

left a noble record to their children, and established a claim upon the gratitude of their country.

Captain Ernest Cruikshank is doing good service to Canadian history in, among much other similar research, collating and editing "Some Papers of an Early Settler," appearing in the *Welland Tribune*, in which the Secords are prominently mentioned. From these papers we learn that, as Rangers in the Indian Department, may be found the names of John Secord, sr., John Secord, jr., David, Peter, Silas, Stephen, and Solomon Secord, in a letter to Sir Guy Carlton from Col. John Butler, dated from Fort Niagara, 15th June, 1777; and also in the following year the same names are to be found on the muster-roll of Captain Walter Butler's company, being the first organized company of the celebrated partisan corps of Butler's Rangers.

That the Secords were settlers in the true sense of the term, and not merely freebooting adventurers, as has been most unjustly said of the men of Butler's Rangers, is shown by the fact that immediately on the close of the Revolutionary struggle two brothers, Peter and James Secord, applied to Governor Haldimand, through Col. Butler, for the ironwork and stones necessary to the furnishing of a saw and grist mill, to be built close to the Barracks at Niagara. These furnishings they intended to buy in Lower Canada, but were informed that "the mill could not be run as a private property,* but that the materials would be sent up, and the Secords allowed a fair profit for managing it."

"It is almost certain," says Capt. Cruikshank, "that this was the first mill in the Province of Upper Canada, and it was beyond question the first built in the Niagara district." Moreover, these same brothers appear in the list of farmers to whom wheat for sowing was to be supplied by the Government.

Early in 1789 Major David Secord, whose military record is as remarkable for "hairbreadth 'scapes" as for heroic action, applied for and received a grant of "a single lot in the township of No. 1 (Niagara), in

NOTE—The country then being necessarily under military rule, private ventures of the kind were forbidden, lest the claims for indemnity on war losses should become unduly heavy, or form a source of temptation to recklessness.