

During the summer of 1814 conditions continued to improve and by the end of August reports confirmed the belief that the war was nearly over and even at this early date talk of peace was in the air. The Bay of Quinte men were nearly all at home attending to the duties of their farms.

The Treaty of Ghent was signed on December 24th, 1814, news of it reached America on February 14th, 1815, and it was ratified on February 18th, 1815, by the President of the United States, Mr. Madison. This brought peace.

After the war there was much work to be done, but the communications between the Commanding Officers have more the air of Commercialism than Militarism. When such work was desired the question of pay was first considered and when provisions or supplies were wanted prices were always mentioned. The writer has not found a single instance where pay is mentioned in the papers and letters during the danger period of the war. This shows that these men knew that they were working to save their homes and their country.

The work proved a great boon to the settlers about the bay during the winter months and although under a certain degree of military discipline they were well paid and they eagerly performed the duties required of them.

There was a great and increasing demand for supplies and prices ranged so high that the late enemy, recognized even at that date as keen for business, soon entered the market with his surplus. A letter of March 13, 1815, states that the Americans were flocking to Kingston with their produce at very reasonable prices and asks what the Bay of Quinte farmers are going to do with that which they have kept back at great price.

An order issued April 28th, 1815, requires the collection of all arms and accoutrements in the hands of the militia, and instructions were given to have everything cleaned, and repaired when necessary, and then sent to the store at Kingston. This appears to have been the last order issued to the Bay of Quinte men bearing directly upon the war.

Few historians in writing of the war of 1812-14 dwell on the part taken in the war by the homesteaders of Upper Canada. These men lived in log cabins on small bits of cleared land in a wilderness with none of the comforts now enjoyed by the farmers