

their homes on the Bay during the harvesting season and orders for the apprehension of deserters were frequently issued.

There were also a few whose loyalty was questioned. Orders were sent out late in October requiring all the inhabitants from the age of sixteen and upwards, who had not already done so, to take the oath of allegiance as prescribed by the last Act of the Provincial Parliament. A letter from a nephew of one of the Canadian officers who lived in the United States informed his uncle that all British subjects who resided in that country were required to swear allegiance or leave. Thus we see that some of the same difficulties faced both countries.

During the winter months there was very little activity about Kingston and on March 27th, 1813, Col. Richard Cartwright issued orders allowing more of the Bay of Quinte men to return to their homes. The officers stationed in different parts of the district were ordered to drill the men at regular intervals. They were usually required to drill fully equipped for war and on some occasions were required to have blanket and provisions for the journey to Kingston.

The news of the capture of York on April 27th, 1813, took considerable time to reach the Bay of Quinte and the victories at Sackett's Harbor on May 29th and at Stony Creek on June 5th followed by the surrender of the American force at Beaver Dam on June 24th more than counteracted the gloom over the loss of York.

This summer passed quietly and most of the men were allowed to return to the duties of the farm.

In the early fall there were again rumors of a possible attack on Kingston and hurry calls were issued for the men of the Bay district to report for duty at once. Most of them obeyed the call, but there were many who were tired of the work and who deserted. This occasioned a special call on November 10th, 1813, for the apprehension of deserters. This serious condition was brought to the attention of Colonel Cartwright who, appreciating the fact that the danger had not been a real one, issued orders that the men be given more frequent reliefs and on December 25th, 1813, followed these with a new order allowing the various detachments to be relieved every two months.

That careful records were kept is apparent from the rolls