

under Jeffery, for cutting the stone for the Officers' quarters, every block containing, strangely enough, both the initials of the workman and a Masonic emblem, many of them showing on the outside of the building. This curious fact attracted the attention of the late Kivas Tully, the distinguished civil engineer of Toronto and eminent member of the Masonic fraternity, who was a frequent visitor to his daughter, the wife of the late Mr. Band so long the bursar of the Ontario institution, and during which time his family occupied the old quarters. Not being conversant with the secrets of that Order we have no means of knowing what Mr. Tully's conclusion regarding these emblems were or the purpose served in placing them there. We have before us a photo of the original mansion (still standing) erected by Surgeon Mitchell in Mackinaw in 1790, a quaint frame structure which must have been a rather pretentious building, indeed, for that early day; also one of the Officers' quarters erected in 1766, the latter almost an exact replica of the Officers' quarters here, save where the latter has been adorned with verandahs, porches, annexes, etc., to render it more comfortable as a private dwelling. Both were built under direction of the British, and the broad stone chimneys, cottage roofs and embrasured walls (the embrasures bricked up), point to the same military architect and uniform plans.

From the late John Gill of Coldwater, born in Newmarket in 1827, son of Jacob Gill, builder of the stone barracks, and from Mrs. Leonard Wilson's reminiscences of her father published in the Orillia Packet Feb. 29th, 1912, we glean the following: "Jacob Gill, carpenter and builder, came from Vermont to Canada in 1811 and joined the British forces as Commissary and was sent in 1814 to open the portage from Kempenfeldt Bay to Nottawasaga River and build ships for the government. He was left with two other men the succeeding winter to guard government stores and before spring ran short of provisions. Their expedition to Penetanguishene to procure supplies, and their rough experience, has already been detailed. He was afterwards sent by the authorities to build storehouses and docks at Fort Gwillim (Holland Landing.) Mr. Gill then settled at Newmarket, where part of his family were born and where he remained till October, 1829, when he moved with his family to Penetanguishene, having during that year built a sawmill on what is now Copeland's Creek for cutting the lumber for the government buildings, barracks and Officers' quarters, that were being erected at the