

# Samuel Lount

## Rebel Leader

*Samuel Lount, a leader of the 1837 Rebellion, was hanged on 12 April 1838. At the time, his silver watch and key were given to Robert McGowan, whose great-grandson David Davidson has donated these treasured artifacts to the Sharon Temple.*

Thursday, 3 o'clock, P. M.  
7th December.

☞ The parts of Rebels, under their Chief Leaders are wholly dispersed, and lying before the Royal Militia. The only thing that remains to be done, is to find them, and arrest them.

Description of the Rebels.

**ONE THOUSAND POUNDS REWARD**

for the apprehension of W. Lynn Mackenzie. He is a short man, wears a sandy coloured Wig & has small twinkling eyes that make no use of the face—he is about 5 feet 4 or 5 inches in height.

**£500 REWARD** for DAVID GIBSON.

He is about 5 feet 3 or 4 inches in height, well built—Sandy haired and whiskers which grow rather closely—rather round shouldered—speaks with a strong Scotch accent—age about 25.

**£500 FOR SAMUEL LOUNT,**  
a tall man, say 6 feet or rather more, long face, Sallow complexion—black hair with some grey in it—very heavy dark eye brows—speaks rather slowly.

**£500 FOR SILAS FLETCHER,**  
he is about 50 years of age, hair has been black but now mixed with grey—speaks in a hoarse and guttural manner—very quick in his motions—black whiskers and rather sallow complexion—stands well in height, and spright.

**£500 FOR JESSE LOYD,**  
he is rather an old man, say about 50 years of age, long straight hair rather thin and turning grey—stands very much in height, has naturally our teeth left—now remarkably prominent which is much observed when he speaks, nose round shouldered, and speaks with a strong good Scotch accent, height about 5 feet 10 or 11 inches, generally dressed in a dark or brown horse span clothing.

Lount, who lived on the hill overlooking Holland Landing, had long standing ties with the Children of Peace in Hope (Sharon) across the Holland River valley. He was closely related to many, such as Samuel Hughes, and had immigrated with them from “Hughesville” (Catawissa), Pennsylvania.

Lount also shared many of the values of the Children of Peace. He was a reform leader. He was widely known for his charity. And as an elected member of the provincial assembly, he had sought to incorporate the Farmers’ Storehouse, the farmers co-operative for York County led by Samuel Hughes.

Most schoolbook histories refer to Lount as a simple blacksmith, although this was only one of his many occupations. He was, for example, a surveyor, helping his brother survey many of the new townships in Simcoe County. He was in partnership with his brother George, a merchant. He was a shareholder and manager for the first steamboat on Lake Simcoe, the Colborne, in 1832, which he also helped build. And lastly, he was a politician who sought to reform the abuses of the “Family Compact,” the pseudo-aristocrats who monopolized government office in the province.

Lount, a former Quaker, turned to rebellion only after years of political fraud and electoral violence. He was first elected for the riding of Simcoe (of which Holland Landing was a part) in 1834. He lost this seat in 1836 to William B. Robinson, a Family Compact member who owned the “Red Mills” in Holland Landing. Lount complained that the tories stacked the vote by distributing land deeds to former soldiers (which allowed them the vote) at the “hustings” on the day of the election. Voting was open, with no secret ballot, which resulted in many riots, and in assault on reform supporters.

Robinson boasted in Newmarket after the election that he had “whipped the bully of David Town [Hope].”

In 1837, the defiant tories passed a law which allowed the House of Assembly to continue to sit despite the death of King William IV; by British law, a new election had to be called within 6 months. The defeated reformers then began to organize a “constitutional convention” under William L. Mackenzie’s leadership to demand democratic reforms. Delegates to the convention, including Samuel Hughes and Samuel Lount were elected. Lount laid the germ for the rebellion when he suggested a “grand demonstration” at the House of Assembly to put pressure on the government to call an election. This was the plan that he presented the Children of Peace to draw them into the rebellion.

Mackenzie called a meeting of reform leaders at the home of Silas Fletcher in Queensville, East Gwillimbury, in early Nov., 1837 at which the plan for the rebellion was set. The next week, Mackenzie published a draft constitution and set the date for the convention to adopt it as 21 December - exactly 6 months after the death of the king, when the Assembly would no longer be legitimate. Had Mackenzie’s rebellion succeeded, we would no doubt remember Lount for much more than his ignoble death.