susan Warren

Article courtesy of Steam & Stone, Parks Canada

RIDEAU CRAFTS



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