

ilton, an opulent merchant who is concerned in the whole inland trade of this part of America, possesses in Queenston a very fine house built in the English style. He has also a farm, a distillery and a tan-yard. This merchant bears an excellent character. He is at present in England."

The following entry in Mrs. Simcoe's diary, dated at Niagara, July 30, 1792: "We stopped and breakfasted at Mr. Hamilton's, a merchant who lives two miles from here at the landing, where the cargoes going to Detroit are landed and sent nine miles to Port Chippewa. Mr. Hamilton has a very good stone house, the back rooms looking on the river. A gallery the length of the house is a delightful covered walk both below and above in all weather."

J. Ross Robertson writes: "Hamilton built a large stone residence at Queenston, also a brewery and a ware-house. In 1791 he was appointed a member of the Legislative Council, an office he retained through life. For some time he distinguished himself with Mr. Cartwright, his old partner (also a member), by opposing Government measures, thereby incurring Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe's lively displeasure."

In one of the Governor's despatches he denounces Hamilton as an avowed republican, but when it was hinted that certain privileges would be taken away from them the opposition ceased. Governor Simcoe acknowledged that he had received much valuable information respecting the commerce of the country, and particularly the Indian trade of the far west, from Mr. Hamilton.

John Ravenhurst, chief clerk in the office of the Surveyor General for many years, states in his evidence before Lord Durham's Commission in 1838, that the general price paid by speculators for the two hundred acre lots granted to the sons and daughters of the U. E. Loyalists was from a gallon of rum up to perhaps six pounds, and he mentions Honorable Robert Hamilton as among the largest purchasers of these lands. Mr. Hamilton's acquisitions amounted to about one hundred thousand acres.

Dr. William Canniff says, in his "Settlement of Upper Canada," that when Governor Simcoe's scheme for the promotion of higher education was under consideration, the Honorable Robert Hamilton of Queenston had a brother living in Scotland and it was through him that an offer was made, first to the celebrated Dr. Chalmers, who, not desiring to come, mentioned the name of his friend Strachan to whom the offer was made. Mr. Strachan decided to come. Thus it was the veteran school teacher, the divine, the father of universities, was led to Canada to become the occupant of one of the most conspicuous places