

and George T. Denison were brothers, the sons of the Lieutenant John Denison whose name figured among the original officers of York's very first militia organization raised in 1798.

George Taylor Denison (generally known as G. T. Denison of Bellevue) served as an ensign during the war, in the York flank companies ("The York Volunteers"). The young militia officer appears to have possessed in a marked degree the soldierly instinct and energy which has always characterized this martial family. He was consequently often employed on special service and had a great deal of riding to do, for communication between York, Kingston, Burlington and the posts on the Niagara frontier had to depend largely upon the bush roads. The favorite means of communication was via Lake Ontario, but navigation was often precarious, owing to the large United States naval force, and at frequent periods of the war, the road communication had to be depended upon entirely. The courier service at this time was a most vital duty, and must often have been a very lonely and dangerous one. In his most interesting book, "Soldiering in Canada," Lieut.-Col. George T. Denison (of Heydon Villa), speaking of this period of his grandfather's service, says:—"My grandfather often spoke of his once being sent with a large sum of money, about \$40,000, from York around to the army headquarters in the Niagara frontier. He was approaching St. David's when a dragoon came galloping towards him at full speed. When he came near he said: 'Are you the officer from York with a large sum of money?' Not knowing his object, my grandfather at first denied it, when the man said: 'St. David's is captured, the enemy are coming this way, and I have been sent to warn him to go back to York.' Two more dragoons came in sight, chased by a party of the enemy's cavalry. My grandfather turned and galloped away, and was chased several miles, escaping with great difficulty."

At the capture of York in April, 1813, Lieutenant Denison was sent by a party of men to burn the shipping to prevent it from falling into the enemy's hands. The naval officer in charge of a frigate refused to have the torch applied, and while Lieutenant Denison was engaged in a heated discussion over the point, the frigate was captured with all on board of her, and Mr. Denison was a prisoner for six months until exchanged.

When peace was declared not an American soldier stood on Canadian soil except as a prisoner.