

Burlington Bay, Beach

Artillery by Major Wm. Holcroft, well tried and excellent officers. The small detachments of the Royal, Newfoundland and Glengary Regiments had behaved splendidly at Niagara. The Militia, including Runchey's Colored Corps and Merritt's Dragoons, numbered only one hundred and thirty-one, but these were men of undoubted loyalty and courage, thoroughly acquainted with the country and its inhabitants.

In this position Vincent felt secure, though the military chest was then empty, and he had been forced to borrow five hundred guineas from Lt. Col. Clark to relieve Col. Proctor's starving division at Detroit, yet at this moment his own troops were suffering greatly for want of shoes, stockings, blankets, tents and shirts. Captain Fulton informed the Governor General (Prevost), at this time, that the soldiers were "in rags and without shoes," and the 49th "literally naked," while Gen. Vincent wrote that the "ragged army of patriots," stationed on Burlington Heights, awaited orders with but ninety rounds of ammunition to each man. Fortunately, 340 Caughnawaga Indians and a band of French Canadian voyageurs and fencibles under Major Du Harem, Captain Ducharme and Lt. Lorimer, arrived to the relief and assistance of the encampment.

The valley town of Dundas was almost the only bright spot to live in during these stirring times. It contained a number of the oldest and most respectable families settled in the district, who were noted for their hospitality. The officers quartered at Burlington Heights found in this little town their only relaxation and social enjoyments. The ladies of Dundas spent themselves in alleviating the wants of the sick and wounded, and opened their homes to the worn soldiers by affording them amusement and social pleasures. The tale is told that on the 1st of December, 1812, when a most enjoyable dance was in progress at the home of a Miss Cooley, the sounds of revelry were suddenly stopped by a call "To arms." The detachment from the Heights had been summoned to 40-Mile Creek. Box sleighs were hastily made ready, packed with muskets, blankets and men. Swiftly they sped over the heavily snow-packed roads, arriving at their destination at day break to find that a false alarm had interrupted their evening's enjoyment.

Another Burlington association of the war—for a proper