

into one opposing camp whose watchword was British connection. Very different was the situation in the east. None but Loyalists settled there—in fact none but tried Loyalists were allowed to do so. Hence they divided, as communities will on any subject, but it was understood that every Loyalist desired nothing else but British connection, and without fear of being called sympathizers with the United States, they could elect members pledged to use their best endeavors to secure reforms. For four parliaments Dundas sent two members showing that its population was relatively more than some other counties of much greater area. The men that stand out prominently during this period of political strife are Col. John Crysler, Peter Shaver and John Cook. Peter Shaver and John Cook being the joint representatives for three consecutive parliaments. Col. Crysler served for 13 years, (1808-1821); Peter Shaver for 17 years, (1824-1841); John Cook, for 15 years, (1836-1844). 20

When the province was invaded at Prescott by sympathizers with the rebels, from the United States, under Von Schoultz, the Dundas militia were soon at the scene of action. Their loss was, four rank and file killed, one lieutenant and five rank and file wounded. The result of this engagement is well-known to all. Not one of the 170 invaders escaped. Nearly 100 were killed and the remainder surrendered prisoners of war. Von Schoultz and others of lesser note were hanged at Kingston. A few of the youthful adherents were pardoned and sent home to the United States, of the remainder a few were imprisoned and the others transported to Van Dieman's Land.

Again, during the Fenian scare, did the militia of Dundas nobly respond to the call for the defence of the country. And at this time (February, 1900) some of its young men are members of each of the contingents on active service in South Africa.

A mere recital of the main facts in the history of even one family would require the space of a whole paper such as this. But I shall conclude with two typical stories of romantic adventure and hardship.

Henry Merkley was a young man living with his father in the valley of the Schoharie, New York, when the revolutionary war broke out. He was known to be a Loyalist; and when he was working in the harvest field, a neighbor, named Young, and his son came over and began talking on the political aspect of the times. Merkley would not declare himself, and we believe, took rather a non-partisan standpoint. This was an act of prudence on his part, as his unwelcome callers were armed with muskets. However, this discretion did not save Merkley. John Young, the son, shot him in the side, but did not kill him; and, when about to finish his murderous work with the butt end of his musket, he was prevented by his father. Soon after this Merkley was put into Schoharie jail. After his wounds were healed he managed to make his escape and reached Niagara.

875-1808
inclusive

815-1820
inclusive

821-1840
inclusive