

These are probably the first instances in this Province of the purchase of historic sites, as such, by a municipal body or a historical society. We heartily congratulate the societies and the people of Hamilton on the action taken and the honorable precedence to which it entitles them. It will preserve from further alteration important portions of the battlefield of Stoney Creek and of the entrenchments at Burlington Heights. The Gage House and Dundurn Castle, interesting in themselves for their history, may be made still more so as repositories of objects of archaeological or historic value. It is sincerely to be hoped that so excellent an example may be followed by municipalities, societies, and individuals in other parts of the Province.

Every visitor to Hamilton carries away with him an agreeable impression of its beauty, both of situation and environment; its commercial and industrial activity; its mountain and bay; its stately public buildings and business structures; its comfortable homes and the hospitality of its citizens. But its attractiveness is enhanced by notable historic events connected with the region. Here, at Dundurn, Sir Allan McNab assembled the Men of Gore in 1837. Here, a quarter of a century before, the British forces entrenched themselves on the Heights, to guard the communication with Proctor's forces in the west. From the Heights Harvey led his 700 men down York and Main Streets to the Red Hill, one extremely dark night just eighty-seven years ago, to attack an invading army who outnumbered them four or five to one. Not far from here, at Stoney Creek, took place the momentous midnight encounter that night of the 5th and 6th of June, 1813, which sent the invading force back in disorder with loss of their generals, half their guns, and a great part of their supplies, and perhaps saved Upper Canada to the empire. From the mountain, yonder, men watched long and anxiously the manoeuvres of hostile fleets far out on the lake towards Toronto or Niagara. Throughout those stirring years, red coat and militiaman fought side by side. We need not wonder that the "ragged army of patriots" fought for the rude homes they had made for themselves in the wilderness. But they were also contending for a great idea. Clad in tattered homespun as they were, the shoeless militiamen were "following the gleam," for their fathers were, many of them, "original U. E. Ls.," and they represented a principle which has reached its full fruition in this closing year of the century.

To the yeomen of the Head of the Lake the stories of the pioneers Robert Land, Richard Beasley, Charles Depew and many others,

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