

For this reason I would recall as vividly as possible the memory of one whose deed of patriotic courage must now and always be told in Canadian history with pride and a tribute of admiration.

For many years Laura Secord's retiring disposition kept her name from public notice, but since her death Mrs. Curzon's spirited drama¹ has interested many in this episode of Canadian history which I now wish to repeat once more for the benefit of a younger set of readers.

Laura Secord was by birth an Ingersoll. Her father, Thomas Ingersoll, was one of the 10,000 United Empire Loyalists who at the trumpet call of duty and honor left their homes and all their earthly possessions in the United States to face the dangers and difficulties of life in the then almost unbroken wilderness of Upper Canada.

Little Laura Ingersoll was but a year old when her father came, (1776) at Gov. Simcoe's invitation, to Canada, and founded a settlement on the banks of the Thames, Oxford County. Thus all the young girl's early associations were connected with the adventures, the privations, the escapes, which marked those interesting years of our country's history. When she married, she "mated with one of her kind" for James Secord belonged to a large family of New Brunswick Loyalists, some of whom soon found their way to Western Canada.²

Mr. Secord owned a lumber mill and store at Queenston and there the young people settled; there many happy years of married life were spent, for they were a most devoted couple, and there four girls and one boy were born.

¹"*Laura Secord, the Heroine of 1812*"—a Drama—by Mrs. Sarah Anne Curzon, of Toronto, who died November, 1888.

²The family of Secord was a notable one. Documents exist which show that in the reign of Louis X. of France, a Marquis de Secor was a marshal of His Majesty's household. A son of this marquis and some younger branches of the family embraced the Protestant faith. During the persecution of the Huguenots, many of them were burnt and the family estates at La Rochelle were confiscated. The survivors escaped the massacre of St. Bartholomew by flight to England. Eventually five brothers emigrated to America where they settled in New Jersey, purchased land, founding New Rochelle and engaging in lumbering. On the breaking out of the Revolutionary war the family divided, the loyalists changing their patronym to Secord by placing the prefix "d" at the end of their name. These brothers after (as king's men) losing in common with all the loyalists their property and estates, emigrated to New Brunswick where many of their descendants still reside. Some members of this family afterwards moved to Canada West. Among those who settled in the Niagara district were three brothers, James Secord, husband of Laura, Major Secord, his older brother, and Stephen Secord the miller of St. David's.—*From Memoir of Laura Secord by Mrs. Curzon.*