

proceeded to Fort Western. At this place, on the day of our arrival, an arrangement was made by the commander-in-chief, which in all probability sealed the destiny of your parent. It was concluded to despatch an officer and seven men in advance, for the purpose of ascertaining and marking the paths that were used by the Indians at the numerous carrying places in the wilderness, towards the heads of the river; and also to ascertain the course of the river Chaudiere, which runs from the height of land, towards Quebec.

To give some degree of certainty of success to so hazardous an enterprise, Arnold found it necessary to select an officer of activity and courage; the choice fell upon Archibald Steele of Smith's company, a man of an active, courageous, sprightly and hardy disposition, who was complimented with the privilege of naming his companions. These consisted of Jesse Wheeler, George Merchant, and James Clifton, of Morgan's; and Robert Cunningham, Thomas Boyd, John Tidd, and John M'Konkey, of Smith's company. Though a very youth, yet in a small degree accustomed to hardships, derived from long marches in the American woods, Steele's course of selection next fell upon your father, who was his messmate and friend. Two birch-bark canoes were provided; and two guides, celebrated for the management of such water craft, who knew the river as high up as the great carrying-place, were also found. These were Jeremiah Getchel, a very respectable man, and John Horne, an Irishman who had grown grey in this cold climate.

This small party, unconscious of danger, and animated by a hope of applause from their country, set forward from Fort Western in their light barks, at the rate of from fifteen to twenty, and in good wa-

*Brother of Capt. John Boyd -
Grand father of -
I Boyd Gleadling*