

## PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

On the 27th June, 1812, a man arrived at Thos. Clark's, Esqr., with the news of war being proclaimed by the Pres[iden]t of [the] U[nited] S[tates]. The news flew like lightning over the country. The flank companies and other volunteer corps were immediately ordered out. We had one Regt. of regulars, the 41st, in the Upper Province, that is, above Kingston, say, York, Ft. George, Queenston, Chippawa, Fort Erie, Amherstburg, Sandwich and St. Joseph. The country was well aware of the strength and population of the U. S. and turned out with a desire and determination of doing their duty. At the same time they were acting under the impression of being eventually conquered. I heard [at] 12 o'clock P. M. on the night of the 27th of the declaration of war, by Mr. Culp.

(I was then carrying on the farm with several hands, everything [was] in great forwardness.) Not believing it, I mounted my horse in the morning [and] had not rode further than Shipman's when, to my great surprise, I met the capt[ain]s of companies assembling their men as fast as possible. What my feelings were at that time cannot easily be described. I had been appointed Lieut. to a m[ilitia] troop of horse a few weeks prior, [and] was confident they would be immediately put on service. I had many powerful and weighty reasons for not entering the ser[vice], tho' not having heard from R.\* since their leaving the country, and fearing the worst, I scarcely cared what became of me. In the course of the morning I received an order from my father, who was appointed Maj[or] com[mandin]g the cavalry in the Upper Province, to assemble the men in my vicinity and march down to Ft. George as soon as possible. (The men I had employed all belonged to the different volunteer comp[anie]s which they joined. My mother was left alone on the farm. Seeing so noble a spirit of resistance spreading among all classes, I determined to give up every other pursuit and devote my life and time solely to the service of my country. For many reasons, at that time no person was more ready to risque it than myself.) On receiving the news the men had all assembled by the next morning. Accordingly we moved off and joined the main body at the Court House in Niagara at 2 P. M., 28th inst. [We] kept patroles up and down the river, momentarily expecting an attack, altho' the Americans had not heard of war being proclaimed till notified by us. Expresses having been sent to him, Gen. Brock arrived this even[ing]. All hands were

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\*Miss Catharine R. Prendergast, afterwards Mrs. Merritt.