

This story was sent to MFP by Rosemary McConkey who discovered it in the Cobourg General (Quarter) sessions of the Newcastle District 1833-34 Doc. (Rg-1-174-0-15. Rosemary writes "the document certainly underscores the trials and hardships of the early settlers and where the only social welfare network was a neighbour with a kind & generous soul"

Document To:

The Worship Magistrate of the District of New Castle in Quarter Session assemble.

Document Content:

The humble Petition of James J Merriam of the Township of Percy most respectfully states, that a man by the name of Frances Bruet and a native of Montreal, and a former soldier in the British Service during the late war with the United States, who afterward married and lived about three years in the County of Jefferson in the U.S.: with his brother in law, but came over to the petitioners house on the first of June last for the purpose of settling in this Country; he wrought a few days with the Farmer's *corn about* and on the first of August was taken with Fitts and became a Lunatic, from that to his death, which took place on the 10th October had to be watched and taken care of like a child day and night, sometimes it required 2&3 persons to do so, he could not care about himself any way when nature required it but destroyed, Bed, Bedding, and every thing around him and your petitioner has not only suffered as over loss in time, attendance, medical aid and necessaries of the deceased, but also in bedding and cloths , your petitioner has also had the misfortune to have house with every thing in it destroyed by fire in the night in February last but which at that inclement season of the year has reduced him to the utmost distress, he therefore has every hope that your Worships will take his extreme hard case into your most humane considerations and grant him such relief from the heavy loss he has sustained, in keeping, watching, funding, clothing and finally burying the *oass* Frances Bruet, as in your worships honourable minds, as guardians of the District, may seem meek and you petitioner as in duty born will ever pray-

James J Merriam, Percy 8th April 1833

Benjamin Cunningham J.P.

John Platt J.P.

Mr. Lacadle L 6 (six pounds)