

Governor Carleton, upon whom devolved the formation of the King's New Brunswick Regiment, was a soldier by profession, and in early life had served on the continent of Europe, and had been colonel of his majesty's 29th Regiment of foot. He was a younger brother of Sir Guy Carleton, first Lord Dorchester, whose services at Quebec in 1775, and also at New York at the close of the war of the Revolution, have cast lustre on his name, and connected it with the Loyalist exodus from the revolted Colonies. Thomas Carleton was appointed Governor of New Brunswick on the organization of the Province in 1784, and his talents as an administrator and experience as a soldier imparted confidence to the militia corps of the Province, as well as the small regiment over which he exercised personal supervision during the years of uncertainty and danger that followed the declaration of war with France.*

The Province of New Brunswick was, in 1793, in a very defenceless condition, and unprepared to resist the attacks of an invading or marauding force. The Sixth Regiment of foot, then stationed in the Province, was to be withdrawn, and the provincial militia was only partially organized and armed. But Governor Carleton acted on his orders with promptness, and on the 25th of April, 1793, organized at Fredericton, the capital and headquarters of the Province, "The King's New Brunswick Regiment." All appointments and promotions were made by Governor Carleton, who, as the king's representative, exercised full control over the corps.

Commissions in the regiment, with the exception of the junior rank of ensign, were given to half-pay officers who had served in Loyalist corps during the American Revolution, and had settled in New Brunswick, and who were to return to half-pay when their services were no longer required. These gentlemen were veterans, and in the prime and vigor of life. With a few exceptions, all of the officers selected were natives of the revolted Colonies, and many of them had borne a conspicuous part in the bloody scenes that ended in the dismemberment of the British Empire in America. Apart from their military services, many of these men filled responsible positions in the Province during their lives, and most of them ended their days in New Brunswick, where their descendants are numerous and respectable.

The regiment was largely recruited in Fredericton and St. John, and the settlements bordering the St. John River; but one company was recruited at St. Andrews, on the frontier of the Province, by its

* In 1803, after a continuous residence of nineteen years, Governor Carleton left the Province, and died at Ramsgate, England, on the 2nd of February, 1817, aged 85 years. At his death, he was Colonel of the second battalion, 60th Regiment of foot, and a general in the British army.