

Much of the correspondence may be found printed in the Michigan volumes.

The following letter now becomes important—it was written a few weeks after the troops left Detroit:

Detroit River, Sept. 8th, 1796.

Capt. Wm. Wayne, Queen's Rangers, commanding on the Detroit River, opposite the Island of Bois Blanc.

To the Military Secretary, Quebec:

Suggest the gunpowder be placed on the Dunmore, soon expected to lay up there, pending the erection of temporary magazine. "I have reason to fear that the merchants who have already erected buildings on the ground within the line of defense of the Post under my command, will not be easily reconciled to the sentiments of the Commander in Chief on that subject. They have not merely built temporary sheds, some of their buildings are valuable, and have cost to the amount of many hundred pounds, authorized in these their proceedings by Colonel England, who hitherto commanded this district, at the same time they were to hold these lots on limited terms."

He then states that there is no vacant land in the vicinity of the garrison—Capt. Caldwell, Col. McKee and Capt. Elliott claim the lots to the south, on the north is the vacant land of the Indian Reserve, to the rear the land beyond the 1,000 yards reserved is a perfect swamp.

"I now enclose for the Commander in Chief's inspection, a plan of a town laid out by Colonel Caldwell, on his own land, who could sell his lots to much better advantage to British subjects wishing to leave the territory of the United States, did he conceive the same would meet with the approbation of His Excellency."

A reproduction of the plan accompanies the letter showing a town laid out in lots, with streets at right angles, with a vacant square in the centre. This projected town would be in what is now the southern part of Amherstburg.

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This letter appears in Mich., Vol xxiii, pp. 402-3. It was evidently written in reply to inquiries made as to possible locations for settlers. The Bird lot had just been taken over by the Government, and a garrison established there, with the intention of erecting the Fort.

Thus we see that in the summer of 1796 the plans are set in motion, through the Military Department, for the starting of a town and post opposite Bois Blanc. All letters are addressed from "Malden" (that is the township), or "mouth of Detroit River."

On January 16th, 1797, an advertisement was put up at His Majesty's Post, calling for men with teams, oxen, carts, trucks, etc. This was to complete the work begun in 1796. It would appear that all buildings and accommodations made in that year were of a more or less temporary nature. Early in 1797 the creation of the post begins in earnest. Up to February 2nd no