

ship, money sent him by the British Government and relatives often failing to reach him. On his release, he came direct to Canada, arriving in Toronto, then known as "Muddy York" and "Muddy Little York" in Sept., 1813. The only brick building in Toronto at that time (which is probably identified in Robertson's "Landmarks") was the tavern in which he lodged. He left Toronto in November via Yonge Street portage for Holland Landing, crossing Lake Simcoe on the 29th November in an open boat to the head of Kempenfeldt Bay. The cold was so intense that a young officer of the company died while crossing the lake. Arriving at the spot where Barrie now stands they dug a grave on the slope near the site of the present post office where the remains of the unfortunate young soldier were buried and over which they hastily built a "cairn" of small stones, the body later to be claimed by relatives in the old land and removed to England. The party then portaged across to the Nottawasaga River, which they followed to its mouth, where they were frozen in for the winter. Capt. Douglas was the officer in charge. They built a hut of spruce boughs in which they passed a somewhat dreary winter. Their supplies having failed to reach them they were compelled to subsist on bread baked in the hot ashes, and tea made of hemlock boughs steeped in water for drink, and in various ways eke out the scanty fare during the weary months. This was a taste of real pioneering for which they had not bargained. As soon as the ice broke up they set sail making a portage of seven miles from a point on the eastern shore of Nottawasaga Bay at what was later known as King's Mills near Randolph, and arriving at Penetanguishene Bay early in the spring of 1814. This was doubtless a sort of "advance guard or scouting party" sent for the purpose of locating a depot for supplies, as we find A. F. Hunter, in his "History of Simcoe County," page 37, Vol. I., says: "When the two American frigates, or armed schooners, came to blockade the Nottawasaga, an Indian runner was dispatched to Penetanguishene, where a Naval Depot had just been located, to announce the arrival of the American boats." Furthermore, Jacob Gill, who subsequently built some of the works at Penetanguishene garrison, was sent by Government to open the Nottawasaga portage in 1813, and the expedition, headed by Capt. Douglas, must have taken place after the portage was opened and before the expedition under Col. McDouall which, as all know, passed early in 1814, or Capt. Douglas' party would not have been compelled to build themselves huts for shelter and after which the depot