

Opening of Stoney Creek Battlefield as a Public Park.

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE WOMEN'S WENTWORTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

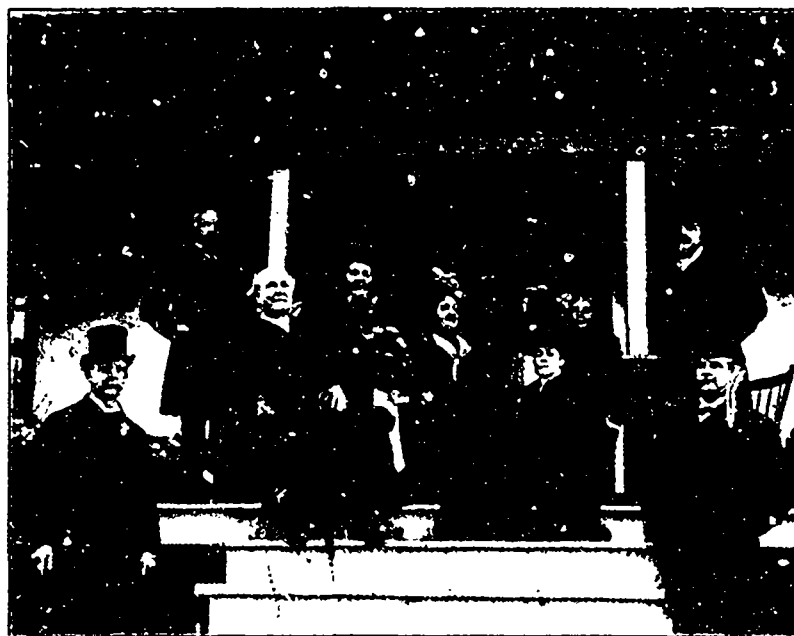
Written for the Canadian Home Journal by MINNIE JEAN NISEET



As has been noticed in the JOURNAL before, the Women's Wentworth Historical Society has secured a portion of the old Gage farm where the thickest of the Battle of Stoney Creek raged, and turned it into a public park. And as has also been stated before, the credit for securing this historic spot for preservation is due entirely to the prompt and energetic work of Mrs. John Calder, the President of the Women's Wentworth Historical Society. The grand opening was held Saturday afternoon, October 21st. Previous to that the house had been put in first class order, and furnished throughout in "ye old style." Mrs. MacMillan, whose mother, the late Mrs. William Freeman, was a daughter of James Gage and an eye witness of the battle, donated an old-fashioned four poster bed that is a delight to the eyes of lovers of old furniture. Mrs. Calder donated a number of articles of old furniture and also secured a grandfather's clock and an old spinning wheel. Many other quaint and curious articles were donated by the people of Hamilton and Stoney Creek. The Imperial Soap Company of Toronto donated a very large and handsome flag, for which the men of Stoney Creek erected the largest flag pole they could find.

On Saturday afternoon, October 21st, over two thousand people assembled on the old battlefield to witness the opening ceremonies. The large verandah at the south end of the house was fitted up for a platform. At 2.10 the Countess of Aberdeen and the visiting delegates to the meeting of the National Council of Women, were taken down from Hamilton in the palace car Winona, of the Hamilton, Grimsby and Beamsville Railway, and the other speakers were taken at the same time in other cars. As the Countess of Aberdeen stepped on the platform, sweet little Enid Hendrie, daughter of Major John S. and Mrs. Hendrie, handed her a handsome shower bouquet of American Beauty roses. Putting her arm around the wee lassie Lady Aberdeen stooped down and kissed her. She is holding the flowers, in the group picture illustrating this paper. Mayor Teetzel was chairman, and made an admirable one, as he always does. Lady Aberdeen made a charming speech and declared the park open. Speaker Bain, of the House of Commons, made a capital address. He was followed by Mr. O. A. Howland, Toronto, who gave a concise and clear sketch of the battle of Stoney Creek. H. Carscallen, M.P.P., proved

his right to the title of "Silver-tongued orator." Hon. Dr. Montague made a brilliant speech. Mrs. Calder, and Mrs. J. F. Wood (Toronto), made capital addresses. Alexander Muir, author of Canada's National Anthem, "The Maple Leaf Forever," was the last speaker, and as he finished the band of the 77th Battalion played the tune of the "Maple Leaf," and that vast audience of people sang it right heartily. Afternoon tea was served



O. A. Howland. Mrs. John Calder. Lady Thompson. Hon. Dr. Montague.
H. Carscallen, M.P.P. Lady Aberdeen. Alexander Muir. Mrs. J. S. Hendrie. Mayor Teetzel.
GROUP PHOTO, TAKEN AT OPENING OF PUBLIC PARK, STONEY CREEK BATTLEFIELD.

to the Countess and her party in the quaint old parlor of the house, the room where probably General's Winder and Chandler often sat. A huge log fire was burning in the old fireplace. As she entered the room, J. B. Davis, President of the Stoney Creek Historical Society, placed a Union Jack flag around her shoulders.

When Alexander Muir signed his name in the visitors' book he wrote the following verse impromptu:

"'Tis autumn time; our emblem dear,
Dons its tinge of crimson hue;
Our blood would dye it deeper red,
If shed, dear Canada, for you!
The sacred right our fathers won,
To foemen we shall ne'er deliver;
We'll fighting die—the battle cry,
'The Maple Leaf forever.'
"ALEXANDER MUIR."

The party returned to Hamilton at six o'clock, well pleased with their outing.

Sir John Bourinot was to have taken part in the opening ceremonies, but was unable to leave Ottawa, so he came up November 10th, and gave an address under the auspices of the Women's Wentworth Historical Society,

on Canada's debt to the United Empire Loyalists. The following day Mrs. Calder gave a luncheon in his honor at the old homestead, Stoney Creek, to enable him to visit this historic place. He expressed much regret that he was unable to be present at the opening ceremony.

[This account is late in appearing in these pages through delay in securing photo, from which we give accompanying illustration.—ED.]

Canadian Peerages.

In connection with the interesting article that appeared in the December issue of the CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL, from the pen of Mrs. Clementine Fessenden, entitled, "Some Royal Signatures," it will lend an added interest to this absorbing topic for our readers to learn that Mr. Henry J. Morgan, Editor of "Canadian Men and Women of the Time," writes from Ottawa to the *Scottish-American Journal* as follows: "In reference to the statement made in your Canadian notes, November 1, that 'there are now three Canadian peerages, namely, those of Lord Mountstephen, Lord Strathcona, and the Baroness Macdonald of Earncliffe,' permit me to point out that, in addition thereto, there are no less than three peers and one peeress whose present titles were obtained for services rendered to the Crown in Canada. These are Baroness Dorchester, Earl Amherst, the Marquis Townshend and Baron Seaton. There are also sitting in the House of Lords at the present time six peers who are natives of Canada, namely, the Earl of Erroll (hereditary Lord High Constable of Scotland and Knight Mareschal of that kingdom), the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, the Earl of Albermarle, the Earl of Stamford, Baron De Blaquiere (Great Alnagar of Ireland), and Baron Haliburton, of Windsor, Nova Scotia. The Earl of Carnwath is the son of a Canadian mother, and Baron Carew, Viscount Dillon, and Viscount Hill possess Canadian wives. Viscount Milton, the son and heir of Earl Fitzwilliam, is likewise a Canadian by birth, as is also Colonel the Hon. Matthew Aylmer, the son and heir of Lord Aylmer, so long a resident of Canada. From the above it will be seen that the Dominion is more fully represented in the second branch of the supreme legislature of the Empire than is generally supposed."—ED.

For the CANADIAN HOME JOURNAL.

A Greeting.

I REACH my hand, I give glad greeting,
New Year! New Year!
I turn from th' old that's fleeting, fleeting,
Its faded wreaths of bloom still wearing,
And heavy weight of life yet bearing,
Whose care I'd free thee from the sharing,
New Year! New Year!

I meet, I greet for joy or sorrow,
New Year! New Year!
With waiting arms seek in thy morrow
Fair hopes that call in waves of gladness,
The minor notes that speak in sadness,
Or clouds that burst and roar in madness,
New Year! New Year!

OTTAWA, ONT

ELLA WALTON.