

The stockade at Fort Niagara was burnt in 1680, rebuilt by Denonville, of stone, the plan being to build a stone fort large enough for a garrison of 500 men. Col. Dongan of New York remonstrated against building this fort at Ouniagarah, as it was then spelt. The garrison of one hundred left by Denonville in 1687 perished by disease or was cut to pieces by the Senecas, all but ten men who escaped, and the fort was abandoned. A book of travels by Charlevoix mentions a block house here in 1721, and several French officers with three or four houses; strengthened by four bastions, in 1726. In 1749 a stone fort, which was one of the chain of forts, in that magnificent plan of the Gallic mind, that was to extend to the Gulf of Mexico, and shut the English in to a narrow strip on the Atlantic seaboard. But another magnificent plan of conquest had been formed by Wm. Pitt, the carrying out of which was fortunately entrusted to strong and able hands.

On 1st July Gen. Prideaux, the British commander, attacked Fort Niagara with a force of 2000, and 1000 Indians. Reinforcements came to help the garrison; the river it is said was black with boats which landed above the Falls, and thence to Lewiston by land, but were skilfully intercepted and defeated by Sir Wm. Johnson, the second in command, and, hopeless of other help, the fort capitulated on 24th July, nearly two months before Wolfe took Quebec. Gen. Pouchot, the French General, marched out with the honors of war on 26th July, the soldiers laying down their arms on the shore of the lake. Gen. Prideaux had been killed on the 20th, and Sir Wm. Johnson says, in his diary, his body was buried in the chapel, with that of a relative of his own, Col. Johnson, "with great pomp," Sir William being chief mourner. It is an interesting fact that in the Servos burying ground may be seen the grave of the widow of this same Col. Johnson, who, by the inscription, was buried almost half a century later, at the age of 104. Two streets of our town are named respectively after the generals in command, Prideaux and Johnson.

While in the hands of the French, there stood in the centre of the Fort enclosure a cross eighteen feet high, with the inscription