

from Lower Canada, and the rest from the Upper Province, chiefly from among the United Empire Loyalists of Glengarry.*

This regiment, disbanded in 1802, was a regular regiment, recruited and officered in Canada. The regimental uniform included scarlet coats with blue facings, grey cloth breeches and black gaiters, buttoned to above the knee. The line companies wore three-cornered hats with black cockades, the grenadier companies the quaint, tall, conical grenadier cap.†

Under Governor Simcoe's militia laws, each county had its own militia regiment, looking formidable enough on paper by reason of the lists of full complements of officers, but the ranks cannot have been as full, for there were not at this time more than 12,000 white people, men, women and children, in the whole of Upper Canada.

The first militia corps formed at Toronto (then York) was organized in 1798, under order-in-council issued by the Hon. Peter Russell, who was acting as president of the Council after the retirement of Governor Simcoe. The organization was an ordinary militia regiment of the day, of the sedentary general levy type. The Hon. D. W. Smith, Surveyor-General, was appointed colonel, and he drafted a complete establishment of officers, whose appointments were approved by the President-in-Council, and whose names were placed in the records. A fair proportion of these officers had had previous military experience as officers in the British regular army, or British militia; several had been officers in the Lincoln militia, and one had been a captain in the Nova Scotia militia. Two had been members of the old Queen's Rangers, the regular corps raised for service in Upper Canada by Governor Simcoe, and named after the fighting regiment of loyalists which under his command covered itself with glory during the Revolutionary War.

In the list of officers of this pioneer York militia regiment, appears a name than which none has been more intimately or more creditably associated with the Canadian militia—the name Denison. At the head of the lists of lieutenants appears the following: "Mr. John Denison, formerly officer in the British militia."

This gentleman belonged to a well-known English family, and came to Canada from Hedon, Yorkshire, in 1792. His English militia regiment was the 2nd West York, and he held the rank of captain in it when he removed with his family to Canada.

In 1801 the Militia Act was amended to a trifling extent, but the change was not productive of much good. By 1805, with Britain, fighting on in her old grim way in Europe, almost isolated, with Canada practically denuded of regular troops, and with the spirit of hostility developing apace in the United States, the question of national defence had again assumed serious importance. The militia were especially warned to hold themselves in readiness, and some 4,000 stands of arms were distributed among them. A return of the militia showed that there were 652 officers and 7,947 non-commissioned officers and men enrolled, but also revealed the disquieting fact that of the whole number only 200 had received any training for several years.

* After the American Revolution, what forms now the Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, was set aside as one of the places of settlement for the United Empire Loyalists, expelled from their homes in the United States. A large majority of the U.E. Loyalists who went to the district were Scottish Highlanders, descendants of men who, after Culloden had been transported to the southern plantations in the Carolinas and Georgias. During the brief peace of 1802, among other veteran regiments which had fought against the French, disbanded, was the Glengarry regiment of Roman Catholic Highlanders, raised by the Rev. Father Alexander McDonnell, of Glen Urquhart, who, as the regiment's chaplain, accompanied it on its campaigns. On its disbandment he obtained aid from the British Government to transport the men to Canada, and he accompanied them, joining the Highlander loyalists from the Southern States in the Glengarry District. The brave chaplain of the Glengarry Regiment rose to the Episcopate and died, universally beloved, Bishop of Kingston. (Deputy Surgeon-General F. W. Campbell's pamphlet on the War of 1812.)

† Surgeon-Major J. L. H. Neilson, in V.R.I. Magazine, November, 1894.