

"Ducit Amor Patriæ"

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Niagara Historical Society

No. 28

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Family History

and

Reminiscences of Early  
Settlers

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Price 25 Cents

## NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Its objects are the encouragement of the study of Canadian History and Literature, the collection and preservation of Canadian Historical Relics, the building up of Canadian loyalty and patriotism and the preservation of all historical landmarks in this vicinity.

The annual fee is fifty cents.

The Society was formed in December, 1895. The annual meeting is held on October 13th. Since May, 1896, six thousand articles have been gathered in the Historical Room—twenty-eight pamphlets have been published, eleven historical sites have been marked, an Historical building erected at a cost of over \$5,000, and a catalogue published.

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## Preface

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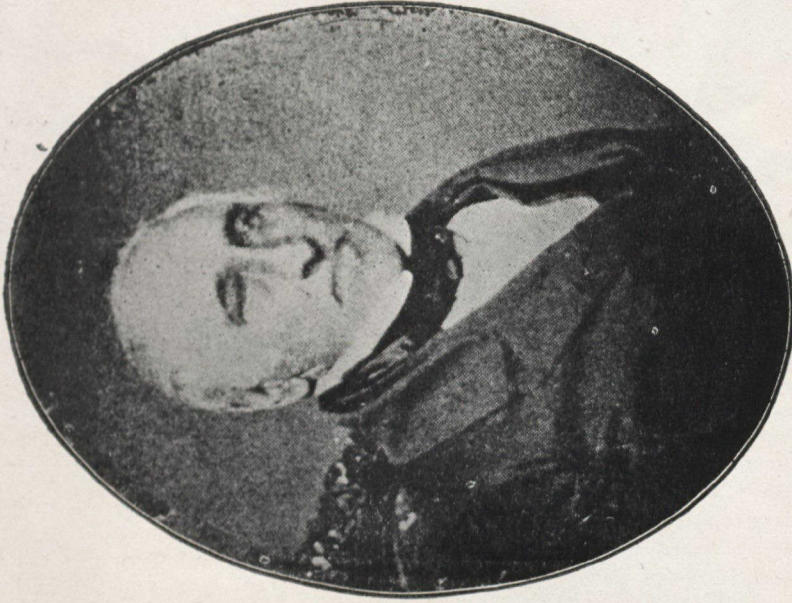
It has long been the desire of the Niagara Historical Society to obtain family history and reminiscences of the early settlers of this neighborhood, similar to those in number 11 which has lately been reprinted as many requests were made for additional copies. We are happy in having been able to gather from varied sources the contents of the present number which we hope will meet with as favorable a reception as did number 11. We heartily thank all who have assisted in furnishing its contents and would ask those who can contribute anything to the story of the early pioneers to bring such to the editor or any member of the society. We have been fortunate too in obtaining pictures of these early settlers from five different sources.

As a contrast to these stories of the past we have a page from this year of world war when our young Canadians are fighting to give justice, freedom and good government, to put down tyranny and cruelty and are freely giving their lives as their ancestors fought for freedom in the cause of the Empire.



**Hon. Wm. Dickson, 1769-1846**

A native of Dumfries, Scotland, member of Legislative Council. 1816, founder of Guelph and the township of Dumfries, built the first brick house in Niagara about 1790, member of Law Society 1797.



**Hon. James Crooks, 1778-1860**

Native of Scotland, settled in Niagara 1794, shipped the first wheat and flour from Niagara to Montreal, Member of Legislative Council for twenty-five years, was Captain in 1st Lincoln Militia and honorably mentioned for conduct at the battle of Queenston Heights.

Correspondence Between Hon. William  
Dickson Prisoner of War and  
Gen. Dearborn, 1813

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Albany, 14th August, 1813

Sir: —

In behalf of myself and others whose names are hereunto annexed and designated by their different avocations in the District of Niagara, in the Province of Upper Canada, prisoners of war in Albany in the State of New York, I respectfully call your prompt and animated attention in your official character to their case arising out of a policy of war which had not been anticipated by them, I have therefore to state that on the 27th of May last, when General Dearborn's troops entered the town of Niagara and Fort George was evacuated, many inhabitants of Niagara and its vicinity with their families under the existing circumstances and under impressions favorable to the presumed policy of the commander of the forces remained at their homes. Generals Lewis and Boyd gave me assurance of protection in person and property and civilities with them and the officers of the army were mutually exchanged.

Under the temporary protection of the United States a temporary allegiance was due to that government. This I communicated to General Dearborn by letter and he then demanded and received the respective paroles of each. Subsequently I received a letter from him desiring an interview when he wished that I would notify the Magistrates under his control of his wish that they would call upon him and he would state to them his intentions as to the issuing a general order beneficial to the interests of society in their respective precincts. In consequence of which about twelve of these gentlemen waited on General Dearborn when in a courteous address he wished them to exercise their official functions as usual and issued the following general order and sent through Colonel Scott the same in triplicate to be transmitted to the Magistrates which was done accordingly.

## "ORDER"

Headquarters Fort George, June 4th, 1813.

As the good of Society requires a vigilant attention of the Civil Magistrates in the due execution of the laws, those within the district of Niagara are hereby informed that their respective functions as Magistrates will be considered by me in force and a due administration of the laws for the suppression of offences against Society will be respected by me accordingly.

Signed,

H. DEARBORN.

Major General.

Under this authority, some cases arose calling for the interference of the civil Magistrates, and these were acted upon until the 19th day of June, when I and others were taken under a guard and confined in a house in the town of Niagara. Two days had elapsed when I presumed the guard might be ignorant of our situation, the following correspondence took place:

May it please your Excellency:

Presuming you are unacquainted that I with a number of other civilians are now under confinement, I have therefore to state the fact and to remark when I had the honor last time of a conversation with you, I little anticipated the measure now resorted to.

I have the honor to be your Excellency's

very humble servant,

(signed) WM. DICKSON

To His Excellency

Major General Dearborn.

June 21st, 1813

Sir:—Your note of the 21st inst has this day been received. Any measures that circumstances may have demanded in relation to yourself and certain other gentlemen, could, I presume, have resulted only from an obvious departure in those gentlemen from that proper deportment which under existing circumstances had been expected, and from the severities practised on many persons who had given their parole by persons in the British employ. Be assured, Sir, that the measures you question are among those painful cases which nothing but necessity could induce me to countenance

Your humble servant,

(Signed) H. DEARBORN.

William Dickson, Esq.



May it please your Excellency

"Your prompt attention to my communication of this day being the 21st inst., is most respectfully appreciated by me, after which it becomes a duty which I owe to myself, to my companions in confinement and to the standing we have in Society, to repel any charge of an obvious departure from that passive deportment which under existing circumstances had been expected. So far as relates to myself and to those in my confidence, no agency directly or indirectly hinted at has taken place and I most solemnly assure your excellency the imputation or suspicion has not a little hurt my feelings.

With respect to that part of your letter relative to severities practised on many persons who have given their parole by persons in the British employ we are completely ignorant of. I am well assured you consider it a painful exercise of duty in adopting measures of severity against inoffensive colonists, but when that necessity is no longer apparent I presume a forbearance of these measures will be the result of your excellency's further investigations"

I have the honor to be your Excellency's

very obedient servant,

(Signed) WILLIAM DICKSON

To His Excellency,  
Major General Dearborn.

To this letter no answer was returned, but we were immediately escorted under guard across the river to the American Fort remaining there three days under unaccustomed privations, from thence to Batavia, Canandaigua, Geneva and Utica, remaining at these respective places for some time making a procrastinated route of about three hundred and fifty miles in fifty seven days.

We forbear complaint as we might have communicated with you before this, but trusted to Sir George Prevost's knowledge of our individual cases and from his proclamation of the 14th June at Kingston, looked before this for the interference of our government.

Many of us have moved in spheres of life at home which the present renders most irksome, the position of our wives and children in the present state of the country added to our solicitude and the pecuniary entanglements arising from obvious causes is painful in recurring to the past and anticipating the future uncertain time and place of detention.

We therefore beg you to take such prompt measures as your knowledge and diplomatic discussions may tend to relieve us from this state.

Many of us as by the annexed list you will observe are civil-

ians or non-combatants. On the policy of making such prisoners of war we forbear to comment.

I have the honor to be Sir, your obedient humble servant,  
(Signed) WILLIAM DICKSON.

To Thos. Wm. Moore,  
Agent for British Prisoners, Albany

List of persons ordered into custody at Niagara Upper Canada, by order of Major General Dearborn, on the 19th, 20th, 21st June, 1813.

#### NON-COMBATANTS

Alexander McDonnell, Dy. Paymaster General of Militia.  
William Dickson, Esq., Barrister-at-law, Niagara.  
John Symington Esq, Merchant, District Militia Paymaster  
Joseph Edwards, Esq., Merchant, Justice of the Peace.  
James Muirhead, Esq, Surgeon, Justice of the Peace.  
Andrew Heron. Merchant, Niagara.  
John Grier, Merchant, Niagara.  
John Baldwin, Merchant, Niagara.  
John Crooks, clerk to Jas. Crooks, Merchant, Niagara.  
Haggai Skinner, Farmer, Falls, 64 years of age.  
Doan, Farmer.  
Ramsay, boy of Stamford.  
John McFarland, Boat Builder  
William Ross, Commissariat.

#### MILITIA

Ralph Clench, Esq., Clerk of the Peace, Register of Surrogate,  
Col. of Militia and Dy. Qr. Mr. General, Niagara.  
John Powell, Esq., Register of the District and Capt. of Militia.  
George Lawe, Usher of Legislative Council and Capt. of Militia.  
John Decoe, Farmer, Thorold, Capt. of Militia.  
John McEwen, Merchant, Niagara, Capt. of Militia.  
John Jones, Taylor, Niagara, Capt. of Militia.  
——— Baxter, Farmer, Niagara, Capt. of Militia.  
Jacob A. Ball, Farmer, Niagara, Capt. of Militia.  
William Powers, Farmer, Niagara, Lieutenant  
Jonathan Williams, Farmer, Niagara, Lieutenant.  
John Bradt, Farmer, Niagara, Ensign  
Albany, 14th August, 1813.

A list has been found with names of those to whom passports were given, Dec. 11th, 1813, Wm. Dickson, Jos. Edwards, John Grier, John McFarland, John Crooks, J. Baldwin, A. Heron.—Ed.

## Reminiscences of Mrs. Edward Pilkington

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Reminiscences of Mrs. Edward Pilkington, daughter of Col. Nelles, Gainsby, left as a legacy to her granddaughter, Annie Kelland, copied from the original manuscript by Miss Harriet Ruthven, granddaughter of Col. Nelles, (20th Nov., 1874.) Probably written in 1848. We have printed the exact language, but omitted several passages merely of family interest and are delighted to be able to give the reminiscences of one of the early settlers of which we find so few. Statements of where they landed when they came, how they travelled and what were their hardships in coming, and through the early years of hewing down the forest and through the "Hungry Year", such statements are almost entirely lacking, so that we are the more pleased to be able to print this through the kindness of Mrs. Alfred Ball, nee Ruthven.—Ed.

My little granddaughter, Elizabeth Anne, is this day nine years old. Taking a retrospect of the years of my pilgrimage, what cause have I for thankfulness and to say with the Psalmist, "Surely goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life." Should it please my heavenly Father to spare this little one, she will often think of grandmama and perhaps wonder who she was and what was her history. For her dear sake I will note down a few dim recollections of bygone days. After the Revolutionary War when the United States obtained their independence, my grandfather, Henry William Nelles, by his loyal adherence to his rightful Sovereign, sacrificed a noble property in the beautiful valley of the Mohawk in the State of New York, and literally taking up his staff after the war was over and he could return with safety, brought his family many hundreds of miles into the backwoods of Upper Canada, then an almost uninhabited wilderness. My grandfather and his family after many hardships in their journey through the woods, crossed the Niagara River and halted on the shore of Lake Ontario about thirty miles distant from the Falls of Niagara. Here he pitched his tent like the Patriarch of old, not knowing whether he went. He took his son to reconnoitre the woods, he was pleased with the locality and said, "my son we had better choose this spot

for our inheritance, the country will never be settled farther up in our time" The British government, as a reward to men who sacrificed their property by their adherence to the King of England, gave a certain portion of wild lands in lieu of the smiling and cultivated homes left behind in the United States.

My grandfather and his sons and a black servant, who followed the fortunes of his master, set to work to fell the trees and erect a habitation which they accomplished in three months, thus making their first settlement in the township of Grimsby, County of Lincoln and District of Niagara. About the same time several families of the U. E. Loyalists followed the same course, choosing rather to suffer hardships with the loyal subjects of the King, than the pleasures of wealth and the comfort of good properties in a cultivated and settled country. Amongst the number of these devoted patriots was the family of Judge Pettit from the state of New Jersey, a sister of whom married my maternal grandfather, John Moore, of a good family in the usual acceptation of the word. These families having all settled near each other lived in almost patriarchal friendship united by the ties of mutual suffering, endurance, religion and political principles. My father became attached to my mother, the daughter of the above named John Moore, a young lady of a refined and cultivated mind with great personal attractions and also of a deeply religious nature.

My first recollections are of the dark blue waters of Ontario and pine covered hills of Grimsby. The wilderness had given place to a cultivated and smiling neighborhood, peace and happiness dwelt in the abodes of the little loyal band and happy children whose hopes and wishes were bounded by the little world around them, had no aspiration beyond that simple society. How well I remember the scenery, April mornings when flocks of pigeons of interminable length formed highways in the air, lovely orchards in full bloom, the beautiful scarlet bird perched in the snow white blossoms of the cherry tree. It was truly a lovely spot, a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of the valleys and hills, a land of wheat and Indian corn, of peach trees and melons, a land of milk and honey, a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

My father's place lay at the foot of a richly wooded mountain on one side and bounded on the other by the crystal lake; the trees were magnificent. I have never seen anything to give me such an idea of ages gone by as the woods of these primeval forests, the gigantic oak, the tall pine, the beautiful chestnut, the white flower-

ing dogwood, the elm, ash, maple; dear dear trees, how I loved you and how much like old friends you seemed to my memory.

We had no clergyman but my uncle, Andrew Pettit, took the lead among the little society of Episcopalians, and for many years (twenty) they assembled at each other's houses on the Sabbath day and he read the church service, the lessons and a sermon of some old divine, after some time the Methodists, those pioneers of the backwood, sent missionaries amongst us, but my dear old uncle would not allow us to hear a dissenter, he was just as particular as any of the country clergymen in England, still I sometimes strayed off and I remember with love the Methodist Missionary and his simple and impassioned eloquence, but my love for all those who love the Lord Jesus Christ has not made me love our own form of worship less. Time marched on and in 1812 we got a clergyman and my father gave land and money to build a church which was called St. Andrew's, more, I verily believe, in honor of my old uncle, Andrew Pettit, than of the apostle of old.

The year 1812 was memorable too, as the breaking out of war between England and the United States. I could write a history on this subject, but I will confine myself to a few particulars concerning myself, of how we were frightened at the declaration of war and how awfully the cannon sounded and what a fearful time it was when my father, who was a Colonel, and my brother an officer in the same regiment had to go out to defend the frontier, and of the glorious battle of Queenston Heights, and yet my heart recoils at the words, "glorious battle," of the carts of wounded brought home, of our dangerous allies of the northwest, thousands of these redmen were encamped on our place, Indians; what fearful friends who seemed to have the tomahawk suspended over the heads of friends as well as foes. In t'is year my mother was called to her everlasting rest and I was left to take charge of her dear children. The two following years were eventful ones in my life, but I have but a confused recollection of the stirring events, the battles and cannonading and takings and retakings of forts, burning of towns, marchings and countermarchings, advances of the British and again retreats, then the American army taking possession of the Niagara frontier and marching through the country to the march of "See the conquering hero comes" with their scabbards flung away and then more battles and more retreats, but for a history of those times my little girl must get one and read it. Amongst all the confusion I have a very vivid remembrance of many brave and intellectual officers high in rank in both armies who have their names enrolled in the annals of fame. If my little girl can find a history of the taking of Fort Niagara in 1813, she may read about her grandfather

Pilkington, who bore a conspicuous part in that brave and as it turned out almost bloodless conquest.

In the summer of that year my brother, Captain Henry Nelles, asked to introduce to me a very particular friend of his, a Major Pilkington, a fine noble generous hearted man with a fine person and commanding air, blue eyes and brown hair, such eyes, suffice to see him was to love him and love but him for ever. In February, 1814, I was married to him. I accompanied my husband to the wars, our honeymoon was spent in a cottage on the river above the Falls and in sight of the American shore. I travelled in Canada until 1816, in that time I lived at Fort Erie, at Fort Niagara, at Montreal, at Sorel on the banks of the Richelieu and at Chambly. After the battle of Waterloo the army was called to England and I returned to my native place, Grimsby, where we took up our abode and with my son Edward Harpon and my twin daughters Mary Anne and Elizabeth Maria I passed my time in peace being surrounded by my father, brothers and sisters, uncles, aunts and cousins who were all too fond of me. My sister Elizabeth married the Rev. Brook Bridge Stevens, chaplain of the forces and evening lecturer of Montreal. My brother the Rev. Abraham Nelles is now the Rector of the Mohawk church at the Grand River. In 1827, my beloved husband, Edward Pilkington, received a letter from the Rev. Mr. Webb, the clergyman of his native parish in Ireland, written at the request of his mother, Mrs Pilkington, wishing for his return home and that she would give her estate of Urney upper half Baron of Phillipstown, King's County, which he acceded to. It was a trying time the parting from that home of love Oh how my heart bleeds when I think of that last farewell. My father brought me in his carriage the first sixty miles on my way through the United States, but "come it slow or come it fast, the parting time must come at last" My aged, my much loved father must we part and part forever? and we never did meet again for my revered father was called to his everlasting rest in 1842

We travelled through the States and sailed from New York on 8th July and landed in Liverpool 1st August.

My first impressions of England were glorious, my imagination had never pictured a world so fair, the green verdure is what first strikes on the heart of a dried up American as something like enchantment, but this I cannot dwell upon. Read Washington Irving's description of his first visit to England and you will read one of the most beautiful things in the English language. We reached old Urney about the 12th of August, what a happy meeting between Edward and his aged parents. His mother did not know her son, but we soon had a bonfire and great rejoicings and we lived with the old

lady who was a very fine specimen of the old school! till her death in 1832. She left her property to her son Edward and his children. My dear husband lived only two years after his mother's death. My son succeeded to the property. His mind was fixed on the church and we went to Dublin to live where he completed his education at Trinity College. My daughter Elizabeth Maria, your mother, became acquainted with the Rev. Philip Kelland, Senior Wrangler in Queen's College, Cambridge. They were married in 1838. He became the Professor of mathematics in Edinburgh University. In 1841 your mother took a trip to the continent for her health which seemed for a time to be restored, but in 1844 she sank into a rapid decline. She was attended by Dr. Abercrombie. I thought if she could be taken to the south she might recover; about three weeks before her death we all came to your aunt Maria's at Greenwich, but nothing could arrest the hand of death. When she left Edinburgh Dr. Abercrombie paid her a farewell visit with tears in his eyes, in two months after he too had entered into his rest.

Dear auntie came from America the next day after her death, not knowing of the death of her sister and it was a great shock to her. Your mamma was buried in the churchyard at Greenwich. May you my precious child walk in her steps and die as she died trusting in a Saviour's love.

M. PILKINGTON.

## Secord Papers

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These were kindly given by Mrs. Orlando Dunn, grand-daughter of Stephen Secord, copied from the original documents, letters and accounts of Hon. Robert Hamilton, Stephen Secord, Thomas Dickson, Joseph Edwards, William and James Crooks, from 1790 to 1815. From early records in the Archives of the census taken by Col John Bntler of settlers at Niagara in 1782-1784 we learn that there were eight Secords, Peter, John, James, Thomas, John jr., Silas, Solomon and Stephen. The number of acres cleared by each is given, and in the account of the Gilbert Captivity it is mentioned that one of the children was sheltered at the home of John Secord in 1782, so that it is thus shown that the Secords were among the earliest settlers of the United Empire Loyalists.

These letters show the immense business done in Queenston and St. Davids, give us the price of groceries and other articles, show also the interchange of goods, the Secord mill furnishing the flour and Robert Hamilton providing the wheat purchased by him from the farmers. They show also the good feeling existing and the confidence in one another. The large amounts give us pause, the account of Thomas Dickson to Stephen Secord is £483 13s 2d, but there is a contra account of £874 17 9d, leaving a balance due Mr. Secord of £391 4s 7d. It must be noted here however, that these sums are not so large as at first they seem, being in N. Y. Cy. (New York currency); instead of four dollars to the pound read two dollars and a half, eight shillings of twelve and a half cents to the dollar. In only one place is what was called Halifax currency used and in only two places does the word dollar occur. The Robert Hamilton mentioned was the principal man of the district, the Lieutenant of the county. At his fine mansion he entertained Governor Simcoe and all the principal persons visiting the Falls. He was noted for his liberality and hospitality. James Secord was the husband of the famous Laura Ingersoll Secord and the brother of Stephen. James Crooks was the first person to export wheat and flour to Montreal, and was a member of the Legislature.



The oldest date is 1790 and is the account of Joseph Edwards against Stephen Secord. We find from other sources that Joseph Edwards was the Postmaster at Niagara and that he was one of those sent as prisoners to Albany by General Dearborn in 1813, among them being Hon. Wm. Dickson.

From this account, he, Edwards, must have been in 1790 a merchant in Niagara. The price of calico and muslin is enormous, snuff is mentioned twice, half a pound seems to have lasted nearly a month, tumblers were very necessary in those days. The account reads thus in part.

Mr. Stephen Secord, Dr.  
to Joseph Edwards.

		£	s	d
1790				
Mar. 20.	Balance of acc. delivered .....	2	1	1½
Jun. 17.	2 lbs candles .....		5	
Aug. 2.	1 white hat.....		8	
Sept. 1.	½ lb snuff .....		3	
Oct. 5.	1 chip hatt .....		4	
" 28	¼ lb. snuff .....		1	6
" 23.	half a pasteboard .....		6	
Nov, 1.	4 Japanese tumblers .....		8	0
	1 mugg .....		3	0
	3. 1 lawn handkerchief.....		5	0
	1 Scotch check .....		2	6
Dec, 6.	6½ yards brown camblet .....	19	6	
1791				
Jan. 10.	2 yards muslin, 8s.....	16	0	
15.	1 pair woman'a shoes .....		9	
	1¾ yards Calicoe, 7s .....	13	1½	
	1 loaf sugar, 8 lbs @ 2s 9d .....	1	2	
Feb. 21.	12 lbs, rice.....	10	0	
	Cash paid the hatter. ....		5	6
Mar. 1	1 pair woman's shoes.....		9	0
2.	His order for furs .....	3	0	0
26.	1 shawl handkerchief.....		6	
Apr 11	1 skein black silk .....		1	
	6 lbs. barley 7 6 and other 5s .....	12	6	
	1 barrel rum 37 gal 9s .....	16	13	0
	1 gal cranberries.....		1	
	1 oz. cloves.....		3	

E.E., Niagara, 2nd Jan, 1792.

The next account is that of Robert Hamllton against Stephen Secord and amounts to £250 The first date is 1789 and the last

1792, the phrase "The Landing" is used twice and means Queenston, this paper is yellow with age and the ink pale so that the writing is not very legible, the amount on one side of the page is £125 with a contra account of £64 leaving a balance of £60, but on the next page the amount due at Niagara was £176, finally £250 which is settled in full by security, when paid the signature is simply R. Hamilton, but the account is not in the same writing. It is very pleasing to see that in all these accounts and contra accounts sometimes of very large amounts the confidence placed in one another and the good feeling shown. For instance the Hon. Robert Hamilton writes: "I give you joy that you have been able to reduce the indebtedness." There is never in sending an account any urging of payment. The sentence which begins "I hope" and we might suppose it may go on to say "for a speedy settlement" reads instead in account after account "I hope you will find the statement right." and each seems to have an account against the other for years, but is always finally paid either by a contra account or cash, or security. One gives groceries, the other flour, or one gives wheat for groceries and then exchanges the wheat for flour. The business done in those early years in Queenston and St. Davids was extensive.

The next account is that of Stephen Secord to James Secord; the latter of course is the husband of Laura Ingersoll Secord. The first named had the mills at St. Davids while James Secord had a store at Queenston. In this account of £90.11, New York Currency we find that sugar is three shillings a pound, a quart of spirits eight shillings, two rose blankets come to 80 shillings and one dozen buttons four shillings, half a bushel of salt is fourteen shillings. This is in 1798.

The next letter is a valuable one and is in the hand writing of Hon. Robert Hamilton, Feb. 1800. We read elsewhere of his kindness and benevolence and this certainly shows a kind heart. It also shows what a large business was done at the mill of Stephen Secord at St. Davids, as well as the extent of business done by the Hon. Robert Hamilton.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please receive your account with me up to this day and the interest on your obligation calculated to the 1st of Jany.

Balance of account .....	£15, 10, 1
" mortgage ...	84, 9, 6
Total.....	<hr/> 99, 19, 7

I give you joy at having brought this long standing debt to be under a hundred pounds, and I have now to propose to you that I will take if you can procure the quantity, fifty barrels of flour from you between this and the first of June at 7 dollars—the price of Government—which will over pay your account 100 dollars which I will answer to your order in cash—so soon as I receive it. Let me have your answer in a week and believe me your friend and svt.

R. HAMILTON

Mr. Stephen Secord,  
Queenston, Feb. 3, 1800

Another merchant of Queenston was Thomas Dickson, a brother of Hon. Wm Dickson and of Robert Dickson who traded with the Indians from the Gulf of Mexico to Hudson's Bay. The following letter is sent to Stephen Secord, addressed to Four Mile Creek Mills.

Queenston, 11th June, 1802.

Dear Sir:—I enclose you your account with me to 20th inst., balance due me £106, 10. 5, York, which I trust upon examination you will find right. You will observe you are charged with 93 flour barrels from Page, which will be credited you, when with flour £18, 12, 0, Yk. I shall be much obliged to you if you will make me two hundred wt. of fine flour for house use, which I will send for as soon as the roads are passable, also for some bran. I am dear sir, your most obt. svt.,

THOMAS DICKSON

Mr. Stephen Secord

The account of Thomas Dickson in 1812 against Stephen Secord and the contra account against Thomas Dickson give us an idea of the large business done by each, give us also the prices of wheat and flour, groceries and clothing. It would appear that Mr. Dickson bought wheat and sold it to Mr. Secord who then furnished barrels of flour. The name is always given of the person furnishing wheat which gives us the names of farmers in the vicinity who raised wheat. The account runs through the months of the year 1812. The amounts astonish us beginning with a balance of £203. ending with £483 while the contra account for 261 barrels of flour is £874 leaving a balance due Mr. Secord of £391, N. Y. Cy. Some of the names are familiar as Warner, Turney, Lampman, Middaugh, Adams, Hutt, Chisholm. Several German names appear as Osterholt, Huntsinger; Duchambeux must be French as also Debois. The first entry is Jan. 9 59 60 bushels wheat from Seaburn at 10s £4, 19. 10; the next entry Jan. 6th is one lb. tobacco 3s On Jan. 20th Warner furnishes 109 56-60 bushels wheat. Jan. 30th one lb.

green tea 8s. Feb. 15th a pair of blankets £2.16. March 17th, 3 slate pencils 6d. The children of those days would have to be more careful of these aids than those of a later date, but we believe now no slate pencils or slates are used, a mustard pot was 1s, 6d and knives 12s, 2 lbs. nails cost 5 shillings. On May 6th appears, to cash for self \$3, £1, 4, which gives us the value of New York Currency. The pound of 20 shillings instead of being four dollars or five dollars, represented two dollars and a half, the shilling being our 12½ cents and thus eight shillings to the dollar. Many of the articles are not so very different in value from present prices, but a paper of pins which might now be five cents, the price given is 4s which would represent 37½ cents, but on May 16th 20 flour barrels cost £4 or ten dollars, about the same as now. On June 1st powder and shot are bought, a wool hat and half lb. snuff, the latter cost 2 shillings. Does any one buy snuff now? From 14th Jan. to Oct 413 bushels of wheat were furnished and 97 flour barrels while in the same time the contra account gives 261 barrels of flour.

The next account in order which I have selected is dated Sept. 1815 and is the account of Richard Woodruff against the "Widow Secord," and may be given in full. It is made out in a different style with the contra account on the same page, side by side.

## Widow Secord

Bt of Richard Woodruff &amp; Co.

1816, Sept 30th		£	s	d
To 1 brass kettle ..	.....		18	
" 1 hat, .....	.....	1	8	
" ——— (indistinct) .....	.....		2	
" 1 yd. holland 3s. 6d; ¼ lb. powder 2s ..	.....		5	6
By balance due you (your account).....	2, 18 6			
1816, Sept 9—To 5 lbs. steel, 2s, 6d. ....	.....		12	6
" 25— " ½ lb tobacco .....	.....		2	
Oct 28— " 1 pair best morocco shoes. ....	.....		16	
" 31— " 1 lb. tobacco .....	.....		4	
Nov 10— " 5½ yards flannel, 5s .....	.....	1	7	6
" " 2 hanks, silk.....	.....		9	
" " 1 dozen brown buttons.....	.....		1	6
		£2 18 6	£5 17 9	
To balance due me			2 19 3	

St. Davids; Dec. 10th, 1816

		4	4	0
By 14 bu. potatoes.....		1	4	9
		<hr/>		
		5	4	9
1817 To 28 lbs. cocoa.....		1	3	9
" 3 barrels.....				12
		<hr/>		
Received payment .....		4	15	
				11 3

Richard Woodruff &amp; Co.

It does not seem very plain where the 11s, 3 comes from or the £4, 4.

#### AGREEMENT WITH A TEACHER IN 1828.

Articles of Agreement made the eleventh of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight, between Richard H. Secord of Grantham, of the District of Niagara, Teacher, of the one part and the undersigned subscriber of the other part.

Witnesseth that for the conditions hereinafter mentioned, he, the said Richard H. Secord, doth covenant and agree to and with the said subscribers that for and during the term of three months commencing on Monday, the seventeenth instant, that the said Richard H. Secord shall teach a common day school in the township of Grantham and shall faithfully use his best endeavours to teach and instruct such pupils as may on behalf of the subscribers be put under his care and tuition the following branches of education, viz.: Spelling, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic and to understand it according to their respective capacities. And farther he doth engage to maintain good order and exercise impartial discipline in the same school and to suppress and discountenance all immoral habits and practices among his pupils, and to use all reasonable diligence to improve their learning. And further for the purpose of teaching, he, the said Richard H. Secord, agrees to attend at the schoolhouse eleven days in every two weeks from nine o'clock A.M. to four o'clock P.M. for the aforesaid term. And lastly if any charge should be brought against the said teacher relative to his conduct while in school, on his being examined before the trustees, if found culpable they are at liberty to discharge him on paying him for whatever space of time he may have taught. For and in consideration of the due performance of the aforesaid conditions to us the subscribers on the part of said Richard H. Secord, we do

promise and agree to pay the said Richard H. Secord the sum of ten shillings currency per quarter for each pupil subscribed. And further we do engage to furnish a schoolhouse with suitable writing desks, benches, etc. Also each subscriber is to furnish an equal proportion of fire wood (according to the number of pupils subscribed) delivered at the schoolhouse when it shall be needful for the benefit of the said school.

In case the said R. H. Secord can get twenty-five scholars he will teach for eight shillings and nine pence currency per quarter.

Stephen Emmet	1	David Grass	1
Walter D	1	John Bessey	1
Seth Keith	3	John Mowers	1
Thos. Watt	1	Jacob Stull	1 load 1
Jos Vanderlip	1	Ebenezer Cavers	2
Peter Young	3 load 2	Robert Price	1
Elias Durham	1	Elizabeth Mead	1
Jeremiah Durham	2		

(Signed) John Hainer,  
George Havens  
From 15th December

A sheet of foolscap without any name gives a curious list of charges on 85 barrels of flour from Queenston to Quebec amounting to £46 or \$184. The items are storage at Queenston £1, 6, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ; freight to Kingston £8, 10, storage at Kingston, freight to Lachine, inspection there at four pence per barrel, storage at Lachine, Commission at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent at Montreal on £206. Cooperage there eleven shillings, charges to Quebec. It is evident that these charges are not in N. Y. Cy., but at the rate of four dollars to the pound and that the consigner paid the charges which are deducted from the £206, leaving £160. 5, 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ . A note below says is N. Y. Cy. £256, 8, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ , or nearly eight dollars a barrel, while the prices paid at Queenston or St. Davids varied from \$5 to \$6 25, an interesting thing to notice is the varying price of a barrel of flour through the hundred years.

The account of E. Thompson against Stephen Secord in 1801 to 1803 of fifty six pounds is signed by Ann Thompson received payment in full of all demands. Among the articles furnished we find ten pounds of Maple Sugar at 1 6 -15 shillings, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  yard cloth at 24s £1, 16 and  $\frac{1}{4}$  dozen green edged plates 6s, pair cotton stockings 9s, pair gloves 6s, next five yards white cotton at 4s, a neck handkerchief 12s, half dozen cups and saucers 7s. The credit side of the account amounts to £32.16. Among the items are

50 lbs. flour 12s. 125 lbs. pork at 5d per lb. £2.13, the last item is 75 ft. boards 7s. 6.

The statement of Stephen Secord taken before Robert Hamilton, Chairman of the Board, is thus worded.

Personally came and appeared in the Court of Gen. Qr. Sessions holden for the District of Niagara, Stephen Secord who being duly sworn on oath deposes and saith that Hannah Secord, wife of the deponent is the daughter of Simon DeForest, who was killed in coming to Niagara during the American War to join the British. Your Petitioner further says that the mother of his wife and her brother all obtained His Majesty's Letters Patent for Lands free of expense and further the Deponent saith not.

STEPHEN SECORD

25th October, 1806.

R. HAMILTON,  
Chairman.

The next document dates from 1799 to 1803 and is the account of a noted firm in Niagara, William and James Crooks, who owned much land in Niagara, the latter became the Hon James Crooks of Flamboro. The writing is very neat, on one page are articles from the general store as tea, paper, powder, sugar, cotton, paint, one lantern is 10 shillings, one pound Souchong tea is in one place sixteen shillings and in another fourteen shillings and green tea is sixteen shillings or two dollars.  $2\frac{1}{4}$  yds striped Kerseymer is 26s a yard £2. 10. 6; credit is given for 6 barrels of flour £9. 12, the whole account is £39. 4. 1, dated Niagara, 14th May, 1803. The second page is filled with a list of bushels of wheat 91 bushels and a credit of 20 barrels of flour counted at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  bushels each, due Mr. Secord 8 bushels 45 lbs. A short letter follows.

Niagara, 14th May, 1803

Above we have stated the account with your mill on which there is due you eight bushels forty five pounds of wheat and annexed a note of our account against you on which there appears due us £29. 12. 1 N. Y. Cy. which we hope you will find right. You were some time ago so good as to say that you would give us flour for this. If not inconvenient to you the delivery of it to Mr Clark at Queens-ton any time before the first of June, would greatly oblige us, being rather deficient in the quantity we wished to ship by that time owing to the disappointment we have met with at some of the mills, we are

Your very humble svts,  
W. & J. CROOKS.

Stephen Secord,  
St. Davids.

Married at Montreal by the Rev. D. C. DeLisle, Stephen Secord to Ann de Forest, 1784. Copied from report of Canadian Archives, 1885.

Family of James Secord and Madeline Badeau

BORN	MARRIED	DIED
March 9, 1755, Solomon,	Margaret Bowman	22nd Jan., 1799
Aug. 30, 1757, Stephen,	Hannah or Ann de Forest	31st Mar., 1808
Aug. 10, 1759, David,	1st Miss Millard, 2nd Cath. Smith, 3rd Widow Dunn, nee Polly Page	9th Aug., 1844
Feb. 21, 1762, John,	went away never heard of again	
May 4th, 1764, Magdaline,	Richard Cartwright	26th Jan., 1827
July 21, 1766, Esther,	unmarried	4th Feb., 1802
May 15, 1770, Mary.	Dr. Lawrence	22nd Feb., 1841
July 7th, 1773, James,	Laura Ingersoll	22 Feb., 1841

Stephen, second son of James Secord and Madeline Badeau, served in Butler's Rangers as Sergeant, his flour mill was carried on by his widow. His wife was a daughter of Simon and Mary de Forest. Simon lost his life in trying to join the British in the time of the American Revolution. He had been imprisoned in Albany. His wife and seven children were brought to Canada with other Loyalists by Loyal Indians and rescued by Colonel Butler. Solomon, Stephen and David, sons of James Secord served with him all through the war in Butler's Rangers.



## Reminiscences of Francis Goring

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Contributed by Mrs. Charlotte L. Perry  
a great granddaughter

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These extracts from the diary of Francis Goring and his letters, and other information were obtained from the Archives, Ottawa, by Mrs. Perry, who also went to England, spending some months there where she obtained some desired information, and has allowed us to copy her documents for publication. The editor has added sentences in several places in explanation. Francis Goring was born in 1776 and lived at Fort Niagara during nearly the entire period of the American Revolution, part of the time as chief clerk in the only trading establishment then in existence between Montreal and Detroit. He came as the indentured apprentice of Edward Pollard. By direction of Quarter Master General Christie he was given a free passage in a Government Transport sailing from Cork, 21st March, 1776. He was afterwards a partner in the firm of Bennet, Goring and Street. Leaving this partnership in September, 1781, he entered the service of the Hon. Robert Hamilton and we find his name on the Commission of Col. Nelles, signed by R. Hamilton, Lieutenant of the County of Lincoln, Francis Goring Secretary to the Lieutenant, County of Lincoln as witness in 1802. We also find that he was Land Agent for Nassau from May 15th, 1790 to 1803 and that he did much conveyancing and writing of legal documents. He also taught school on his own farm in one of the first school houses, 6 mile creek, in the township. Several little books are in existence with writing like copperplate, being extracts from the poets and standard writers as Johnson, Collins, Young, Cooper, Addison. Three of these little books are in existence, some of them dated 1837 8 with his name signed Fra. Goring, born 1755. He must then have been eighty-three years of age. His funeral card is dated 1842, so that he must have lived to the ripe age of eighty-seven. Of course part of the copying may have been done in his early years. One book has 102 pages, another 116 and all show a

taste for good literature and that he was well educated. The little note book as Land Commissioner in which he entered rents paid has quaint remarks as poor crops, will pay part, pay next year, pay in wheat, cannot promise, left the bill with some one.

To understand the allusions in the Goring Correspondence, some explanation of the state of affairs is necessary and this is found in the documents furnished by Mrs. Perry.

Three forts were still held by British garrisons in the midst of the Indian Country, Niagara Detroit and Mackinac. They were usually spoken of as "the Upper Forts" and the region round about was called "the upper country." They formed part of the Province of Quebec and were dependant upon it for all their supplies of every description. (The province of Upper Canada was not yet formed.) A small stockade at Oswegatchie now Ogdensburg and another at Deer or Carleton Island helped to keep their communication with Montreal. The portage around the Falls was on the American side and there were blockhouses and storehouses at the lower landing, (Lewiston) and the upper landing (Schlosser). There was also a blockhouse at the foot of Lake Erie called Fort Erie. A few small public vessels were employed in the navigation of the great lakes. In 1778 there were in Lake Ontario the sloop Caldwell and scows Haldimand and Seneca. On Lake Erie the schooners Gage, Dunmore, Hope and Faith, the sloops Adventure, Angelica and Felicity. All of these carried a few light pieces of cannon or swivels. No private vessels were allowed to be built and traders were obliged to transport their goods in these vessels or send them in small fleets or "brigades" of batteaux which were also subject to government regulations. To the southward lay the country of the Six Nations. The posts were at the mercy of this powerful confederacy which could send from its own tribes two thousand warriors to the field and its western allies between Lake Erie and the Ohio could command as many more. To those who knew the Indians the idea that they could be induced to remain neutral seemed absurd. Commanding officers wrote that it was with great difficulty they had been restrained from hostilities. On the other side Washington wrote to Congress 19th April, 1776, "In my opinion it will be impossible to keep them in a state of neutrality. They must and no doubt soon will take an active part either for or against us and I submit it to the consideration of Congress whether it would not be best to engage them on our side and to use our utmost endeavors to prevent their minds being poisoned by ministerial emissaries which will ever

be the case while a King's Garrison is suffered to remain in their country. Would it not therefore be advisable to send a sufficient force to take possession of the Garrisons of Niagara and Detroit. This I think might be easily effected and would answer the most salutary purposes. The Seneca Indians who have hitherto appeared friendly to us might be usefully employed on the business."

In consequence of these representations Congress instructed him by resolution at various times during the year to employ not more than 2000 warriors of the Six Nations, two companies of the Mobergans and Stockbridge Indians, five hundred of the Indians of St John, Nova Scotia and Penobscot and five hundred of the Cherokees and other Southern tribes and to pay them \$100 for every commissioned officer and \$30 for each private of the King's troops they should take prisoners and deliver up to the American forces. Agents were accordingly employed to carry out their instructions but with no great success

Guy Carleton, Governor of the Province of Quebec had as yet instructed his subordinates to keep the Indians neutral except in case of invasion, but it soon became a race to see who should secure their alliance first. In this the government possessed a great advantage. The officers of the Indian Department had remained loyal and headed by their superintendent, Col. Guy Johnson, removed to Canada at the beginning of the troubles, so that when about the 21st May, 1777, Carleton received instructions to direct the officers of the upper posts to assemble as many of the Indians in his district as he conveniently could, placing proper persons at their head to conduct their parties and restrain them from committing violence on the well affected and inoffensive inhabitants. The Six Nations continued divided until the end of the war, part joining the Americans while the remainder joined the Royal Forces. The number of regular troops stationed at Fort Niagara and dependencies did not exceed two hundred, but the Provincial Corps of Butler's Rangers which acted in conjunction with the Indians consisted at first of eight companies of fifty men each and Fort Niagara became its headquarters and base of operations.

In a letter from Fort Niagara, Goring wrote soon after his arrival. "There are no pleasures or prospects to direct the mind, being confined by the woods on one side and the water on the other. Our whole place consists of a fort and four houses and about five hundred men, therefore I leave you to judge how agreeable it must be to one who has been accustomed to much pleasure." He seems to have settled resolutely down to work and gained the favor and confidence of successive employers. Three years later 23rd Sept, 1779, he gives an account of his position in a letter to his uncle

James Crespel in London, England. "I have lived at this place three years last August and have had two masters in that time and am now getting a third still in the same house. The first was Mr. Pollard. He made a great fortune and left off. The second, Mr. Robertson, who was formerly a captain on these lakes is now tired of business and assigns in favor of George Forsyth, who has treated me with the greatest kindness and is ready to serve me in anything I should ask. I have had several offers by my two old employers to leave Niagara and live with them, but I believe I shall continue here which I prefer to Canada (he means Montreal) where everything is carried on with the greatest gayety and this is a place which you may say is almost out of the world in the woods and frequented by nothing but Indians, except the people of the garrison. As I have stuck close to business so long I shall continue that I may be of service to my lost sisters. At this place is carried on a great business which consumes every year £30,000 sterling worth of merchandise of all sorts which is mostly retailed to Indians. We employ four clerks of which I am senior. For the first two years my salary was but small, but I have now (and I flatter myself that there is not in these parts a clerk that has as much) about fifty guineas per annum, being found in food and washing. By carrying on a correspondence with my friend Mr. Cruikshank, who supplies me with silver work, such as the Indians wear and which I dispose of to merchants in the upper country and the profit arising therefrom is sufficient to keep me in clothes."

Archibald Cunningham writes from Deer (Carleton) Island, 1st June, 1778, "There are upwards of forty canoes of Indians on the ground at present, having come in the other day. Two small parties are now singing the war song to go on a scouting parley to Fort Stanwix (Utica, N. Y.) and the remainder wait for their presents."

On the 2nd August, Cunningham writes again from the same place. "Porlour sent by our commandant with a party to bring off his family and effects from Oswego, but on his arrival found that his government store had about fourteen days before been burnt by the rebels who took most of his effects, even the handkerchiefs from his lady's neck and his son a prisoner, yet he had the good fortune to find they had missed his bag of piasters, two milch cows, his wife and two daughters with which he had made his retreat to this place."

Again on the 10th June in the following year 1779, James Clark writes to Goring from Carleton Island, "We are repeatedly alarmed by the enemy's scouts who a few days ago took away two men from the island not one hundred yards from the fort and at ten o'clock in the morning. Up the whole of last night by alarms."

These attacks were made by Tuscaróras and Oneidas in the pay of Congress which menaced Oswegatchie at the same time. Lieut. Joseph Ferris of the Rangers a very active and daring scout and recruiting officer sends a laconic note to Mr. John Butch at Niagara (Falls) undated but probably written about this time. "I have made a safe return with success."

On the 28th May Col. Butler had written: "Mr. Ferris brought in two recruits and Mr. Wood has been across North River and recruited seventy men."

The Hon. Robert Hamilton writes to Mr. Goring from Montreal June 28, 1779 "At home our privateers and cruisers have been very lucky. At Liverpool alone they have taken to the value of two millions. Among these captures are six French East India men with cargoes estimated at £1,800,000 Stg." On 1st July Goring's employer, Mr. Robinson writes from Fort Niagara to Goring who seems to be on his way to Montreal to purchase goods. "Col. Butler wishes you to purchase in Canada 200 pounds battle powder and forward it as soon as possible." The Indian country was then threatened by a numerous and well appointed army under Gen. Sullivan which succeeded in laying waste entirely their country. The hopes and fears of the little community at Fort Niagara were centered upon the small band of Rangers and Indians to repel the invaders.

On 14th Sept. Goring informed Hamilton "that tobacco is a very scarce article at Detroit and sells at from 8 to 10 shillings a pound. I have made out the other Indian a count for £5808, 17s 9½d which is now gone to the Indian country to be certified."

It was naturally supposed that Sullivan would follow up his success by an attack on Fort Niagara and a few regular troops were hastily sent from below to strengthen the garrison, still resistance was thought to be nearly hopeless in the face of a superior force which Butler declared it to be where he could only muster hundreds. Pollard writing from Montreal 29th Sept. expressed no doubt the prevailing sentiment when he said "I am extremely concerned for Col. Butler's situation and for Niagara, ere this their fate must be decided."

On 23rd Sept., 1779, Mr. Goring wrote to R Hamilton from Fort Niagara "Yesterday Capt Peter Hare and Lieut Frey arrived from Col. Butler. Lieut. Henry Hare, Sergt Newburg and some Rangers went on a scouting party to Mohawk river. Of this the rebels got intelligence, surrounded his home, took him and tis said he was hanged at his own door. As it is only Indian news I hope it may prove false. Further news of this tragedy are not available, but it is certain that they were put to death in great haste."

In consequence of the destruction of their villages and standing crops more than 5000 Indians fled for shelter and relief to Fort Niagara where they became entirely dependent upon the Garrison stores for the necessities of life and as the winter of 1779 80 was unusually severe their sufferings were acute. Nor were these privations entirely confined to them. On the 9th December, 1779, John Warren, Assistant Commissary at Fort Erie, addressed this doleful appeal to Mr. Goring "For God's sake keep three or four pair of women's shoes till I come, for our folks are barefoot" Writing again on the 23rd of Jan., 1780, "We have experienced the longest succession of severe weather I ever felt in Canada. It has snowed and drifted every day this month. We have not less than four feet on the ground. The sun has become a stranger, hardly ever showing his face and when he does it is through a mist as if he intended to be not too familiar."

In a letter addressed from Niagara (Falls) to Samuel Street in Montreal 15th March, Goring says "Liquors are very scarce here and at Detroit. Lay in as large a stock as our circumstances will allow. Blankets are very scarce. Col. Johnson has sent down orders to buy up all the blankets in Canada. Be sure not to forget to bring something to eat as provisions are very scarce here, flour in particular. If you could procure two or three kegs of corned beef I believe it will answer."

On the 21st May, 1780, Goring chronicles the arrival of the family of Benjamin Gilbert, a Quaker, fifteen persons in all, taken prisoners by the Indians at Mahoming near Wyoming. They were ransomed by Capts. Dease & Powell, Dr. Kilyard, Col. Guy Johnson, Capt Brant and Jesse Pawling.

Bennett, Goring and Samuel Street entered into a partnership for three years, 10th July, 1780, but this was cancelled 19th Sept., 1781. Goring receiving for his share £150, N. Y. Cy., and a store house at the landing

25th March, 1783, a letter from his uncle James Crespel, presents a gloomy picture of the state of feeling among the traders of the mother country on the eve of the peace by which the independence of the United States was recognized. "As to news I don't know what to say. You have everything you can possibly desire on your side of the Atlantic, but poor old England I think is in her wane, both of glory and trade, as no ships can be cleared at the Custom House for the United States till the return of a packet dispatched for that purpose."

A fragment of a journal for the year 1788, was among the other papers. "The winter of 1788 9 became memorable as the "famine year" and the events considered by him most worthy of

record as a rule, were the arrival and departure of vessels with provisions. "May 15th the Caldwell from Kingston 1st this year; 19th Speedwell from Detroit, 1st this year; four boats from United States with flour at £3, 4 per cwt; eight more boats with flour for Dr. Gales; May 20th Lord Henry Fitzgerald arrived in the Lady Dorchester with Mr. Cartwright and Polly Lawrence; June 20th five boats from U. S. with flour at \$8 per hundred hard cash; June 22nd David Secord returned from Canalsago with flour; June 28th Major Findlay and family here from Mohawk river and Sergt. Teel with 20 barrels flour; July 26th flour sold at £4 per cwt. by Capt. Nelles; Aug 6th great rejoicing kept for the recovery of His Majesty's health The cannon fired in the Fort and every house illuminated on north side of the river.

March 17th, 1790. "The new school house begun on the Three Mile Creek. Moved in 24th April" Not the least interesting and valuable document is the following memorial:

Nassau, May 15th, 1790

(Francis Goring was land agent for Nassau from 1790 to 1803)  
To the Honorable Members of the Land Board for the District of Nassau:

The petition of the distressed inhabitants of this settlement humbly sheweth,

That your memorialists by the scarcity of provisions from the failure of crops and number of families coming here in the year, 1788, were obliged through the great humanity of Col. Hunter, commanding officer of the garrison for the loan of a quantity of provisions and the time being arrived for payment, we still find with sorrow that we are not in circumstances to replace it, as most of us have lost our cattle and many of us by that means are drove to the necessity of putting in our grain with hoe and rake. Although we have a grateful sense of our obligations we are under to that humane commandant, still we lament our inability to fulfil our obligations to Government and we find with the distress we are bringing our families into by giving our bonds on interest for the provisions at the dear rate they now sell at here, and that the mortgage and sale of our lands must be the consequence.

Your memorialists therefore humbly beg that you will be pleased to lay our miserable situation before his Lordship and we presume to hope from his known humanity that he will take our case into consideration and grant such farther time for replacing them as will enable us to do it without paying money or depriving us of future support for helpless families."

The manner in which the first mills were built is seen in the following agreement:

"James Clendenan agrees with Jones Carl to build a saw mill on the Twenty Mile Creek, 42 ft by 26 ft. with 2 saws, 2 water wheels, 2 carriages and log way 25 feet long for £80 N. Y. Cy., 1 barrel of 208 lbs. pork and 3 cwt. of flour, Carl to haul all lumber, furnish all boards, planks, blacksmith's work and do all digging. The mill to be completed by 7th November, 1793."

#### FROM LAND BOARD

Ann Goring of the Township of Niagara, wife of Fred, A. Goring, praying for land is the daughter of Herman Hostetter, a U. E. L. The petitioner, Ann Goring was recommended for 200 acres of land.

Approved, A. Grant, President."

Under the date of 4th Aug., 1780, Goring notes the fact that "Secord commenced farming over the river." With little doubt the first attempt at agriculture by the British in the Province of Ontario. From Col. Cruikshank in our publication No. 17, we find that General Haldimand had proposed the scheme of settling farmers on the west side of the river to supply food to the troops stationed at Fort Niagara as transportation was both precarious and expensive. In a letter to Lord George Germain, the Secretary of War and the Colonies, dated 13th September, 1779. "By encouraging the farmers to raise grain and cattle in the vicinity the security of these posts would be increased and the troops better supplied"

With regard to the memorial to the Land Board of the distressed inhabitants May 5th, 1790, it is told that when the Duke of Kent visited Governor Simcoe at Niagara, he heard that the inhabitants were suffering from the demands made on them to repay the food supplied in the hungry year and at once gave orders that such demands should be withdrawn at once.

When Mrs Perry went to England in search of records of the Goring family she found that the name was there spelled Goringe and she obtained the following:

"19th Nov. 1753, married Abraham Goringe and Ann Lloyd of St. Bridgets, Fleet Street. I certify that the above is a true extract from the register book of Marriages belonging to the Parish of St. George, Hanover square, this 22nd day of November, 1911, by me, Charles Marsey, caretaker of the registers."

The birth certificate was obtained at Charing Cross, London, England, Jan. 2nd, 1912. "Frances Goring, born August 26th,



1755. Baptized 7th, Sept. 1755, of Abraham and Ann Goringe of St. Martin in the Field."

Mrs. Perry advertised for records thus:

"Urgent, One Guinea Reward  
Parish Clerk's Hall, 24 Silver Wood St., E. C.

#### WANTED

Baptismal Certificate of Abraham Goringe or Goring between 1720 and 1735, also his marriage certificate to Ann Lloyd 1750 to 1752 and his death certificate 1765 to 1810. The above reward will be paid on application to Mrs. Charlotte L. Perry, nee Goringe, or Wm. Jas. Mayhew, Clerk to the Company."

We see as above that one of them was obtained. From St. Mark's register, Niagara, was obtained the marriage certificate of Frederick A. Goring, the eldest son of Francis Goring to Ann Hostetter, Nov. 5th, 1805. The funeral notice of Francis Goring shows that he was buried at Homer on 1st Nov., 1842. Mrs. Perry also obtained a record that Richard Goringe in 1768 or 1770 willed all his goods and all that he possessed to his brother Abraham Goringe of St. Martins in the Fields, a bookseller, 1770, date of proof of will by Abraham Goringe, the sole executor.

# Recollections of the War of 1812

From Manuscript of the Late Hon. James Crooks

The following paper supplied by Mr. A. F. Crooks, was printed by the Women's Historical Society of Toronto, by whose kind permission we are now enabled to publish it. This is peculiarly appropriate as the Crooks family had such a great interest in the town, William and James Crooks owning so much property here, documents are in existence showing the exchange with the government of twenty one acres near the river for sixteen acres farther up in the town. James Crooks was a member and trustee of the first library in Upper Canada at Niagara, 1800 to 1820. John Crooks was postmaster and an elder in St. Andrew's Church, being superintendent of the Union Sunday School, 1819. Francis Crooks was a member of the Agricultural Society founded in 1792. Ramsay Crooks must have been of an adventurous character, for he is mentioned in Astoria by Washington Irving as a member of that expedition. The brothers were from Kilmarnock, Scotland, and are buried one in Niagara, one in Grimsby and one in West Flamboro'. The writer of the article was a member of the Legislative Council for twenty-five years; as Captain in the 1st Lincoln Militia was favorably mentioned for his conduct at Queenston Heights, and as a successful merchant in Niagara it is said shipped the first wheat and flour to Montreal.

We are particularly fortunate in being able to publish this article. It settles one point that has been discussed. It is here shown that Brock's funeral procession was from Government House across the common to Fort George. The first Government House was at Navy Hall in Simcoe's time, the second in town near the present Court House where the electric car station now stands.—J. C., Ed

When Banaparte's success on the Continent of Europe had brought all the Nations under subjection to him, Great Britain was the only enemy left for him to contend with. Happily, from her insular situation, his Victorious armies were of no avail, and hoping to cripple her resources and destroy her credit he had recourse to a system of restrictions upon the commerce of Nations under his influence, with the view of effecting his purpose. Hence the Berlin and Milan decrees, the object of which was to prevent all intercourse with England and Dependencies by making lawful prize of any vessel touching at either or even being boarded on the high seas by

British Cruiser. To counteract these Decrees, Orders in Council were passed by our Government, so that under the one or the other Neutral Nations were placed in an exceedingly precarious position in carrying on their Foreign commerce, and, more than any other, the United States, from having become to a great extent the carriers of the world.

No wonder, therefore, that angry feelings were engendered, and as England commanded the Ocean these feelings were more acrimonious towards her than towards France, the original cause of this state of things. Hence strong remonstrances were made to Our Court, and although the British Government was quite willing to rescind the Orders in Council if the Berlin and Milan decrees were also rescinded, yet a hostile feeling towards England was encouraged in the United States and it was evident collision must follow unless an amicable arrangement could be come to.

It may be recollected that about this time Russia began to resent the state of thralldom these decrees placed her in, her only intercourse with Foreign Nations being over the Mountains of the Balkan, which separate Russia from Turkey (a communication which, if not opened, was, suggested, by the late Mr. Galt), and the then Government of France, finding itself thwarted in its favorite scheme, was preparing that grand invasion of Russia which ultimately prostrated that Country at the feet of those whom she had so long domineered over, and which entailed so much misery on a large portion of the Human race. That France was, at that time, all powerful, no one will deny, so much so that in England dismal thoughts would occasionally obtrude themselves upon even the most sanguine, indeed it was felt that she was then contending for her very existence as an independent Nation.

No wonder, then, that Brother Johathan thought the opportunity a favorable one for carrying out his long cherished scheme of annexing Canada to the American Union. According to General Armstrong's book, written to throw the blame of the failure of their armies on the Niagara frontier on Colonel Van Rensselaer, who was at the time Secretary of War, this appears to have been determined upon the year before, but war was not declared till 18th June, 1812, and strange to say, although not known in the United States, the Orders in Council were actually rescinded before war was declared. By this book of General Armstrong's it appears that preparations were made along the whole Canadian Frontier in the Fall of 1811, and war-like stores sent to Burlington on Lake Champlain. Yet neither the Government of England, so far as was known, nor any of the Colonies, had any suspicion that such was the case; on the contrary, all the cannon in Upper Canada were ordered to be re-

moved to Quebec, and many pieces were so removed thither because as was alleged, the Government had no hope of preserving Upper Canada.

The late Francis Gore was then Lieut. Governor, but General the late Sir Isaac Brock happened at the time to command the troops, and some difficulty having arisen between them on account of this disarming of Western Canada, the former was recalled and the latter appointed President in his stead. (The population of Canada at this time was about 70,000.) Sir Isaac, when he assumed the Government, prepared for the worst, and in the Session of Parliament held in the Winter of 1811-12 he obtained an Act to be passed authorizing the embodiment of two companies from each regiment of Militia in the then Upper Province, each company to consist of 75 rank and file. The command of these companies became an object of ambition with the young and enterprising officers, and such was the loyalty and good feeling of the people towards their Government that the companies were very generally filled up by volunteers—and on more than one occasion tears fell from the eyes of those who were rejected, not from any doubt of their loyalty or courage, but from a doubt that their bodily strength was sufficient to carry them through the fatiguing campaign anticipated. Being drilled once a week at first (but afterwards not so often) by non-commissioned Officers from the Line, they had attained a tolerable degree of discipline when war was declared, no doubt stimulated by a feeling that they had a good cause.

The first hostile Act on the part of the United States was the capture of a merchant vessel on Lake Ontario by the Brigg Oneida commanded by Captain Woolsey. This vessel, it appears, was a fast sailer, and being ahead of several others in Company, beating up the Lake against a head wind from Prescott, the Oneida made for her first, intending to take those to leeward afterward, but night coming on they fortunately escaped. The object of the American Government obviously was to secure as many of the vessels on the Lake as they could to assist in their future operations against Canada. This was put past all doubt, as one of the Owners immediately proceeded to Sacket's Harbour and reclaimed his property—no war being then declared—nor was it till a fortnight afterwards. In spite of this she was immediately armed, and the next year was upset by a squall in a night action with the British Fleet under Sir James Yeo, and went to the bottom, only a few of her crew escaping in a boat. (There is an interesting account of this event published in a little work by "Ned Myers," edited by the late novelist Cooper.) Strange to say, the owners have not been indemnified for their vessel to this day by either their own or the American Government, although

repeated applications have been made to both, and even a joint address to the Crown voted by both branches of the Legislature of Upper Canada. Yet only recently a British Fleet was sent to Athens to compel payment of a few hundred pounds to Don Pacifico, a Maltese Jew. (See Note, end of this article.)

Singular as it may appear, no arrangements were made by the Agents of the British Government in the United States to communicate intelligence of an event so vitally important to Canada as the declaration of War. Thanks to the late Honourable John Richardson of Montreal, who, being in New York a short time before, made arrangements with a gentleman there to send expresses to Niagara and Montreal should such an event take place. Sir Isaac Brock was in actual possession of the news several days before the Garrison of Fort Niagara on the opposite side of the Niagara River was aware that Congress had declared war. Sir Isaac, with his usual foresight, had organized a Car Brigade of Militia as well as an Artillery Company in addition to the Flank Companies, and with these in conjunction with the Regular Troops, consisting of a portion of the 41st Regiment (then the only regiment garrisoning all Upper Canada), aided by two Companies of the 49th Regiment and the remnant of the Newfoundland Regiment, with a few Artillery men, he determined at once to attack Fort Niagara, and every preparation was made for that purpose. Reflecting, however, that the knowledge he had of war being declared came through a private channel, and having nothing official from any British authority, he thought it prudent not to assume the responsibility. Here, then, we were fairly, or rather unfairly, engaged in a war, though no Canadian interest was involved in it, and the Farmer, Mechanic and Tradesman, the Merchant and the Lawyer had all to abandon their respective occupations and fly to defend the frontier. A respectable force was thus collected, and in all parts of the Province the same spirit manifested itself, but so little had been done preparatory to meet this state of things that Sir Isaac had no Military chest, nor money enough at his command to buy provisions, nor even blankets or shoes for the Militia. He, under the circumstances, made his wants known to a number of Gentlemen of credit, who formed themselves into what was called the "Niagara & Queenston Association," the Late Mr. Robert Grant of Queenston being appointed Manager, and several thousand pounds were issued in the shape of Bank Notes, which were currently received throughout the Country and afterwards redeemed with Army bills when that system was adopted.

Until the rumour of General Hull's invasion of Detroit reached us the routine duty of guarding the Frontier was the only duty to be

performed—in course of which a Militia man named Hendershot from Ancaster was killed while on duty as a Sentinel at the Lime Kiln near the whirlpool, by a shot from across the River. At the same time the militia were improving in their discipline.

When Sir Isaac had arranged the Civil affairs of the Province by a short session of the Provincial Legislature and learned that Hull had not advanced into the interior of the Country, but had recrossed the River to Detroit, he resolved to attack Hull in his position, the successful result of which daring enterprise is so well known that it requires no notice here. On General Brock's return to Niagara matters went on much as usual, except that it was understood the enemy was rapidly increasing his forces on the Frontier. As, however, the season advanced, it was so well ascertained that such was the case, and that a large force was so collected under General Van Rensselaer, whose headquarters were at Lewiston, but the general impression was that he would not attack unless compelled by orders from the President to do so, or the impatience of his men, one half of whom were volunteers, full of fight, and anxious to attach Canada to the United States. To such a height had this feeling reached that they were on the point of lynching him, when he was obliged to make a demonstration, and arrangements were actually made one stormy night for crossing the River at Queenston, but by some mistake the person intrusted with the care of the boats took them up the rapids above Lewiston, so that the attempt was given up for that night. On the evening of the 11th of October, 1812, a merchant vessel from Kingston was about entering the Niagara River when a large Boat full of men was seen descending, which it was thought intended boarding her. General Brock being of that opinion, directed the guns on our batteries, several of which, 24 pounders, taken with Hull, were placed in position opposite the American Fort, to be manned. This excited a good deal of interest, and many of us went to see what was going on, when the General turned round and said "We had better return to our respective companies as our services might be required." This was instantly done, and in the evening I met General Brock in the street on his way home, when I learned that the boat had not attacked the vessel, but had turned the point of the Fort and gone down the Lake. He asked me to apologize to the Ladies of my family for his not calling on them, having then "his War Sword on" (pointing to it). This was the last time I saw him in life.

The morning of the 12th was one of those uncomfortable, cold, stormy days that at this season of the year so strongly in this climate mark the changes of the season. Throughout the Summer and Fall the Militia paraded at break of day in one of the Streets of

Niagara, under cover of the houses, to prevent the enemy from seeing the paucity of our numbers, when the Guard and Piquets for the day were despatched and the returns given in. This morning, for the first time, the weather being so inclement, I thought I would leave the duty to my subordinates, and turned round on my bed to have another snooze. I had hardly done so when one of them knocked at my window, and on inquiring who was there he informed me that the Yankees had crossed the River, and that they had been fighting at Queenston all night, but strange to say no messenger had reached us, nor did we hear the report of any guns, although several pieces of artillery were used in the action, so strong was the gale off the Lake. He further said that the Militia were ordered to rendezvous under Fort George, upon which I directed him to turn out the men and that I would be immediately with them. This was soon done and it was most gratifying, it being then broad daylight, to see each Company from their respective quarters in town vieing with each other which should cross the plain which separates the town from Fort George first. On arriving there the arms were stacked and the men stood at ease waiting orders. Here we heard that the General had left at break of day for Queenston, and being curious to see what was going on at the Fort, I repaired thither, and on entering the gate met Colonel Hidercroft, who commanded the Artillery, coming out, who informed me he was just about to open his guns on the American Fort, but that he was short of men. Having had during the Summer a Sergeant and sixteen men stationed at Brown's Point, half way between Niagara and Queenston, who had been trained to a Six pounder by a Bombardier of the Royal Artillery, I said I would send him all I could find, which was only two or three, one of whom named Vrooman stood exposed on the Battery nearest the enemy all day loading and firing a 24 Pounder. I also suggested that Sailors were famous for service on such occasions—that I would go down to the wharf where the vessel was lying, the same that was on the Bar the evening before, and send him what I could muster.

So little was known of what had been going on at Queenston in the night that Captain Richardson, who had been a Quarter Master on board Rodney's ship in the famous action of the 12th July with Count de Grasse, was thunder struck when I told him of it, his vessel being within point blank shot of the American Fort. He told me also that he had a quantity of gunpowder on board, but would discharge it and give Hidercroft every assistance in his power. Our first Gun did not carry half way across the river owing to the powder having been in the country ever since the first American war, but this was speedily remedied by fresh powder, and after a pro-

tracted cannonade the Americans abandoned the Fort. They, however, seemed prepared, and early in the morning opened on the town with red hot shot, which set fire to and burned the Court House and Gaol.

Soon after I had returned to my men, an express arrived from Queenston with an order for a reinforcement of 130 men of the Militia; these I was anxious to take command of, although a brother who was present with his company was an older officer than myself. I represented to him that we ought not to risk both our lives on the same chance, that we had both married about two years before and had each one child, and that if anything befel either of us the survivor would take care of the other's family; that my own opinion was the battle would be fought at Niagara, and that the attack at Queenston was a mere ruse de guerre to draw the force from Niagara, upon which he gave way and I marched off with my reinforcement composed of parts of Five companies.

I have already stated that the strength of the flank companies was 75 men rank and file, of which 25 had gone on duty to guard the Lake shore that morning, and those of the day before had not come in when the alarm was given, so that only one third was available. These were composed of my own company, Capt. McEwans of 1st Regiment of Lincoln, Capt. Abraham Miles, under Lieut. Butler from Grimsby, Capt. Selby from Young Street under Lieut. Vanderburgh and Capt. Burns from Newcastle District. On reaching McFarlane's about a Mile from Fort George we learned that Brock had been killed. This I endeavoured to keep from the men, fearing it might damp their spirits, but soon found they all knew it, although it seemed to make no impression on them. On reaching opposite Brown's Point I met on the road the officer in command of the Company of Militia stationed there, who inquired where I was going. On my answering "to Queenston," he said I was mad, and that if I proceeded we would all be taken prisoners, as our people there had been completely routed, the General killed and his Aide de Camp mortally wounded, besides that, 400 Yankees were on our flank in the edge of the woods marching to attack Niagara. I replied that I was ordered to go to Queenston and would do so if I could, ordering my men at the same time to load with ball cartridge. I, however, ordered a Corporal and two men to go to a height on our right to look out for those 400 Yankees, but they had hardly left the ranks when I saw a British Soldier on the look out and recalled them. I had marched only a few hundred yards when I met the Lieutenant of the same Company at Brown's Point, who repeated nearly word for word what had passed between me and his superior officer a few minutes before. I have often since reflected how



fortunate it was I did not take their advice and return to Niagara, as had I done so, in all probability General Sheaffe would have retired to the head of the Lake with what force—mostly regulars—had been left in Fort George, the later action at Queenston would not have been fought, the 3,000 or 4,000 Americans at Lewiston would have crossed the river when they found the Country abandoned, and the loss of Canada to Great Britain would have been sealed.

When I came to Durham's, about a mile from Queenston, I found the house filled with wounded men, both of our own and of the enemy, and in a bed chamber my worthy friend the gallant Lieut.-Colonel McDonell, Brock's Aide de Camp, lying mortally wounded.

Finding it impossible to proceed further, and waiting orders, I repaired to the bank of the river, where a Six pounder was still playing on the boats crossing the river from Lewiston, but with little effect, the distance being too great, and on returning my men complained of hunger, as they had marched without their breakfast. Seeing a patch of potatoes growing near by I directed them to dig and boil them. This was soon done, and every pot and kettle in the house was soon wallowing on the fire in the kitchen, when General Sheaffe, with the remainder of the 41st Regiment, and Holcroft with a few artillery men and a six pounder, made their appearance, and an order was presently issued to fall in, and the poor hungry fellows were obliged to leave their potatoes behind them.

On crossing the ravine at Durham's the fences were let down and we took a course to the right in the direction of St David's, where we found an old road ascending the mountain about two miles west of Queenston. Up this road we soon made the top and formed in a ploughed field to receive the enemy, who was said to be advancing, but it proved a false alarm. We then marched on and took possession of the main road leading from Queenston to the Falls, there awaiting reinforcements that had been ordered from Chippawa of the Grenadiers of the 41st Regiment under Captain Bullock and some Companies of Militia under Colonel Clark. Here we began to be pelted with shot from an 18 pounder battery on the opposite side of the river called Fort Gray, but it did no harm, the shot flying over us as we lay on the ground. This same Battery saluted us with a few shots while marching through the low ground from Durham's but they proved equally harmless. It was most interesting, however, to see Norton, young Brant, and Kerr, with about fifty Indians, driving in the outposts of the enemy on the edge of the heights above us. They being reinforced, obliged the Indians to retire. This happened several times, and as there was a clear sky beyond, it became quite a picture to witness the evolutions. Before reaching the heights an order came to me to detach 25 men as a

covering to a six pounder with which Holcroft took possession of Queenston. With the shelter of an old milk house on the bank of the river he maintained his ground and prevented any boat from crossing till the action ceased, although exposed to the fire of Fort Gray nearly over his head, two six pounders in front on the opposite side of the River, and one on Queenston Heights. Notwithstanding this formidable array against him, he had only one gunner wounded in the foot. While passing through the fields we were joined by a few stragglers and amongst them was Captain, now Sir James, Dennis, who was then in the 49th Regiment, and afterwards commanded the 2nd Regiment throughout the Afghan War and was knighted for his gallantry. He was wounded in the night action, as well as the horse he rode. Although the blood had ceased to flow, he appeared much exhausted yet he would not leave the field till all was over. It was rather trying for Militia men who had never been in action to remain, pelted with bullets from Fort Gray, for more than an hour in face of the enemy. The latter were posted in a young wood, where Brock's monument now stands, with a worn fence in front, and their bayonets glistening in the sun. In the meantime two soldiers were sent to examine the wood on the left of the enemy's position, who soon returned, one of them having received a ball through his thigh. At last, part of the reinforcements having arrived from Chippawa, the order was given to advance and attack the enemy. This was done by advancing in line from the left, the light company of the 49th Regiment leading till fairly in front of the Yankees, when an order came for the Regular troops to front and attack, but no orders for the Militia to do so were received, and as they were marching in file, the distance was constantly increasing between the Militia and Regulars. Seeing a Company in front fall into confusion upon hearing the booming of two 3 pounders we had with us under Lieut. John C. Ball of the Provincial Artillery, the present Reeve of the Township of Niagara, I no longer hesitated to face to the front, and at double quick we soon encountered the enemy. On the advance, I perceived an iron 6 pounder abandoned by the enemy, and as I was looking at it wistfully, an officer who had charge of a few coloured men called out to me by name that "it is not spiked." I ran to it with two or three of my men, and finding it pointed at Holcroft in the Village, I turned it round upon a large group of Yankees in Lewiston, our own people being between it and the enemy on the heights. I found the slow match burning at a short distance off and returned to the Gun, which was fired off by Colonel Clark of the Militia, who at that moment came into action and was on the proper side of it for doing so. Although neither sponge nor ramrod was found, yet those who followed managed to discharge it

several times afterwards upon the enemy at Lewiston, While pressing forward into the thick of the battle I espied an Indian giving the coup de grace to a Militia man whom he mistook for a Yankee, none of us being in uniform, but who turned out to be a man from Toronto named Smith. The poor fellow put his hand to his head and it was all over with him. The battle, although not of long continuance, was a very warm and close one. I have been in many hail storms, but never in one when the stones flew so thick as the bullets on this occasion. The lines were very near each other, and every foot of the ground the enemy gave way gave us an advantage, as on their side it descended. After about half an hour's close engagement they disappeared in the smoke, throwing down their arms, and ran down the heights to the water's edge in the vain hope of reaching their own side, but Holcroft took good care that no boat could cross. In the action one of my men, Dan Stewart of St. David's, was struck with a ball on the knuckle of his right hand while drawing the trigger of his musket, which disabled him; upon this I took it and what ammunition he had left and expended every cartridge before the fire ceased, the last at a skiff crossing the river, which I took to be some American Officer trying to escape. Luckily it did not take effect, as afterwards it proved to be Lieut. Kerr carrying a proposal to the American General for an armistice. Another man named Brown was also wounded in the arm; the poor fellow died about a week afterwards, and some days thereafter I discovered that a ball had passed through the skirt of my own coat.

Just before the action commenced Colonels Clench and Butler, with Joe Wilcox, appeared upon the ground, but did not join the Militia preferring to serve with the regular troops. When the smoke cleared away I discovered a large group of Yankees at Fort Gray opposite and prevailed upon the gunners of the two small guns we had with us to give them several shots, but the officer declined giving them more, as the Bugle had several times sounded to cease firing. At that moment I received a message from General Sheaffe that he wished to see me, which I immediately complied with, and on the way down the hill met Doctor Thorn, a surgeon of the Staff, who exclaimed, "G —, man there does not seem to be any of you killed." "Well, Doctor," I replied, "it is well it is so, but go into that guard house and you'll find plenty to do for your saws and other surgical instruments (with which he was amply equipt)."

On reaching the General at the bottom of the hill, I was very graciously received, and after complimenting in no measured terms, the conduct of the Militia in the Battle, he desired me to assist Capt. Derenzy of the 41st Regiment with my men in escorting the Prisoners to Niagara, which of course I complied with. While yet with him

the American Militia General was brought in, who drew his sword and presented the handle to General Sheaffe, who said, "I understand, General, your people have surrendered," to which he made no other answer than bowing his head in token that it was so. While the prisoners were being mustered on the high ground on which Queenston is built, I espied my old friend Doctor Muirhead of Niagara walking towards where I stood with an American Officer. I went towards them and the Doctor requested me to conduct "Colonel Scott" to the House, where the officers were being collected. This I did, and the next day he was, with a few others, put in my charge at Niagara, and I went with them to visit their wounded in the Scotch Church; which had been converted into a hospital. It turned out to be the same General Scott who is now at the head of the American Army. How or where he was taken I could never distinctly ascertain, but it was rumoured that he followed down the river below a bank that concealed him, in the hope of finding the means of escaping to his own side, when he was discovered by some Indians who pursued him, and that he ran and gave himself up to some Militia men who happened to be near by, from whom he was received by Dr. Muirhead. The prisoners were speedily collected and we began the march to Niagara. When about half a mile on the way one of my Sergeants (Cross) came to me with information that a large boat with stores was lying under the high bank in the River. On going there I found no stores, but only a few muskets, and two poor wretches on the shore severely wounded one through the groin and the other had his bowels shot out. I said, "You appear to be elderly men and I dare say have families; what could possess you to place yourselves in the situation you are? Why come I found to disturb the peaceable inhabitants of Canada? We have no quarrel with you, nor any interest at stake." They answered with much feeling, "Oh, Sir, we were persuaded to come." They were put on board the boat and taken to Fort George, but both died in the Hospital the same night. Another man was sitting on the stick at the fore part of the boat put across for the rowers to put their feet against and leaning on the seat. On taking him by the head I found he was dead, a ball having entered his forehead. On rejoining the escort I learnt that my horse, which I had lent to the Adjutant of the Regiment the evening before, was at a house near by, and, having obtained Captain Derenzy's permission, I rode home, and found that my family had no knowledge of what had been going on in the fore part of the day, as they were about a mile from town, near the Lake shore.

The Militia prisoners were paroled and sent across the River, the regular troops to Quebec, whence they were sent to one of the

Eastern States when a general exchange took place. Among them were fourteen deserters from our Army. These were taken to England, tried and condemned to be executed, but more of them hereafter. Brock and McDonnell's funeral was a very imposing and affecting affair; about 5,000 militia had by this time assembled, and formed in a double line from his late residence in town to Fort George, in a Bastion of which their bodies were laid until years afterwards, when they were removed to the monument erected on Queenston Heights. To say that General Brock's loss was irreparable was but too truly proven by the subsequent events of the war, for although those who succeeded him in command did not want for either courage or capacity, yet of both there are different degrees, and none possessed the confidence of the inhabitants to the extent that he did.

During the cannonade in the morning of the 13th, Captain Barnard Frey, an old campaigner in the half pay of Butler's Rangers, in which corps he served during the first American war, was passing down one of the streets of Niagara, carrying a cannon ball in his arm which he had picked up, when met by an acquaintance, who asked him what he was going to do with it. To this he replied, he was going to send it back to the Yankees. Presently afterwards a ball from the other side first struck the ground, then the one in his arm, killing him dead upon the spot without breaking the skin.

On the Sunday night after the battle an alarm was given that the enemy, notwithstanding the armistice, were crossing the river a short distance above Fort George, on which every man, and there were many, turned out with alacrity and formed in the principal street ready to meet any emergency. It turned out a false alarm, and we returned to our respective quarters.

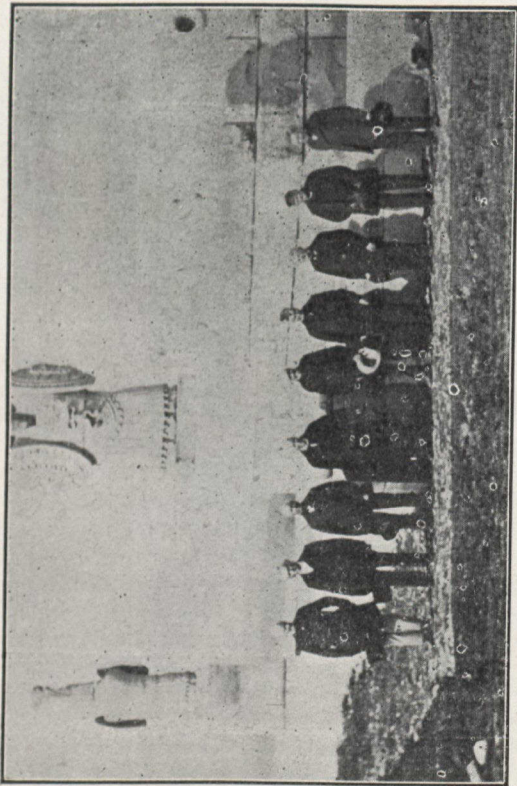
In reviewing the Battle of Queenston Heights it may be excusable in one of the actors to offer a few remarks: In the first place when General Sheaffe found that the real attack was at Queenston, why did he not call in his piquets and guards which were strung along the Lake shore and at other places within call and take them with him? Two hundred and fifty or three hundred Militia alone could thus have been collected who in the afternoon were idle spectators of the abandoned American Fort opposite, the Garrison having decamped under cover of the bank of the Lake about noon. The Militia were desirous of crossing the River in the Schooner lying at Navy Hall, and taking possession, but were not allowed by the Officer in Command. The attack on the heights appeared, too, to be oddly managed. Who ever heard of an army defiling in front of an enemy occupying a strong field position? It is true the Regular troops were, after a time and when they had nearly gained the front of the enemy's

position, ordered to attack in line, but no such order was given to the Militia, of which the majority of the force was composed, and had it not been that the right or last company (the attack being from the left) without orders dashed upon the enemy, it is hard to say what would have been the fate of the day, more particularly, as already mentioned, as one Company had already fallen into disorder. The General must have seen all this, following the attack as he did with a stick in his hand, and a reserve Militia under Capt. James Hall. The force engaged I could never make out to exceed 700 or 750 combatants on our side. Of these about 400 were Militia and 300 Regular troops, with 50 Indians.

Certainly it did not reach 800 men, and two 3 pounder guns. The prisoners exceeded 900 rank and file, besides officers, and I have since learned that 1,500 stand of arms was collected after the action, besides the 6 pounder abandoned on the heights. In all the American accounts I have read a great stress is laid upon the Heights being fortified, but it was not so; not a single gun was there, nor even breast work of any kind, nor a man to defend it. Such implicit reliance was placed on its natural position that there was not even a look out

Some years afterwards I descended the St. Lawrence with General Wool, then bearing the rank of captain, who informed me that at break of day, finding their position untenable in the low ground between the village and the river, he represented to Colonel Van Rensselaer, the senior officer, who was then lying severely wounded, that they would all be taken prisoners unless something was done, and proposed trying to get possession of the Heights, which could be done, he thought, by concealing the men under cover afforded by the young wood growing on the bank. This the colonel approved of and his success justified the daring feat. The only guns were two 3-pounders, which had been used in the village in the night action, and no doubt did good service as the ground was limited in extent, and an 18 pounder in a Battery half way up the mountain which commanded the passage of the river, and by their own account did a good deal of execution on the force embarking at Lewiston.

This Battery was placed under a bluff projection of the mountain. Brock was in it at the time, and the first intimation he had of the enemy being in possession of the heights was a party firing into it from this bluff point above, when he was obliged to decamp, along with Doctor Muirhead. As to the armistice, one can hardly approve of it, as had it not been made Fort Niagara must have fallen into our hands without a shot being fired. On the other hand our force was very much exhausted.



**Eight Veterans of the Battle of Queenston Heights**

Daniel Fields, Solomon Vrooman, Seneca Palmer, John P. Clement,  
John Whitten, Lewis Clement, Duncan McFarland, Daniel Cooper.

Photo taken in 1869 when their united ages were 609

NOTE—In connection with the seizure of the schooner, Lord Nelson, the merchant vessel mentioned on page 30, it will be of interest to know that the Hon. James Crooks and his heirs have almost continuously, since 1815, prosecuted his claim for compensation for the undoubted illegal seizure of his ship. A little more than a year ago, those having the matter in charge succeeded in having the case placed on the list of cases to be heard by the American and British Claims Arbitration Tribunal, under the treaty signed by Hon James Bryce, the then British Ambassador at Washington, and Philander C. Knox, the American Secretary of State, on August 18th, 1910.

The Lord Nelson case was heard by the Tribunal, consisting of Monsieur, Henri Fromageot, of Paris, France, the Chairman of the Commission, Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, representing Great Britain, and Chandler P. Anderson, of New York, representing the United States, on March 26th, 1914. The case was argued by E. L. Newcombe, KC., of Ottawa, Deputy Minister of Justice, who had charge of the Canadian cases, and A. D. Crooks, Barrister, Toronto, a grandson of the Hon. James Crooks, Counsel for Great Britain, and by Hon. Robert Lansing, Counsel for the United States. On May 1st, 1914, judgment was given by the Commission, awarding the claimant, Henry J. Bethune, the legal representative of the heirs of Hon. James Crooks, and of his brother, William Crooks, who were joint owners of the Lord Nelson, the sum of \$5,000 and interest at 4 per cent. for a little over 93 years, or a sum of nearly \$24,000. It has, therefore, taken 100 years to obtain compensation for the seizure of the vessel, as no doubt the money will now be paid within the period of eighteen months allowed by the treaty for the payment of the amounts awarded by the Commissioners in connection with the various claims presented to them.



## Reminiscences of Michael D. Gonder of Black Creek

Furnished by M. G. Sherk

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Incidents quite fresh in the memory of the undersigned M. D. Gonder, pertaining to the first settlers along the bank of the Niagara River, most of them were known to the writer who was born on the bank of the Niagara River, lot No. 6, township of Willoughby, where he now lives, was born in May, 1804, and not having had the benefit of schools could not be counted among the historians. As to the first settlers the writer remembers hearing many of them state the time when they came to Canada which must have been prior to 1783 or soon after the termination of the Revolutionary War, as those referred to, namely old veterans of the war, were here when my father and grandfather emigrated from Pennsylvania. They came to a place now called Niagara, then the District of Nassau, now the District of Niagara, the latter embraced what is now divided into four counties, territory around lake Ontario including Little York, now Toronto. I will give the names of the first settlers on the banks of the Niagara whom I knew in their lifetime, commencing at the crossing into Bertie and down the river, Hardison, the Warrens, Gilmore, the Wintermutes (three brothers) Ashbauch, Hersey, Risley, Andrew Miller, Grove, John Miller, Lewis, Maybee, John Palmer, Haverland, George House, Morningstar, Abraham Beam; at the outlet of Black Creek, Paishal Terry who was one of the first Parliament of Upper Canada, Robert McKindley, M. and J. Gonder, Smith, Thomas Richardson, Vineke, Wm. Hershey, Bowman C Hershey, Coldrake, Miller, Price, Judge Street, who was the proprietor of the grove opposite Navy Island, Thomas Cummings and the late James Cummings, being the owner of the balance of frontage to the Chippawa river. With regard to the incidents that I could relate of which I was an eyewitness along the river line it would be quite too cumbrous to state on paper. I

merely beg to say I saw all the invading forces that passed along this route and also Harrison's army when coming down from the west. This army was quite demoralised and diseased as there were a great many that died while stopping in this neighborhood over night, previous to their crossing over the lines. I also saw the army of Gen. Brown pass down the river on the 4th day of July, 1814, said to number 9000 not including 500 Indians. I also saw them retreating after the battle of Lundy's Lane very much reduced in number and having a good many wounded. The last army that invaded the province was General Issard or Izzaard, they were recalled before entering far into the Province coming as far down the river as Black Creek. One and half miles below Black Creek was the headquarters of the British Army, Gen Drummond commanding, who occupied the stone house I now live in. From this point we could plainly see the American Camp with the numerous tents the distance being three miles across the bay or bend of the river, this was in November, 1814. During all these wars and frightful times and the roaring of cannon I was stopping where I now live, these scenes together with what has occurred since, namely the Mackenzie Rebellion and the Fenian Raid have been the cause of the absence of improvement along the frontier line as troops have always been sent to the front and the dwellings have been always used for the Military. I would here state that during the Campaign of Navy Island, 1837 38 every house from Chippawa to Black Creek a distance of seven miles was then occupied by troops. Under these circumstances the inhabitants became discouraged in building costly buildings until a few years back when they have commenced improvements in some cases. This will answer for the poor buildings for the whole line in front of the townships of Willoughby and Bertie, but in regard to the interior of these townships there has been a material change both in buildings and roads commencing in the year 1830. There was fully one-third of the road lines in Bertie not opened up. Now they are all travelled with very few exceptions, and there are no non-residents. In Willoughby perhaps the smallest township in Ontario in what is called the Tamarack Swamp, running through the centre from the north east corner to the south west corner; until 1830 there was very little land cleared back of the first and second concessions from the river front. In one instance the bush of 200 acres came out to the river. The greater part of this land was owned by residents and non-residents who paid but a very light tax. The northwest part of the township had a small settlement having merely one leading road to the village of Chippawa along the banks of Lyon's Creek, the balance of the roads in that section were called winter roads. This settlement was of a triangular form, not ex-

tending to the south western boundary of Willoughby perhaps lacking two miles, as I have taken the assessment a few times also the enumeration in 1852. At this time there was but one road leading through this Tamarack Swamp, now there are several. About the year 1830 quite a number of German emigrants came into Willoughby and commenced to buy small lots of this bush land, seldom over 50 acres, paying for it chiefly by chopping the wood into cordwood and drawing the same to Chippawa at 75 cents to \$1 a cord. By this means they would pay for their land and enlarge their borders until some of them are now the owners of 200 acres of good wheat land. Wheat, barley and hay are now the principal products. Navy Island is counted a part of the township of Willoughby and has lately been purchased by some gentlemen from the vicinity of Hamilton, who are now fitting it up for pleasure grounds. Until lately it was government land under license of occupation. It contains about 300 acres and in 1837 was where Mackenzie administered his government for a time. This occurred nearly forty years ago when I was in my prime and I will not make any remarks on the subject of reform, 1876.

MICHAEL D. GONDER

## Dr. Cyrus Sumner

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### A Physician in Niagara District.

The following paper was given by Mrs. Murray of Grimsby and Mrs. Macdonnell of Toronto, having been given by a relative to us unknown.

"An eminent physician whose practice extended throughout the whole Niagara District."—Dr. C. F. Mewburn.

Dr. Sumner was born at Hebron, 1776, studied his profession under Dr. Lynn at Albany, N. Y. and came to Canada about 1800. He made his home at or near Newark, now Niagara, and was fortunate in winning the regard and friendship of Dr. Robert Kerr. In a letter written to his brother living at Saratoga he tells of his affairs in Canada. The letter is dated Clinton, Niagara District, Oct. 1804. "I have not been idle since I came to this country and have taken every advantage to gain information respecting my profession and on Friday last at York I passed an examination before the Surgeon General of York, Dr. Baldwin, Clerk of the Crown and Staff Surgeon of Niagara, after which I received a very handsome letter from the Board, wishing me a great deal of prosperity, together with a license, on fine parchment to practise physic, surgery and midwifery in which several branches I have been closely employed since I came to this country. When I first came into this Province I put myself under the Staff Surgeon at Niagara, Dr. Robert Kerr, (my patron) who has shown me every mark of friendship for which I feel myself obliged."

A letter from Dr. Kerr to Dr. A. MacDonell, Esq; says: "The bearer, Dr. Cyrus Sumner, I beg leave to introduce to you, he has been three years in this country, part of the time in my shop and the other part settled near the Forty Mile Creek, where he has been very successful in practice especially fevers. He has passed the Medical Board at York. is remarkable for sobriety and is very attentive and diligent to the studies of his profession. He had studied about four years in the United States before he came into this province. Having heard a medical man was wanted in my Lord Selkirk's land he requested a letter of introduction to you, (signed) Robert Kerr."

From this time Dr. Sumner was actively engaged in practice at Clinton, Twenty Mile Creek. When the war of 1812 broke out he had fully established himself as a leading physician of the old Niagara District and was held in high esteem. Although a native of the United States his loyalty to his adopted country was unquestioned, and from the first to the last of the struggle he was engaged in responsible service to the Crown and intrusted with important commissions with the army and medical service. In a letter to his brother May 9th, 1816, he says, "A word of the war. At the commencement General Brock requested me to go with him to Detroit, which I did, and was the only Staff Surgeon on the expedition and from that time until the end of the war was in the most active service and at almost every battle that was fought—but never wounded though with narrow escapes. The experience I had was very great. We were run very hard at times, but finally acquitted ourselves with some degree of honor." This modest claim by Dr. Sumner to his brother, it is presumed, was not gainsay.

Several valuable documents and letters addressed to Dr. Sumner are in the possession of his son, W. G. Sumner, Ingersoll, which contain not a few historical matters. The following letter is dated Perth, Upper Canada, Feb 6th, 1825. "I hereby certify that Cyrus Sumner was appointed temporary Hospital Assistant to the Army in the Niagara Frontier in the year 1812 and continued in the service till 1815, during which period he was diligent and zealous, and his conduct as a medical officer met my general approbation. Alex. Thom, Staff Surgeon N. P., then P.M., Officer of the Right Division."

Dr. Sumner was commissioned Surgeon to the 4th Lincoln Regiment Militia 1822. Dr. Sumner married, 1803, Mary, daughter of Benjamin Bell. They had ten children. Two daughters married nephews of the Hon. Wm. McMaster, two others married sons of Colonel William Nelles of Grimsby. The youngest two were twins, a son and a daughter. William Kerr, who was named after Wm. J. Kerr, Chief of the Six Nations, and the daughter named after the Chief's wife, Elizabeth Brant. She became the wife of Dr. James Graham. Of the ten children only two are now living, (1893), Mrs. McMaster and W. K. Sumner of Ingersoll.

### A PIONEER HEROINE

Mrs. Bell's long hard journey from Jersey to Grimsby. Extracts from a paper furnished by Mrs. Murray of Grimsby.

In 1792 a man named John Bell came from the State of New Jersey to the Niagara Peninsula to visit his wife's brothers, Squire

John and Andrew Pettitt, who gave the name to St. Andrew's Church, Grimsby. He had promised to send for his wife, but as the weeks passed on and she received no summons to come she decided to follow him. In the month of September, 1792, on the banks of the Delaware river in the State of New Jersey one day a woman might have been seen preparing to leave for Canada. She was about thirty five years of age and had eight children, the eldest one a daughter about fifteen years old, the youngest a baby girl of nine months. She had three horses with pack saddles and a few articles of clothing for herself and her family, a tent made by sewing a few sheets together and some provisions for the journey. The clothing, tent, provisions and smallest children were packed upon the horses, and in this manner they commenced their long and tedious journey through forests and over mountains, fording rivers, for there were no roads or bridges at that time in the part of the country they were travelling through. There were no public houses or inns to entertain the weary travellers at night, so they had to erect their tent and sleep in the open air. For two or three weeks they pursued their weary way, sometimes meeting Indians and passing their villages, but these red men never molested or harmed the travellers, on the contrary they were kind and obliging, readily selling and often giving them venison, corn, etc.

Once on fording a stream one of the horses put his head down to drink and threw one of the children, a little girl of eight over his head into the water. She was nearly drowned, but was finally rescued, her shoulder being dislocated by the fall. This little girl afterwards became Mrs. Sumner, mother of W. K. Sumner of Ingersoll. At last they arrived at Fort Niagara which was occupied by British Soldiers, who put them across the Niagara on the Canadian shore, the long expected land of promise. From Niagara they made their way along the shore of Lake Ontario to the township of Grimsby where Mrs. Bell joined her husband, two brothers and a sister. It was a happy meeting. The children were disposed of among friends until a log house was built, as it was very easy to get land in Grimsby in those days.

It has been found that this story of pioneer life written by Miss Nisbet appeared in the Hamilton Herald, and thus was obtained by Mrs. Murray, a relative of Dr. Sumner and Mrs. Bell, and thus reached our hands.

## Royal Canadian Rifles at Hudson Bay 1857

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Interesting letter of A. J. Sharpe, relating to two companies of the Royal Canadian Rifles going to Fort Garry in 1857 by way of Hudson Bay, furnished by the late Nicol Kingsmill, K. C., to the Historical Society, being interesting to us as several companies of the Royal Canadian Rifles were stationed at Niagara.

Chicago, Aug. 13th, 1891

Nicol Kingsmill,  
Barrister, Toronto.

Dear Sir:—Miss Langly writes me that you wish to have some of the particulars about the sending of troops to the Hudson Bay Territory by the British Government. I hope that what little information I can give you will be of service in this matter. So far as I know in 1857 two companies of the Royal Canadian Rifles were sent to what was then Fort Garry, now Winnipeg, and as armed troops are not usually taken through a foreign country without special permission from that country, the rank and file were sent round in a sailing vessel to York Factory at the head of Hudson Bay and taken by boats and canoes from there to Fort Garry.

The officers commanding these men may have gone with or travelled through by way of St. Paul, Minn. That I am not certain of.

In September, 1859, my father, then Captain and Adjutant of the Royal Canadian Rifles at Toronto, was ordered to relieve Captain Hibbard, (who afterwards commanded the regiment) and left Toronto with five other officers, all unmarried, and a Surgeon for Fort Garry. My mother, my elder brother and self were in the party.

We went to Grand Haven, Mich., by rail, crossed Lake Michigan on the Goodrich line of Steamers to Milwaukee. From there we went by rail to Saint Paul, at that time the western terminus of the railroad. We crossed the prairies from St Paul to Fort Garry by stage, and if I remember rightly, Burbank owned the stage

line in connection with the late Commodore Kittson, who died not long ago in St. Paul. Our trip occupied some seven weeks from Toronto to Fort Garry.

The officers who were relieved on our arrival came back by the same route we had travelled. After being two years at Fort Garry, the necessity for troops having ceased, the detachment was withdrawn, the troops coming home by way of York Factory, and my father and the junior officers going with them. They travelled from Fort Garry to York Factory on Hudson Bay in trading boats or batteaux. At York Factory they found a sailing vessel waiting for them and started for Quebec. They were becalmed for six weeks, chiefly off the banks of Newfoundland and there were grave doubts as to their ever reaching Quebec, being so long overdue. My mother, brother and self returned from Fort Garry by way of the United States.

Our party was made up of Bishop, now Archbishop Tache and his Chaplain and another priest whose name I forget, who was attached to St. Boniface College, at that time established across the river from Fort Garry, a Mr Harriet, one of the Factors of the Hudson Bay Co., and his wife, my mother, brother and self.

During the time that we were in Fort Garry, a small steamer had been put on the Red River between Georgetown, now Moorehead and Fort Garry. We travelled by her as far as Georgetown and took the stage from there to St. Cloud a small town west of St. Paul connected with the latter by rail in 1861.

During the two years we spent in Fort Garry railroad communication had been established between St. Paul and Chicago. We returned to Canada by way of Chicago and Detroit. I think that the above facts are about all the information that I imagine you want about our trip to the Canadian Northwest, then the Hudson Bay Territory.

A curious thing happened to me the other day. At a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, I met an old gentleman and as soon as I was introduced to him he thought a moment and said, "It seems to me I remember that name." In talking to him afterwards I found that he had been an officer in the regular army of the United States, and that in 1859 he commanded a detachment of United States troops at Fort Abercrombie then one of the farthest west stations in the army. I asked him if he remembered a party of British Officers accompanied by a lady and two little boys staying one night at the fort in September, 1859. He said "certainly" and then I told him I was one of the small boys of the party.



While we were at Fort Garry, Louis Riel, who was hanged after the Red River Rebellion, (the North West Rebellion,) was a Divinity Student at the St. Boniface College, where we used to see him.

Trusting that these facts can be of service to you, I am  
yours very truly,

A. J. SHARPE

The letter which accompanied the above was the following:

Toronto, July 2nd, 1906

Dear Miss Carnochan:

The enclosed account of an expedition of the old R. C. Rifles to the Red river in the 50's, I thought you might like to place among the library manuscripts. I was interested in that old regiment, my brother Capt. Kingsmill and brother in law, Captain, afterwards Major Grange, having been in the Regiment. I remember the Capt. Sharpe mentioned in the letter.

Yours faithfully,

NICOL KINGSMILL

## Adam Vrooman

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Illustrations are given generally to accompany the story, but in this case what is written is to illustrate the pictures.

From various sources I have gathered up information of the Vrooman's as early settlers. The photos taken I believe from oil paintings of Adam Vrooman and of his wife with two children, one of whom is Solomon Vrooman and the romantic story connected therewith were given first by Mrs. Thomas of St. Catharines. Other information and photos from the oil paintings were given by Mr. J. D. Bennett of Beamsville, and from church registers, inscriptions in graveyards, Ontario Archives and other sources many items have been gleaned. The romantic family history is told by Mrs. Thomas thus; "Margaret de Peyster MacTice was engaged to Adam Brown, but the Indians stole her away. Later Adam Vrooman rescued and bought her from them for a rifle, jack knife, a few pennies and some bright buttons, he took her to her home and afterwards married her. They had a family of eight children. Adam Brown came and settled along the Niagara river with his wife, later Mrs. Brown died and when Col. Vrooman died the sweet-hearts of other days joined hearts and hands." Thus the picture is that of Margaret de Peyster MacTice, who became first Mrs. Adam Vrooman and afterwards Mrs. Adam Brown. One of the children is Solomon Vrooman. The other picture is that of Adam Vrooman, Sergt. in Butler's Rangers and the boy (not very distinct) is his son Adam. The following information was given with the photos by Mr. J. D. Bennett. "From a copy of the old United Empire list preserved in the Crown Land Department at Toronto, it appears that one Adam Vrooman of German descent served as a Sergeant in Butler's Rangers. His name appears on the provision list at Niagara as a married man with two children in the year 1786. Later in life he seems to have been given the title of Colonel Vrooman. Previous to his coming to America he must have served in the German army as his occupation is put down as a German soldier, (though it is believed he was a native of Holland.) In the photo he is taken as dressed in his uniform with his son Adam by his side. In

the other photo is his wife with son Solomon and his daughter. These pictures must have been taken after he had taken up his residence in Canada. His daughter married a son of Gilbert Field, whose name appears in the list at Toronto as a private in Butler's Rangers. Solomon upon coming of age accepted the crown grant of two hundred acres situated on the Niagara River about half a mile north of Queenston and on this farm he was living when the war of 1812 broke out, he at once enlisted for service and had the opportunity of making his first stand against the enemy on his own farm, for the battery referred to in the history of the battles of Queenston Heights was on his farm and quite close to the house. The family was taken to a neighbor's some distance from the battle field. The house was only struck once by the fire from the enemy. The old battery can be seen to this day on the farm now owned by Mr Kerr. Mr. Vrooman remained with the army through all the conflict in the Niagara District, and when the Americans captured Niagara he retreated with Colonel Harvey to Burlington Heights and helped to build the earthworks in what is now Harvey Park in Hamilton. He was also present at the battle of Stoney Creek, Beaver Dams and Lundy's Lane. This was given by Robert Kemp, a great grandson of Solomon Vrooman and a great great grandson of Adam Vrooman."

In the Brown, Fields and Vrooman family graveyard an inscription reads thus: Solomon S. Vrooman born Dec. 5th, 1783, died Aug. 21st, 1874. In St. Mark's Register it appears that Adam Vrooman died Jan. 8th, 1810. Abraham Vrooman's wife, Dorothy, who was born in New Jersey, was buried in Stamford Presbyterian graveyard in 1820. In the Ontario Archives, Isaac Vrooman is spoken of as giving a deed for 2000 acres in the Mohawk river in 1770. In the register of lots in the District of Nassau (Niagara) lot 23 is given with the name of Adam Vrooman, and in a map of the township, 1784, Adam Vrooman appears as the owner of lots 121, 122, 123. Some place I have seen it mentioned that Rachel Vrooman was the first white child born on the river road and that she was given 500 acres of land, but another account gives a different name. The statement that Adam Vrooman was a German soldier does not agree with what has been believed that the Vroomans were from Holland and I believe some of the family lately proved their right to belong to the Daughters of Holland. Part of the old battery could be seen some years ago and a fragment was brought to the Historical building. From the battery Lewis Clement fired a cannon at the boats crossing the river for Queenston Heights.

In the St Catharines Journal of 1869, appeared an account of the meeting on the heights of eight veterans of the battle whose combined ages amounted to 609. Their names were Daniel Field,



**Adam Vrooman**

With his son Adam, Sergt. in Butler's Rangers,  
afterwards Col. Vrooman



**Mrs. Adam Vrooman**

Afterwards Mrs. Adam Brown, with son Solomon  
Vrooman and daughter

Solomon Vrooman, Seneca Palmer, John P. Clement, John Whitten Lewis Clement, Duncan McFarland, Daniel Cooper. The age of Solomon Vrooman was given as 86 and this corresponds with the age on the grave stone as he must then dying in 1874 have been 91. I had made the remark, how much we desired to see a picture of the veterans and singularly enough shortly after, a photo of the group was discovered and this is now reproduced here. Vrooman is given as the pilot at the taking of Fort Niagara, although the names of Field and Jas. McFarland have also been given, Duncan McFarland the youngest was powder boy.

Another Solomon Vrooman attended in 1908 the centennial of the Niagara High School having been a pupil of Dr. Whitelaw in 1850. Two grandsons are now in the Canadian Expeditionary force and are claiming their place on the Honor Roll of the descendants of United Empire Loyalists who are fighting for the Empire, as their ancestors fought over a century ago.

# The Niagara Camp

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By Florence Wright

Niagara is of course, quite used to military camps of the militia variety and was itself the scene of warfare a hundred years ago when the Canadians were fighting their neighbors. Fortunately for us the battle ground of the great war is far removed, but the mobilization and training of the 2nd Division of the Canadian Expeditionary Force for service in it has never been even remotely approached by any camp here, either in seriousness of purpose, magnitude or conduct. This camp has affected us, as a town, more directly and forcibly than any event of the war; its size, 14,202 men at the largest, preventing anyone from escaping its influence. It was a surprise to everyone that so many men should be camped on the 443 acres of the large common since there had been talk of abandoning Niagara as a military camping ground on account of its restricted area.

The season began May 3rd, on the arrival of the Toronto and McGill sections of the Canadian Officers Training Corps, composed mostly of students of those universities under Lieut. Cols. Lang and Macdonald, there being men from all over Canada and even from the West Indies. The Duke of Connaught reviewed them on May 13th and was greatly pleased with the showing. Each corps had an overseas section which left to complete their training in England shortly after the camp closed, the McGill men leaving by special boat directly from Niagara.

While this camp was in progress, the Eaton Machine Gun Battery, equipped by Sir John Eaton with Major Morrison in command, arrived with three of its armoured cars, most interesting objects, but destined on account of some fault in construction, to remain in Canada when the Battery sailed.

The officer commanding the 2nd division camp which opened here on May 23rd, was Colonel Logie, to whom was due most of the

praise for its exceptional good conduct. He was assisted by a permanent staff of 24 men who were in charge of the various branches of the service and resided at Butler's Barracks

The different units here during the summer were Divisional Cycle Depot, Capt. Schwartz in command, which camped on the river bank, north of Paradise Grove; 30th and 31st Batteries of the Canadian Field Artillery, commanded by Majors Gillies and Peacock respectively, located south of the Lake Road near the Four Mile Creek. The 40th Battery, Major Southam, officer commanding camped north of Paradise Grove for two weeks before 'the great trek.' 2nd Field Company Canadian Engineers which besides its regular work under Major Beggs, did a great deal to restore Fort Mississauga, patching up the stone work of the entrances, hanging the old gates, putting on a new roof and finally building a breakwater about six feet inside the old one.

The infantry units were: 35th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force under Lt. Col. McCordick which camped south of Fort George and sent a draft to England on August 16th and finally left here as a unit Oct. 15th, when their camping ground was occupied by the 81st Battalion, C. E. F., Lt. Col. Belson. 36th Battalion, C. E. F., Lt. Col. Ashton, whose lines were near headquarters and who left for England in June. 37th Batt. C. E. F., Lt. Col. Bick, camped north of Fort George and was supposed to have the best brass band in camp, always a disputed point, of course, when men from other battalions were present. 58th Batt. C. E. F., Lt. Col. Genet. 74th Batt. C. E. F., Lt. Col. Winleyer. 76th Battalion C. E. F., Lt. Col. Ballantine, all camped west of the River Road and north of Paradise Grove. 75th Batt. C. E. F. under Lt. Col. Beckett, composed mostly of men from the Mississauga Horse, was near headquarters where also were the men attending the Provisional School of Infantry under Lt. Col. Lang, which held two six week courses. 83rd Batt. C. E. F., Lt. Col. Pellatt, on the Lake Common beside the river, while the 84th Batt. C. E. F., under Lt. Col. W. T. Stewart and the 86th Machine Gun Batt. C. E. F. under Lt. Col. W. W. Stewart, also on the Lake Common, were camped just east of the north end of Queen Street. The 74th, 83rd and 84th Batts. also sent reinforcement drafts during the summer. The 92nd Highlanders, C. E. F., Lt. Col. Chisholm, came the beginning of September and camped west of the 35th lines.

Among the non fighting, but not therefore non-dangerous units were No. 5 Detachment Canadian Permanent Army Service Corps., Major Milsom commanding, two drafts of No. 2. Overseas, A. S. C. Training Depot; Troops Supply Column and Mechanical Transport Training Depot all under Lieut. Hendy.

The soldiers' day began with reveille at 5.30 a.m. and drill lasted until 4.30 p.m., first post was at 9.30 p.m., last post 10 and lights out at 10.15 with all sorts of work crowded into the interval. A sightseeing trip on the common in the morning was never lacking in views of fascinating incidents such as physical drill, some companies doing it particularly well, notably one from the 35th Bâtt. sent to the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto, who delighted thousands with their precision and skill; other smaller groups being merely amusing as when one officer and three men lay on their backs and solemnly raised each leg alternately to the sky. Drill in the morning was usually done by squads or platoons—here a few recruits still in civilian outfits with only the military cowbreakfasts to mark them as soldiers, learning the difference between left and right—then a uniformed company going through more complicated evolutions—there a group sitting under the trees being lectured on deportment or how to make a handgrenade out of a baking powder tin—farther on, men rushing over the trenches and bayonetting sand bag Germans with what were supposed to be blood-curdling yells—probably they will gain any of that quality lacking when used in a real attack—and others were being shown the mysteries of the rifle. Frequently one encountered a signal squad with flags, learning their alphabet or a more advanced one sending messages—a method said to be obsolete at the front where field telephone and telegraphs are used.

In the afternoon, the soldiers' time was taken up by short marches and battalion manoeuvres, and a very popular institution on the warm days was the bathing parade, when whole companies marched through the town, swinging their towels and singing "We'll Never Let the Old Flag Fall."

A great many varieties of trenches have been dug, all the very latest from France first line trenches with barbed wire entanglements and steps and pegs for assisting in charges, trenches with dugouts and look outs, connecting by underground passages with other trenches built with ramparts of sand bags and zig zag to prevent damage from enfilading fire. The most elaborate of these are on the common, but they are found too, by the shore on the lake common and a shallow, square kind with built up timber shelters, probably for the artillery, at the Four Mile Creek.

One realised the size of the camp when the reviews were held the first by Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia, on Wednesday, September 22nd; the second by Sir Robert Borden the following Saturday and finally by H. R. H. the Duke of Cannaught on October the 7th. The first place in the March past was taken by the artillery, and then the infantry battalions marching first in close column



and the second time in column of march a seemingly endless line, yet only a little over ten thousand men, a mere bagatelle of the millions engaged in the war. The massed open-air church parades, which brought all the Protestants together on Sunday morning, also gave an idea of the size. At these parades a very simple form of service was used and a short sermon delivered, once by the Bishop of Toronto and by one or other of the Chaplains notable among them being Major Forneret, Major Williams and Captain Gilmour, the latter a Professor in McMaster University. But when the camp was at its largest it was found impracticable to have such a large parade and consequently it was broken up and four or five smaller ones were held. An open air Mass was held Aug. 9th in front of St. Vincent de Paul Church and on following Sundays for the Roman Catholics. After this the boats from Toronto brought swarms of relatives and friends to visit them.

The times when service conditions were most nearly approached were on the route marches which were held every Friday, always with Queenston as objective and varied according to the experience of the different battalions the more hardened ones carrying guns and marching by Progressive Avenue. When they arrived at Queenston for a two hours rest, they were served, if they were lucky, with sandwiches and tea, which were consumed while strolling around Brock's monument or playing leap frog. The march home was invariably down the River Road when they marched by brigades, with half an hour between each, always with van guard, main body, rear guard and connecting files. An amusing mistake happened on one march when the officer in charge of the advance guard supposed that the main guard should be 200 yards in the rear and the officer in charge of the latter had been ordered to close up to 125 yards. The man in front hurried on, looking anxiously back and finding the others approaching much too closely and the ones behind hastened to fill the gap. Needless to say, that march was made in record time and the men grumbled at the pace all the way home. The battalions were always accompanied by their scouts who went along, climbing fences, a hundred yards from the road. Occasionally a single battalion would go out for a night march and the scouts of another battalion would constitute the enemy and try to find out as many details as possible as to route, numbers and destination.

Each battalion had signallers attached to it who used dark or light flags in contrast to the background. On march days, they signalled from Half Moon Battery to a point mid way up the river and relayed the messages from there to the parapet at Queenston. Some signallers were quartered in St. Andrew's Church, where from

the tower of the old church, of 1794, observations of the enemy had been made a hundred years ago. From there they relayed their messages to the Four Mile Creek and so on to St. Catharines, but it is rumored that it took longer to send them than for the soldiers to march.

Chief among the institutions looking after the welfare of the men was the Stationary Hospital in command of Major Richardson, which occupied most of the site of Fort George, and was supplied with patients from the daily sick parades of the different battalions, where the men who considered themselves too ill to work were divided into genuine cases and slackers—one unfeeling doctor putting into the latter class all the men who appeared on parade smoking. The historic spot was filled with rows of tents for patients, nursing sisters and doctors with in addition a dressing, a dispensary and an operating tent which was later replaced by a permanent operating room, opened by Lady Borden September 25th. The Army Medical Corps, which sent several drafts to the front during the summer, was camped quite separately at the north end of the fort. The hospital was supplied with flowers and fruit twice a week and provided with some necessary equipment by the Women's Institutes of the town and Queenston. The patients with the exception of the infectious cases, which were sent around by motor ambulance were moved to Toronto by a special train temporarily used as a hospital. This event is supposed to be unique in the annals of Canada.

Though well equipped for looking after cases of illness and accident, the work of prevention was considered as important and the restored Navy Hall, near which Governor Simcoe resided was fitted up for the Laboratory Unit and the Dental Corps. Captains Fitzgerald and Rime officers commanding. Here the soldiers for overseas service were sent on arrival in camp to receive the first of three instalments of typhoid serum, which were given at intervals of two or three days. The inoculation for typhoid fever has been very successful in combating this scourge of camp-life and was administered with the utmost despatch, three or four doctors busy at once, so that the men walked in at one door and out the other in a steady stream. A whole battalion could be finished off in less than two hours. Vaccination takes somewhat longer, but is complete in one treatment. The refractory men who wanted to write the Minister of Militia about this infringement of their personal liberty by compulsory inoculation were marched to the guard tent and brought down later to be treated at the bayonet point.

The Laboratory Unit was also concerned with the water supply and looked after the chlorination of the town water as well as the purification of that from the river which was done by an

ultra-violet ray machine. The water was first filtered which took out 95 per cent of the impurities and then run through glass tubes that were surrounded by the ultra violet rays which rendered the other 5 per cent harmless. Samples were taken every 15 minutes both of the town and 'the ultra-violated water,' as someone called it, and the wagons of the battalions were tested every day. All the springs and wells in the surrounding country were also examined.

The Dental Corps seemed to have an almost hopeless task as, with only six chairs available, they aimed at examining and mending the teeth of every soldier in camp. The men came down about a dozen at a time in charge of a sergeant and waited around some times for two or three days. Necessarily, the work was quite roughly and hastily done.

The soldiers did not lack for places to supplement the some times distasteful food the government supplied and the most popular of these were the Battalion Canteens where a man could treat either a fellow soldier or friends and know that the profit would be used for his benefit. One canteen with the money made, installed electric light all through the lines and another used to supply special fish suppers after the Friday route march.

The Y. M. C. A. with tents on both commons had amusements, games, sports and a reading room, with movies when the evenings became dark. There were also song services on Sundays and concerts at other times.

The St. Andrew's Brotherhood of the Anglican Church did much the same work and tried to make up its disadvantage of being unfavorably situated outside the lines by providing specially good food. Another feature was that of having the women of the town serve the soldiers, a feature that the women enjoyed, however it may have struck the soldier, but we know their services were appreciated.

The soldiers found other ways of filling in their spare time, the commons being dotted with games of football and baseball as long as it was light. The movies were well patronized and all sorts of shooting galleries and refreshment booths sprang up in town. Where the artillery men were camped there are to be found evidences of another recreation—someone has built a miniature Swiss village in a bank of earth against a barn.

Everyone has been loud in the praise of the conduct of the soldiers, attributing it mainly to the lack of liquor but probably the discipline was a great deal stricter than in former camps. Naturally there were a number of untoward incidents as when two or three Austrians were found enlisted in one battalion. They were promptly arrested and sent to Toronto under guard. Another had

a small mutiny on its hands which soon blew over. There were several desertions and one man found in the camp was drummed out of his regiment—marched up and down the lines and finally sent off with a whack over the head from the big drum stick. The soldiers enjoyed cleaning up a circus that was supposed to have come to town for their benefit, but was found to be making money by fraudulent means.

The camp was broken up gradually, taking two weeks for the process, one battalion leaving each day for St. Catharines where the first bivouac on the long march was made. The night before a battalion left was always a gala night for that unit. They built a bonfire of immense size and marched round it, shouting and singing and having an hilarious time. The 92nd not content with their tremendous fire and perhaps excited by the pipes, burned the judges' stand on the race course, which had been laid out in 1797 by the Turf Club composed of British officers.

The march to Toronto was made in six stages: St. Catharines, Grimsby, Hamilton, Bronte and Port Credit were the camping places, and there was always an enemy force in the offing. Everywhere the men were received with open arms and were given numberless pies. The treatment accorded the 83rd Battalion the Sunday they spent in St. Catharines is still spoken of by the men with enthusiasm and gratitude. Everyman received at least one invitation to have dinner and spend the day in someone's home, a few people entertaining as many as six soldiers. The 83rd were also lucky in being the first battalion to be given a hot bath in the large vats of the St. Lawrence Starch Company at Port Credit, where they arrived covered with mud.

And so ended the camp of 1915, memorable in many ways, but chiefly for the fact that every man in it had sacrificed more or less for his country and was prepared to offer the greatest sacrifice, that of life, that freedom and justice might prevail.

## Meetings

The Regular Meetings are on the second Monday of each month from October to May, except that the Annual Meeting is on the 13th of October.

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## Publications

Of many of our Publications the edition is exhausted, but we have (Price chiefly 25 cents)

- 5 Reprinted, Sermon of Rev. R. Addison, Historic Houses, etc.
- 11 Reminiscences, reprinted
- 12 Battle of Fort George, republished from No. 1
- 14 Letters of Mrs. Wm. Dummer Powell, 1807-1821
- 15 Sir Isaac Brock, Count de Puisaye, republished
- 17 Ten Years of the Colony of Niagara
- 18 Early History of St. Mark's, Robert Gourlay, etc.
- 19 Inscriptions and Graves in the Niagara Peninsula. Price 40 cents. No. 10, reprinted with additions
- 20 Reminiscences of Fenian Raid, etc.
- 21 Historic Buildings, Churches, No. 7, reprinted with additions
- 22 Some Graves in Lundy's Lane.
- 23 Fort Niagara, Col. MacDougall
- 24 Catalogue
- 25 Laura Secord, Diary of a Prisoner in Fort Garry, 1869-70
- 26 Notes on District of Niagara, 1791-3
- 27 Names only but much more. No. 1 Company, Niagara
- 28 The Present Issue.

Our exchange List now numbers over sixty

The Historical Room is open every Saturday afternoon from 3 to 5, in winter, and in summer also on Wednesday.

We have now a membership of two hundred and fifty