

David Ramsay and Long Point in Legend and History

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INTRODUCTION.

In August, 1893, the writer with a party of friends visited the Long Point Settlement. Carriages were taken at Simcoe, and the tour included such historic sites as Vittoria, Normandale, Turkey Point, Fisher's Glen and Ryerse Creek. The interest and enjoyment of the trip were greatly enhanced by the companionship for a time of the late Mr. Simpson McCall, then eighty-five years of age, who proved a very mine of information regarding the Settlement. Mr. McCall had for many years been prominent in the County of Norfolk, filling various positions of honour and responsibility, including that of representative in the Provincial Legislature for two full terms. Mr. McCall died in 1898 at the great age of ninety-one. Tasker in his history of the Settlement refers to him in these terms: "In the respect and veneration of the whole community, Mr. McCall in his old age received his reward for the sterling honesty which was the predominant feature of his whole life, and the unflinching justice and impartiality which were his most notable traits of character."

Possessed of a retentive memory, Mr. McCall delighted in recounting to eager listeners many incidents of national, local and family history. From Mr. McCall's own lips the writer of this paper wrote down at the time pages of narrative, condensing as he proceeded, but using the narrator's words as far as possible. The narrative included among various matters of interest the following story of buried treasure:—

RAMSAY'S BURIED TREASURE.

"One Ramsay, before and after the Revolution, traded with the Indians of this region up to Detroit, &c. Dr. Troyer believed in magic, and had a mineral rod, by which he divined where gold was buried. About 1790, when Ramsay was coming from Detroit with two men and his boat loaded with furs and gold, he had a dispute with Indians living at Port Stanley where they had large corn fields, over his refusal to furnish them with liquor. They followed him from the land down to Port Burwell and the carrying place, and Long Point to the end of the peninsula, and prevented him doing any further trade. At the portage he buried his money in an iron chest,