

its neighborhood at that time. Then the blue waters of Niagara, unobstructed by the works of man, rolled and whirled in their hurried, turbulent, and precipitant way; washing in their haste the black, rocky shore, below the village, from which that locality derived the name of "Black Rock."

Bird Island, lying low in the midst of Niagara River, was in its primitive, natural state, and alive with flocks of wild fowl, from which it took its name. These, never having been molested, cared but little for the presence of man as he moored his light water craft under the lee of the island, or traversed the rock and sand of which the reef was composed.

The beautiful sand and gravel shore, from the mouth of Buffalo Creek down to the black, rocky ledge, was then the main traveled road between the two villages of Buffalo and Black Rock, which were struggling for growth, and even for existence. While, down the river below the huge rocks, the beach then extended many miles towards the great falls.

I well remember how on this beach, thus in its primitive state, riding down the river just below the ferry, carrying a lantern, in the morning between four and five o'clock, in October, 1812, the gallant Cuyler lost his life by a cannon ball shot across from Canada by the enemy. This was in the first year of the war of 1812. But, when the events to which my paper relates took place, we had passed through that three years war against a powerful array of well-trained English troops and their savage allies. The relics of devastation and destruction, consequent upon this terrible conflict, carried on as it was, not only at, but within our very doors, were to be seen on every hand. The passer-by saw them in the ashes and stacks of chimneys of the burned buildings of our village and vicinity; and as he passed up and down the skirts of our town, on the bank of Niagara river, as far down as Conjockety creek, he saw them in the many hillocks over new-made graves that marked the resting place of those who fell in the frequent battles that were fought on this