

extract from the  
Master General's

nt Servant,  
T. BURKE,  
rintendent.

NERALS OFFICE.  
y 5th, 1821.

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Dr. Masr. Genl.

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Some time in the year 1820 I learnt that some lots of land in the Town-  
ship of Nepean, where I reside, were to be sold at Sheriff's sale, among  
which was one which I considered as very valuable; I attended the sale which  
was in the Court House at Brockville and made by the Sheriff of the District,  
I purchased the lot in question, and part of which I then sold to Levius P.  
Sherwood, Esq., (at present one of the Judges of the Court of King's Bench.)  
On my return to my habitation in Nepean, I immediately wrote to George  
Burke, Esq. superintendant of settlers\* acquainting him with the circum-  
stance, stating that if a store house was required for Government, either the  
one already built or another should be at their service, at the same time re-  
questing to be put in possession of the key of the one already built by Gov-  
ernment (it being on my land and unoccupied by them.) In reply to which  
I received a letter from the Quarter Master General's Office, intimating that  
the land in question was required for Government purposes, and concluding  
that I could have no hesitation in giving it up. Having some business at Que-  
bec, I thought it most prudent to see your Lordship in person. On my ar-  
rival at Quebec I waited on Lieut. Col. Cockburn (then Deputy Quarter  
Master General) for the purpose of being introduced to your Lordship. He  
asked me if I would not take wild lands in lieu of the said land in question,  
to which I replied that wild lands were of no value to me, besides which, I  
had sold part of the land to Mr. Sherwood and could not act without his con-  
currence. He then wished to know what I would ask for the land, to which  
I replied that as to my own part of it I would leave it entirely to your  
Lordship, and that I was confident Mr. Sherwood would do the same. We  
then walked on toward the Castle, during which time Col. Cockburn repeat-  
edly urged me to name a price, which I declined and replied as before that I  
would leave it entirely to your Lordship. On arriving at the Castle Gate, Col.  
Cockburn said he could not see your Lordship on the subject unless I named  
a price. I then told him that I valued it at Three Thousand Pounds, (a sum  
less than half its value) I waited below in the waiting room whilst Col. Cock-  
burn had a conference with your Lordship. I was then called up to the  
Drawing Room, but, what was my surprise, when I was met at the door by  
your Lordship and told that I was an Impostor! that I had purchased the  
land in question in an underhand manner with a view of imposing on Gov-  
ernment!!! Such a reception from a personage of your Lordships exalted  
rank and character, renowned for justice and urbanity, convinced me that a  
misrepresentation had been made to your Lordship, and when I endeavoured  
to explain and defend myself, your Lordship would not allow me to speak;  
adding "that Doctor Thom of Perth had written down to say, that it was  
"his intention to have purchased it for Government, but that I had bought it  
"in an underhand manner and unknown to him." Your Lordship was at the  
same time pleased to say that you would take measures to deprive me of it,  
and although not in express terms, I understood, it was your Lordship's in-  
tention to report my conduct, (as it was represented to your Lordship,) to the  
Commander in Chief with a view of depriving me of my half pay. Your  
Lordship was also pleased to implicate Mr. Sherwood in what your Lordship  
termed a nefarious transaction. It is but justice to that Gentleman to say  
that your Lordship must be totally unacquainted with him, his honor and In-  
tegrity are too well established to be injured by any aspersions of the fore-  
going nature, and which could only have been intimated to your Lordship  
through malice. And I now pledge my word of honor, that I never had any  
communications with him on the subject of the land either directly or indi-  
rectly, nor did he know the value of the land until the morning of the day of

\* Vide Letter No. 1.