

account of its position with regard to the lakes. In 1813, a force of 250 men, consisting chiefly of Glengarry Light Infantry, traversed this route to reinforce Michillimackinac, and this same route has been travelled by many a civilian since those days. No more heroic sailor soul has used this highway than Sir John Franklin, who, twenty years before his last voyage, set out from Penetanguishene to explore the Arctic coasts of Canada. It is said that few men left so deep an impression upon the settlers as he did.

In 1785 Lieut.-Gov. Hamilton had John Collins, the Deputy Surveyor-General, make a survey of the land between the Bay of Quinté and Lake Simcoe, which was then called Lake La Clie. As early as 1802 trading posts were established at the Narrows joining Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching, owing to its being frequented by the Indians in large numbers.

In 1862-3 the Hudson's Bay Co. established a trading post, placing Thomas Goffatt in charge.

John McDonald, in the early twenties, after being chief factor of the Nor'-West Fur Trading Co., again took up the life of a civilian and made his home on the east side of the Penetang Road. Here he had a shanty built by James Soules, of Big Bay Point. In payment for his work, McDonald paid him, from his extensive library, with such books as Plutarch's Lives, and Scottish Chiefs. As many of the fur-traders had done, McDonald had married a squaw who had saved his life, when some of the warriors of her tribe were going to put him to death. They were married according to Indian custom, as there was no priest in that vicinity. It is said that it was a common sight to see their little half-breed children playing on the mud floor of their shanty with the leather-bound volumes of Plutarch or others. The McDonalds were later married by a priest at Penetanguishene, to make legal the birth of their next child who was called Catherine. She later married Angus Grant, and lived near Wyebridge for a number of years. She also became the sole heiress of all her father's property, obtained from the Hon. Wm. McGillivray. McDonald was a helper and colleague of Franklin, becoming chief factor of the Nor-West Co. He and his wife were buried in the Church of England cemetery at Newmarket, and to-day, on their grave may be seen a headstone which Lady Franklin sent out from England in recognition of the splendid service McDonald had rendered her husband in his journeys over this country.

