

and our forces started to cross to take possession, but returned seeing the return of the forces. A story is told of the bravery of a woman, Mrs Doyle in defence of the Fort, taking the place of her husband a prisoner. Minute guns were fired as a mark of respect at the hour of the funeral of General Brock on the 16th Oct. On the 26th May, 1813, the guns from the Fort gave assistance to the force attacking Niagara. On another occasion red hot shot set on fire the jail and courthouse in which were many prisoners. St. Andrew's Church was destroyed by fire about 10th September before the general conflagration 10th December, 1813.

After the retreat of the Americans and the burning of Niagara, our forces which had been advancing marched in and on the 18th December crossed over and took possession of the Fort, Col. Murray was the leader with him was Captain Hamilton, the guides were said to be Daniel Field and Jas. McFarland, the boats started from a few miles up the river, the struggle was a short one and the occupants of the fort awoke to find themselves prisoners. Partisan accounts tell that those in the hospital were murdered, put to death by our soldiers. One account, however, in telling of the bravery of these men says that they even rose from their beds in the hospital to fight in which case they were combatants and of course suffered as such. The commander of the fort Col. Leonard, had spent the night some miles off with his family and only returned to find the British flag flying. The fort remained on the possession of the British during the year 1814, and was given up in the conclusion of peace in March 1815. Although the treaty of Ghent was December, 1814, word did not reach this continent till January, 1815, or the British disastrous attack on New Orleans might have been avoided.

The next event of importance is the story of the abduction and disappearance of Morgan which caused great excitement and caused much ill feeling against the Free Masons. The story is that Wm. Morgan wrote a book betraying the secrets of Free Masonry, that he was arrested for some slight offence, placed in Canandaigua jail, brought from thence to Fort Niagara and disappeared, it being commonly believed that he was taken out in a boat and thrown into the lake. This was in 1826. Gidding's almanac of 1828 gives the trial of the abductors. So strong was the feeling that in some places a society was formed of women who promised not to marry Masons, but it is not probable this promise was long kept.

There are many legends told of the fort, one tradition being that in the centre of the Mess house there was a well and on the curb might sometimes be seen a headless French officer who pre-