

LAURA INGERSOLL SECORD

By Mrs. E. J. Thompson.

As very little is known of Laura Secord beyond her walk to warn Lieut Fitzgibbon, I have tried to gather the various stories told of her at different times.

She was born at Great Barrington, Mass., on Sept. 13, 1775, the daughter of Col. Thomas Ingersoll and Elizabeth Dewey. There is no written record of her birth at the town of Great Barrington.

Col. Ingersoll had four sons and seven daughters. His first wife was Elizabeth Dewey, his last wife Sarah Whitney. Laura was the eldest of the family. Col. Ingersoll was not a United Empire Loyalist, as he served with the American forces during the Revolutionary War and after peace had been declared came to Canada at the invitation of Governor Simcoe (who had known him during his former residence in America). After remaining at Niagara for a short time he bought land in what is now Oxford county, and the town of Ingersoll is named from him.

So far I have not found the record of Laura Ingersoll's marriage to James Secord but in an address before the Pioneer and Historical Association of Ontario (page 17, annual report P. & H. A., 1895) in June, 1895, Mrs. S. A. Curzon says "I cannot close without quoting from a 'Directory for the County of Peel,' which I found in our (Toronto) Public Library:—I found among numerous items of settlement, County Court records and other matters, what I have long been looking for, how the heroic Laura Secord became acquainted, or rather, as I ought to put it, had the opportunity of becoming acquainted with her husband. She was an Ingersoll, a daughter of Mr. Thomas Ingersoll, who came thither from Massachusetts at the request of Gov. Simcoe. In the records of the Sessions commencing 14th July, 1812, is to be found the following:

"Jan. 16th, 1813, Charles Ingersoll, son of the late Thomas Ingersoll of the River Credit, applied to the Court to be at-