

The Bay of Quinté District.—Beginning at Kingston, ten townships were surveyed around the Bay of Quinté, each one known as "No. so-and-so above Cataqui." Here settled the second Battalion of Sir John Johnson's Royal New York Regiment, Major Rogers with his King's Rangers, Capt. Grass with his band from New York City, Major Var Alstine with his batteau men, a part of Jessup's Rangers, a small body of the Hessian Mercenaries, and a small but important body of Quakers from Dutchess County, N.Y. The Scottish element was not so prominent as in the St. Lawrence townships, but German and Dutch permeated the whole district. The student will also find two other interesting elements, though somewhat limited in numbers, namely, German-Irish, or Irish-Palatines, and French Huguenots.

At Niagara, settlement received an impetus because the fort on the eastern bank had remained in British hands and had been a haven of refuge for the loyalist families of the Mohawk valley. The discharged soldiers sought out their wives and children and crossed the river to take up the frontier lots of the newly surveyed townships of the peninsula. Butler's Rangers formed an important part of these first settlers, who soon occupied the townships from about where Hamilton now stands, to Long Point.

In the western district Detroit formed the headquarters, and here we find three interesting elements,—the British regulars and their officers; the French Canadians, descendants of the pioneer French families; and the British officers who had led the Indians in the wild western warfare that swept the forests from Mackinac to Pittsburg. When the time comes for this district to produce magistrates and representatives, we may expect them to come from these three classes.

Across from the old French settlement at Detroit, in 1747, was established the Indian Mission, and about it there gradually grew up a French settlement with Sandwich (*L'Assomption*) as its centre, an offshoot of old Quebec, where the French language still is spoken and where the French Canadian mode of life still prevails. On the shores of Lake Erie, westward from where Kingsville now stands, 97 lots were surveyed, and on these a mixed body of loyalists were settled, among them being some of Butler's Rangers. The Western or Detroit District then consisted at first of three settlements. Detroit, on the American side, the French Canadian settlement among the Indians about Pointe de Montreal, and the "two-connected townships" (*Gosfield* and *Colchester*) on Lake Erie. The township of Malden had few settlers until 1796, when Detroit was evacuated and Fort Amherstburg was erected to command the river. About the same time the lots along the River Thames began to be taken up.