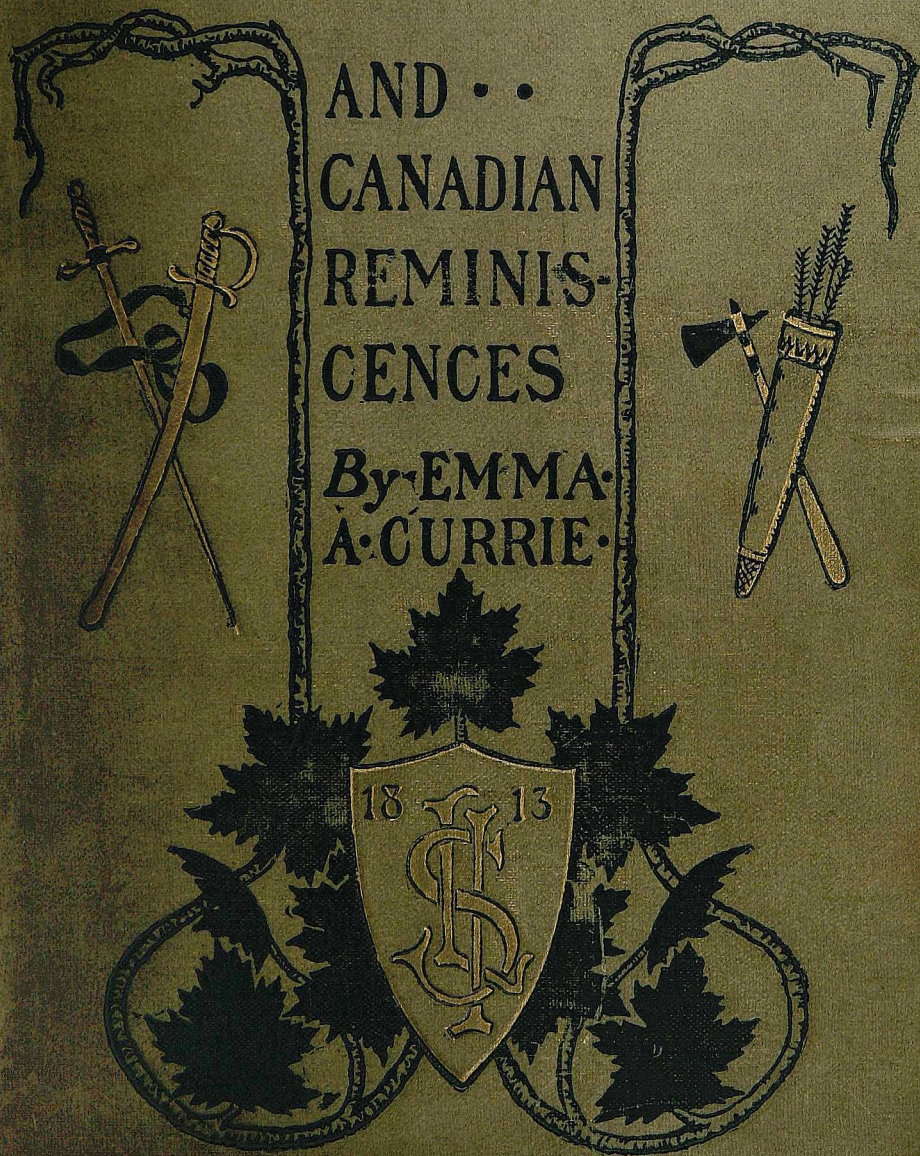


# THE · STORY · OF LAURA · SECORD

AND · ·  
CANADIAN  
REMINIS-  
CENCES

By · EMMA ·  
A · CURRIE ·





*Laure Secord*

THE STORY OF  
LAURA SECORD

AND

CANADIAN REMINISCENCES

BY

EMMA A. CURRIE

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*WITH PORTRAITS AND ENGRAVINGS*

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TORONTO  
WILLIAM BRIGGS

1900

Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year one thousand nine hundred, by EMMA A. CURRIE, at the Department of Agriculture.

THIS BOOK  
IS DEDICATED TO THE BELOVED MEMORY OF  
**Mrs. Curzon,**  
WHOSE HIGHEST AIM WAS TO INSPIRE  
CANADIAN WOMEN TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN  
THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY.



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## INTRODUCTION.

WHEN attention was drawn to Laura Ingersoll Secord, in 1860, it was a great surprise that she had so long been unappreciated and known to so few. Living among many of her husband's relatives for over a quarter of a century, hearing constant allusion to those times, it seemed almost impossible that such heroism should have remained untold and her name unmentioned. After reading the newspaper account, inquiry was made of an aged friend whose whole life was spent in St. David's, as to its truthfulness. Quickly came the reply, "It is all true." No details were given, but the answer was sufficient confirmation. The excitement of the American Civil War and removal from St. David's caused the circumstances to be almost forgotten, but now and then allusions would come recalling them. When the Woman's Literary Club was formed in St. Catharines, in 1892, it was my part to prepare one of the papers for the opening of the Club. The historic subject of Laura Secord was selected, and during the preparation of the paper I found that her ancestors and my own came from the same place, Great Barrington, Mass. Previous to this it had been a custom to spend a week or two

during the summer season in making sketches in water-colors of historic places and buildings, of which there are so many in this locality. Some had been previously made in Niagara and vicinity. I concluded to make sketches in connection with Mrs. Secord's history, and to gather what information it was possible to gain from her relatives, and those who had seen and known her. Strange to say, no one seemed to know anything of her early life or later years. At historic gatherings I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Curzon, and was greatly impressed by her appearance. Not long before her death some correspondence took place between us. Suffering at that time from ill health, an offer was made to place what memoranda had been collected in her hands, to be used as she saw best. It was my last letter to her, for her death took place soon after. Feeling that what had been collected might be of use, a commencement was made to put them together. A letter was written to the Postmaster of Great Barrington, asking for the address of any of the Ingersoll descendants still remaining there. This letter was placed in the hands of Charles J. Taylor, Esq., and brought a reply from him. Mr. Taylor had written the history of Great Barrington, which has proved of great service. Of this gentleman's kindness to a total stranger, whom he has never seen—the time he has given, the researches he has made in helping through many difficulties—I cannot speak in too grateful terms.

Colonel Dunn and Mrs. Dunn, of Toronto, have also been efficient helpers, in furnishing documents, history, letters and memoranda relating to the Secord family, and to Laura Secord also. The granddaughters of Mrs. Secord, Miss Louisa Smith and Mrs. Cockburn, have furnished information which should have weight with the committee who have the erection of the monument in charge. When it was necessary, J. Hamilton Ingersoll, Esq., of St. Catharines, has written many letters.

Miss Woodruff, of Chicago, has furnished much valuable information in regard to her grandfather and grandmother, Mr. and Mrs. David Secord, also valuable autographs; Mr. Henry Woodruff, of St. David's, Mrs. Thorn, of Princeton, and Mrs. Saxon, of St. Catharines, important letters; Mrs. Norton, of Westfield, Mass., and Mrs. Hitchcock, of Amherst, Mass., have assisted in information regarding the Ingersolls.

My old friend, Mr. Kirby, author of "Chien d'Or," has contributed an article upon the Whitmore family, with whom he is connected by marriage, and which is a valuable addition to the history of the early settlement of Upper Canada.

Miss Janet Carnochan has also given much information in regard to the local history of Niagara.

To Miss Bothwell, of Lockport, and many others who have done much to help me, my grateful thanks are given.

The portrait of Mrs. Secord, which is the frontis-

piece of this work, is from a plate furnished by Rev. Canon Bull, Niagara Falls South. The late Mr. Joel Lyons, of Chippewa, had a likeness of Mrs. Secord, taken in what year is not known, and from this the plate was made.

The likeness of Mrs. Secord which is in "Lossing's Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812," and this are the only ones known to have been made. The autograph of Laura Secord accompanies the likeness. It is the only autograph known to be in existence. In a footnote, page 621, Mr. Lossing says Mrs. Secord wrote to him, February 18th, 1861. In 1867 he speaks of her as being ninety-two years of age, and her mental faculties in full play, her eyesight so perfect that she could read without spectacles. Mrs. Gregory, her niece, who saw her in her last illness, and but three days before her death, bears testimony to the wonderful preservation of her mind.

To Mrs. Grover, of Toronto, who has allowed selections to be made from her "Recollections," my warmest thanks are given. When these are published in full, as they will be by her relatives, it is hoped they will receive the attention they so richly deserve.

EMMA A. CURRIE.

## CHAPTER I.

### *THE FIRST SETTLERS.*

THE women of Canada can justly claim that the first Loyalist refugees to seek shelter under the protecting flag at Fort Niagara were women. Dr. Canniff, in his "Settlement of Upper Canada," gives the fact that "in 1776 there arrived at Fort Niagara in a starving and otherwise destitute condition five women and thirty-one children, whom the circumstances of the rebellion had driven away." Tradition places their arrival in the month of November. They had come from the banks of the Hudson and the valley of the Mohawk, guided by friendly Indians, to this ark of refuge. Their names were Mrs. Nelles, Mrs. Secord, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Buck and Mrs. Bonar. Of these women but little is known, their names alone being rescued from the oblivion of the past. Of Mrs. Secord we know that her husband and two of her sons were in Butler's Rangers, fighting for that flag which had sheltered and protected their ancestors so many years before. Among the Rangers are found the names of Captain Nelles and Captain Young. Whether they were the husbands of Mrs. Secord's companions is not known. Of Mrs. Secord it is said

her children were in a wagon. They had escaped with their lives, bringing nothing with them. Her youngest son and child, James Secord, was at that time three years old. They were given tents, clothing and food. As the days and months passed away the numbers increased from the Carolinas, Virginia, and the New England colonies. There came a destitute host, along the length of the St. Lawrence, to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The population increased in the towns and cities so rapidly that it caused a scarcity in the necessaries of life. In Halifax the population rose in a few months from 1,400 to 4,000. And so everywhere, producing suffering and privation. There was not a settlement on this side of the Niagara River when the Revolution commenced. When it closed, in 1783, there was a population of 10,000. In 1792 there were four hundred houses in Niagara. From the frontier at Fort Niagara to Detroit, along the river and lake shore, there was a thin fringe of civilization. Many of the refugees waited in New York, hoping, when peace came, to return to their former homes. When New York was evacuated, November 25th, 1783, there arose a wail of despair. Those that could went to England, some to the Bahama Islands. Many that went to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia came to Upper Canada when they heard of the fertile soil and milder climate. Twelve thousand left New York at that time. As fast as possible they were given lands, implements and seeds. Grist-mills were erected to aid them.



Fort Niagara was the centre of the hopes, the ambitions, the activities of that period. Here, brought at great expense from the old land, were kept those vast supplies of various kinds, which were distributed to the remotest settlements—the munitions of war for themselves and other garrisons, rations and supplies for their Indian allies. The canoes of the Indians, laden with furs from the Upper Lakes, and the bateaux from the Lower Province with their freight, all made this their stopping-place. Councils of war prepared for attack and defence, as the occasion required. Looking now on its crumbling walls, its deserted buildings, its empty fortress, the dismal chambers where the garrison slept within its walls, it is hard to realize its importance one hundred and forty years ago. But it was then the door to the west and to the south, and he who commanded those was entrusted by his sovereign with a possession which required wisdom and strength to keep.

Such were the conditions when those women arrived. As their friends and relatives followed they settled on the western bank of the river, and with willing hands and brave hearts they turned the wilderness into golden fields and fruitful orchards. What they did in the thirty years of peace proves the intelligence and the industry with which they worked. The founders of the Dominion have left a record which their descendants should hold up to future generations as worthy of everlasting remembrance.

## CHAPTER II.

### *THE SECORD FAMILY.*

THE ancestor of the Secord family, Amboise Secord, came with his five children from La Rochelle, in France, to New York in 1681. He, along with other French emigrants, founded the town of New Rochelle, in Westchester County, of the same State, about 1689. The name is spelled in various ways. In the original it is Seacard, and pronounced *se-kar*. Most of the Huguenots sympathized with England during the Revolutionary War. The Secords were very numerous, and more of that name are found among the U. E. Loyalists and first settlers of Canada than of any other. Great Britain had assisted the Huguenots during their persecution in France, had sheltered them in England, had helped them to emigrate to America, and they proved their gratitude by loyal service and great sacrifices during the war. Many gave up everything, even life, in the days that tried men's souls. They were a strong, hardy people, generous and hospitable, long-lived also—one of their descendants dying in New Rochelle in the year 1845, aged 105 years. In Canadian annals we find that Peter Secord, living on the Talbot Road, died in 1818 in his 103rd

year. He was one of the first settlers. The last year of his life he killed four wolves and walked twenty miles to make the necessary affidavit to obtain the bounty.

They were hard-working and thrifty, silk-weaving being their principal occupation, and none of the early settlers had titles of nobility.\* The Documentary History of the State of New York shows that "in the year 1689 they had dedicated 100 acres of land to the use of the French Church. In 1709 all the members of the Church, with the exception of two, agreed to conform themselves to the liturgy and rites of the Church of England, as established by law, and put themselves under the protection of the same." Among the names are fourteen spelled Sygar, as belonging to the Church, and among the petitioners are nine Secords, hardly any two of the nine spelling the name in the same manner. Sygar, Secord, Sicard, Seacord, Se Cord, Seicard are the different forms.†

The original French Church was founded at New Rochelle as early as 1692. In 1709, from the difficulty of obtaining ministers, and being considered Dissenters, all but two persons conformed to the Church of England, and were obliged to erect a new edifice in 1710. The two who would not conform

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\* The Documentary History of New York State, in the edition of 1850, Vol. III., and relating to Westchester County, contains much information regarding the Secords and their descendants.

† From Canadian Archives: "Amable and Pierre De Sicard, stating their services and praying for an allowance."

retained possession of the old church and the 100 acres of land which had been reserved for a French church. Others joined them, but the congregation was not large, being always too poor to hire a minister, and receiving no help from the Established Church Fund, they naturally fell under the care of the French Church in New York City, and were known as its Annex in New Rochelle.\* Services were performed here occasionally by the minister from New York. Toward the Revolution it fell into decay, and at that time ceased to be used as a church. The edifice was torn down, and the Episcopal Church, through the courts, obtained possession of the lands, although they were granted for a French church erected, or to be erected. After the war, what remained of the congregation were merged in a Presbyterian church, which still exists.

Solomon Secord was baptized in the Annex, showing that his parents, descendants of the Badaeus ancestry, still clung to the original French faith. The records are in the church in New York City, and were kept in duplicate in the church at New Rochelle. The compiler says they agree exactly. In Appendix I. of the Secord family will be found much valuable genealogical information. † James Secord, of New Rochelle, a lieutenant in Butler's Rangers, was

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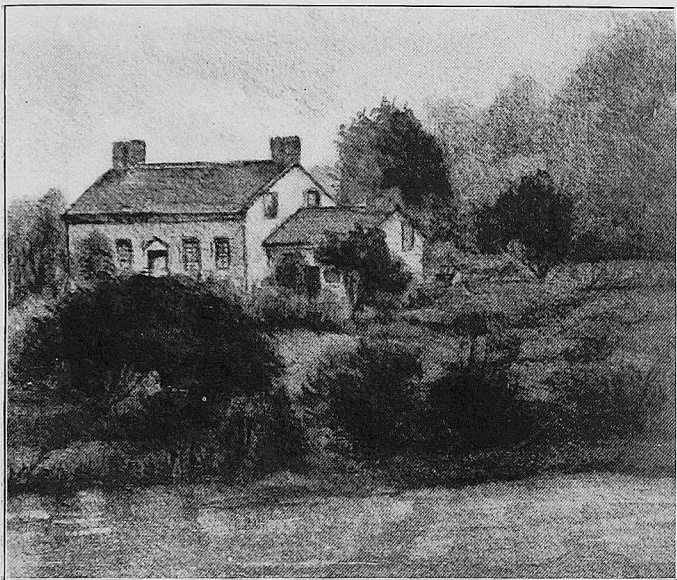
\* New Rochelle is now a part of Greater New York City. In the old times we find that many of the church members, with their families, walked to New York to attend church, when there was no service at New Rochelle.

born April 24th, 1732; he was probably of the fourth generation. His wife was Madelaine Badeau, a descendant of Elias Badeau, who fled from St. George's, Saintonge, France, to Bristol, England, and from there came to America. They had eight children, five sons and three daughters, most of them destined to take an important part in the history of Canada. Lieutenant James Secord died at Niagara, July 13th, 1784. Tradition says he was buried in the private burying-ground of Colonel Butler. Of the date of his wife's death and place of burial nothing is known. James, their fifth son and youngest child, was three years old when they arrived at Fort Niagara. This son was the future husband of Laura Ingersoll.

Major David Secord, the third son, had shown his patriotism and courage from early youth. His father and eldest brother belonged to Butler's Rangers, and we find him in his sixteenth year serving with them during the Revolutionary War till its completion. He was present at Wyoming as sergeant in the Rangers. This expedition of Colonel Butler was to bring away the families of the Loyalist refugees to Fort Niagara. At that time Sergeant Secord, at the risk of his own life, saved the lives of three American prisoners who had abused and killed the wife of Oneida Joseph, an Indian chief, who afterwards settled on the Mohawk Reservation at Brantford, and lived to a great age.

Many of the Rangers settled in the Niagara District, drawing lands as compensation for their services and the homes they had lost by confiscation. Mr.

Secord had 600 acres of land between Queenston and St. David's. His relatives and himself received large grants in the district also, and in other parts of Canada. He entered largely into business of various kinds. He was surveyor, farmer, miller, besides erecting numerous buildings for mechanics in the village. His first mill was built in 1786. Appendix V. will give some idea of the variety of his occupations and possessions. He had been in many battles during the Revolution, and thirty years of peace again found him ready to face the enemy. In the battle of Queenston Heights he bore a conspicuous part. In the third and last engagement, in the afternoon, when the invaders were being driven back, Major Secord called to those who were rushing down the bank of the river to come back and their lives would be spared. Among those who surrendered he found his wife's father and brother. Another brother of Mrs. Secord, a Mr. Thomas Page, came over before the war, and settled in Pelham; he was a Quaker. David, eldest son of Major Secord, was taken prisoner, and after some time exchanged. He reached home the day of the battle of Lundy's Lane. It was late in the afternoon when he arrived. While taking his supper the firing was heard, and, tired as he was, he said, "I must go to father!" and started on foot for the battle-field, five miles away. Father and son met, grasping each other's hand in a brief welcome, and they fought side by side until young Secord was again taken prisoner, and afterwards sent to Greenbush, N.Y. Major Secord was wounded but



HOMESTEAD OF MAJOR DAVID SECORD, 1894.





once in the eight battles in which he was engaged during the Revolutionary War, and it was a superstition among the Indians, who knew his dangers and wonderful escapes, that he bore a charmed life. After the war was over he had for the second time to recommence the busy life which in past years had made him so prominent and so prosperous. For eight years he was a member of Parliament, doing good service for his constituency and country. He deprecated the selfishness of the Family Compact, who by their ill-timed measures were driving a loyal people to rebellion. He supported the reforms which form the basis of our present government. He was too well known to be branded as disloyal, and too sensible to go to the extreme lengths to which Mackenzie was driven. Before the rebellion, came he had shown his courage in another form. Robert Gourlay had been one of the earliest Reformers, and one of the first to suffer for his principles. When unjustly deprived of his property he had appealed, in vain for justice. Suffering in body and mind, sick and penniless, he stayed in Mr. Secord's house until he could return to Scotland. He was not the man to forget a kindness, and Mr. Secord's daughter told the writer that the first silk dresses she and her sister had were given, with other remembrances, by Mr. Gourlay when he returned to Canada. Mr. Secord was generous and hospitable to a fault; his house was ever open to His Majesty's troops. In addition to military services, he was Commissioner of High-

ways and Bridges, giving his services for the latter without pay.

Major Secord was three times married. First to a Miss Millard, who died about a year after her marriage, leaving one daughter, who married Mr. Cummings. His second wife was Catharine Smith, daughter of Elias Smith, by whom he had eight sons and one daughter. His third wife was the widow Dunn, whose maiden name was Polly Page, sister of the Thomas Page, of Pelham, previously mentioned. She had two sons, Lorenzo and Luther, by her first marriage. It is in connection with Mr. Secord's marriages, and illustrating the times, that the following circumstances are given. When there was no resident clergyman who was legally entitled to perform the marriage service, the resident magistrate, or the commanding officer at a military station, was empowered to do so. The second and third marriages were thus made. An Act was passed by which those who had been married in this manner, by appearing before the Clerk of the Peace, and making affidavit as to who performed the ceremony, the time and place, and giving the date of the birth of children, received a certificate which settled all doubts as to the legality of such marriages. Major Secord made those affidavits, which were registered on the 8th of February, 1832. Rev. Mr. Addison, of St. Mark's, Niagara, records that some were re-married by him. The marriage register kept by him is instructive and of great value, for the magistrates

seldom kept a record, and if they made any they have been lost.

Major Secord's sister, Magdalen Secord, married the Hon. Richard Cartwright, and was the ancestress of that family which has been, and still continues to be, so prominent in the history of the Dominion. Another sister married Dr. Lawrence, of Savannah, Georgia. The youngest brother, James, married Laura Ingersoll, who fills the most important place in these reminiscences. Major Secord's family was large; the names will be found in Appendix II. His son George was a member of Parliament for many years.

From the Scarboro records the following are selected:

Isaac Secor came to Canada at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War; came first to Kingston, then moved west, building the first stone mill at Napanee. The Secords of Scarboro were loyal, like those who settled in the Niagara District.

The first post-office in the township was on Lot 19, Concession D; the first Postmaster, Peter Secor, who held the position from its establishment, in 1830, to 1838. A footnote says, Mr. Secor's sympathy with Mackenzie was what led to this change.

Miss Janet Carnochan, of Niagara, has furnished the following, which is evidence of the industry of the Secords, and of the success which had attended their efforts not seven years from the arrival of the first refugees at Fort Niagara:

On the 25th of August, 1782, Col. Butler took the first census of the settlement of Niagara. Among the names are

Peter Secord—7 persons, 4 horses, 6 cattle, 14 hogs, 30 acres cleared land, 80 bu. wheat, 60 bu. Indian corn, 6 bu. oats, 100 bu. potatoes.

Jno. Secord—5 persons, 6 horses, 10 cattle, 3 hogs, 27 acres cleared, 50 bu. wheat, 50 corn, 70 potatoes.

James Secord—6 persons, 3 horses, 3 cattle, 11 sheep, 3 hogs, 20 acres cleared land, 7 bu. wheat, 100 corn, 30 potatoes.

In 1783, among the names are Tho's Secord, 40 acres cleared.

Peter Secord, 25; Jno., 50; Jno. Secord, jr., 10 acres cleared.

Authority, Ernest Cruikshank, from Military Papers.

The following appears in the Dominion Archives :

Companies mustered in November and December, 1783.

B. 105 P. 399. Among the names are Silas Secord, Sergeant; age 28, his wife 23.

James Secord, age 53, his wife 49, 2 sons and 3 daughters.

Peter Secord, age 62, wife 40, 3 sons and 2 daughters. Page 395, Bo. 105.

Miss Carnochan furnishes this also :

“In a narrative of the captivity and sufferings of Benjamin Gilbert and his family, in the possession of Peter A. Porter, of Niagara Falls, N. Y., and kindly loaned to me, are found some interesting references to the Secord family, which show them to have been a family of means and ready to help those in trouble.

“The Gilbert family were carried off from Pennsylvania by Indians, 25th of April, 1780, and after many hardships several of them reached Fort Niagara and Butlersburg (now Niagara), on the side of the river opposite to Fort Niagara. Abner Gilbert was with Elizabeth Gilbert. They went to the house of John Secord, an Englishman, who was styled brother of the Chief, having lived with him some time before. Elizabeth was left here, and in July, 1781, tried to free Abner, who now found

his sister Elizabeth, and stayed two weeks with her in the house of John Secord, and drew clothing from the King's stores. Elizabeth was very comfortable here. She, with John Secord's wife and Capt. Freyes' wife, went to see the child of Elizabeth Peart (wife of Benjamin Peart Gilbert, the oldest son of the Gilberts), over a year old, a captive with the Indians. Capt. Freyes' wife purchased the child for thirteen dollars. Elizabeth Gilbert lived more than a year in John Secord's family, and became strongly attached to them, calling the mistress of the house 'mamma.' John Secord took her one day to Fort Niagara, where she met six of her relatives. Col. Butler and John Secord procured her release from the Indians (who claimed her) by presents. She then stayed two weeks at Butlersburg with the Secord family, and eventually they reached their home."

The author of "Old Trails on the Niagara Frontier," F. H. Severance, has lately given a full account of the captivity of the Gilbert family. He also relates the following incident of the War of 1812:

"Mr. John Lay, a merchant of Buffalo, was taken prisoner the night that village was burned, December 13th, 1813. The prisoners were marched from Fort Erie to Newark (now Niagara). Many Indians were there. Like the white men, they were celebrating their victory with strong potations. Mr. Lay knew a Mrs. Secord who was living in Niagara. He asked to be sent there, and under an escort was sent to her house. The house was surrounded, but Mrs. Secord concealed him in safety until the arrival of his partner from Buffalo under a flag of truce, when he was removed and sent a prisoner to Montreal."

*James Secord*

## APPENDIX I.

Lieutenant James Secord, of New Rochelle, N. Y., was born April 24th, 1732, and baptized in the Episcopal Church, May 28th. He was probably of the fourth generation. He married Madelaine Badeau, a descendant of Elias Badeau, who fled from St. George's, Saintonge, in France, to Bristol, in England, and from there came to America.

## CHILDREN OF JAMES AND MADELAINE SECORD.\*

Born.	Names.	Married.	Died.
9 March, 1755,	Solomon,	Margaret Bowman,	22 Jan., 1799.
20 Aug., 1757,	Stephen,	Ann or Hannah De Forest,	31 March, 1808.
2 Aug., 1759,	David,	1st Miss Millard, 2nd Catharine Smith, 3rd Widow Dunn, <i>née</i> Polly Page.	9 Aug., 1844.
21 Feb., 1762,	John,	went away, never heard from.	
4 May, 1764,	Magdalen,	Richard Cartwright,	25 Jan., 1827.
21 July, 1766,	Esther,	unmarried,	4 Feb., 1802.
15 May, 1770,	Mary,	Dr. Lawrence, Sa- vannah, Georgia.	
7 July, 1773,	James,	Laura Ingersoll,	22 Feb., 1841.

\* Magdalen and Madelaine are names often found among the female descendants, and Badeau among the males of this branch of the Secord family.

## APPENDIX II.

## CHILDREN OF MAJOR DAVID SECORD.

Miss Millard, first wife, left one daughter, married to Mr. Cummings.

Catharine Smith, second wife, left David, James, Stephen, John, Solomon, George, Robert, Philip, Phœbe.

Mrs. Dunn, third wife, left Riall, Elijah, Mary, Elizabeth.

*David Secord*  
*Mary Secord*

## APPENDIX III.

The following is condensed from an article in the *Napanee Beaver* of May 19th, 1899 :

Richard Cartwright, born in London, England, 20th October, 1720.

His wife, Joanna, born 9th March, 1726.

They are buried in St. Paul churchyard, Kingston, Canada. They were residents of Albany, N.Y., Loyalists, and came to Canada about 1790. Their son, Hon. Richard Cartwright, was born at Albany, February 2nd, 1759, and married Magdalen Secord,\* born at New Rochelle, May 4th, 1764.

James, 3rd May, 1786, unmarried, died Oct. 11th, 1811.

Richard, 24th Dec., 1787, unmarried, died at Charleston, S.C., 4th May, 1811.

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\* Private letters show that Mrs. Cartwright possessed in an eminent degree the kind and generous heart of her ancestors.

Hannah, Dec., 1792, married Capt. Alex. Dobbs,  
Royal Navy ; died 4th Jan., 1839.  
Thos. Robinson, 19th Jan., 1799, married Miss Fisher, died  
26th June, 1826.  
Stephen Henry, 24th Jan., 1801, died aged 13.  
John Solomon, Twins. married Sarah Hayter Mac-  
and 4th Sept., 1804, aulay, died 15 Jan., 1845.  
Robert David, married Harriett Dobbs, died  
1843.

CHILDREN OF REV. ROBERT DAVID CARTWRIGHT  
AND HARRIETT DOBBS.

Two sons who died young.

A daughter, Mary Jane, and

Rev. Conway Cartwright, Protestant Chaplain of Kingston  
Penitentiary, Canada.

Sir Richard John Cartwright, born 4th Dec., 1835 ; married,  
August, 1859, Miss Frances Law.

The Hon. Richard Cartwright, son of the Loyalist, was in  
partnership at Niagara with the (afterwards) Hon. Robert  
Hamilton. He settled in Kingston about 1790. Was a mer-  
chant and forwarder and an extensive mill-owner, one of the  
earliest magistrates, and was appointed by Governor Simcoe a  
member of the First Legislative Council of Upper Canada,  
which office he held at the time of his death. He was also a  
prominent officer in the Militia, Chairman of the Land Com-  
missioners for this section of the Province (Napanee). He had  
grants of 6,000 acres of land, of which a considerable portion  
was in the locality of Napanee. The land, with water privi-  
leges, was on both sides of the river. The town of Napanee  
was built on land which once was his. He obtained the first  
Government flour mill erected there in 1785. He was a  
member of the Church of England, and was interested in  
educational matters.

Of Sir Richard Cartwright, now the Minister of Trade and  
Commerce in the present Government of the Dominion, it is suf-  
ficient to say his career is well known to the present generation.



## APPENDIX IV.

Dec. 1778.

To the Honorable Frederick Haldimand, Esq., Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Province of Canada and the Frontiers thereof in America, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

The petition of Mary De Forest humbly sheweth :

That your Excellency's petitioner, with seven children, have suffered much and are greatly distressed by being plundered of all their effects, and her husband imprisoned, by the Rebels in Albany, in the year 1777, occasioned by his Loyalty and Attachment to the Interests of Great Britain.

And as your Excellency's petitioner, with her children in these distressed circumstances, will become naked for want of clothing and in want of other necessaries requisite in a family, as she has received no other assistance than provisions,

Your Petitioner Humbly Requesteth that your Excellency will take her suffering condition into your most serious consideration, hoping your clemency will grant them some relief, and your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

MARY DE FOREST.

Endorsed.—The Humble Petition of Mary De Forest to the Honorable Frederick Haldimand, Esq., &c., &c.

Pray for relief of her and seven children.

This Mary De Forest is the mother of Hannah (or Anna), wife of Stephen Secord.

FAMILY OF STEPHEN SECORD AND HANNAH (OR ANNA)  
DE FOREST.

Names.	Births.	Married.	Died.
Mary,	20 Feb., 1785,	Richard Robin- son.	30 Dec., 1865
James,	19 April, 1787,	unmarried.	3 Jan., 1852
David,	19 July, 1790,	Ann Carscallen.	27 July, 1846

Names.	Births.	Married.	Died.
Elizabeth,	7 Mar., 1793,	unmarried.	22 Aug., 1814 (At Napanee)
Esther Magdalen,	1 June, 1795,	George Keefer.	7 Sept., 1871
William Edwin,	26 Mar., 1797,	Frances Holden.	5 Jan., 1881
Richard Henry,	12 May, 1799,	Catharine Elizabeth Stull	7 July, 1866
Stephen Alexander,	15 May, 1801,	unmarried.	27 Feb., 1884
Julia Ann,	8 May, 1803,	Wm. Stull.	13 Jan., 1868
Samuel Robison,	18 Dec., 1805,	Elizabeth Weaver.	15 Aug., 1875
Hannah De Forest, wife of Stephen, born July, 1767, died Oct. 10th, 1841.			

Hannah Secord was buried at the Warner burying-ground, near St. David's.

*Stephen Secord*  
*Anna Secord*

## APPENDIX V.

When St. David's was burned, 19th July, 1814, these were the losses of Major David Secord :

1 three-story frame house, which had seven fire-places, three chimneys. It was a hotel, 22 x 80 feet, with stables and out-houses.

1 stone dwelling, two stories, 24 x 30.

1 " " " " 24 x 60.

1 grist-mill, stone and timber, 22 x 40, with appurtenances.  
Blacksmith shop and tools.

New frame barn, 34 x 44, with two fanning mills, and other property.

2 log buildings, 22 x 20.

1000 lbs. candles, made by contract for British troops, 2s. per lb.

7 horses, 4 cows, 20 fat hogs—from 150 to 200 lbs. each.

1 new wagon and a large yoke of oxen. The wagon was loaded with furniture.

Store of merchant goods, £500.

50 tons of wheat, which at that time was £8 per ton.

200 sheep and other property.

Household furniture and family clothing.

In 1817, flour was \$10.00 per barrel.



APPENDIX VI.

Copy.—Return of the names and rank of officers of the 1st Regt. Lincoln Militia, who have not received commissions, with the dates of their several appointments, up to the 22nd of October, 1812.

DATES OF APPOINTMENTS.

Rank and Name.	Ensigncy.	Lieutenancy.	Captaincy.	Remarks.
1st Capt. Jacob A. Ball,	.....	.....	2nd July, 1812,	Captaincy not issued.
2nd Capt. Geo. A. Ball,	6th May, 1806,	3rd Jan., 1809,	2nd July, 1812,	ditto
3rd Capt. John D. Servos,	.....	.....	2nd July, 1812,	ditto
1st Lieut. William Towers,	.....	4th Jan., 1806,	.....	Issued and taken by the army.
2nd Lieut. John Clark,	.....	26th June, 1812,	.....	Lieutenancy not issued
3rd Lieut. Henry Pawling,	14th May, 1806,	2nd July, 1812,	.....	ditto
4th Lieut. Simon Stephenson,	15th May, 1812,	ditto	.....	ditto
5th Lieut. Elijah Secord,	23rd May, 1812,	ditto	.....	ditto

6th Lieut.	Anselm Foster,	5th Jan., 1809,	2nd July, 1812,	.....	Lieutenancy not issued
7th Lieut.	Adam Brown,	ditto	ditto	.....	ditto
8th Lieut.	William Smith,	6th May, 1812,	25th Oct., 1812,	.....	ditto
9th Lieut.	George Hainer,	ditto	ditto	.....	ditto
1st Ensign.	Courtlandt T. Secord,	2nd July, 1812,	.....	.....	Ensigncy not issued.
2nd Ensign.	James Secord,	ditto	.....	.....	ditto
3rd Ensign.	Joseph Clement,	ditto	.....	.....	ditto
4th Ensign,	Peter Warner,	25th Oct., 1812,	.....	.....	ditto
5th Ensign.	John Robertson,	ditto	.....	.....	ditto
	* (Sgd.) W. CLAUS,				(Sgd.) ANSELM FOSTER, Lt.,
	<i>Lt.-Col.</i>				<i>Act. Adjt. 1st Regiment Lincoln Militia.</i>

\* In B., 105, p. 399, appear the names of Silas Secord, Sergeant, age 28, his wife 23.  
James Secord, age 53, his wife 49, 2 sons and 3 daughters.  
Peter Secord, age 62, wife 40, 3 sons and 2 daughters. Page 395, B. 105.

## APPENDIX VII.

## SCHOOL AGREEMENT.

Article of Agreement made the first day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred thirty and one. Between Richard H. Secord, of Grantham, of the District of Niagara, of the one part, and the undersigned inhabitants, of the other part.

Witnesseth, that for the conditions hereinafter mentioned, he, the said Richard H. Secord, doth agree to and with the said subscribers for and during the term of three months, commencing on Monday the fourteenth instant. He, the said Richard H. Secord, shall teach a common day school in the said Township of Grantham, and shall faithfully use his best endeavors to teach and instruct such pupils as may, in 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 them as far as the space of time and their respective capacities will admit. Secondly, He doth engage to maintain good order and exercise impartial discipline in said School, to suppress and discountenance all immoral habits and practices among his pupils, and to use all reasonable diligence to improve their education. Thirdly, for the purpose of teaching he doth agree to attend at the School House eleven days in every two weeks, from nine o'clock a.m. until four o'clock p.m. for the aforesaid term.

Lastly, if any charge should be brought against the said Teacher relative to his conduct in the performance of the duties of his school, on his being examined before the Trustees, and if found culpable of a misdemeanor, 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 above conditions to us, the subscribers, on the part of the said Richard

H. Secord, we do Promise and Agree to pay him, the said Richard H. Secord, the sum of eight shillings and nine pence currency per quarter for each pupil subscribed. And further, we do engage to furnish him in a school house with suitable writing desks, benches, &c., also each subscriber shall furnish an equal proportion of firewood (according to the number of pupils subscribed) delivered at the school house whenever it may be needful for the benefit of the said school.

*Subscribers' Names.*

John Vanevery,	2	James Turney,	1
John Bessey,	2	Henry C. Ball,	2
Nancy Wilson,	1	Charles Mundy,	2
David Grass,	2	Thomas Wood,	2
John Grass,	2	Elizabeth Ball,	1
William Price,	1		

The agreement is a remarkable specimen of penmanship. There are five varieties of writing in the document, delicate as though engraved.

Lent by Miss Martha Secord, Stamford, Ont.



## CHAPTER III.

### *THE INGERSOLL FAMILY.*

RICHARD INGERSOLL was born in Bedfordshire, England, in 1600, and came to Salem, Massachusetts, in 1629. His descendants have been traced through four generations.

John, a brother of Richard, born in 1615, came to Salem the same year, but not at the same time. He was in Hartford, Connecticut, for a short period, where he married in 1651. He removed to Northampton, Massachusetts, where his second marriage took place in 1657, and thence to Westfield, Massachusetts, where he married for the third time in 1667. This became his home, for he died there, September 3rd, 1684. Westfield appears to be the central point from which started so many of the families whose names were famous in the New England colonies, and whose descendants in these later times continue keeping in every State of the Union the honored names of their ancestors. Westfield is now a thriving city of over 25,000 inhabitants.

John Ingersoll built a house which, with many additions and improvements, was standing in 1884. It has since been destroyed by fire. It was re-



purchased by Chandler Lambert Ingersoll, of Brooklyn, of the eighth generation, in 1857, for a summer residence. The gravestones in the burying-ground were re-carved by his order, but the tomb of the original settler could not be found. On the grave of Thomas Ingersoll, a magistrate in Westfield, who died in 1748, is the following inscription :

“ This stone stands out to tell  
Where his dust lies ;  
That day will show  
The parts they acted here below.”

This house was called the seat of the ancient aristocracy. In its early days it was used as a fort, where the people resorted for safety at night during the Indian troubles. Many traditions were connected with it. “ Among them, that Greylock, a famous Indian chief, who had killed ninety-nine persons, had skulked around the place for a long time to kill Mrs. Ingersoll, and had nearly succeeded but for the timely arrival of her husband, who fired his gun while Greylock was trying to scalp her, at which he fled and was never seen afterwards.”

Through the history of the United States the name of Ingersoll constantly occurs in all the conditions and avocations of life.—the settler with his axe, the mechanic and inventor, the merchant, teacher, the singing-master, magistrate, judge, diplomat, historian, the soldier, the patriot, the exile. The record of nine generations and over eight hundred names have been followed. The families connected

with them by marriage are also from that New England stock which bore their part in the colonial days and in the formation of the American Republic. They were a long-lived race, and in looking over the genealogical records, there are found many men and women who lived over ninety years. Thomas and David are frequent names among the Ingersoll descendants, and the name is sometimes spelled Ingersole.

Their names, connected with many others, are found in all matters pertaining to church, educational and municipal affairs. Wherever they lived—and you find them all through the colonies—they were useful citizens, doing their share in promoting the prosperity of the place they had made their home.

The town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, was settled by families from Westfield in 1724. To form the settlement 115 persons united together, and, choosing a committee to represent them, went through the usual formalities in regard to the acquiring, laying out and settling the land. Two tracts of land, each to contain nine square miles, were purchased, to be laid out on the Housatonic River. These were divided into four townships. On the 25th of April, 1724, Konkapot and twenty other Indians, in consideration of the payment secured to them of four hundred and sixty pounds in money, three barrels of cider and thirty quarts of rum, executed a deed to the committee of the lands above mentioned. Among these first settlers are Moses

and Thomas Ingersoll. Other Ingersolls followed. Peter Ingersoll built a house in 1766, which is still standing. A David Ingersoll was among the early magistrates, and some extracts from his records as Justice of the Peace may be found instructive. The stocks and the whipping-post were a common form of punishment.

Aug. 14, 1754. }  
 The King, }  
 Ag't Eliner Ward } for stealing sundry goods from Mr. John Brown. She confest she stole 3 caps and  $\frac{1}{2}$  M. pins. Ordered to pay 32 shillings and ye goods; being 3 fold damages and cost, and to be whipt 20 stripes. All were performed.

At a Court before Justices Dwight and Ingersoll, October 5th, 1754, Samuel Taylor, Junior, and Ebenezer Crowfoot, of Pontoosack, complained of for making and spreading a false alarm and digging up and scalping an Indian which was buried. They confessed themselves to be guilty. Taylor ordered to pay a fine of 20 shillings, or be whipped 30 stripes. Neglected to pay s'd fine and was whipped. Crowfoot to pay fine of 13 shillings, 4 pence, to be whipped 20 stripes. Omitted paying and was whipped. Both to pay £6 7s 6d, committed until performed. In addition they were bound for their good behaviour in the sum of £5 each.

Oct. 7, 1754.

The French at this time were offering a bounty for English scalps, and this false alarm and the effort to obtain a bounty for an Indian scalp obtained in this manner brought upon them deserved punishment.

In those days a few had negro slaves. They were hired out to work, and "Sophia Green" was sold by the same David Ingersoll for £20.

A Thomas Ingersoll of the fifth generation, born in Westfield in 1749, removed to Great Barrington in 1774. He married Elizabeth Dewey, daughter of Israel Dewey. The Dewey family came from Westfield also, and there had been intermarriages between the families previous to this. The troubled years of the Revolution had already commenced. The colonies were in a ferment, and the time that was to see the formation of another form of government on this continent soon arrived. From 1726 to 1775 there had been many added to the Ingersoll name. As soldiers during the Indian and French wars, they had taken their share of danger, and when the Revolutionary War took place they were on the Continental side. One David Ingersoll, a lawyer and a magistrate, remained a Loyalist. Sabine says: "During the troubles which had preceded the shedding of blood he was seized by a mob, carried to Connecticut, and imprisoned. In a second outbreak of the people's displeasure his house was assailed. He was driven from his home and his enclosures laid waste." He mortgaged his property and went to England. He married there, and left children at his death in 1796. The front door of his house bore the marks of the hatchets and swords used at that time. It was afterwards used as a young ladies' boarding school. In

those days it was not possible to be neutral. Men were drafted and compelled to go in person, to find a substitute, or pay a fine of £10. It is the old story, no freedom of speech or thought, everywhere suspicion surrounds, and selfishness and lawlessness reign. The lengthy wars of those times bereft the people of everything. To those who fell on the battle-field, or perished from the hardships of war, must be added those who were driven from their homes, leaving behind them all their earthly possessions—glad to escape with their lives. War always leaves hard times. Continental money had sunk to its lowest depreciation, when it took a punch bowl filled with bills to buy a meal, and \$72 in paper was worth only one of silver. The majority of the people were without resources. Work was not to be had. Rebellion was again the cry in New England, culminating in Shay's rebellion, 1786 and 1787. Captain Ingersoll gave the new government his assistance in putting it down, and for this he was made Major Ingersoll.

It was shortly afterwards that Thomas Ingersoll made arrangements to move to Canada. He was a man of enterprise, respected by his fellow-citizens, for he had held various town offices. He was a lieutenant of militia from 1777 to 1781, when he became captain, and after the war a major for four years, and at various times performed military service. He never claimed to be a Loyalist. A letter

written by his son, James Ingersoll, for many years Registrar of Oxford, which appeared in the Woodstock *Sentinel-Review*, January 31st, 1879, and reprinted June 17th, 1899, by request, gives many details of his father's removal to Upper Canada. Major Ingersoll saw the proclamation of Governor Simcoe, offering tracts of land to settlers on easy terms. The forests and rivers of Canada with the fertile soil were glowingly depicted. Ingersoll made up his mind to settle under the old flag and commence the pioneer life of his ancestors of one hundred and fifty years before. He had met the famous Indian chief, Joseph Brant, in New York, who promised him, if he would come to Canada, to show him the best lands for settlement. Brant had already selected for the Six Nations the present Mohawk Reservation. He advised him to select lands on River La Tranche, now called the Thames. Brant, true to his promise, sent six of his best young men to show Major Ingersoll the lands most desirable for the settler. The parties who were willing to join Mr. Ingersoll in this venture selected him as their agent in the application for a township. Government was then held at Newark. The Order-in-Council was passed March 23rd, 1793. There were no roads in those days, only the Indian trail from Ancaster to Detroit. The place selected had been the summer camping-ground of the Indians for many years. Work was commenced at once by Mr. Ingersoll and his associates,

Mr. Ingersoll with his own hands felling an elm tree for the log-house\* that was to be his future home.

The conditions of the grant were that there were to be forty settlers, each to have 200 acres or more upon the payment of 6d. sterling per acre. The balance of the 66,000 acres was to be held in trust by Mr. Ingersoll for the benefit of himself and his associates by paying the same price, 6d. sterling. Arrangements had been made to bring in one thousand settlers from New York State, when representations were made to the Home Government that such settlers would be injurious to the country and deprive others from settling. The order was rescinded, and his grant cancelled, as well as those of his associates. Between eighty and ninety families had already settled. Col. Talbot suffered the same treatment, a man of whose loyalty there could be no possible question. Having influential friends in England, he returned home, and by his representations and their help Colonel Talbot's rights and lands were restored. He advised Mr. Ingersoll to do the same, but he had not the time to spare, neither the money and friends there to aid. Discouraged, he left the settlement in 1805, removing to Etobicoke. We find that during the few years he was in Oxford County he was appointed Justice of the Peace, and as such

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\* On the site of this log-house a brick store on Thames Street, occupied by Mr. Poole, was afterwards erected.—*Letter of James Ingersoll*, January 31st, 1879.

performed the marriage ceremony. The first Registrar of Oxford, Mr. Thomas Hornor, was married by him in 1801.\* His last home was on the River Credit,† where he died in 1812, leaving a large family, whose descendants are found through the length and breadth of the Dominion. His eldest son Charles, at the time of his father's death, was employed as a clerk in the house of Messrs. Racey and McCormick, merchants in Queenston. When the War of 1812 commenced, he, along with the late Hon. William Hamilton Merritt, raised a troop of dragoons, called the Provincial Light Dragoons. Mr. Merritt was captain, and Charles Ingersoll lieutenant. They served until the end of the war, and received grants of land for their services. Charles was at the battles of Queenston and Lundy's Lane. While taking despatches to General Proctor, he was present at the battle of the River Raison, and came near losing his life at that time. After the war was over he commenced business with Mr. McKenna, at the Twelve Mile Creek, and was also a business partner of Mr. Merritt. He married Anna Maria Merritt in 1816, a sister of his friend and companion in arms. In 1817

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\*Vol. 15, G. Dominion Archives, is found the entry dated 5th September, 1805, "Thomas Ingersoll, Captain of the Militia of Oxford District."—From Mrs. Curzon, "Life of Laura Secord," second edition.

† The River Credit is so called because the fur traders met the Indians on its banks and delivered goods to them on credit. The Indian never broke an engagement to pay. If by any accident he could not bring the number of beaver skins promised, his friends or relations made up the promised number.



he repurchased his father's Oxford farm at sheriff's sale. The log-house where James Ingersoll was born in 1801 was still standing, but in a ruinous condition. James Ingersoll was the first white child born in Ingersoll. The brothers went earnestly to work. First a saw-mill, then a grist-mill, a store, a potashery and distillery were built. Charles Ingersoll brought his family there in 1821. Soon after he became a magistrate, postmaster and a Commissioner in the Court of Request. He was also appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the Second Oxford Militia, twice was returned member of Parliament, and died in 1832 of cholera. His eldest son died at the same time. Ingersoll was named by him in memory of his father.

James Ingersoll received the appointment of Registrar on the death of Mr. Hornor, holding that office from 1834 until his death, August 9th, 1886, aged eighty-five years.



## APPENDIX VIII.

Elizabeth Dewey, born 28th Jan., 1758, married 28th Feb., 1775, died 20th Feb., 1784.

CHILDREN OF THOMAS INGERSOLL AND ELIZABETH  
DEWEY INGERSOLL.

1. Laura (Mrs. Secord), born Dec., 1775, married James Secord, died 17th Oct., 1868.

2. Elizabeth Franks\* (Mrs. Pickett), born 17th Oct., 1779, married Rev. Daniel Pickett, 15th Jan., 1806, died 15th Aug., 1811.

3. Myra (Mrs. Hitchcock), born 1781, married in Canada to Mr. Hitchcock, died in Lebanon, Madison County, N.Y., in 1847.

4. Abigail (Mrs. Woodworth), born Sept., 1783, married Guy Woodworth 9th Sept., 1804, died 27th Feb., 1821.

Thomas Ingersoll's second wife was Mrs. Mercy Smith, a widow. Married Capt. Thos. Ingersoll 26th May, 1785; buried 18th May, 1789. There were no children by this marriage.

Sarah Whiting, born 26th April, 1762. Married, 1st, John Backus; 2nd, Thomas Ingersoll, 20th Sept., 1789; died at Ingersoll, Ont., 8th Aug., 1832.

## CHILDREN OF SARAH AND THOMAS INGERSOLL.

1. Charles Ingersoll, born at Great Barrington, Mass., 27th Sept., 1791; married Anna Maria Merritt, 5th Sept., 1816; died 18th Aug., 1832.

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\* There were "refugees" from Canada in Great Barrington during the Revolutionary War. Among them there was a Jacob Vanderheyden and a family by the name of Franks, who came from Quebec in 1775. Of this family there was a Miss Elizabeth Franks, a young lady and a belle, who made her home in the family of Col. Elijah Dwight. She married and resided in Vermont.

2. Charlotte (Mrs. Marigold), born at Great Barrington, 1793 ; married Mr. Marigold, died at London, Ont.
3. Appy (Mrs. Carroll), born at Great Barrington, April, 1794 ; married Mr. Carroll, died at Lakeside, Ont., 12th Jan., 1872.
4. Thomas Ingersoll, born 1796, died at St. Mary's, 1847.
5. Samuel Ingersoll, died at St. Mary's, 1861.
6. James Ingersoll, born 10th Sept., 1801 ; married Catharine Macnab, 1848 ; died at Woodstock, 9th Aug., 1886.
7. Sarah (Mrs. Mittlebergher), born 10th Jan., 1807 ; married Henry Mittlebergher, of St. Catharines ; died at St. Catharines 17th Nov., 1826.



## CHAPTER IV.

### *LAURA INGERSOLL SECORD.*

MR. SABINE, the biographer of the U. E. Loyalists, says :

“ Men who, like these, separate themselves from their friends and kindred, who are driven from their homes, who become outlaws, wanderers and exiles, such men leave few memorials behind, their papers are scattered and lost, and their names pass from human recollection.”

If this is true of men, in narrating the lives of women who have performed heroic deeds the narrator encounters still greater difficulties. The scanty records of their youth tell us little of the influences that developed and formed their character ; and the exciting period in which they lived, crowded with remarkable events, prevented the just appreciation of their services. Even at this late day there is a little-ness which would like to ignore the importance and dignity of the work. But if the past is discouraging, there is hope that in the years to come the search-light of history will be turned on woman's work, so that what she has done, and what she can do, will receive due recognition and be valued as it deserves.

Thomas Ingersoll, the father of Laura Ingersoll

Secord, removed from Westfield, Massachusetts, to Great Barrington, in the same State, in 1774. He married February 28th, 1775, Elizabeth, daughter of Israel Dewey. Land was purchased, a home built, and Mr. Ingersoll commenced business. This house, built in 1782, is still standing. It is on the east side of Main Street. The lot is large, being five-eighths of an acre. It was larger in Major Ingersoll's time, containing between four and five acres, and running back to the Housatonic River. A street has been taken off the southerly side. The house is broad and low, and has been renovated and somewhat remodelled in later years. The glass panes in the windows were formerly 6 x 8 inches. The property is now owned by the town, and is called the Great Barrington Free Library and Reading Room. A house in the background, at the extreme right, was formerly the shop of Major Ingersoll, and is on a side street.

Elizabeth Dewey was born January 28th, 1758, and was but seventeen years of age at the time of her marriage; she died February 20th, 1784, leaving four daughters. Laura, the eldest, was only eight years old at the time of her mother's death. Elizabeth Franks, the second daughter, married Mr. Pickett, and died in Canada. Myra, the third daughter, was married in Canada to Mr. Hitchcock, and after a few years returned to the United States. Abigail, the youngest, at the time of her mother's death was

adopted by her aunt, Mrs. Nash, and afterwards married Guy Woodworth, of Vermont.

Mr. Ingersoll married, May 26th, 1785, Mrs. Mercy Smith, the widow of Josiah Smith. There were no children by this marriage. She was buried May 18th, 1789. Both the marriage and burial are recorded by the Rev. Gideon Bostwick,\* who was the first Episcopal clergyman in Great Barrington. Little is known of the second Mrs. Ingersoll, but there are letters wherein she signs herself "Your affectionate step-mother, Mercy Ingersoll"; another where Mr. Ingersoll's name is mentioned, and signed in the same manner. Thomas Ingersoll married, September 20th, 1789, Sally Backus, widow of John Backus. Mrs. Backus was the daughter of Gamaliel Whiting, and sister of General John Whiting. The Whitings came from Westfield, and there had been marriages between the Ingersolls and Whitings. The old homestead of the Whitings was purchased by the town of Great Barrington for a town hall, and a monument to the soldiers who fell in the late Civil War stands upon the hearth-stone, which has never been removed. Mrs. Backus had one daughter by her first husband, called

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\* Previous to the Revolution the Documentary Records of the Colonies furnish abundant materials for the historian. During that time they were imperfectly kept, and sometimes ceased altogether. Fortunately, the church registrations kept by the Rev. Gideon Bostwick, of Great Barrington, the first Episcopal minister settled there, are continuous. He was one of the applicants for land with Mr. Ingersoll, but died before the arrangements were consummated. Two of his sons came to Canada. One was Sheriff of Norfolk, and another, Colonel Bostwick, lived at Port Stanley.

Nancy, who married a Mr. McKinstry, a name prominent in American annals. Mrs. McKinstry died in Cairo, Egypt. Of the girlhood of Laura Ingersoll scarcely a memory remains; of her sisters, also, few records are left. This much can be safely said, that Laura and Elizabeth were old enough to receive impressions that could never be effaced. War leaves memories that do not pass away. Great Barrington was on the highway where soldiers were passing to and from the war. Prisoners were also sent there. Among them, sick and dispirited, came General Burgoyne, after his surrender at Saratoga. With him were Baron Riedesel, the Hessian commander, and many English officers. Her father's experiences had been many. He had taken the Continental side, along with the numerous Ingersolls whose home was in Great Barrington.

The days of the Revolution had passed away; the reaction which follows war took place. A depreciated currency, lack of business and work—for the soldier does not readily go back to the toil and monotony of the farm—insurrection in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, were taxing the capacity of the builders of the new nation to the utmost. Thomas Ingersoll, who had risen from the ranks to be major, suffered, with many of his friends, from these discouragements, and they were willing to make new homes on the fertile Canadian lands.

It is at the sale of her father's property in Great Barrington, preparatory to bringing his family to

Canada, that Laura Ingersoll's name first appears in history.\* On January 11th, 1793, she, with Mr. Ives, witnessed the sale. Two years later, on April 21st, 1795, she is again a witness with Heber Chase, at the relinquishment by her stepmother, Sally Backus Ingersoll, of her rights in her husband's property. These records are valuable, as showing their preparations to come to Canada. They lived in Oxford County, where is now the town of Ingersoll. James Ingersoll was five years old when his father removed to the County of York. Four of the children by the third marriage were born in Great Barrington, and three in Canada. At the final sale of the property in Great Barrington Laura Ingersoll must have been in her twentieth year. It is more than probable that she came with her father before the other members of the family.

Of Laura Ingersoll's early life in Canada, the date of her arrival, and her marriage to Mr. Secord, nothing can be found. Probably the marriage took place soon after her arrival here. Her granddaughter, Miss L. Louisa Smith, of Guelph, says she lived at St. David's a short time after her marriage, and there are records showing James Secord was living at Queenston in 1802. Everything shows that James Secord shared in the prosperity of that time. He was a successful merchant, and they kept two colored servants.

The Secords were a numerous race, and were U. E. Loyalists, not settlers. Being among the earliest arrivals, they received lands in the Niagara District,

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\* See Appendix X.



and were among the most prominent and prosperous people. An old ledger, dating from 1806 through 1807, 1808, and part of 1809, shows that they were living in Queenston at that time. Mr. James Secord's name frequently occurs, and the entries show that they were for articles of household use and what women wear. As they are read over, paper and quills are of frequent mention. The articles of dress are expensive. There are slippers and fine hose. The dress of that period for common use was a petticoat and short gown, the skirt of stuff goods, the short gown of calico and expensive, being worth from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per yard. All other goods were high in price. Mr. Secord was a merchant also, and it can easily be seen that there was an exchange of goods.

We can little imagine the dismay of the people as the war-cloud dimmed and overspread the sky. Nearly thirty years of peace had changed the wilderness to fertile fields and orchards. The log cabin had given place to ample stone and brick houses, many of which still remain as testimony to the industry and prosperity of the settler. Niagara was the social and military centre; Queenston was the head of navigation, where the merchandise from Montreal was transhipped to the remotest settlements. Her own relatives and her husband's were among the most influential of the people. A Miss Secord, of Niagara, was called the belle of Canada. The name of a Miss Ingersoll is given among the

belles in the period from 1792 to 1800, and we have often asked ourselves, was it Laura Ingersoll? Perhaps some future searchers among the records of those times will be able to give the answer. Of the causes of the war it is needless to write. On that memorable morning of the 13th of October, 1812, when the invaders crossed the Niagara River, General Brock rose very early. His colored servant, as he assisted him to put on his sword, said, "You are very early, sir." "Yes, but the Yankees are earlier," was the reply. With a small staff he hurried to Queenston to direct and inspire his followers. The attack, and his death in the early morn, are a part of Canadian history. Laura Secord's husband was one of those who bore the remains of the dead warrior from the field to the house where they remained until the afternoon, when they were removed to Niagara. The next attack was followed by the death of Colonel Macdonnell. At the close of the third and last attack in the afternoon, word was conveyed to Mrs. Secord that her husband was wounded and lying on the hillside. She hurried to the spot. What follows is best told by her grandson, the late James B. Secord :

Just as she reached the spot three American soldiers came up, and two of them raised their muskets to club him to death. My grandmother rushed in between them, telling them to kill her and spare her husband. One of them spoke very roughly and told her to get out of the way, and, shoving her to one side, was about to accomplish his murderous intention. Captain Wool, coming up at that moment, sternly inquired how they dared attempt such a thing, called them cowards, sent them to



HOME OF LAURA INGERSOLL, GREAT BARRINGTON, MASS.

Built 1782. Presented by Chas. J. Taylor, Esq.



Lewiston under guard, where afterwards they were tried by court-martial and sentenced to several months' imprisonment for their breach of discipline. Captain Wool ordered a party of his men to take Mr. Secord to his own house in Queenston, and did not even make him a prisoner on parole. After his promotion, and when he had risen to the rank of colonel, he several times visited my grandfather, and their friendship continued until my grandfather's death.

It is pleasant, amid the cruelties of war, to record the kindness of a brave and honorable foe.

At the time when the great exploit of Laura Secord was performed, Niagara and Queenston were in possession of the American forces. Few of the inhabitants remained in Queenston. The order of General Dearborn (American commander), "that every man of the serviceable military age should be considered and treated as a prisoner of war," had deprived the homes of helpers and protectors. From Niagara to Fort Erie scouting parties had gone in every direction. Within two days nearly two hundred persons were arrested and sent as prisoners to the United States. Among them were the Rev. Mr. Addison, the first rector of St. Mark's, Niagara, six of the leading merchants, lawyers and others. Jacob Ball was taken from his bed at night. Men working in the fields, many too old and many too young for service, and men helpless from wounds, were sent away. General Vincent had evacuated Fort George and retreated to Burlington Heights, at the head of Lake Ontario. When evacuating Fort George, the guns were spiked and the ammunition destroyed. The

military records of the fort, as well as FitzGibbon's private papers, were destroyed at that time. Previous to this a depot of provisions and ammunition had been formed near the Beaver Dams. By General Vincent's orders these were deposited in a stone house occupied by Mr. De Cew.

Colonel Bisshopp had retreated from Chippewa and Fort Erie, placing De Haren at the Ten Mile Creek, where there was a junction of three roads, and his own command at Jordan. These positions materially interfered with the enemy, compelling them to live on their own resources. Lieutenant FitzGibbon was well known throughout the country as a man of valor and discretion, remarkably self-reliant and resourceful, and an adept in military strategy. He was well known also as the faithful companion and friend of the lamented General Brock. Soliciting the privilege of raising a volunteer company of fifty men, to be used as scouts,\* the permission was granted, and on the 13th June, within three days, the number was made up. He was obliged to decline the services of many who desired to be under his command. To these, two days after, there was added a party of Caughnawaga Indians, under Captain Ducharme, of nearly one hundred and sixty men. FitzGibbon's headquarters were at the stone house, formerly mentioned, of Captain De Cew (after whom

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\*The jackets worn by FitzGibbon's scouts were red on one side and grey on the other, and reversible. They used cow bells to signal instead of bugles. FitzGibbon himself could give an Irish yell or an Indian war-whoop. They were constantly on the alert.—“Veteran of 1812.”

the falls are named), and who was at that time a prisoner in the United States.\* De Haren was at the Ten Mile Creek with some Indians and men from New Brunswick. Throughout the peninsula there were only about sixteen hundred troops. They were in rags, many without shoes and often in want of food, yet they were ever ready to face the enemy.

From the time the volunteers came under FitzGibbon's command their work commenced, ever on the alert by day, and never sleeping twice in the same place. On the 20th they had a skirmish with the Americans at Niagara Falls. The next day they were at Chippewa and Point Abino, then to Lundy's Lane, where FitzGibbon had a narrow escape. Ducharme and his Indians were equally busy. They had been near Fort George more than once, killing men and making prisoners. Annoyed beyond measure at their audacity, the American commander determined by a vigorous blow to dislodge FitzGibbon and overawe the inhabitants. At a council of war in Niagara, on the 18th of June,† Colonel Boerstler, of Maryland, a man distinguished for gallant services, was selected, himself being present. Under his command were placed six hundred and thirty men, a company of light artillery, two field-pieces, mounted infantry, and a troop of dragoons.

At Mrs. Secord's house, in Queenston, some of the American officers were billeted. On the 23rd of

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\* The story of Captain De Cew's escape is given in the "History of Thorold Township."

† *Vide* James B. Secord.

June Boerstler dined with them. They talked freely of their plans, and of the importance of securing the Beaver Dams as a base of operations, whereby a large force could be concentrated to advance on Burlington Heights. The capture of FitzGibbon was to be the commencement of the enterprise. "That position once captured," said Colonel Boerstler, "Upper Canada is ours." He spoke truly, and military men of the present day acknowledge it was worth the venture.

Laura Secord was a quiet but eager listener. When Boerstler returned to Niagara to assume the command, and the other officers left her house to perform their allotted part, she consulted with her husband on the best course to pursue. For Mr. Secord to go was impossible, and there was no one else to send. The decision was soon made, for she was a woman of action and of few words. Said her niece, Mrs. Gregory:

"On that ever-to-be-remembered morning, Aunt left her home before daylight\* (the cow and the milk-pail are a fable), and came to St. David's, and rested at Grandma's† for a few minutes, and then left, Aunt Elizabeth Secord accompanying her as far as St. Catharines—then called Shipman's Corners‡—after which she proceeded on her way alone. I never heard Mrs. Neville's name in connection with the affair until I read it

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\* On June 24th the sun rises at 4.36. She reached St. David's as the sun was rising.

† Mrs. Stephen Secord.

‡ Mrs. Shipman came from New Jersey, a distance of over 500 miles, on horseback, with her children. The first name of St. Catharines, Shipman's Corners, was in memory of her family. It was where the Imperial Bank now stands.







FITZGIBBON'S HEADQUARTERS, 1893.

in a sketch copied from the *Methodist Magazine*. I remember well of sitting, in childish astonishment and terror, listening to Aunt and Grandma talking over the affair, and of hearing her relate the fears she entertained of meeting and being taken prisoner by the American Indians before she had reached the British lines, and given the information she was perilling freedom and life itself to give. She did not seem to think she had done more than a sacred duty."

From Niagara to the Beaver Dams by way of Queenston is between seventeen and eighteen miles; from Queenston to Beaver Dams between twelve and thirteen.

The Beaver Dams before the settlement of Upper Canada was a place where those ingenious and clever animals, the beavers, had constructed dams and made this their resort. The place was surrounded by beech woods. These were long visited by the curious, and those wishing to see the engineering skill of the industrious animal that is conspicuous on our national arms. In Boerstler's plan of attack\* the artillery was to take the main road; the other detachments, marching by different roads, were to meet and join in the attack upon FitzGibbon, while a portion were to attack De Haren and hold him in check at the Ten Mile Creek, thus preventing his assisting FitzGibbon. It was this portion of the plan, never carried out, that caused Mrs. Secord so much difficulty, and extended the distance for her to travel. The fear of being inter-

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\* In the "Veteran of 1812" is a map used by Colonel Boerstler at the court which exonerated him from blame for the disaster.

cepted at the Ten Mile Creek kept her from taking the direct road.

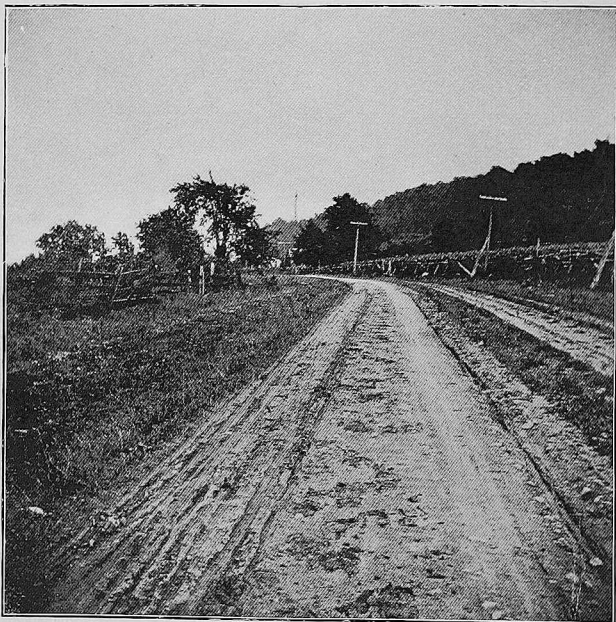
Such was the situation on the evening of the 23rd of June. The advance guard of the enemy had reached Queenston. Silence had been enjoined, no lights or fires allowed, patrols thrown out,\* and pickets placed to prevent information of the movement being given. With a hurried farewell to her husband and children, Mrs. Secord took her fate in her hands, and went forth with the inspiration which comes when duty calls. It was before the early light of the summer morn, and long before the last of Boerstler's troops had halted at Queenston, when she started on her way. Her brother, Charles Ingersoll, was lying dangerously ill at St. David's, and this excuse satisfied the sentinel for her early trip. He was at the house of her sister-in-law, the widow of Stephen Secord, at the south-east end of the village. She was there but a few minutes, but in that brief time resisted all persuasions to change her purpose, and induced her niece, Elizabeth Secord,† to go with her. This she did as far as Shipman's Corners, where her feet became so sore she was unable to proceed farther. From that point Mrs. Secord's journey was performed alone. It had been a very rainy season, the streams were swollen, and where the rude bridge had been swept away, on her hands and knees she crept over on a fallen tree. To

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\* The first sentry was at her own gate.—*Vide* Mrs. Dunn.

† Elizabeth Secord died at Napanee the following year.





PLACE WHERE THE INDIANS ENCAMPED.

avoid danger she had to recross the stream more than once, and to travel beyond the ordinary route. As she neared the vicinity of FitzGibbon, in coming up a steep bank, she came upon the Indians who were encamped there. They sprang to their feet upon her appearance, with piercing cries demanding to know "What white woman wanted?" Though terrified, her presence of mind did not forsake her, but to the last years of her life she never could speak of that time without emotion. They were Caughnawagas, and did not understand English. With difficulty the Chief, who partially understood English, at last comprehended that she had a message of importance for FitzGibbon, and must see him. It was seven o'clock in the morning when she came upon the Indian encampment. After what seemed a long detention she was at last conducted to FitzGibbon, and told him of the coming attack. There was no waste of words on either side; FitzGibbon recognized the danger, and his arrangements were promptly made.

Ducharme asked permission to post his men at a ravine in the beech woods, which only the day before had fixed his attention as a good place for an ambuscade. FitzGibbon gave the desired permission, and he with his twenty-five Caughnawagas and sixteen Mohawks started on a run for the desired spot. Lieutenant Jarvis, who saw the exhausted condition of Mrs. Secord, brought her a drink of water, and FitzGibbon, as soon as the disposition of his men was made, sent her to Mr. Turney's as a place of safety,

where, as she graphically expressed it, "I slept right off." Very soon after the Indian scouts came rushing in, with loud cries announcing Bœrstler's approach. Thanks to Mrs. Secord, every preparation had been made, and FitzGibbon rode two miles down the road to see the advancing lines of the enemy.\* Soon after nine Bœrstler appeared, and the action commenced at ten. The weather was intensely hot, and as he neared the ravine the Indians kept up an incessant firing from the woods. The artillery made ineffectual efforts to drive them out. Their repeated attempts to march forward were baffled, and Bœrstler changed his direction, to everywhere meet an invisible enemy. He was wounded twice, his horse was killed, his men were falling on every side, his officers disabled, and no advantage gained. He retreated to a hollow, where for a while they were partially sheltered. Then the Indians pressed forward with exulting shouts. Bœrstler had conducted himself bravely, but he knew that aid for FitzGibbon would soon arrive; he was no longer on the offensive, but the defensive. FitzGibbon saw his advantage, and brought up his troops which he had held in reserve. Bœrstler rallied his men once more, placed his wounded in

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\* The Beaver Dam is at least three miles from De Cew's house, and the falls are only a short distance beyond the house, which is of stone, and was selected by General Vincent. Thither the ammunition and other supplies were removed for safety, as the house could not be taken without artillery. If FitzGibbon rode two miles after his arrangements were made, and saw Bœrstler approaching, it must then have been nine o'clock, for Bœrstler says the action commenced at ten. Bœrstler never reached the Beaver Dams nor De Cew's house, only the neighborhood of both.



wagons, and with his artillery commenced to retreat.\* Captain Hall, of the Provincial Cavalry, arrived at this time, and three Kelly brothers, who had been working in a hay-field at some distance, and had heard the firing, seized their muskets and hurried to the beech woods, picking up eight or ten more of the militia on the way. The Americans were at the last in David Miller's apple orchard, and there Bœrstler surrendered.†

Bœrstler was surrounded, and FitzGibbon thought if he could be detained for a little while the capture would be effected without further blood being shed. Captain Hall was instructed to personate De Haren, and was sent forward with a flag of truce. A soldier of the 49th was to personate Colonel Bisshopp. Bœrstler was unnerved by defeat and the pain of his wounds. It was represented to him, in the strongest language possible, how difficult it would be to hold the Indians in check. Some frightful examples of recent date were recalled to his memory, and while they were being told, FitzGibbon's troops were marched and remarched across the field.‡ Bœrstler asked time to decide. This was refused,

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\* Bœrstler sent to General Dearborn for reinforcements, and 300 men were sent under Colonel Christie. They reached Queenston, but, hearing of Bœrstler's surrender, returned to Fort George. The force that was to have made an attack upon De Haren and hold him there, did not reach the Ten Mile Creek.

† Note 36, page 192, Mrs. Curzon.

‡ "We frightened the enemy," says Judge Jarvis, "with our Indians and from sounding the bugle in different positions, to make them suppose we were numerous and had them surrounded."

and five minutes only were given. FitzGibbon was more than anxious to have the surrender accomplished before the arrival of superior officers, De Haren with reinforcements being immediately expected. The terms of the capitulation had scarcely been accepted before De Haren arrived, and it took considerable strategy on FitzGibbon's part to finish the work that thus far he had so successfully carried out.\* The late Judge Jarvis (then Lieutenant) said in after years, "When the Yankees did surrender we wondered what FitzGibbon was going to do with them." Boerstler said the action lasted three hours and ten minutes. The surrender took place at 4 p.m. FitzGibbon's ruse proved successful, and the articles of capitulation were signed. Thirty Americans had been killed and sixty wounded. Ducharme had fifteen Indians killed and twenty-five wounded. In addition, there were surrendered the colors of the 14th United States Infantry, two cannons, two baggage wagons, and five hundred stand of arms, as substantial tokens of the victory. No massacre stained its laurels.

To Ducharme and his Indian allies belongs the glory of the fight; to FitzGibbon the tact, skill and humanity which made the victory so great. Many years after, in constructing the new Welland Canal, the burial-place of the dead was discovered. The remains were carefully gathered, and a stone obelisk

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\* The capitulation was signed by De Haren, but everything was prearranged by FitzGibbon.

marks the spot where our Indian friends and the invading foe sleep their long sleep together.

The effect of the victory at Beaver Dams, combined with the previous successful night attack by Colonel Harvey at Stony Creek, on June 5th, when the enemy were driven back to Niagara, and two of their generals,\* Winder and Chandler, captured, had a most inspiring effect throughout the country. The enemy thereafter was compelled to keep within his entrenchments, and though there was frequent skirmishing, few gains were made by the Americans. The farmers who were left, and the volunteers who could be spared, returned to their homes to gather, as well as their limited numbers permitted, the harvest and fruits of the year, though much remained unreaped and ungathered for want of hands.

Laura Secord returned from the house of Mr. Turney to her home, happy in the knowledge that her sacred duty had been performed. No words of pride or triumph crossed her lips. The grandson who has been previously quoted, says: "She was a modest and unassuming woman, and did not attach the importance to her exploit that it merited." Neither at that time would it have been wise to have given it publicity. Queenston, as most other places on the frontier, was one day in possession of the invading troops, perhaps the next in that of their defenders. Darker days were yet in store for Canada,

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\* Lieutenants Ingersoll and McKenna took them to Quebec.

deeds of relentless cruelty, followed by swift and remorseless retribution. The foe was driven back to his own land, but before he left Niagara was laid in ashes. On the 10th of December, 1813, in the midst of a snow-storm, and at only an hour's notice, the terrible order was given. On the 19th day of July, 1814, St. David's, where the first years of her married life were passed, met the same fate as Niagara. She saw the homes of her kindred, the labors of thirty years, swept away, while their owners were prisoners or serving on the various battle-fields. These years of warfare tested her discretion and courage to the utmost.

Mrs. Curzon gives the following, which is quite characteristic of her quickness of speech when moved :

“ Three Americans called at her house in Queenston to ask for water. One of them said, ‘ When we come for good to this country we'll divide the land, and I'll take this here for my share.’ Mrs. Secord was so nettled by the thought expressed that, although the men were civil and respectful, she replied sharply, ‘ You scoundrel, all you'll ever get here will be six feet of earth.’ When they were gone her heart reproached her for her heat, because the men had not molested her property. Two days after the men returned. They said to Mrs. Secord, ‘ You were right about the six feet of earth, missus.’ The third man had been killed.”

Mr. H. C. Mewburn, of Stamford, heard Mrs. Secord tell the same story.

Her granddaughter, Miss Smith, already quoted, relates that she saved a number of gold doubloons in

a copper kettle which was hanging over the fire. Miss Smith still possesses the tea-kettle, which is more than one hundred years old.

Another incident, related by her granddaughter, Mrs. Cockburn, probably occurred about this time.

Mr. Secord had received quite a large sum of money, which by some means must have become known. One night soon after, when she was alone with her young children, and only a colored boy called Bob and a colored girl called Fan in the house, a man appeared asking admittance, saying he was pursued. My grandmother refused to admit him at that time of night. Then he said he could and would come in. Changing her voice to an Irish brogue, she threatened to set the dog upon him. The colored boy was told to growl like a dog, which it seems he could do to perfection. The man went away, but soon returned, when my grandmother presented an old horse-pistol, telling him she would shoot if he did not leave. He went off declaring he would yet get in. Grandmother afterwards heard that a desperate character had been seen around the village at the time the money was received.

When the war ended, and the welcome days of peace came, and the prisoners returned to their homes, her eldest daughter was married to Dr. Trumbull, assistant surgeon of the 17th Regiment. The engagement took place during the war, and the marriage followed, April 18th, 1816. Her brother, Charles Ingersoll, was married the same year to Sarah Maria, sister of the late Hon. W. H. Merritt, his companion in arms. Both of these marriages are recorded in the parish register of St. Mark's Church, Niagara. Having gone to Jamaica, in the West Indies. Dr. Trumbull died there. Mrs. Trumbull, with her

two daughters, visited her mother before she went to Ireland, which she made her home. Mary Trumbull, the eldest, never married. Elizabeth Trumbull, the second daughter, married Mr. Davis, President of the Bank of Ireland in Belfast.

Four of Mrs. Secord's daughters were married while she lived in Queenston. Of two of these marriages the date has not been found. One daughter, Charlotte, never married, and died at Guelph. Appollonia died at the early age of eighteen, and was probably buried at St. David's, in the burying-ground given by Major Secord. Harriet Secord married David William Smith, a lawyer, November 23rd, 1824. This marriage, by license, was performed at Queenston by Rev. Mr. Turney, Chaplain of the forces; it is also entered in the St. Mark's Parish Register. Mr. Smith practised law at St. Catharines, and, dying there, was buried at Fort Erie; Mrs. Smith died at Guelph. Hannah Cartwright married a Mr. Williams, from England. After his death she married a Mr. Carthew, who was also an Englishman. Their home was in Guelph, and they are buried there. Mrs. Secord's only son, Charles Badeau, married Margaret, daughter of W. Robins, of New York, who had been in the English service, but the number of his regiment is not known. This son Charles lived for many years in the house where General Brock was taken for a few hours before the removal to Fort George. He was Registrar of the Surrogate Court at Niagara, dying there in 1872, leaving two sons and one daughter. Occa-

sionally we come upon traces of Laura Secord's life in Queenston. We find—

On the 14th July, 1817, Thomas Dickson, of Queenston, Merchant, conveyed the Thorburn Homestead property to James Secord, Merchant, for £25.

On the 4th December, 1817, James Secord and his wife Laura conveyed the same land to Samuel Street, for \$625.

Mr. James Secord received a pension for his services at Queenston, and an appointment in the Customs Department at Chippewa. The year of his removal from Queenston has not been obtained. An incident of Mrs. Secord's life in Chippewa is related by her granddaughter, Mrs. Cockburn :

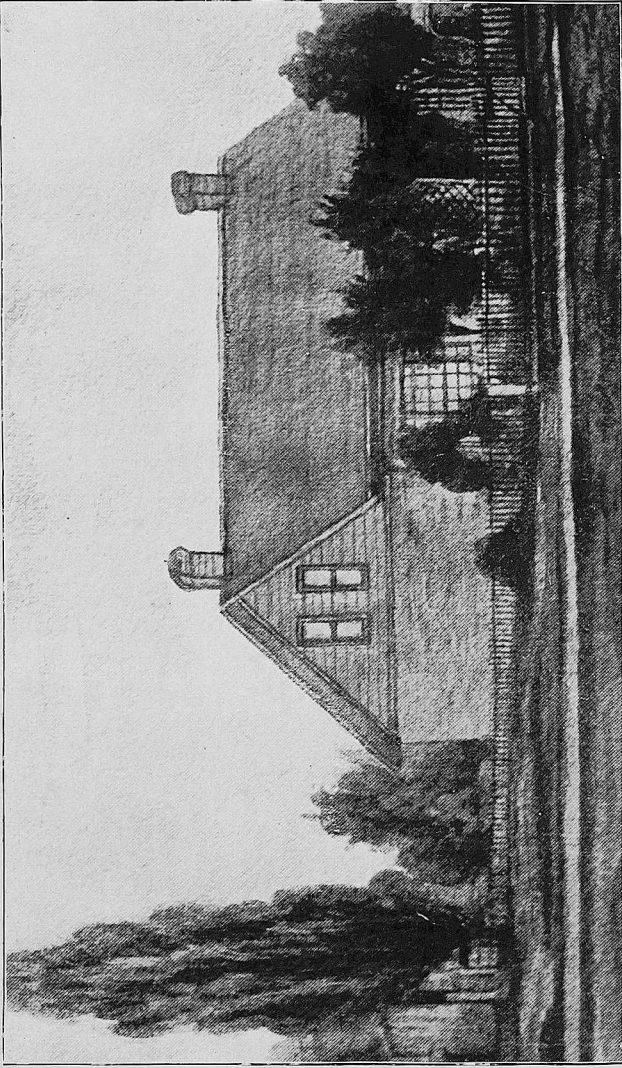
“ My grandmother was a woman of strong personality and character, and her word carried great weight with it, as the following incident will show. Upon one occasion a negro in whom she was interested was very ill with the smallpox. Of course there were no isolated hospitals in those days, the patient having to be treated at home, precautions being taken to prevent the contagion from spreading. Grandma heard that the doctor intended smothering the poor negro, and accordingly challenged him as to those reports. He admitted the charge, saying at the same time, ‘ He is only a nigger and not much account anyway.’ ‘ As sure as you do,’ my grandmother answered, ‘ I will have you indicted for murder.’ This seemed to set him thinking, and putting forth renewed efforts he pulled the poor fellow through, who, in after years, testified his gratitude in many ways for the saving his life. She was a great favorite with young people, who, on returning from school for their holidays, would say, after a brief time in the house, ‘ Now, we must go and see Mrs. Secord.’ ”

Mrs. Secord's home in Queenston was well back from the street and on rising ground. It was a frame building. A niece of her husband's says that both sides of the path were thickly set with roses. The hand of the renovator has done its work. Fortunately a sketch of the place in water-colors was taken the year previous to its renovation. The house in Chippewa, fronting the river, where her last years were spent, has also been renovated, but the front of the house, the small glass in the front windows, and the porch still remain. The large stone house built by De Cew in 1810 is in good preservation, and can stand the storms for many a year to come. It is nearly a century since it was built. The walls are very thick; the casings of the windows in the hall, the wainscotting, and the stairs also are of solid walnut. The frieze and casing of the windows in what was the drawing-room show that it was a handsome as well as a convenient house.

Mr. and Mrs. Secord were living in Chippewa when the rebellion of 1837 took place; it must have recalled the scenes of Laura's earlier days. Here were the headquarters of Colonel (afterwards Sir) Allan McNab, and from this same place went Captain Drew to cut out and burn the steamer *Caroline*. It was the beacon light at the mouth of the Chippewa Creek—only a short distance from her home—that guided him to, and from the night's adventure.

When the great gathering took place at Queenston





CHIPPEWA HOME OF MRS. SECORD, AND WHERE SHE DIED, 1854. 1868



Heights, July 30th, 1840, to take measures for the reconstruction of Brock's monument, destroyed by Benjamin Lett, April 17th, 1840, Mr. Secord spent the night with his brother, Major David Secord, at St. David's. Mr. James Secord, Major Secord and Mr. William Kirby (the author of "Chien d'Or," who was then a young man living at St. David's), went to and returned from Queenston together. The War of 1812 was the principal topic of their conversation, yet, strange to say, neither her husband nor his brother made the slightest allusion to Mrs. Secord's heroic deed. Mr. Secord died at Chippewa, 22nd February, 1841, and was buried at Lundy's Lane. With his life the pension ceased. Mrs. Secord never received any recompense from the Canadian Government. Twenty-seven years of widowhood were to follow—a long struggle with limited means, and many bereavements to herself and daughters, borne on her part with uncomplaining patience, grateful for help, and but seldom asking for it. How grateful she was, and how kindness touched her heart, is well told in this incident: A nephew of her husband's had to the last years of his life been exceedingly kind. With tears she used to put her old arms about his neck and say, "You have been more than son or brother to me."

In 1860 the Prince of Wales visited Canada, and spent several days at Niagara Falls, occupying the residence of the late Samuel Zimmerman, which had

been specially refurnished for himself and suite. On Sunday he attended church at Chippewa. During his stay at Niagara Falls a petition was presented for his approval, and Mrs. Secord's name being the only woman's name upon the petition, the Prince made inquiry as to its being there. When he was told of her meritorious action, he continued his inquiry in regard to her circumstances, and sent her a check for £100 sterling. This was the first and only remuneration she ever received for her services, and is gladly mentioned as one of the kindly acts of the eldest son of our beloved Queen Victoria. The first time her brave act had been recognized as worthy of notice was in the *Anglo-American Magazine*, Vol. III. In the November number of 1853, was a report of the action at Beaver Dams, one of a series of articles upon the War of 1812. Mrs. Secord's narrative was given and the certificate of FitzGibbon which established the fact, and elicited her grateful thanks. Even then some doubted, and as time passed along some denied its truth.

Her life commenced with the Revolution, her father and kindred fighting for the Republic, while her future husband and his mother were among the first fugitives to find safety in Canada. The son of the refugee and the daughter of the settler were united by marriage, and participating in the War of 1812, gave invaluable services to their country. Together they saw the beginning and end of the rebellion.

The year 1866 brought the Fenian Raid, and her brave heart must have beat with quickened throb, and the old eyes gleamed with their youthful fire, as she saw among the volunteers many of the old names of her kindred hastening through Chippewa to Fort Erie.

The great age attained by Mrs. Secord had been years of loneliness and bereavement. Of the large family of brothers, sisters and step-sisters but four survived her. Among those of her husband's relatives who had been her companions in the trials of more than three-quarters of a century, there were none remaining.

On the 17th of October, 1868, at the age of ninety-three,

“Life dropped the distaff from the hands serene,  
And loving neighbors smoothed the careful shroud,  
While death and winter closed the autumn scene.”

“Laura Secord was of fair complexion, with kind, brown eyes, a sweet and loving smile hovering about the mouth. This did not denote weakness. She was five feet four inches tall and slight in form.”\*

Her granddaughter, Miss L. Louisa Smith, says :

“I feel a nation's gratitude should have appreciated the noble act of Laura Secord, and have raised a monument to her memory on the spot selected by her husband as their last resting-place.”

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\* Mrs. Cockburn.

Mr. and Mrs. Secord are buried in the burying-ground at Lundy's Lane. The battle-field was then as now the burying-place. The head-stone of Laura Secord is three feet high and eighteen inches wide, and has the following inscription :

HERE RESTS

LAURA,

BELOVED WIFE OF JAMES SECORD,

DIED OCTOBER 17TH, 1868.

IN MEMORY OF

JAMES SECORD, SEN.,

COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS,

Who departed this life on the 22nd of February, 1841,

In the 68th year of his age.

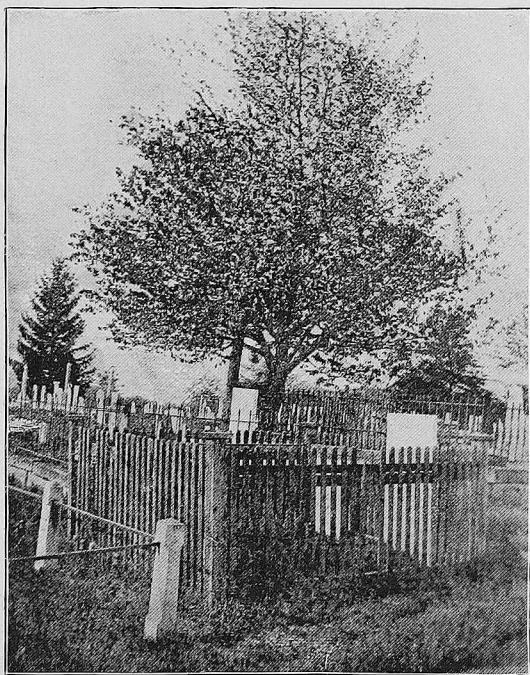
Universally and deservedly lamented as a sincere Friend, a kind and indulgent Parent, and an affectionate Husband.

A simple wooden paling surrounds the graves.\*

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\* Given by Mrs. Dunn.





PRESENT STATE OF LAURA INGERSOLL  
SECORD'S GRAVE, 1900.





## APPENDIX IX.

THE CHILDREN OF JAMES SECORD AND LAURA  
INGERSOLL.

Name.	Married.	Died.
Mary,	Wm. Trumbull, Asst. Surgeon of 37th Regiment, April 18th, 1816.	In Ireland.
Charlotte,	Unmarried.	
Harriet,	David William Smith, barrister, at Queenston, by license, Nov. 23rd, 1824.	
Hannah Cartwright,	Hawley Williams, first ; Edward Carthew, second.	
Laura,	Dr. William Clark, first ; Capt. Poore, second.	
Charles Badeau,	Miss Robins.	In 1872, aged 63 years.
Appollonia,	Unmarried.	At Queenston, aged 18.

There are thirteen grandchildren living in the present year, 1900.

James B. Secord, jun., married Miss Flint ; died in 1899, at Niagara ; no children.

*In your Account for Schooling  
Billy Galley is 1 1/2 - 8 Sally Barker*

Lent by Chas. J. Taylor, Esq.

## APPENDIX X.

Thomas Ingersoll } Certain real estate. Deed dated Jan.  
 to } 11th, 1793. Acknowledged the same day  
 Samuel Whiting } before

THOMAS IVES,  
 Justice of the Peace.

“In the presence of  
 LAURA INGERSOLL,  
 THOMAS IVES.”

BOOK 33, pages 106, 107.

Thomas Ingersoll } Certain mountain lands. His  $\frac{1}{4}$  part  
 to } which he owned jointly with Thomas Ives  
 John Whiting } and John Burghart.

Deed dated April 20th, 1795. Acknowledged April 21st,  
 1795, before

MOSES HOPKINS,  
 Justice of the Peace.

“In presence of  
 JARED INGERSOLL,  
 HEBER CHASE.”

April 28, 1795, Mrs. Ingersoll makes a release (on same deed) of all her rights in the property, conveyed as wife of Thomas Ingersoll, “my present husband,” and signs her name

SALLY INGERSOLL. [Seal.]

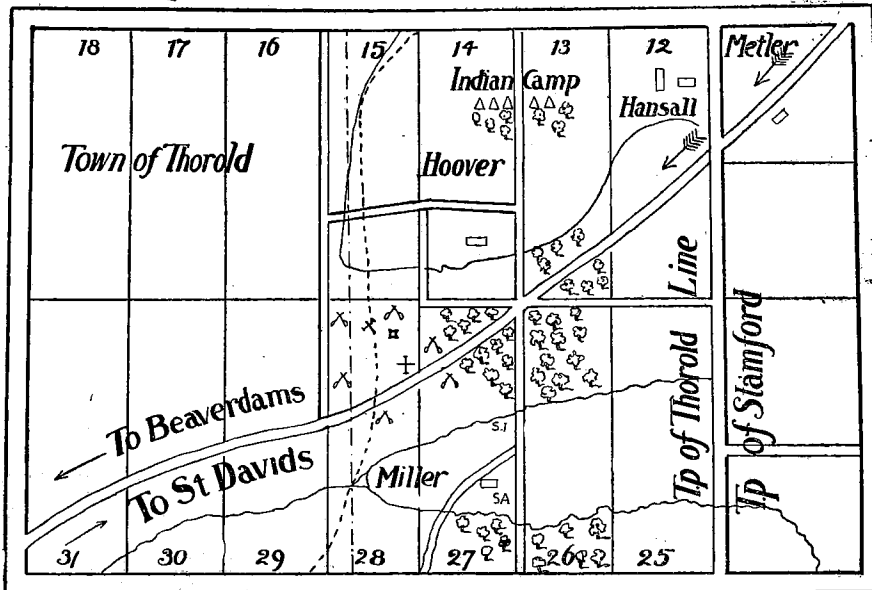
In presence of  
 HEBER CHASE,  
 LAURA INGERSOLL.

LETTER OF MAJOR THOMAS INGERSOLL.

Sir Great Barrington Sept 14 1795  
 Soon as you left town Mr. Deane,  
 sett out for his son and has not  
 returned if he should not return  
 to Day, I that I am set on you  
 with him I shall not come to  
 Lenox this week this is  
 for you to let towards you  
 As I am in a point but your  
 Honour will be sure you to let,  
 but Sir if you should turn  
 the vote the writs my Honour  
 would oblige me to Little that  
 I let before I left town to your  
 satisfaction I am your  
 Obedt. Servant

Thos. Ingersoll

## DIAGRAM of BATTLE of BEAVERDAMS JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> 1813



Explanations:   
 ← Road taken by Boerstler. This road no longer open across lots 12, 13, 27, 28.   
 △ Battleground.   
 + Guns in action. □ Obelisk.   
 --- Welland, R.R. .... New Canal.   
 S.I. S.A. Places of surrender of Infantry and Artillery.

## DIAGRAM OF BATTLE OF BEAVER DAMS.

JUNE 24th, 1813.

It is well to remember that three Indian trails converging on Niagara were still used. A part of the road over which Børstler passed has been closed, and other roads opened in its place. The old and new canals, with a network of railways from all directions, have changed the face of the country, and caused the disappearance of most of the old landmarks. Of the beech woods, then so extensive, but little remains, and the beaver dams will soon be among the things of the past. In the "History of Thorold" there are views of the place taken in 1897. The reader will notice in the accompanying diagram the position of several buildings. From the barn on the Metler lot Mrs. Philip Metler watched the engagement from its beginning until the close. Mrs. Metler also said Børstler passed a little after nine o'clock. The Hoover House, being so close to the battle-ground, was forsaken by its inmates for a safer place. The Kellys were in David Miller's apple orchard. The diagram is kindly given by Mr. A. W. Reavely, an old resident who has studied the locality, and is familiar with its history and traditions.

STATEMENTS OF MRS. SECORD AND CAPTAIN  
FITZGIBBON.

## Mrs. Secord's own statement :

“ I shall commence at the battle of Queenston, where I was at the time the cannon-balls were flying around me in every direction. I left the place during the engagement. After the battle I returned to Queenston, and then found that my husband had been wounded, my house plundered and property destroyed. It was while the Americans had possession of the frontier that I learned the plans of the American commander, and determined to put the British troops under FitzGibbon in possession of them, and, if possible, save the British troops from capture and total destruction. In doing so I found I should have great difficulty in getting through the American guards, which were out two miles in the country. Determined to persevere, however, I left early in the morning, walked nineteen miles in the month of June to a field belonging to Mr. De Camp, in the neighborhood of the Beaver Dam. By this time daylight had left me. Here I found all the Indians encamped. By moonlight the scene was terrifying, and to those accustomed to such scenes might be considered grand. Upon advancing to the Indians they all ran and said, with some yells, ‘ Woman ! ’ which made me tremble. I cannot express the awful feeling it gave me, but I did not lose my presence of mind. I was determined to persevere. I went up to one of the chiefs, made him understand I had great news for FitzGibbon, and that he must let me pass to his camp, or that he and his party would all be taken. The chief at first objected to let me pass, but finally consented, with some hesitation, to go with me and accompany me to FitzGibbon's station, which was at Beaver Dam, where I had an interview with him. I then told him what I had come for and what I had heard—that the Americans intended to make an attack upon the troops under his command, and would, from their superior numbers, capture them all. Benefiting by this

information, Capt. FitzGibbon formed his plans accordingly, and captured about five hundred American infantry and fifty mounted dragoons, and a field-piece or two was taken from the enemy. I returned home the next day exhausted and fatigued. I am now advanced in years, and when I look back I wonder how I could have gone through so much fatigue with the fortitude to accomplish it."—Taken from the *Anglo-American Magazine*, Vol. III., November, 1853, No. 5.

The following is copied from "A Veteran of 1812," by Mary Agnes FitzGibbon, granddaughter of Lieutenant-Colonel James FitzGibbon :\*

"I do hereby certify that Mrs. Secord, wife of James Secord, of Chippewa, Esq., did, in the month of June, 1813, walk from her house near the village of St. David's, to De Cou's house in Thorold, by a circuitous route of about twenty miles, partly through the woods, to acquaint me that the enemy intended to attempt, by surprise, to capture a detachment of the 49th Regiment, then under my command, she having obtained such knowledge from good authority, as the event proved. Mrs. Secord was a person of slight and delicate frame, and made the effort in weather excessively warm, and I dreaded at the time she must suffer in health in consequence of fatigue and anxiety, she having been exposed to danger from the enemy, through whose lines of communication she had to pass. The attempt was made on my detachment by the enemy. and his detachment, consisting of upwards of 500 men and a field-piece and fifty dragoons, were captured in consequence. I write this certificate in a moment of much hurry and from memory, and it is therefore thus brief.

"(Sgd.) JAMES FITZGIBBON,  
"Formerly Lieutenant 49th Regiment."

Mrs. Secord possessed the original, December, 1863.

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\* Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGibbon, born November 11th, 1780, died at Windsor, December 10th, 1863, aged 83.

## CHAPTER V.

### *REMINISCENCES OF 1812.*

MANY of the incidents in these reminiscences are given as nearly as possible as they came from the lips of the narrators. They are not history, but the experiences of those who made new homes for themselves and their posterity, and exemplified the perils which beset them during the troubled days of war. Posterity is reaping now what a noble ancestry planted, and should give more than silent remembrance to the fathers and mothers of this Dominion.

It was my privilege in early youth to have heard much relating to the War of 1812. It was the custom of those days for the women to take their sewing or knitting and spend the afternoon with their friends. The number was not large, and they were mostly of the same age. As old soldiers, when they meet, talk over their battles, with the triumphs and defeats of the past, so these women told again their share in the perils and trials of those eventful years. A quarter of a century had not passed, and they were still vivid in their memories. Stoves were few; only the open fire with shining brass andirons and fender,



with bright candlesticks on the mantel-piece, which was generally so high that it was safe from the depredations of the children. There were no pictures, and very few books. Occasionally could be seen those silhouettes which we are gathering up now as precious relics of the past. The brass knocker and the brass door-handle were in evidence, but there was no lock and key, only a stick hanging by a string to place over the latch, and this often forgotten. Visitors arrived between two and three p.m.

Every married woman, young or old, wore a cap. It would have been undignified not to do so. In the making and trimming of these caps much taste was displayed. The lace, gathered or plaited at the sides, was usually real English lace, now called Mechlin. There was a plain space over the forehead where a large bow of ribbon, of color most becoming to the wearer, was placed, and strings of the same. A large collar trimmed with lace, or else of embroidery, completed the dress of the younger matrons, or those not in mourning. Widow's caps were of muslin, with a full puffed frill. This had a black ribbon passing back of the frill and tying under the chin. A widow's dress was black bombazine, open to the belt, with white muslin kerchief carefully folded. This she was supposed to wear until death or re-marriage. Middle-aged ladies wore dresses of pressed flannel, generally brown. Of what we call gossip there was but little. The conversation soon drifted to the war. As one after another told her

tale of suffering, there arose a hatred of war in my heart, which has grown stronger with advancing years. Our aged male friends often related their own experiences and those of their friends. The description of Colonel Butler and his Rangers was a combination of bravery and cruelty, which was the fascination and terror of my childhood. Years after, when from the lips of those who knew the man, who had been his comrades in war and his neighbors in the better days of peace, we heard the story of his later years, it was to find a different character—a brave soldier, a loyal and useful citizen.

An amusing incident was related by an aged friend. When a very young child, Colonel Butler visited at her father's house. Her father had held a commission in the Rangers also. Butler was accompanied by a colored servant who dressed his wig. It was the fashion of the age to have what was called "body servants," and they were generally colored. Colonel Butler wore one wig and carried a second. This was dressed on a blocked head with a painted face. The child entered his room one day when this was standing on the dressing-table, and ran frightened and screaming from the place, telling them "someone had cut off Colonel Butler's head." It took considerable time and reasoning to convince her that this was not true.

Marriage customs sixty years ago had peculiar features. The invitations were written, and had a bow of white ribbon at the left-hand corner. The cere-

mony was generally in the evening. The bride was attired in white, and was always supposed to wear some simple thing that was borrowed, to bring good luck. At the supper the first piece from the wedding-cake was cut by her. After supper she changed her dress for a silk one. The next day the bride and bridegroom, bridesmaids and groomsmen, with many of their friends, drove to Niagara Falls. The bride wore a long white gauze veil, and afterwards wore this for a few Sundays to church. The evening following the marriage, or soon after, the bridegroom's parents gave what was called an "in-fair" at their home to the bridal guests. An elaborate supper was provided, with cards for the elderly people and dancing for the younger, in which the fathers and mothers joined.

The deaths and funerals of that time were also notable family events, with many usages now passed away. The custom of "sitting up" with the dead has only been discontinued a few years. The dead were kept many days before burial, and elaborate preparations were made for the funeral. The family, from the oldest to the youngest, were put in garments of the deepest woe, the whole neighborhood working to prepare the mourning. A table, with refreshments to eat and drink, was laid out the day of the funeral. These refreshments were according to the social rank and financial standing of the deceased. There were long crape bands and black scarfs of various kinds, and gloves for the pall-

bearers, the physicians, clergymen, etc. The funeral garments went through various stages of grief, taking from two to three years before they could be left off. The diary of Colonel Clark says that the family sleigh was painted black at his mother's death.

Attendance upon the sick devolved upon women, for there were no trained nurses. Any woman who, by careful observation, had learned some of the requirements of sickness, was a valued member of the community. There were few women who did not feel it a sacred duty, at all times and all places, to minister to their sick neighbor, undeterred by darkness, by distance or the danger of contagion. Whoever was "handy" in sickness was a frequent topic of conversation. Vaccination had not yet taken the place of inoculation, and whole families were inoculated at the same time, followed with the best preventive results.

The late Colonel Clark, of Port Dalhousie, left a diary which contains much useful information regarding the times in which his father lived.

The volunteers went back to their ruined homes, their wasted fields, to struggle with poverty of which we can form no idea or estimate. The church and the school-house, the minister and the school-master, had disappeared. The children of that generation grew up in most deplorable ignorance. As soon as the struggle for food, clothing and shelter was over, these were the first things that secured attention. There were villages in which there was not a clergy-

man to be found of any denomination. In sickness those who made any appearance of piety, whether male or female, were called upon to give what spiritual consolation could be given the dying in the last hour. The writer remembers a lady who came to St. David's, and whose infant was evidently dying. The mother was very anxious that her child should be baptized. An aged woman, who was a Methodist, performed the rite, to the comfort and satisfaction of the about-to-be-bereaved mother.

It has been asked why did not England give more aid to those who had so bravely upheld the flag of their common country? There is one answer that should be sufficient. She was gathering her resources for that mighty struggle which culminated in Waterloo and gave peace to the nations for many years. The settlements, commenced so auspiciously, had been put back by the invasion for another half century. Between two English-speaking peoples there were left the wounds which take so many years to heal, and the evil influences which war ever brings. Amid it all, Canadians felt that they had preserved their country and the prestige of that great Empire which had ever been their protector, that England's flag still waved on the ramparts of Quebec and on Queenston Heights, and that "these sons of a mighty mother" would ever be a part of that race whose drum-beat is heard around the world.

The only resource of Canada was her fertile lands, and these were as unknown to the world as to herself.

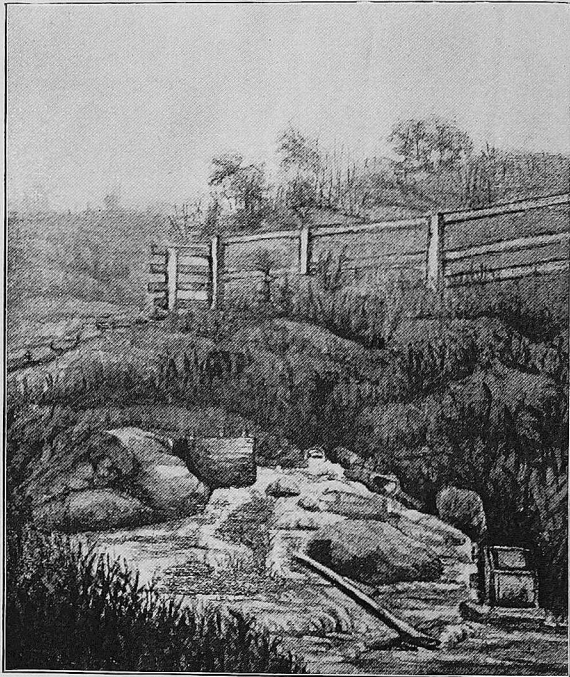
The tide of emigration from Europe was turned to the homes offered by the United States. It was that happy period when they sang—

“ Come along, come along, make no delay ;  
Come from every nation, come from every way ;  
Lands, they are broad enough ; don't be alarmed,  
Uncle Sam is rich enough to give you all a farm.”

And they did come, until there was no more to give. Canada, unknown, belittled, misrepresented, is only now beginning to realize the greatness of her domain, the worth of her possessions, the magnitude of her wheat fields, the timber and the fisheries of the Pacific coast, the gold of British Columbia and the Klondike, the iron, copper and nickel of other provinces ; while the coal from her mines is coming into the market to replenish the decreasing resources of other countries, and to help the industries and commerce of the world.







SOURCE OF FOUR MILE CREEK, ABOVE  
ST. DAVID'S, 1894.



## CHAPTER VI.

### *ST. DAVID'S AND VICINITY.*

ST. DAVID'S received its name in honor of Major David Secord. It has had more than one name, the first being Four Mile Creek Mills. The spring originates in the township of Stamford, near the Grand Trunk Railway. It was afterwards called Davidsville and Davidstown, and finally merged into St. David's, by which name it was known during the war, and which it still retains.

In 1793, Governor Simcoe established salt works at Louth. People were allowed to make their own salt. The Rev. Mr. Addison had certain rights in the works given him.

Mineral springs are of frequent occurrence, both above and below the mountain ridge. There was one on the farm of the late Joseph Thorn, and another on or near that of the late Mr. John McKinley.

The mineral springs at St. Catharines have long been celebrated for their curative properties, especially in all forms of rheumatism. If better known, they would bring numberless sufferers to be cured.

Two hundred and fifty years ago the missionary

Daillon pronounced the peninsula of Ontario incomparably beautiful, the most extensive and fruitful land he ever saw. Others followed, expressing the same admiration. Time has proved the truth. This land reaches from the shores of Lake Erie to Burlington Bay. The bloom and beauty of the orchards in the early spring, and the odor of the vineyards, are the promise of what the autumn days will bring. Fruits of unrivalled excellence are carried by the iron horse to the remotest hamlets of the Dominion, and the greyhounds of the Atlantic carry them from the "garden of Canada" to the tables of Europe.

Major David Secord gave the land where stands the present Methodist church, and along with it the burying-ground. Queenston never had a public burial-place, and most of her dead are buried here. The site of a school-house was also included in the gift, and here the church and school-house stood, side by side, until 1871, when one more in unison with modern requirements was erected nearer the village. Its removal gave enlargement to the burial-ground, which was much needed. A small creek is the boundary on the eastern side. The church was commenced before the division of the Methodist Church into the two branches of Wesleyan and Episcopal Methodist Churches. The building was of substantial materials, and was well on its way to completion when the division took place. It was left in this unfinished state for many years. The late Bishop Richardson is

authority for the statement that the old Warner meeting-house was the only one the Episcopal Methodists called their own. This church is on the Thorold Road, and, with its burying-ground, can be seen from the Grand Trunk Railway. This building has been renovated and made much smaller.

During the winter of 1842 and 1843 the Niagara Temperance Association sent a lecturer through the Niagara District. After the division the Methodists of both denominations held alternate religious services in the school-house. The school trustees refused to allow the school-house for temperance lectures. A few of the residents, at their own expense, partitioned off part of the old church, put in a table, stove and benches, and commenced meetings. Very soon religious meetings were held there, as it was much larger than the school-room. This lasted for a year or two, when all united to put the whole church in repair. It has had other renovations to make it more modern. The first pulpit was a lofty one, ascended by many steps. It has been cut down twice, if not oftener.

In the burying-ground rest many of the Secords, Clements and Woodruffs. Judge De Veaux, the founder of De Veaux College at Niagara Falls, N.Y., and his wife are buried here. Mrs. De Veaux was the sister of Richard and William Woodruff. There were three brothers in the Clement family—Joseph, "John, the Ranger," and James. Their lands were all in this neighborhood. When Mrs. Joseph

Clement died,\* in 1842, considerable of the estate of Joseph Clement was purchased by his nephew, Major Joseph Clement. At his death he directed that a monument should be erected on the north side of the road. This monument commemorates the name of himself and his wife. In the same field with the monument, and where the Presbyterian church stands, was the headquarters of General De Rottenberg's forces during the War of 1812.

At the north-east end of the village, where Mr. Neil Black now resides, was the home of Mrs. Stephen Secord and the first Secord mill. Mrs. Secord's husband died previous to the War of 1812. All her sons served in various capacities during the war. Mrs. Secord often ran the mill with no assistance, and furnished the flour to the British forces—we are glad to say, at remunerative prices. When St. David's was burned, she, with another woman, succeeded in saving one of her buildings from the flames, and with her own hands helped to rebuild another. After the war the mill was rebuilt, but the Secords building a larger one nearer the Queenston Road, caused this one to be disused, and its picturesque ruins are among the recollections of the past.

At the south-western side of St. David's there was for many years a settlement of colored people, mostly escaped slaves. They lived by cultivating vegetables

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\* Mrs. Clement gave to each of her daughters—Mrs. Lowell, Mrs. Dunton, Mrs. Richard Woodruff, and Mrs. William Woodruff—building sites on the main road.





FOUR MILE CREEK, BELOW ST. DAVID'S, 1894.

and fruit, by picking berries—of which there was a profusion in those days—and by gathering nuts. They were ever ready to do all kinds of jobbing and domestic work. They also made splint brooms and husk mats, for which a ready sale was found. They were not permitted to attend the school. A white teacher came from Pennsylvania and taught for a short time among them. To their credit, be it said, they did not disturb the melon patch or carry off the poultry. They had a small church, and their exercises during revivals and at their baptisms drew large audiences. When the attempt to carry Mosely from Niagara to the United States was made, in 1837, the excitement among them was intense. A recollection of that time can never be forgotten. A wagon-load of colored men, driving at furious speed, passed through the village. None but the driver had a seat, and the men stood with hands and arms holding one another up. Mosely was rescued, and escaped. One of the men, whose name was MacIntyre, returned with a bayonet wound through the cheek. There was a larger settlement at Niagara Falls.

In the days of the early settlement it was not an uncommon thing, in a dry time, for the women to make up a party and go to the Niagara River to wash their clothes. Even at the present time, with plenty of streams, many have to bring water from a distance, and the domestic animals suffer much in consequence. The years 1787 and 1788 were notable

for the visitation of drought and famine, never to be forgotten.

When the days of peace came, after the Revolutionary War was over, the refugees and the settlers brought cuttings of fruit and small trees, as opportunity offered, from their old homes, more especially from the Mohawk Valley and Pennsylvania. These were a reproduction of French and German fruits. Thus Cobas Middaugh brought a summer sugar pear which ripened in August, that was most delicious to the taste. The apples have not been surpassed in excellence by our modern productions. Pippins and russets were of several varieties. Swayzie Pomme Gris is a native variety of russet. Plums—the blue, the damson, green gage and egg—were abundant. Peaches had not attained the perfection of the present time, but were so plentiful that they were gathered in heaps, and carried in wagons to the distillery. The wild grape grew where it could find a place to climb upon. Dried fruits—such as peaches, plums, cherries and berries—were in every house for winter use. The “paw-paw,” now so seldom found, was common then.

The old-fashioned flowers were everywhere. Roses grew in abundance, especially the damask and Lancaster, and a dark double crimson rose. Single and double white roses were common, and a striped rose now seldom seen. A small Burgundy rose, called the button rose, was used as a border. White lilies, crimson peonies, tulips of every hue, and fragrant pinks were cultivated along with annuals, by the careful



hands of our ancestors. Each begged and shared with her friends anything new. The conservatory and nursery were then unheard of.

Part of the semi-annual visitations were from Indians. One aged squaw, named Mary, came from the Tuscarora Reservation, beyond Lewiston, N.Y. It was her custom to enter without knocking and silently take a seat by the fire. Whatever was given her to eat she took without thanks, never sitting at the table. She made no attempt at conversation, nor could she be drawn out to say more than yes or no, and this was generally given with a nod or shake of the head, and an occasional "Ugh." She was always well dressed. Her moccasins were decorated with colored porcupine quills; a skirt of dark-blue broad-cloth reached nearly to the ankles; below were leggings of the same, embroidered with beads. A calico jacket was fastened from the throat to the bottom with silver buckles about an inch in diameter, as closely as they could be placed. A blanket was worn on the head, and a large basket containing articles for sale, with a strap to go over the head, held the blanket in place. The baskets were of all sorts and sizes, made of splint, and of various colors, also bead-work. We were always glad to see her, and she knew she was welcome. She was old when we first knew her, and always walked with a staff. When she came no more, we felt that one of the old landmarks had passed away. The male Indians brought large baskets, also hickory whip-stocks, axe-helves, and

husk door-mats, and occasionally furs ; but the fur trade was vanishing before the advance of civilization and the increasing number of settlers. The Indian man dressed like the white man, his only peculiarity at that time being that he used a blanket instead of an overcoat and a beaver hat. Such were the Indians of sixty years ago. Now both sexes dress more and more like the white people.

The Methodist ministers, who suffered everything in the way of hardship and privation, are first among those whom this age should honor for the noble work they did in evangelizing and educating the people in the remotest settlements. No place was too difficult of access for their visitation. It was necessary, too, for their comfort and respectability, that, as much as possible, the wife should accompany her husband in his ministrations. A minister's wife told the writer that often on their journeyings their washing was done at one place, the wet bundle dried at another stopping-place, and ironed at the third. This was done with her own hands, she taking the soap, the blueing and the starch with her, for often some one or other of these necessaries could not be had. She also said that her needful sewing and mending were done under the same circumstances. They suffered from cold, insufficient clothing and unwholesome food, and their scanty salary was seldom paid in full.

A clergyman, eminent in his church, said that his studies were made while travelling his circuit, his wife driving while he studied ; and when she could

not go, his children took their turn in driving with him. They were not discouraged, for three of his sons became clergymen.

Their frequent change of residence was especially arduous to the wife and family. Many were moved every year, generally at two years, and to live three years in a place was a remarkably happy event. With the years and prosperity came the furnished parsonages, which have lessened the inconvenience of removals.

It has been frequently said that the ministers were unlearned men. That, no doubt, was true, but, unlearned as they were, they were ever striving to improve themselves, and impressing upon all with whom they came in contact the advantages of education. The first libraries in the rural districts were the Sunday-school libraries, and the Sunday-school teachers had often to teach the alphabet to the children. Testaments and hymn-books given as rewards in Sunday-school were, in many cases, the first copies of the Scriptures in their homes. Their parents, perhaps, could not read, and had no means to send their children to the common school.

*David Secord*

## CHAPTER VII.

### *FORT NIAGARA.*

“The Indians were ever sensible of the importance of this point. Repeated attempts had been made by the French to get possession. At last, by strategy, they succeeded. A French officer, who had been a prisoner among the Iroquois, became naturalized among them, thereby gaining his freedom. He communicated to the Governor a plan for the French to establish themselves at Niagara. He returned to the Iroquois, pretending love for a nation that was now his own, and asking to bring his family among them. To do this he must have a house where they could live in a suitable manner, and offering to trade with them from this place. The house was built. As trade grew rapidly, the house extended until it soon became a fortress, which alike awed the Indians and the English.”

THIS extract is from a work published in 1760, called a “Military Dictionary,” compiled by a military gentleman, and dedicated by the author, “To the Right Honourable Edward Boscowen, Admiral of the Blue Squadron,” etc.

Another account, given by F. H. Severance in his “Old Trails on the Niagara River,” is corroborative of the attempted settlements. It is the narration of the Chevalier De Trigay for the year 1687, soldier to



FORT NIAGARA IN 1888.



the Sieur De Brissay, Marquis Denonville, Governor and Lieutenant-General in New France.

“I was with the troops numbering some hundreds that the Marquis Denonville took through the wilderness into the cantons of the Iroquois, and afterwards employed to build a stockade and cabins at the mouth of the straits of Niagara on the east side, in the way where they go beaver hunting. ‘Fort Denonville,’ the Sieur De Brissay decreed it should be called. He let none rest day or night until he had made a fortification in part of earth surmounted by palisades. On the plain about the fort were no trees, but some of us went into the forest on both the east and west side of the river and cut the trees. It was hard work getting them up the high bank, laboring in fear of an attack. But in three days we built a pretty good fort with four bastions, where we put two great guns.

“We began to build some cabins on the four sides of the square in the middle of it. Duluth and De Tontaye, as the work progressed, left for Detroit, Mackinaw and Duluth. Then the Marquis himself went back to Montreal, leaving 100 men, with officers, to hold the new fort. He left on the 3rd of August. The men worked hard, and got up the cabins for the soldiers and a place for the commandant, built a bakehouse and oven and a storehouse, digged a well. Vaudreuil soon followed Denonville. The men were left with insufficient implements and ammunition. The stores proved bad, and the dreadful winter was accompanied by starvation, disease and death. The brave De Troyes, lying on his dying bed, felt his hand grasped by a friendly Miami, who brought relief. The men who had gone out to get wood had been devoured by wolves, for their powder was exhausted. Among the rescued was Father Milet. A spot was marked in the square, and they knelt for mass. An oak was felled, and while the carpenters prepared the cross, Father Milet traced with his own hand the legend, “Regnat, Vincit, Imperat Christus.” The cross was

raised on the spot where De Troyes and his fourscore comrades were buried.

“The friendly Miamis helped, but the Iroquois constantly tormented them. Finally the order came to leave. The palisades were torn down, the guns put on board a vessel, and the cabins alone were left standing. On the 15th of September, 1688, they had their last mass. The cross was left standing, but the standards went with the builders of Fort Niagara to Montreal. Previous to this there had been an attempt by La Salle and La Motte De Lasure. They called it Fort Conty, but these had failed. In 1721, Charlevoix, in his canoe, came up the Niagara. Four years passed, when the French again attempted, with success, to erect a fort. De Longueuil superintended, and a Royal Engineer named De Levy directed the construction. The stone came from Lewiston, the cut stone from Frontenac, the wood from the west side of the river. The oldest part is 175 years old. It has been enlarged and altered many times.”

During the Revolutionary War Fort Niagara was the refuge of the Loyalists from all directions. The Indians, driven from their homes, flocked here in great numbers. All these had to be fed and clothed, the Loyalists to be housed, and the Indians given ammunition to help provide for themselves.

1779.	}	
February 12th.		1,364 drew rations, besides 64 families.
September 21st.		Food for 5,036.
October.		Though many had been sent away, there were still 3,768 to maintain.

Bolton, who commanded for three years at Fort Niagara, wished the Indians whose villages had been destroyed by Sullivan to go to Montreal, and those



who lived near home to return and take care of the corn, for it was impossible to feed all the Indians.

Sullivan in his raid had destroyed all but two of the Indian villages, and to Fort Niagara the despairing and broken-hearted remnants of the doomed people gathered as their last refuge. Even with the help given, many died from cold and starvation.

Governor Simcoe at one time thought of making London the capital of Upper Canada, but when Michigan was ceded by treaty to the Americans he selected Toronto. Newark, with Fort Niagara in American hands, could be no longer thought of as the capital.

No other place has a more varied history. Gained by strategy, held by force since English arms took it from France in 1759, it has never been taken by arms from their grasp. Ceded to the United States by treaty, it was handed over to them in 1796. It was re-taken in 1813, and held until peace restored it in 1815. Such is the history of Fort Niagara.

One of the incidents occurring in 1812 is given in a pamphlet written by a lady who lived in Lewiston. Her father was surgeon at Fort Niagara, and often attended service at St. Mark's Church. She and her sister, both little girls, usually accompanied him. A short time previous to the invasion they were at the church. General Brock walked to the ferry with them. He bade the little girls a kindly farewell, and, shaking hands with their father, said, "I suppose we shall soon have to be enemies." This lady also

says there was a large orchard in front of the Fort at that time. Wind and waves have swept it away.

Another tradition, characteristic of the period, is told by Mr. Kirby. Between the officers of Fort George and Fort Niagara there had been many pleasant social interchanges. Some American officers were dining with their British friends the evening that the news came that war had been declared. The news was kept back. When the repast was over, the British officers went with their guests to the ferry. Then the news was told, and, shaking hands, they parted to meet as friends no more.



## CHAPTER VIII.

### *ISABELLA MARSHALL GRAHAM.*

[This article was compiled from the "Life of Mrs. Isabella Graham," written for the Woman's Literary Club, its object being to stimulate and encourage "higher education among women," to show its value in all the conditions of life to those who are fortunate enough to acquire it, and that no sacrifice is too great to obtain it. Her life shows what it did for her a century and a half ago, and the enduring influence which it gave.]

ISABELLA MARSHALL (afterwards Mrs. Graham) was born July 29th, 1742, in Lanarkshire, Scotland. Though her father was one of the elders of the Established Church, who left with Ralph and Ebenezer Erskine, she was educated in the principles of the Church of Scotland. She had watched with assiduous care her dying grandfather, and in his will he left her a legacy of some hundreds of pounds. Though only ten years old, she asked that the money should be used to give her a thorough education. Her wish was granted, and for seven successive winters she attended the school of a Mrs. Morehouse. Her father rented the farm of Ellerslie, which had been the habitation of the patriot William Wallace. Here her childhood and youth were passed. At the

age of twenty-three she married Dr. John Graham, of Paisley. About a year after their marriage Dr. Graham was appointed surgeon to the 60th or Royal American Regiment, and was ordered to Canada, where the regiment was stationed. Mrs. Graham accompanied him, hoping to make a permanent home in America. Dr. Graham wished to sell his commission and purchase a farm on the Mohawk River, and Mr. Marshall (Mrs. Graham's father), was to follow and superintend the farm. The voyage occupied nine weeks from Greenock to Quebec.

Quebec at that time was a gay and fashionable place, and during her short stay she formed many pleasant acquaintances. They were soon ordered to Montreal, and here her eldest daughter Jessie was born. An infant son had been left with her mother in Scotland, but he died soon after his mother's departure. Their stay in Montreal was brief, Dr. Graham being ordered to Fort Niagara on Lake Ontario, to join the second battalion of his regiment. Mrs. Graham followed him as soon as possible. Here they lived for over five years, and it was the birthplace of Joanna, the second, and Isabella, the third daughter. Her servants were two Indian girls who, under her careful training, became highly useful. Mrs. Graham taught them everything relating to housekeeping, to cook, to take care of her children, to read and to sew.

For some time she was the only wife in the fort, but the latter part of her stay saw other ladies, and

a pleasant society, whose friendship for her extended through life. It was here she met an officer's wife, Mrs. Brown, whose mother was Mrs. Vanbrugh Livingstone, of New York. She ever spoke of those years as the happiest of her life. She had a congenial husband, and their circumstances were easy.

Mrs. Graham tells of the Indians, and of a chief of the Senecas bringing his sick daughter a long distance for her husband's medical treatment. There was no chaplain or religious service of any kind in the fort, and Mrs. Graham took her Bible to the woods surrounding the fort, to read, to meditate and to pray. Already the newspapers of the day were full regarding preparations for what was to be the Revolutionary War. As that part of the regiment was mostly composed of Americans, it was thought best to send them to Antigua in the West Indies. Dr. and Mrs. Graham, their three children, and the two Indian girls, were sent by boat to Oswego, thence through the woods by the trail to the Mohawk River, and to Schenectady in bateaux. Here Dr. Graham left them and proceeded to New York in hopes to sell his commission and settle upon the Mohawk. Mrs. Graham followed, and during her stay in New York made many friends. Dr. Graham did not sell his commission, and they embarked for Antigua, 5th November, 1772, with the regiment. An insurrection was raging among the Caribs in Antigua, and three weeks after their arrival the regiment was sent to the field, Dr. Graham accompanying it. In her letters to

him she hopes they will not entail slavery upon their prisoners, and bids him, should any fall to his lot, to set them at liberty. Thus, ninety years before it was abolished by the Civil War had she learned to abhor slavery and speak for freedom. Mrs. Graham sent her eldest daughter, who was only five years of age, to her mother's care in Scotland, to escape bad influences, but before she arrived the grandmother died. This was a great affliction, but she was destined to a greater trial. On the 17th of November, 1773, Dr. Graham was stricken down with a violent fever, and in a few days she was left a widow in a foreign land. Kind friends did all they could in this hour of desolation. The widow's weeds assumed at that time were never laid aside, and the style in which they were made, through her long life, was not changed. She was then thirty-two years of age. Though her means were limited and she was urged to sell her Indian girls, she refused to do so. One of the girls died before she left Antigua, the other went to Scotland with her and married respectably. To the surgeon of the regiment who succeeded Dr. Graham—a young man who had been helped by her husband—she presented his library and sword. Dr. Henderson, ever after, as his means permitted, sent her remittances until the year 1795. After the birth of her son she made preparations to return to her native land. Upon her departure Major Brown gave her a letter to the agent in Belfast. No vessel was going to Scotland, so she sailed for this port. This letter,

when delivered to the agent, was found to be intended for her, whereby the officers, as a mark of respect and affection for the memory of her deceased husband, had paid the expenses of her voyage. Her widow's pension was but £16 a year.

On reaching her home she found that, in addition to the loss of her mother, her father had lost everything by becoming security for a friend, and was living in a very small house. His health failing, she assumed the care of her parent. He lived with her until his death, nine years after, receiving the assiduous care of herself and children. The only income upon which she could rely was £20 a year. She kept a small school in Cartside for a while, when she removed to Paisley. These were days of poverty and loneliness, for her acquaintances had forgotten her. She had a cow, and made and sold butter. The children fed on the skim milk; their breakfast and supper was porridge; dinner, potatoes and salt; and they were dressed in homespun. A rigid determination to owe nothing carried her through this painful period. Upon the advice of friends, she made a small venture to increase her funds. This was unsuccessful at first, for the vessel in which she had made her consignment was captured by a French privateer. Her friends proposed a boarding house or a boarding school. After mature consideration, she chose the boarding school, and removed to Edinburgh. A natural magnetism made her friends, whose friendship lasted through life. At this time she received

the insurance upon her lost venture. She ever made it a point to return borrowed money with interest to those who helped her in her hour of need, and these were people who had loved and honored her husband. The school, through their efforts, became a great success. People of piety and influence committed their children to her care. Her superior education was of great service. She felt deeply the teacher's responsibility. She watched their studies and their spiritual welfare, and to these she added the useful accomplishments which fitted them to fill a distinguished place in life, for her pupils were many of them from the highest ranks. A code of laws for their governance was adopted and carried out. When any offence against these laws was committed, pupils held a court, the offender was tried by her companions, they fixed the penalty, and this sentence was submitted to her approval. Thus there was no hasty, arbitrary or capricious punishment. In sickness she watched over them with unremitting care, and no expense was spared to restore them to health. She educated the children of clergymen at half price. As her school prospered, she grew in greatness with it. She insisted that the payments be in advance. She helped by lending money and taking work in return, and asking no interest. Business on correct principles was conducted by precept and example. Her school caused constant thought and watchfulness. Her daughters were trained to be her assistants in every way. No false pride prevented her accepting what she could



not do herself. Thus Lady Glenorchy sent Mrs. Graham's eldest daughter to Rotterdam, paying her expenses and keeping her in pocket money, that she might become proficient in the French language.

This Lady Glenorchy was of an ancient family, and had married the Earl of Breadalbane. Together they had travelled on the Continent, and their beauty and accomplishments made them welcome in nearly every court in Europe. He died in early youth, and thenceforward Lady Glenorchy, when the light of her life went out, devoted herself to good in every form. She took the management of her estates, she kept an account of her income, and to what object it was applied. She built chapels for ministers of various denominations; no good object but had her helping hand. Idleness and pride she could not tolerate. Her charities were not published; but to be good, and to do good, was her constant aim. She gave liberally during her life, for she believed in spending her money while she lived.

After Lady Glenorchy's death Mrs. Graham felt she would like to return to America. We must remember that a woman of Mrs. Graham's character and attainments ever made friends, who felt it a privilege to promote her views. We have mentioned before Mrs. Brown, whose husband was in the 60th Regiment. She, with others, urged her to come to New York. There was no first-class school for young women in America. Lady Glenorchy had left her £200, and Dr. Henderson's remittance gave her the means to return.

This was done after careful deliberation. She chartered a small vessel, as Algerian pirates swarmed the seas. Into the details of the voyage we will not enter. She landed in New York the 8th of September, 1789. She received a glad welcome from her many friends who felt every confidence in her ability to teach the higher branches of education. She opened her school on the 5th of October, 1789, with five scholars, and before the month closed she had fifty. A favorable change was soon perceptible in the minds, manners and accomplishments of the young women committed to her care. In the highest social circles of New York City at the present time, it is considered an honor that their great-grandmothers attended Mrs. Graham's school, and there are frequent allusions made by the descendants of her pupils. Mrs. Graham ever inculcated religious principles as the only solid foundation of morality and virtue. Her conversation and example were ever an inspiration. General Washington when in New York visited her school, and honored it with his patronage. The venerable Bishop Moore, of the Episcopal Church, never missed an examination. Jessie, her eldest daughter, married Mr. Stephenson, a merchant of New York, in 1790. When her beautiful life ended, Mrs. Graham, as she saw her depart, calmly said, "I wish you joy, my darling." The second daughter, Joanna, and the third, Isabella, married merchants. Her only son, born a few months after Dr. Graham's death, had, under the advice of friends, been left in Scotland to complete his studies.

His first instructor was faithful, and he was sent to Edinburgh. Here he was left, in a measure, to himself, and, dissatisfied with study, prevailed upon his friends to get him into the merchant service. He was shipwrecked on the coast of Holland, and a friend of Mrs. Graham's took him to his house and enabled him to come to the United States. He remained with his mother for some months. Mrs. Graham thought it was his duty to return to his employers to finish his term of service. She fitted him out handsomely, and he embarked for Greenock with the son of her pastor, Dr. Mason, who was going to Edinburgh to attend theological lectures. Three months after, she learned a press-gang had boarded the ship. He was saved by a stratagem of the passengers, but his effects were taken. Early in 1792 Mrs. Graham heard that her son had been ill of fever, and after that subject to epileptic fits, which unfitted him for the service. Mrs. Graham had him carefully provided for, and the gentleman to whom he was apprenticed permitting him to leave, she wrote urging him to come home. He wrote her from Demerara, in 1794, stating that he had sailed from Amsterdam in a Dutch vessel, which was taken by the French and re-taken by the English. He had arrived at Demerara in the ship *Hope*, and would return to Europe and to her with a fleet which was to sail under convoy. A vessel named the *Hope* was captured by the French. What was young Graham's fate was never known, though every inquiry by herself and her sons-in-law was

made. Mrs. Graham ever regretted she had not kept him with her, and the advice was given to friends "to ever keep your children about you."

Mrs. Graham's school had brought her prosperity and influence. She always gave a tenth for religious and benevolent purposes. Upon the marriage of her daughters she closed the school. A lease of the property she had taken from Trinity Church Corporation was sold at an advance of £1,000. "Quick, quick," she said, "let me appropriate the tenth before my heart grows hard." Thenceforward her active mind and life were spent in carrying out schemes for good. She helped to form the first Missionary Society in New York. The Methodists and Moravians in Antigua had been her friends at the time of her husband's death, and she sent £50 to aid their Christian work. In 1797 she founded a Society for the Relief of widows with small children whose fathers and protectors had died with the yellow fever. Her son-in-law, Mr. Bethune, a member of the St. Andrew's Society, found how inadequate were the society's means. His wife and her mother started this society, and Mrs. Graham was its first directress. They sent circulars to their friends, and they met at Mrs. Graham's house. It is not possible to enumerate the societies founded by her in those sixteen years which were devoted to the good of humanity. Her son-in-law, Mr. Smith, had purchased a colored man and set him at liberty. "Brother Pero," as he was called by Mrs. Graham, ever had her friendship and help. His Christian

principles were recognized by all. She used to read to him and watch over him in sickness.

Every society had the help of her charity and her business methods. When pestilence came to the city she appealed to her old pupils for their aid and their ministrations. Emulating her example, they went among the dead and the dying. She had taught them to rise above class and creed. We should remember that in those days there were no schools such as at present instruct our youth. To organize day schools, to have her old pupils go among them as instructors, to found Sunday-schools and tract societies are but a few of the lines of work. The crowning work was the first orphan asylum in America. Assisted by Mrs. Hoffman, they with only \$250 commenced their labors in 1806. In fourteen months they secured land and a larger building, and even this was only fifty feet square. This grew and prospered, and the land on which it stood was sold in 1836 for \$39,000. With this, on the banks of the Hudson, was built the beautiful Bloomingdale Asylum. Tablets to Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Hoffman, its founders, adorn the walls. She founded a school to assist young women of limited means to a higher education, and her old pupils taught them voluntarily. She formed loan societies, and helped others to materials, paying for the work, when finished. The Hospital and female convicts were helped, and the Magdalen House established. Such was the work of this great teacher. The last time she met her workers, was to form a society "for the promotion of industry among the poor." When the

summons came, she sent for a dear friend, a Mrs. Crystie, to be with her. They had mutually promised that whoever should be first called would be assisted by the other. Surrounded by her children, Isabella Graham died 27th July, 1814.

The noble work of Isabella Graham has been carried on by Mary Lyon, Mrs. Emma Willard, and many others. We see its fruit in Mount Holyoke, Vassar, and Wellesley.

As a child she saw those scenes so admirably depicted by Sir Walter Scott in "Waverley," when the heart of Scotland, stirred to its depths, made its ineffectual effort for the restoration of the Stuarts. She escaped the Revolutionary War to have the "Father of the Republic" place his relatives under her care to be educated.\* Her eyes closed before the war commencing in 1812 had terminated.

We can believe that the woman who would not own a slave, who wrote to her husband in the same clear tone, whose sons-in-law followed her example, must have done much to create the principles which led to the extinction of slavery in America.

In 1896, at Fort Niagara, when was commemorated the one-hundredth anniversary of the withdrawal of the British flag, among the memories of that day the two who were uppermost in my thoughts were the brave discoverer and soldier, La Salle, and the equally noble woman, Isabella Graham.

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\* At his death she makes this comment: "Great things were said of Washington, and they were due. A nation blest him while he lived, and with all the form of language lamented his death."

## CHAPTER IX.

### *MEMOIR OF JOHN WHITMORE,*

NIAGARA TOWNSHIP, ONT.

THE late John Whitmore, Esq., of Lake Road, Niagara Township, Ont., was born 1775, in the Province of New Jersey, North America. His father, Mr. Peter Whitmore, was a farmer, a man of honorable character and loyal principles. He had a family consisting of wife, three sons and five daughters.

During the revolutionary troubles in New Jersey, Peter Whitmore and two neighboring farmers like himself in principle were harassed and persecuted by the rebels to such a degree that they resolved to leave their homes and move to the frontier settlements on the west branch of the Susquehanna, in the Province of Pennsylvania. The three families removed there accordingly sometime in 1776, built houses and commenced clearing the land and farming the wilderness of the Upper Susquehanna. There were many Indians about, but the Whitmore family had no fear of them, being Loyalists and on friendly terms with them, as all being on the same side in the Civil War then raging in the colonies.

They were, moreover, quiet, industrious people, who strove to live in the fear of God and with good-will towards whites and Indians. The least thing they expected was to be attacked by any of the Indians, who were continually coming and going on the war-path to fight for the King's cause in the colonies.

So far as regards the Six Nations and other loyal tribes they were quite safe. But the rebel Congress had incited a number of the Indian tribes—principally Oneidas and Delawares, with deserters and vagabonds from other tribes—to take up arms for the rebel cause, and these Indians, seeking opportunity in the absence of protection to the Loyalist settlers, committed outrages and murders during the whole course of the war, in which they were aided by bands of white marauders, called "Sons of Liberty"—a bad set, whose career need not be followed out in this memoir.

Sometime in the early spring of 1779, a band of Delawares, with some white ruffians disguised as Indians, made their appearance in the woods near the house of the Whitmores. They acted as if not intending any harm, and the family, having been so long accustomed to Indian guests and visitors, felt not the slightest fear of them. Indeed, their daughter Mary had seen and spoken to them at a spring where she had gone to get water, and they spoke to her as if not thinking of any injury. She told her people in the house, but they suspected nothing.

Their confidence was rudely broken in the night.



When the family were all in their beds, the savages suddenly burst in the unprotected door. The family in the house that night consisted of the father, mother, one son grown up, a younger son George, and John Whitmore, four years old, as well as three daughters and a baby not a year old.

Peter Whitmore and his son jumped up to defend the house, but they were both instantly shot; the mother, too, was killed. The children were seized and carried away captives by the Indians, who instantly took to the woods to avoid pursuit. The children were dragged along by the savages, but the baby, which was carried by one of them, cried and wailed so much that an Indian, in order to stop its noise, took it by the heels and dashed its head against a tree, fearing probably that its crying would discover their track to pursuers.

The children, when the band encamped, were compelled to witness the scalps of their father, mother and brother stretched on hoops and scraped by the Indians for preservation. This shocking sight was ever vividly remembered by Mr. Whitmore, although but four years old when it occurred. Personally he had only a faint recollection of the massacre, but his sister Mary, who was fourteen years of age at the time, remembered everything distinctly. She resided near the Long Sault, Hoople's Creek, near Cornwall, Ont., and related these particulars to the writer of this, on the occasion of a visit which her brother, John Whitmore, accompanied by the writer, made

her in the year 1850, he not having seen her for seventy years.

It was only about 1846 that he discovered where his sister was living, near the Long Sault. She had married a U. E. Loyalist named Hoople, and her descendants are still living at that place.

The American Indians are not by nature a cruel people. It is only in war that they act cruelly to their enemies and to their prisoners. Their practices in regard to the latter are in accordance with a code of traditional usages, and to avenge the deaths of any of their own tribal warriors, they torture and kill and burn their prisoners, as many as they have lost of their own tribe.

The children of the Whitmore family were adopted into different families of the Delawares. John and Mary were adopted by an Indian woman who had lost her husband in the war. They were, as was generally the case in such matters, kindly and even affectionately treated in every respect as the Indians treated their own children. John was also regularly adopted into the tribe. He underwent the ordeal of fire, that is, endured the laying on of hot coals upon his inner arm, the marks of which he carried all his life. His ears were pierced for pendants and his nose for a ring, in the Indian fashion. He was declared in council to be a brave boy and worthy of being a member of the Delaware nation into which he had been adopted. Of course, he and his sister forgot their

own language, and spoke only Delaware when they were, after some years, rescued from captivity.

Their Indian foster-mother was entirely devoted to them, and did all in her power to make them happy, and I think did so, for the Indian life of John and Mary Whitmore was always referred to by them as a happy period of their lives. Their foster-mother used to visit John Whitmore occasionally, and was treated with the utmost respect by him.

The other children became separated from John and Mary Whitmore. One of them, taken by the Oneidas, was afterwards taken from them by the Senecas, and she married Horatio Jones, chief interpreter of the Senecas on the Genesee River. Some of her descendants, the Joneses, living near Attica, New York, are still there. One son of Horatio Jones by an Indian wife—William Jones—is at the present time head chief of the Senecas, on the Cattaraugus Reservation, New York. The other sister was never heard tell of. No trace of her was found after being taken captive. George Whitmore, the brother of John, was also rescued, and a grandson of his is now living in Jersey City, N.J.

John Whitmore and his sister Mary were rescued from the Indians in 1783 by Captain Daniel Servos, of Butler's Rangers. Captain Servos took John to his home at Niagara, adopted him as his own, and in time gave him his daughter Magdalene to wife, and a share of his large property the same as his own sons. Eliza Magdalene, only surviving daughter of John

and Magdalene Whitmore, was the wife of Wm. Kirby, the writer of this memoir.

John Whitmore was a man of excellent understanding and character, of a kindly, cheerful disposition, honorable and just in all the conduct of life. One of the worthiest of men, he deserved the sincere and general respect in which he was held by all who knew him. The character of "Farmer Gay" in the Canadian Idyll of "The Harvest Moon," is taken from John Whitmore, and describes him well.

His benevolent heart and Christian principles conquered in one great trial and temptation of his life, and is worth recording here as a proof of the possibility of love conquering the fiercest passion of revenge for great and cruel wrongs.

In 1813, when the American army, having taken the town of Niagara, occupied it for near seven months, there was among the Indians who accompanied their army an old Delaware chief named De Coignee, who had been one of the party which had massacred the Whitmore family in 1779. John Whitmore knew him well, and, hearing of his presence in the American army, was fired with a great spirit of revenge to slay him for the murder of his father, mother, brother and baby sister. He came into the town, saw the chief and spoke to him, upbraiding him for the murders. The chief took his words patiently, and excused the act as taking place in war time. But John Whitmore would not accept the excuse. He could not kill the chief in the midst of

the camp, but resolved to take his life on the first opportunity that offered. He learned from some of the Indians that De Coignee was to go at a certain hour on some business to the house of Captain John D. Servos, on the Lake Road, then occupied by an outpost of American dragoons and Indians. He resolved to waylay him on the road and kill him. He accordingly took a musket and bayonet, and went and posted himself in the woods by the roadside where the chief had to pass, and where he could make sure of his enemy. The hour came, but the chief, for some cause, had delayed his departure. John Whitmore sat under a tree, waiting hour after hour for his appearance, and thinking, at one time thoughts of revenge, and afterwards asking himself what it was he was about to do. He thought of his duty to God, who bids us forgive our enemies, yea, even love them. His mind underwent great changes and perturbations. After three hours' waiting in the woods, the resolution to shoot De Coignee melted away, and when at last the chief appeared, alone, painted and plumed, John Whitmore, asking pardon of God and men for sparing him—if it were wrong to do so—allowed him to pass by unscathed within a few yards, and unwitting of the danger which was so near to him.

This triumph of Christian love over justifiable revenge for the deepest of injuries was a source of thankful satisfaction to this good man, who sometimes, although only in the bosom of his family,

would refer to it. He lived to a good old age, one of the most successful and prosperous farmers in the district, and died in 1853. His son and family still occupy the old home on the Lake Road. A fine portrait of the good old man is in the possession of his son-in-law, William Kirby.

His worthy partner in life, Magdalene Servos, had also been a witness to the murder of her grandfather, Thomas Servos, who was killed by a troop of dragoons sent by General Washington to take him prisoner, dead or alive, as a spirited, active and brave Loyalist—a class of men whom Washington feared and hated and persecuted to the utmost of his power. Thomas Servos lived at his mills and farm on the Charlotte River, near Schoharie, New York. As an officer of the militia of the province he had served in the French war, and was present at the siege and capture of Fort Niagara when it was taken by Gen. Sir Wm. Johnson in 1759. The Servos murder was a cruel, vindictive act on the part of General Washington, who was ever incapable of a generous feeling towards the Loyalists, who were as sincere and conscientious in their sentiments and opinions as he was himself, perhaps more so.

Magdalene Servos was a child in the cradle when her grandfather was murdered by Washington's dragoons. Four of his sons—ardent Loyalists—were actively engaged in Butler's Rangers and with the Northern Confederate Indians all through the Revolutionary War. They served with honor as officers of

the First Lincoln Militia in the War of 1812, and in the rebellion of 1837, when Col. John D. Servos commanded the regiment. A brave, loyal family on all occasions.

Magdalene Servos Whitmore was a worthy daughter of such a family; a pious, good, quiet, tender wife as ever was; a woman beloved by all around her. She died in the house of the writer in Niagara, in 1854.

This worthy couple are buried in the Servos burying-ground, Lake Road, Niagara Township. Mr. Peter Whitmore, their son, still living, resides in the old home.

Such were the men and women who laid the foundations of Upper Canada, and gave it the ever-loyal character and impress of justice and integrity which distinguishes this Province, and, indeed, our whole Dominion. May it last forever.

With sincere regards  
I am yours truly

H. Kirby

## CHAPTER X.

### *THE NELLES FAMILY.*

AMONG the early inhabitants of the Niagara District were the Nelles family. Some were United Empire Loyalists, and others were settlers. There are many of the name of Nelles living in Lincoln, Haldimand and Brant counties.

Many of the U. E. Loyalists came from a settlement in the Mohawk Valley, from that section called the Palatinate, in memory of the land from which they came. The Palatinate in Europe, which was their home, was a portion of Germany lying on both sides of the Rhine. It had been cruelly devastated by the French during the wars of Louis XIV. Under the protection of Queen Anne, about 3,000 emigrants, nearly all Lutherans, were landed in New York in June, 1710, and lands were assigned them on the banks of the Hudson; but these not proving satisfactory, they changed until a final settlement was made in the Mohawk Valley. Many of their descendants remain there at the present time. It was here their ancestors dwelt happily and became very prosperous. At the time of the Revolution it



was considered the garden of New York State. Two Nelles brothers came in 1710 with the other emigrants. They had numerous descendants. On the military rolls of New York, from 1776 to 1783, there are no less than fifty-seven Nelles soldiers. The Nelleses had large possessions, and were prosperous in every way. When the church at Stone Arabia was built, six of the Nelleses gave £360, while another built the spire, and another gave the ground upon which it was built. The church still exists. Henry Nelles, a Loyalist, had been obliged to find a refuge in Canada. When a retaliatory expedition was being arranged to devastate the Mohawk Valley, Henry Nelles stipulated that the church of his fathers should be spared. That stipulation was faithfully kept. During the French and Indian wars prior to the Revolution, the Nelles names showed they did good service.

These facts are from a paper by Judge Nelles, read October 17th, 1894, before the Kansas Society.

In the "Old Trails on the Niagara River," by Mr. Severance, the name of Capt. Nelles is found as being at Fort Niagara in September, 1781.

As before mentioned, Mrs. Nelles's name is the first in the honor roll of the five women refugees of 1776.

## CHAPTER XI.

### *VISIT OF PRINCE EDWARD, DUKE OF KENT, IN 1791.*

PRINCE EDWARD, Duke of Kent and father of Queen Victoria, who was commander of His Majesty's forces in America, resided for some years in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was extremely popular. He had a summer residence about six miles from Halifax, called the Prince's Lodge. All that remains at the present time is a wooden pavilion called the Music Room.\* An incident that recalls the fast-fading memories of that period is given in the "Life of the Rev. Jacob Bailey,"† who, with his family, were refugees from Maine. Mr. Bailey suffered much from his loyalty. It was through many difficulties and dangers they escaped to Halifax. He had a son who was baptized by the name of Charles. It had been the intention of Mr. and Mrs. Bailey that his name should be Hugh Percy, but Mrs. Callahan, the god-mother, seeing so many patriots in the church, was afraid to give the name, and called him Charles, the name of her husband. He was baptized Charles, and

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\* Picturesque Canada.

† Life of Jacob Bailey.

always signed his name so. He was a remarkably handsome person, and when the Prince was visiting Annapolis he observed the lad, who, among many others, had assembled to bid him welcome. He inquired who he was, and was so pleased with his person and address that he prevailed upon his father to allow him to be taken under his own care and provide for him. Accordingly the lad was placed in the Military Secretary's office, and was subsequently given a commission in his own regiment (the 1st Royals), where he served with honor until the War of 1812. The regiment was ordered to Canada. He was then a captain high up on the list. Being at Fort Niagara when it was re-taken in 1813, he was conspicuous for his bravery. He was killed at the battle of Chippewa.

The Prince visited Niagara in 1791, and while there went to Niagara Falls. To get a view at that time below the Falls the branches of the trees were cut, to make steps to get down to the water's edge. On his return from the Falls he dined at Queenston with Judge Robert Hamilton.

During the famine years of 1787 and 1788\* the settlers had been aided by the Commissary Department, who were now demanding payment. A deputation waited upon the Prince, who heard them with sympathy, and ordered the officials to cancel every charge. "My father," he said, "is not a merchant to

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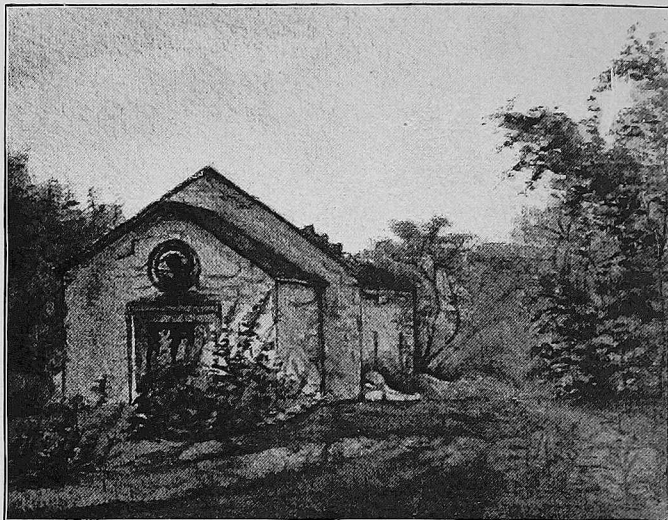
\* Annals of Niagara.

deal in bread and ask payment for food granted for the relief of his loyal subjects."

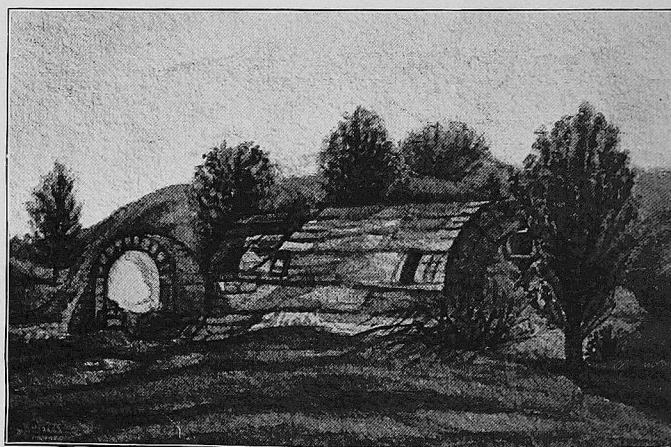
The Prince spent two weeks at Niagara. Numerous entertainments marked his visit, and the generation of ladies who lived at that period never ceased to relate the introduction they had, and the balls in which they had danced with the Prince as their partner. The people came from the remotest settlements to pay their respects to the son of the good King, under whom they enjoyed the protection of British subjects.







ARSENAL INSIDE FORT GEORGE, 1888.



MAGAZINE INSIDE FORT GEORGE, 1888.

## CHAPTER XII.

### *TWO HISTORIC BURNINGS.*

#### BURNING OF NIAGARA.

THE burning of Newark (now Niagara) took place on December 10th, 1813, under circumstances which produced a hatred long cherished, and a retaliation swift and vindictive.

It had been necessary for General McClure to evacuate Fort George. To destroy the fort was not considered sufficient, but the torch was ordered to be applied to the town. The winter of 1813 set in unusually early. The cold was intense and the ground covered with a deep snow. In the midst of a snowstorm the inhabitants were commanded to leave their homes. Half an hour's notice was all that was given. Those who could do so carried their furniture into the streets, others fled to the country. Mrs. Lowell, the grandmother of the late James Lowell, M.P., rose from a sick-bed, and on horseback went to the Short Hills. Mrs. Dickson, whose husband was a prisoner in Fort Niagara with many others, was carried by the soldiers out of her house on a bed and laid upon the snow. Lying there she

saw her home and its contents reduced to ashes. A fine library, for which Mr. Dickson had paid £600, was also consumed. Scarcely a book was left. The public buildings were destroyed, among them the registry office. A few books withstood the flames. The charred covers and discolored pages bear evidence of that day's destruction. St. Mark's Church, which had been used by both parties as a hospital, was also burned, its stone walls alone remaining. Fortunately the home of the rector, Rev. Mr. Addison, was on the lake shore, three miles distant from the town. At an early period the parish records had been conveyed to this place for safety. The marriage register of St. Mark's from 1792 to 1832 is valuable as it is interesting, containing much that corroborates the history and customs of the time.

Mr. Merritt, in his diary, says: "During the night, by the glare, they discovered Niagara was on fire. As they advanced near the burning town, a sad sight presented itself—heaps of burning coals, and the streets full of furniture. Mr. Gordon's house was the only one left standing. Niagara was in ruins, a heap of smouldering ashes."

The attempt to blow up Fort George was a partial failure. The enemy retired in such haste that his tents were left standing. Colonel Murray at once took steps to retaliate for this departure from the usages of war. On the night of December 19th\* of the same

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\* One of the traditions of the re-capture is, that when the attacking force entered so unexpectedly, the officers were playing whist, and one asked, "What is trumps?" The answer came, "British bayonets!"



year, an attacking force of six hundred and fifty men surprised and captured Fort Niagara. The storehouses, full of clothing and of camp equipage, twenty-seven pieces of cannon, three thousand stand of arms and many rifles fell into their hands, a prize of great value to the captors. Colonel Chapin and Captain Leonard were taken, and sent as prisoners to Quebec. Youngstown, Lewiston, Manchester and Buffalo were burned, and the whole American frontier was made to suffer. The revenge of war is more terrible than the cause which produces it.

#### BURNING OF ST. DAVID'S.

The burning of St. David's by the American forces, July 19th, 1814, was another of those unjustifiable and indefensible acts which added to the cruelties of the struggle and increased the hatred towards the invaders. It was never defended by the Americans, and the officer at whose command the torch was applied was court-martialed and dismissed from the service. The circumstances as related by Mrs. Secord, wife of Major David Secord, were verified by her daughter, Mrs. Woodruff, and the husband, Mr. Woodruff, gave additional information.

A picket of Canadian volunteers was stationed under the command of Cornet Henry Woodruff near the place now owned by Mr. Fairlie. This point was on the direct road leading to Shipman's Corners (now St. Catharines). Another road led to the same place, striking the main road at the Ten Mile Creek (now

Homer). A few rods from Mr. Fairlie's was the road leading to the Short Hills, called the Thorold road, and another road leading to the township of Stamford. An American scouting party attempted to pass through the line, but was warned not to make the attempt, as it would be fired upon. In spite of the warning the party pushed on, and was fired upon. No one was injured, but the horse of the commanding officer was killed. He made terrible threats of vengeance, upon which Cornet Woodruff told him "he should be thankful that it was his horse instead of himself." No one thought anything serious would result. Two days after, in the afternoon, notice was given to the people to leave, as the place was to be burned. One cannot describe the surprise and terror with which these tidings were received. The women were busy at their usual avocations. Their husbands and brothers were away. Hurriedly the children were sent to a place of safety, Mrs. Secord directing them to go to her brother's, Mr. Thomas Page, of Pelham. Few had horses, wagons or conveyances of any kind; mostly all had to go on foot. Mrs. Secord placed some of the more valuable articles of furniture in a wagon, hoping to save them, but she was unable to get them away. Then collecting her own cows and those of her neighbors, she drove them to Lewis Smith's, a farm about a mile from St. David's. It was near 6 p.m. when she left, and she could see the gleam of the bayonets as the Americans came on the Queenston road. She said: "During the evening

we could see the smoke and flames rising from our burning homes. The road was filled with people, and I had hard work to find my children. The next morning my husband was on patrol duty with another officer. As he saw the crowd, 'That looks like my flock,' he said to his companion, and rode rapidly forward to see what was the cause. He soon heard the dreadful story, that his home, the mills and other buildings were nothing but a heap of ashes. We stayed some days in Pelham, and when I came back I found, in pure wantonness, they had destroyed a number of young pigs and burned them in the ruins of our house. This at the time, seemed my greatest loss, for I had depended upon these for winter use."

Said Mrs. Sarah Clement (sister of Lewis Smith): "My bread was about ready for the oven when the word came. A neighbor suggested that the bread should be taken with us, and baked when we reached a place where it could be done. It was turned from the bread-trough into table-cloths, and we started on our way. The afternoon was hot, and the bread kept on rising and escaping from the table-cloths. You could have tracked us by the dough along the road. At last, when I came near a field where there was a pool of water, I climbed the fence and shook the dough into the water as well as I could. When we returned some days after, the dough was still floating upon the water. I said, 'Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt find it after many days.' Sad

as we were, we laughed." That portion of Scripture and Mrs. Clement have ever been inseparably connected. Only one house was left—a house occupied by Mr. Quick. Mrs. Stephen Secord with another woman managed to save an outbuilding. After the fire she repaired another with her own hands.

In the country every house was filled to repletion, not only with the homeless, but the sick and the wounded. The neighboring places offered help. Ancaster opened its hospitable doors. As we look upon the numerous thriving towns and the populous cities of our day, it is hard to realize that these places at that time had no existence. There is a book by the Rev. John Carroll, which gives some reminiscences of that time which are worth repeating. He says that after Proctor's defeat his mother with her five children, and another family with children, found shelter in a log-cabin, with a bark roof, near the Upper Ten Mile Creek. They made a fire in the grove near the house, and there was an orchard with nearly ripe fruit. Here they stayed for some weeks. As the weather grew colder they moved to St. Catharines, then the Twelve Mile Creek. After this they went to Hamilton in a cart drawn by two oxen, for the use of which they paid \$30. Here they lived in a log-house with one room and an open fire, the flooring loose. A sick officer was already there, and, as the children's noise could not be borne, a fire was made outside to warm themselves. This was done

till "warmer quarters" were found. The warmer quarters are thus described :

"The sappers and miners dug places ten feet square, with an entrance at one side by means of a trench, like the descent to a root-house. The roof of slabs rested on the surface of the ground and met in the centre. The only light came from the chimney, which was low and capacious, and a hole in the door without glass. If this was left open the snow drifted in, and it had to be shovelled out through the small hole."

Such were the quarters where Hamilton now stands. On the retreat from Niagara a sick soldier, lying by the roadside with the ague, asked Mrs. Carroll for a handkerchief to tie around his aching head. She had not this to give him. Then he asked for a string, and she had not even that. Prices of food were very high, and the volunteers often were allowed to return to their homes to sow the grain, then afterwards to reap.

Mrs. Secord tells the following : "The Indians were constantly asking for money to buy liquor. It was dangerous to refuse, and more dangerous to give, for a drunken Indian cannot be controlled. One time an Indian demanded money. I told him I had none, though a belt was on my person containing my husband's pay, which he had sent to me for safe keeping. He soon raised his tomahawk, thinking to frighten me, but I knew my only safety was to stand my ground. Had I given him anything, there would have been no end to his demands. We had trained our children to obey signals, and they knew when help

was needed without speaking." There was no paper money at that time. It was all gold, silver and Brock coppers. Leather stamped and used for change is one of the traditions of the war.

Another aged friend says: "A young officer, son of an English baronet, was brought from Niagara to my house in the month of August. He had been severely wounded in one of the frequent skirmishes. There was a man to take care of him, but he succumbed to his wounds on the following day, and was buried in the Presbyterian burying-ground at Stamford." The name is unfortunately forgotten.

In the private burial-places were buried many whose names are now forgotten. It is one of the saddest features of the private burying-grounds, as they pass from the possession of the original proprietors, that no provision is made that the graves of the dead should be respected. The ploughshare of the new occupant soon levels the spot where the forgotten brave and the ancestors of our country sleep. The old and the new possessors alike share the odium of the desecration and destruction of those sacred spots.

It was at the house of this same friend, Mrs. Richard Woodruff, whose kitchen was taken possession of by the Indians, that a large pig was killed and roasted before the fire. The grease ran across the floor and over the doorstep. She was upstairs attending to her children. As the feast went on, the chief in command came to her, asking, "Had she a mother?" On being told she had, he said, "White

squaw go to mother," for he feared his followers would be uncontrollable. She needed no second warning, and went to her mother.

Mrs. David Secord said: "There had been some of our own Indians staying in my house. They had occupied unfinished rooms in the upper part of the house. Unknown to me, when leaving, they put their unused war-paint under some loose boards in the floor. A few days after some American Indians occupied the same place. The loose boards attracted their attention, and the war-paint was soon discovered. With fearful yells they commenced to question and threaten me. Fortunately my young son ran to the American quarters for help. The officer came at once, bringing soldiers with him, and none too soon, for one of the Indians was brandishing his tomahawk. The Indians were taken away and soldiers put in their place. There was a ravine running back of the house we occupied. The front and upper rooms were always taken by the officers and soldiers. We lived in the back part of the house and cellar kitchens. But," she added, "I will say this, the officers were courteous and endeavored to see that we were well-treated. Both British and American officers were alike in this respect."

Such is war. Is it any wonder that women hate its name? None but women who have passed through the perils of war can realize what ruin it brings to the home, the wasted life and property, and

the aftermath of hatred which always is sure to follow.

Said another: "We had long before buried our silver and many articles of value. They were taken up and put in fresh places. Sometimes the place was forgotten. Long years after, the spade and the plough turned up those forgotten treasures ruined and useless."

An aged friend said: "One morning a large American force marched through St. David's. I sold over \$100 worth of whiskey from one barrel before breakfast. I had a barrel of whiskey and a barrel of water, As the whiskey was sold I kept replenishing with water, and towards the last it would not have hurt your conscience to sell a drink of it, for it was so weak it could hurt no one."

St. David's never regained the size and importance of former times. Those that owned rebuilt, some on the old foundations, but none as large as before. Many moved away, and though it had breweries, distilleries, furniture manufactory, mills and the other occupations of village life, the grist-mills are about all that at present remain. There was a bank for a short period, and Mackenzie issued his paper here a few times, but in what building has not been positively ascertained.

Another incident of that time was related by Mrs. Secord: "I was very ill when my baby was born. The woman who took care of me had the baby on her lap before the fire. She had been warming its feet,





POLLY PAGE (MRS. DAVID SECORD).

(Lent by Miss N. Woodruff.)



and, as the baby cried, I tried to waken her. She had gone to sleep. I called in vain, then I got up; but my poor baby's feet were blistered, and she died in a few days."

Such was the life of the women—to toil in the house and in the field, in constant terror for the lives of all most dear to them. Mrs. Secord lived to a good old age, and is buried with others of the honored dead in the graveyard at St. David's. Her portrait is given, one of the noblest women of the olden time.

Mrs. Woodruff (daughter of Mrs. Secord) relates that a party of British Indians had a young girl whom they had taken captive. Our hearts pitied her, but we dared not interfere. Where she came from, or her name, we could not learn, but afterwards were told that she had been restored to her friends. Whether this was true or false we never knew, and could only hope it was so.

To add to the miseries of that period a set of miscreants who follow in the wake of armies, called "Grey-coats," who were white men disguised as Indians, plundered everything upon which they could lay their hands.

The home of the writer was for many years a brick house which had been built upon the foundations of the place burned in 1814. In making some changes a charred beam was brought to view; it was evidently a relic of the past. In straightening a creek in the rear of the house a 24-pound cannon-ball was found.

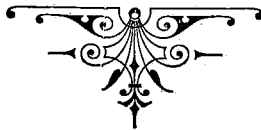
It was a frequent occurrence to pick up balls of various sizes in the neighborhood.

The following is copied from Mr. Lossing's "Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812," page 815:

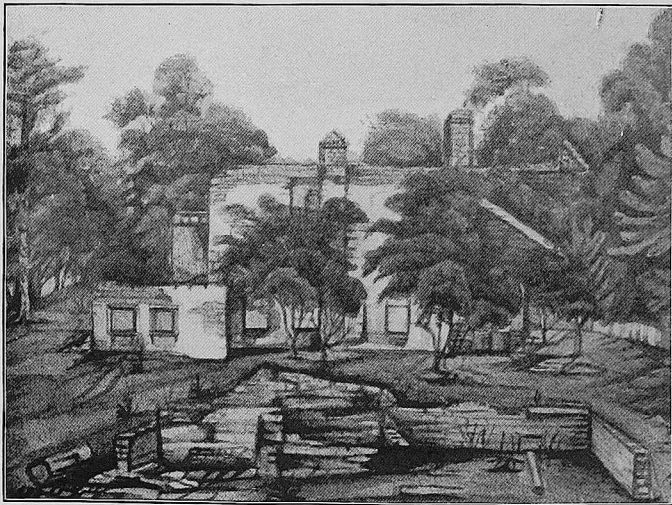
"Colonel Stone, of the New York Militia, while out on a foraging expedition, wantonly burned the little village or hamlet of St. David's, a short distance from Queenston. Similar unwarrantable acts caused great exasperation against the Americans. General Brown promptly dismissed Stone from the service, as a punishment for his crime, in accordance with the sentence of a court-martial."

Lossing has a foot-note to the above, written by an American officer:

"'The militia have burned several private dwellings,' wrote the gallant Major McFarland of the Seventy-third Infantry, who was killed a short time after at Niagara Falls, and on the 19th burnt the village of St. David's, consisting of about thirty or forty houses. This was done within three miles of the camp. I never witnessed such a scene, and had not the commanding Colonel Stone been disgraced and sent out of the army I should have resigned my commission."







STAMFORD PARK, 1863.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### *STAMFORD PARK.*

“STAMFORD PARK, the residence of Sir Peregrine Maitland, was built on a range of rising ground which overlooks the country and Lake Ontario for a great distance. Near this spot, by the blowing down of a tree, were found a quantity of human bones. A number of skeletons were found on digging, with Indian beads and pipes; also some conch shells, shaped apparently for musical instruments, under several of the heads. Other perforated shells were found, such as are said to be known only on the western coast of the continent within the tropics. Brass and copper utensils are also found. The ground looks as if it had been defended by a palisade.”—*Northern Traveller*, 1830.

Stamford Park was visited in 1837 by Mrs. Jamieson, wife of Vice-Chancellor Jamieson. She writes: “It is the only place in Upper Canada combining our ideas of an elegant, well-furnished English villa and ornamented grounds, with some of the grandest and wildest features of the forest scene.”

Sir Peregrine Maitland, who was appointed Lieu-

tenant-Governor of Upper Canada in 1818, while living in Toronto, built a fine summer residence in the township of Stamford. It faced towards Lake Ontario, and was on one of the highest points of land in the township. The building was of brick and stuccoed, and contained twenty-two rooms. The kitchen and servants' hall were in the detached building in the rear, and connected with the main part by a covered way. The trees surrounding the place were planted with an eye to beauty. At the right was the children's garden, and "The Governor's House," as it was called, for many years was a pleasant resort. In the drawing-room were marble mantel-pieces, the carvings being scenes from the Iliad.

This circumstance was related by Mrs. Hobson, wife of Sheriff Hobson, of Welland, and before her marriage Miss Eliza Clow, of St. David's. During the residence of Sir Peregrine and Lady Sarah, they and their children often attended church in what is now the Methodist Church, in St. David's. Their seat was at the right of the pulpit, under the west window. Mr. Richard Woodruff prepared cushioned seats for them. When they left Upper Canada, upon Sir Peregrine's appointment as Governor of Nova Scotia, there was a sale of their house-furnishings. Mr. R. Woodruff bought some of the wine-glasses and a small gilt circular mirror. Mr. William Woodruff bought some of the drawing-room chairs. Many homes still possess relics purchased at that time. After his departure the place was occupied by Mr.





SEALS ATTACHED TO PATENTS FROM THE CROWN, 1822,

WHILE SIR PEREGRINE MAITLAND WAS GOVERNOR.

They are four and one half inches in diameter and nearly one half inch thick, attached by a ribbon to the parchment.

Lent by Mrs. J. Oille.



Green, a banker. It passed through various hands, until it was destroyed by fire in April, 1842. A sketch of the ruins was taken in 1863. No vestige of the house now remains. A valuable deposit of sand was found near the site. A short branch of the Grand Trunk Railway was laid to the spot, a derrick and other appliances were erected, and soon the demolition was complete. The children's garden and the trees planted by them were destroyed. The lodge at the entrance to the grounds is all that remains to remind us of one of the early Governors of Upper Canada.

Among the people of the Niagara District, Isaac Brock and Peregrine Maitland were popular names bestowed upon their sons.



## CHAPTER XIV.

### *RECOLLECTIONS OF 1837 AND 1838.*

To many the incidents about to be related may seem trivial, but they were not considered so at that time, and they illustrate the intolerance which overrides the right of every one to his own opinion.

That portion of the Niagara District which was represented in the Assembly of Upper Canada had sent men of Liberal opinions. Major David Secord\* at the time of the rebellion was an aged man. The preceding pages have shown the sacrifices made by himself and relatives, the loyal services they gave and were willing to give as subjects of the English government. The arbitrary measures of the Family Compact previous to 1837 met his disapprobation, and he took the only legitimate way of condemnation, by voting as a member of Parliament for reforms.

Mr. William Woodruff was also a Reform member, and voted as he believed for the best interests of Canada. He had been in the battle of Queenston

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\* It was customary at that time to call successful business men "kings." Major Secord was called "King David," and Mr. Richard Woodruff "King Dick."

Heights, and served as a volunteer through the War of 1812. Richard Woodruff,\* his eldest brother, was a member at the commencement of the rebellion. He had also as a volunteer been at the capture of D etroit and Chrysler's Farm, for which, many years afterwards, he received a medal.

These men all lived in St. David's. They had taken the only constitutional way of expressing their disapproval of the high-handed actions of the Government of the day. Mackenzie's rebellion met their distinct disapprobation, though they had a personal friendship for the man. Major Secord, as before stated, had given Robert Gourlay a shelter and kindly care for many weeks at his house, when he was sick and friendless, and when no one else dared to do so. St. David's thereafter acquired the name of a "Rebel hole." As the regulars and volunteers passed and repassed on their way to and from Chippewa, many threats were made, and the hope expressed that the place would be destroyed. In the spring of the year 1838, Mr. Woodruff's† father died at Niagara Falls, N.Y., and was buried at St. David's. His son-in-law, Judge De Veaux, at whose home he died, was at the

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\* "King Dick" commenced his life as a merchant in James Secord's store at Queenston.

† Mr. Woodruff's signature :



The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "E. Woodruff". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

funeral. He was a small man, and how or when the story originated that he was Mackenzie in disguise was never known. But so it was. A detachment from Queenston was sent to St. David's. Mr. Woodruff's servants were first interrogated, and he was then taken from his bed to Queenston for examination. Fortunately for himself, he was able to prove that he was not harboring a rebel. Even as late as 1840, when the meeting was held at Queenston for the reconstruction of Brock's monument, Mr. Woodruff was not permitted to speak, and the letter published in this volume was written to his friend, Mr. Thorburn, at that time.

Another incident of that period may be given. A young man, on the 4th of July, rode on horseback through the village, dressed in a pink cambric jacket, and carrying a lance with pennon, in imitation of the Lancers, which were stationed at Queenston. It was evident that it was the foolish prank of a young man who had taken too much of Canada's curse. He rode up and down the street more than once. It enraged an old pensioner, who went to Queenston and informed the officer stationed there that the people of St. David's were celebrating the 4th of July. The officer took some men and marched to the place. His men were halted in front of the Methodist Church, and scouts sent forward to reconnoitre, and see what was going on. Mr. William Woodruff had heard of their approach. When the scouts arrived every



BROCK'S MONUMENT AND HOME OF WILLIAM LYON  
MACKENZIE, AT QUEENSTON, 1895.





house was dark, and the streets quiet, but from behind the curtains many anxious hearts were watching for the outcome. Mr. Woodruff took the officers to his house and treated them, and they returned to Queenston satisfied that their march had been unnecessary. The writer had American visitors at that time. They went to bed very late, and left as early the next morning as they could conveniently get away.

During the winter of 1837-38 the front part of the house was closed, and the curtains drawn. A bed was put in the sitting-room, our cloaks and hoods on chairs, for a hasty flight, and the children slept in the adjoining bedroom.

We took the *New York American*, published in New York City, and most of our news came that way, and was from one to two weeks old. The usual salutation to visitors or persons on the streets was, "What is the news from the seat of war?" The super-loyal wore a narrow band of red flannel around their hats. Another fad of that time was long red woollen socks, worn by the men over the boots, and reaching to the hips.

One night, when my mother was sitting by her fireside later than usual, she heard a slight tap at the window. Thinking it was a call to go to a sick neighbor, by some one who did not wish to disturb the house, she went to the door. A gentleman stood there holding his horse by the bridle, who, in an

agitated voice, asked to be directed the nearest way to the Niagara River. The directions were given, and the inquirer rode carefully away. Who he was we never heard, but whoever he was he escaped, and the circumstance was not mentioned till long after.

The Sunday before Moreau was hung (for the execution took place on Monday morning) wagons were passing all the day and night, filled with men, women and children. There were but few carriages in those days. Chairs were placed in the wagons, covered with quilts and blankets. Such was the usual way. A liberal price in money and in land had been offered for a hangman, but none appeared, and the sheriff, most unwillingly, had to perform the duty. Moreau sleeps in the Catholic burying-ground at Niagara. He acknowledged he had been deceived into a useless adventure.

Before the invasion from Michigan took place, my mother's relatives informed us such a project was contemplated, and advised us to leave. My father could not leave his business, and my mother preferred to remain with him. Such was the way people on the frontier and near it lived in those days—the fear of invasion, and the unjust suspicion which outweighed and forgot a life of honorable service.

## CHAPTER XV.

### *BURNING OF THE STEAMER "CAROLINE."*

THE destruction of the steamer *Caroline* during the rebellion of 1837 is one of the oft-quoted incidents of that time. Perhaps an account given by one of the participators may not be unacceptable.

On Thursday evening, the 29th of December, 1837, A. C. Currie and Walter Wagstaff were doing patrol duty on the Niagara frontier along the river above Chippewa. When returning to Chippewa, and near the bridge which crosses the Welland River (then called Chippewa Creek), they saw a crowd on the bank, and heard a call, "Volunteers for this boat!" Currie at once dismounted, and gave his horse to Wagstaff to take back to the camp. Offering his services, he was asked if he could row, and replying in the affirmative, was immediately accepted. The party consisted of seven boats, the men armed with pistols, cutlasses and boarding-pikes. They left Chippewa about 11 p.m., not knowing their destination, or what they were expected to do. It was supposed they were going to Navy Island, where the patriot army was encamped. They proceeded up the river above

the island, and approached the American shore. In the darkness and fog two of the boats lost their way and returned to Chippewa. The other five were grouped together a short distance above Schlosser. Captain Drew, the commander, then told them the object of the expedition was to cut out and carry off the steamer *Caroline*, which for some days had been employed in carrying supplies to the so-called patriots on Navy Island. They were ordered to let the boats drift down the river towards the wharf, where the *Caroline* was fastened, to keep perfectly still, to be at their oars, and when challenged or fired upon, to at once board and capture the vessel. When near the *Caroline* they were challenged and immediately fired upon. That shot wounded Lieutenant McCormac, the officer in charge of the boat in which was Charles Currie. They pushed forward, boarded the *Caroline*, and were soon in possession, the few on board quickly escaping to the shore. In the excitement, one person by the name of Durfee, from Buffalo, was shot. This was the only life lost.

An attempt was made to get up steam to take the *Caroline* across to Chippewa, but this requiring too much time, and it being reported that a large number were coming from the island to the rescue, she was towed into the stream and the torch applied. Before this was done search was made to see if any one was concealed. The only person found was a boy from Lower Canada, who was taken across to Chippewa and afterwards returned to his friends.

The *Caroline* soon drifted into the rapids, lighting her path to destruction and illuminating the shores as she was borne along. A fire had been lighted at Chippewa at the mouth of the Welland River, for which the boats were steered. When passing below Navy Island they were fired upon, but the shots did no harm. Mr. Currie took from the *Caroline* a pillow and a water-bucket. On the wharf he picked up the butt end of a pistol, which he still owns as a relic of his experiences in 1837.

Among the volunteers in the boat was Mr. John Mewburn, son of the late Dr. Mewburn, of Stamford, and brother of Dr. F. Mewburn, of Toronto, and of H. C. Mewburn, Esq., of Stamford, in the county of Welland. Mr. John Mewburn soon after went to England, where for fifty years he was in the Bank of England, retiring after half a century of faithful service with a handsome allowance and a recognition of honorable service. Charles Currie and Mr. Mewburn still survive.

(Rev. Canon Bull says that Captain McCormac was wounded in the wrist, and that his mother dressed the wound for several days.)

## CHAPTER XVI.

### *SAMUEL ZIMMERMAN.*

IT is but a slight act of justice to recall the name of one who fifty years ago was the foremost man in the Niagara peninsula, and whose brief career was the commencement of great improvements, not only at Niagara Falls, but throughout the Province of Ontario.

Samuel Zimmerman was born in Huntington County, Penn., March 17th, 1815. His parents were not wealthy; the family was a large one, and their education the ordinary school of that period. Upon the death of his father and mother he assumed the charge of his three younger brothers and his sister. He educated them, and trained his brothers to assist in carrying out his plans.

He came to this country as a contractor in 1842. Along with the late James Oswald, of Stamford, and others, he constructed four locks and the aqueduct on the Welland Canal. His first venture was successful, and he turned his attention to larger enterprises. Railways and bridges were becoming the necessities of the age. Quick in his perceptions, he realized the

possibilities of Niagara Falls and the surrounding country. In 1848 he made extensive purchases at Niagara Falls and in the locality of the first suspension bridge. This place was first called Elgin, then Clifton, and now Niagara Falls. People are still living who remember when the "forest primeval" was cut down to make way for what now is a great railway terminus. They recollect the cable that first crossed the river with its iron cradle, and the first passenger bridge. Now from Lewiston to Fort Erie there are five bridges, representing the highest type of engineering skill, strength and beauty. These also represent four others that have been taken down or destroyed. The International Bridge at Black Rock and the Cantilever are the only original ones remaining.

Previous to Mr. Zimmerman's purchase of the Clifton House and other lands, the buildings were of the most unsightly kind. "There is but one Niagara Falls in the world," and his ideas were in unison with the place. He bought, at liberal prices, the rights of the property holders. When one man refused to sell, he bought land and built the man a substantial stone house. As prosperity attended his efforts his views enlarged. During his short career he visited England and the continent more than once, and came back with the determination to make still more attractive the natural beauties of the place. After his marriage in 1848, to Miss Woodruff, daughter of Richard Woodruff, Esq., of St. David's, he at

once commenced his improvements. Clifton House was renovated, a concert hall and six cottages built. The grounds which now make the entrance to the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park were laid out, and the fountain put in. At Clifton improvements of the most substantial character were made. The post-office, bank, blocks for dwellings, stores, and water-works, were constructed in the most approved and modern manner. He encouraged the same spirit in others, and was ever ready to assist them in their enterprises. He built one hundred and twenty miles of the Great Western Railway (now the Grand Trunk),\* the Cobourg and Peterboro', the Port Hope and Lindsay, the Erie and Ontario railways, and at the time of his death arrangements were being made to build the Great Southern.

He did much for the town of Niagara. He built the steamer *Zimmerman*, and was part owner of the steamer *Peerless*, afterwards celebrated as a blockade runner in the Civil War of the United States. The town of Niagara presented him with an elegant silver vase as a recognition of his services. In 1855 he sold the Clifton property to Messrs. Pierson and Benedict for \$200,000. A frequent remark of his was, "I have no politics, and I will support any party who will aid my railway policy." And he did so. The people had unlimited faith in his plans. The

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\* Before the Great Western Railway was built there was a horse railway from Queenston to Chippewa, only used during the season of navigation. This was probably the first railway of any kind in Canada.



faculty of impressing others with his ideas, to draw around him as fellow-workers the men who could realize their importance, was possessed by him in a supreme degree. He made and unmade many political candidates.

He had intended building a magnificent residence at Niagara Falls. Plans had been furnished by Mr. Upjohn, a prominent architect in New York. Four of the lodges and the stables were built. These still remain. The foundations of the house had been commenced when Mr. Zimmerman's untimely death took place by the terrible railway disaster at the Desjardins Canal, near Hamilton, March 13th, 1857. It was intended at that time to build a monument on his estate. A temporary vault was constructed, and on the 17th of March, 1857, his remains were placed there with high Masonic honors. The monument was never built. Upon the death of the first Mrs. Zimmerman, in April, 1851, he had built a vault and erected a monument to her memory in the old burying-ground at St. David's. His young sister was also buried there a few months previous to his death. When his estate passed into other hands, his remains were removed to the vault in St. David's, where they rest beside his wife and sister. No inscription marks the resting-place.

The house where Mr. Zimmerman lived was substantially built. The woodwork in the drawing-room and dining-room was of solid walnut, highly polished; the second floor of oak. A veranda went around

the building. From this, in summer, the views of the Falls were very fine, and also from the long French windows in the drawing-room and dining-room. To sit outside in summer and at the windows in winter was one of the pleasures of his busy life.

When the Prince of Wales visited Canada, in 1860, this house was rented and furnished for himself and suite. No one who was present at the illumination of the Falls and the river the evening of his arrival can forget the surpassing beauty and grandeur of the scene. Our American neighbors joined with us to make it worthy of the place and its visitor.

When the Clifton House and other portions of the estate were bought by the Hon. John T. Bush, the house was taken down, and the present mansion built on the foundations commenced by Mr. Zimmerman.

The portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Zimmerman, his two sons, Miss Zimmerman and his brother, Martin Zimmerman, were painted by Mr. Wale.

The well-known portrait painter, Mr. Huntington, of Boston, Mass., and Godfrey Frankenstein, of Springfield, Ohio, also painted a portrait of Mrs. Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman was twice married, his last wife being Miss Emmeline Dunn, of Three Rivers, Quebec. His sons and his brothers are dead. John, the eldest son, married Miss Henry, of Toronto. There are two daughters from this marriage.

Clifton House, so memorable, was destroyed by fire on Sunday, the 26th of June, 1898.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### *THE FIRST FENIAN RAID OF 1866.*

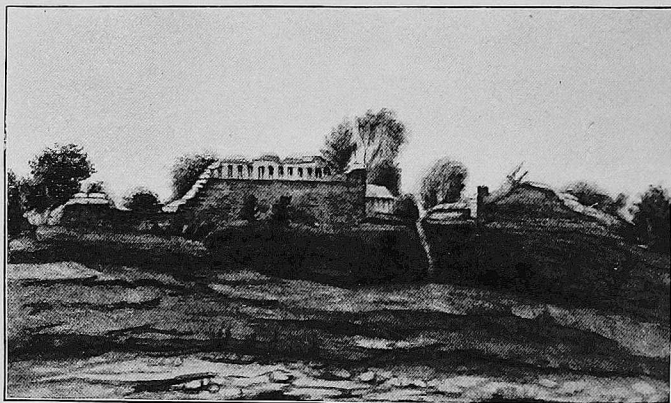
FOR some time before the Fenian Raid the press of the United States in various places gave intimations that Canada would be invaded. Canadians were incredulous as to the loud talk of disaffection, and did not believe anything so foolish possible. They had laughed over that popular air, "The Wearing of the Green," which told the world that "The shamrock is forbid by law to grow on Irish ground," that Irishmen "No more St. Patrick's Day we'll keep," and worst of all, that "They're hanging men and women, too, for wearing of the green." When the Fenians did come but one man joined them, and, discomfited and dismayed, they returned on the second day to Buffalo, the place from which they came.

The raid takes its place in history to be dealt with, and it is only what were the impressions and scenes of that time in St. Catharines that will be related here.

During the winter of 1865-66 a letter was sent from Lewiston, N. Y., saying a gathering of Fenians was to

be made from there. A person was sent to confer with the writer, but the conclusion arrived at was that there was no cause for immediate alarm. Another letter was soon after sent from a person in Philadelphia, who had been a resident in this locality for many years, and who felt it his duty to report the state of feeling and accompanying threats made in that city. These letters were forwarded to the military authorities. They felt that something should be done as a measure of prevention and intimidation, so that an invasion would be prevented. They ordered a few companies of volunteers to be called out, to place upon duty along the frontier, and they were to meet at St. Catharines. Should any demonstration be made by the Fenians, the firing of a cannon would be the signal to call them together. During the night of March 7th, 1866, after midnight, the order came, "Call out the volunteers." The cannon was fired, and its echoes awakened the slumbering citizens. There was a rush of the volunteers to the town hall. Many persons hired conveyances and took their most valued things away to the neighboring villages. The wildest rumors were abroad—that 18,000 Fenians were crossing Suspension Bridge, and the warm reception they were going to meet—but no Fenians came. There was a second alarm on the eve of the 17th of March. Soon after, the volunteers returned to their homes; but none the less there was an intuitive feeling that an attempt would be made. Arms and ammunition were distributed, and





FORT ERIE, 1890.

more than the usual drill took place. A gentleman from St. Catharines attended a meeting of Fenians in Buffalo, heard their wild talk, saw their arms and their parade, without a word of remonstrance from the authorities.

Early in the morning of the 1st of June, 1866, news came that the invaders were landing at Fort Erie. There was hurrying to and fro in hot haste, and the volunteers were sent forward. It is the part that St. Catharines took that is recorded. The troops left here on Friday afternoon. About 3 o'clock on Saturday morning a detachment of the Queen's Own passed through the street on its way from the Grand Trunk to the Welland station, singing cheerily, "Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching." Some of them were University students whom many of us knew. A few hours after, about 10.30 a.m., came intelligence of the fiasco at Ridgeway, and the order following, "Call out the Home Guard." The streets were full of people, and arms were being distributed in the Town Hall. With the bell ringing, the husbands and fathers, brothers and sons, with pale faces descending the steps, the impression made has never been forgotten. Soon after word came that the wounded were to be sent here, and that the Town Hall would be used as a hospital. The women gathered and went to work, under the direction of Dr. Mack, making bandages, pillows, sheets and other things needful for their reception. Carpenters were already at work, and soon after midnight the

place was ready. The number of beds was over twenty. It was perhaps 6 a.m. on Sunday morning when the sad procession of wounded on stretchers passed from the Welland Railway station to the temporary hospital. More were brought Sunday afternoon, and along with them two wounded Fenians and some prisoners. The first thing to be done was to prepare breakfast, as most of them had gone without food for over twenty hours. The weather had been very hot, and their appearance was in keeping with what they had undergone. None were allowed breakfast until after examination, which was speedily done. Some were fatally, some dangerously, and others lightly wounded. Every care and comfort was given. On Monday their friends arrived. Those that could be removed with safety were taken to their own homes. The regular army surgeon took his position on Sunday evening. Some went from here maimed for life, and some died.

The Fenian prisoners were brought here and put in the police cells until they were transferred to Toronto jail. In Toronto, a few months after, they were tried, with an American lawyer watching the proceedings to report if they had a "fair trial." These men were found guilty, imprisoned for a few months, pardoned, and with a ticket to Suspension Bridge, N.Y., and five dollars in their pockets, were returned to the land of their adoption, no more, let us hope, to be deceived by tales of British cruelty, and that they would be welcomed by Canadians as deliverers from British tyranny! So ended the first Fenian Raid.







JOSEPH BRANT.

(THAYENDANEGEA.)

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### *BRANT MEMORANDA.*

PRE-EMINENT in historic fame stands the name of the famous Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant), the great chief of the Mohawks. Of rare abilities, of unquestioned bravery, princely generosity and fortitude under many misfortunes, the wisdom of his views and the statesmanship with which he managed and held his people together, are proofs that the red man has ability which, under just treatment, well deserves recognition and encouragement. Brantford has honored itself both by its name and erecting the statue to his memory.

No one has suffered more from the untruths started by literary people than Brant. He was not at Wyoming, and though this misstatement was called to the poet Campbell's notice, and undoubted proof furnished, it still remains uncorrected. At that time he was in the Schoharie valley seeking to bring out the Loyalist refugees of that region.

Brant died at his home in Burlington, Ont., 24th of November, 1807.

“Brant gave Major Nelles, one of his Ranger

friends, nine square miles of land. A homestead was erected here, which still remains. It was famous for the good cheer and hospitality of its owner."—*Picturesque Canada*, p. 488.

Mollie Brant, wife of Sir William Johnson, and sister of the famous Joseph Brant, had great influence among her people. She had the respect of the English, who wished her to live at Niagara on account of this influence over the various tribes who were constantly coming and going from that point.

The readers of American history will recollect that in 1775 and 1776 Montgomery and Arnold attempted the conquest of Canada. For a few months they were successful, but were compelled to retreat in June, 1776. One of the episodes of this mission was the surrender of an American force at the "Cedars," when Major Isaac Butterfield with three hundred men surrendered to Captain George Foster. Probably it is here the following occurrence took place:

He "saw some service in the French war, though young, and at the commencement of the Revolution joined the American arms; was at the battle of Bunker Hill and the principal northern battles. He was taken prisoner at the 'Cedars' in Canada, and came near losing his life to gratify savage revenge. He was bound to a stake, and the faggots piled around him, when, it occurring to him that the Indian Chief, Brant, was a Mason, he communicated to him the Masonic sign, which caused his immediate release and subsequent good treatment. He was afterwards promoted to a Colonelcy in a New York regiment, and served during the war. He died at Livingston, N.Y., June 9th, 1821; his widow, April 7th, 1833."

This story was told Mr. Taylor by his father many years ago. The fact that Mr. McKinstry's life was saved by a Masonic sign to an Indian chief is true, and Mr. Taylor's father said it was Brant.

Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. 13, p. 42, 1859:

The John McKinstry mentioned here was a brother of Charles McKinstry, the father of David Charles McKinstry, who married Nancy Whiting Backus, daughter of Sallie Backus, the third wife of Major Ingersoll.

This John McKinstry was born 1745, died June 9th, 1822.

Extract from Charles J. Taylor's letter of May 27th, 1900:

"The 'Mr. Hambly' to whom the 'orders' for laying out the lots near 'Mohawk Village' are addressed, was one William Hambly (said to have been an Englishman), who was a land surveyor and school-master here\* the latter years of the eighteenth century, married here in 1788, later went to Canada. This paper, the autograph, came to me about thirty years ago, in a lot of old papers of Captain Freeman Wheeler, who was next neighbor to Mr. Hambly, and who purchased Hambly's house and land after Hambly's removal from this place. In one old paper of August 30th, 1805, Hambly is described as of Township of Woodhouse and District of London, Upper Canada."

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\* Great Barrington, Mass.

LETTER OF JOSEPH BRANT.

Mohawk Village Feb<sup>y</sup> 1801

Orders

That Mr. Hambley begin at the <sup>mouth of</sup> Creek called  
Fairchild's Creek and Traverse the Creek to its Source  
or to the head of the Settlement laying off the Lots  
of 200 Acres each of 15 Chains <sup>wide</sup> fronting on the Creek  
and to plot and return the same some of the Lots not  
laying consistent with this plan must be returned  
according to their measure as they now lay

Jos Brant

Lent by Chas. J. Taylor, Esq.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### *LETTER OF MRS. THORN.*

PRINCETON, ONT., Feb. 12th, 1900.

My mother, Mrs. G. T. Hornor, wishes me to answer your letter.

She knew James Ingersoll, the Registrar, and his brother, Charles Ingersoll, and one sister, Appy, who married William Carroll. She also knew a Mrs. Whiting and her daughter, Miss Sarah Whiting, from Long Point, or near there, relatives of the Ingersolls, whom she met at Charles Ingersoll's.

You say, "any information in regard to your family will be welcome."

I will copy some extracts from the Oxford Gazetteer, by T. S. Shenstone, the Registrar of Brant, published in 1852, where he speaks of my grandfather, Thomas Hornor, the first Registrar of Oxford County.

"The late Thomas Hornor, the first white settler of the County of Oxford, and for many years its representative, was born March 17th, 1767, at Bordentown, New Jersey, then a colony of Great Britain; was married in 1801, by Col. Ingersoll, J.P., the father of our much-respected townsman, James Ingersoll, Esq., the Registrar of the County, and died in Burford, August 4th, 1834, of cholera. He came to the County of Oxford in company with his cousin, Thomas Watson, in 1793, before ever a surveyor's chain had jingled in its woods, and probably they were the first white persons who ever trod its soil. Mr. Hornor proceeded to Albany, N.Y., to purchase the

materials and engage the mechanics to erect his saw-mill, the first erected in the County of Oxford. He packed his goods in two small, roughly-made boats, which he launched on the River Hudson, near Albany, proceeded up the Hudson to the River Mohawk, and up the said river about 100 miles, then carried their goods and boats across the Norner Creek, thence down the Norner Creek to Lake Oneida, across the lake to the Oswego River, thence into Lake Ontario; along the southern coast of that lake to the Burlington Bay Beach, drew their boats through a small outlet of the bay, and then proceeded across the bay and landed near where Sir Allan McNab's castle\* now stands. The boats were then made fast for future use, and the goods drawn by oxen on roughly-made sledges to their destination in Blenheim. The mill was got up and in working order in the latter part of 1795.

“Mr. Hornor's principal reason for leaving the United States was his great attachment to the British Crown.

“In the War of 1812 several unsuccessful attempts had been made by different parties to get the Grand River Indians to join the expedition, then being formed by General Brock, to attack Detroit. Col. Norton, the Indian agent, could only muster nine men. Mr. Hornor, knowing his own influence with the Indians, collected seventy-five Indian warriors and marched to the scene of action, notwithstanding the American general, Hull, had issued his proclamation refusing to give quarter to any white man found fighting beside an Indian. After remaining on the enemy's frontier for two or three weeks he was dismissed and sent home, or rather toward home, for he and his men had only proceeded as far as Pike's Creek, on Lake St. Clair, when he was summoned back in great haste by General Proctor. This summons was instantly obeyed, and he and his men returned to the frontier and remained there until discharged a second time. The whole expense of this expedition was paid

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\* Dundurn, now Dundurn Park, Hamilton.



for out of his own pocket, nor was he ever paid one penny of it back. Again, in the following winter, when General Winchester was advancing against Detroit to re-take it, Mr. Hornor shouldered his musket, took his place in the ranks as a private, and so remained until duly discharged."

Mother's father, Capt. Turner, from Bennington County, Vermont, came into the country in 1823, and with two others took the contract of surveying the townships of Zorra and Nissouri, and settled a mile and a half west of where Woodstock now is. Hoping I have not wearied you,

I am, yours truly,  
(Sgd.) (MRS.) ANNIS M. THORN.

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LETTER OF WILLIAM WOODRUFF, ESQ.

ST. DAVID'S, July 29th, 1840.

DEAR SIR,—As you may be in want of some historical knowledge respecting the battle of Queenston Heights, etc.

On the morning of the 13th of October, 1812, a little before daylight, the American army commenced crossing the river.

Our forces consisted of the Grenadier and Light Company of the 49th Regiment (the whole before Gen. Brock arrived was commanded by Capt. Dennis of the 49 Reg.). Two companies of the York Flanks, two from the head of the lake, the two flank companies of the 1st Regiment L.M., also two from the Forty Mile Creek, lay at Niagara. We were put under arms about daylight.

I saw the late Gen. Brock start from the Government House at Niagara, followed by his aide, the late Col. Macdonell. He left orders that as soon as the troops and militia could be got into line, to march to Queenston.

We left Niagara about sunrise, and arrived at Durham's

soon after. We made a small halt, and then marched up the hill to about where Mr. Stephens now lives ; but before we got there we saw a small firing on the hill about the place where the hustings are erected, when we were informed that, after the death of Gen. Brock, the gallant Col. Macdonell had led up a small force to oppose the Americans, where he received his death wound. We then met our small force on retreat. Gen. Sheaffe arrived about this time and assumed the command. We then deployed through S. Vrooman's, Mr. Hamilton's and Philip Middeau's fields, and gained the hills without any opposition through the fields where James Williams now lives. We marched by old Mr. Chisholm's house,\* and formed a line in where are now Dr. Hamilton's fields, the Americans occupying the point of the mountain with a front of about a quarter of a mile, it being covered with brush and timber, we being wholly without covering of any kind. We here waited eyeing each other for about an hour, waiting for the two flank companies of the 2d Regiment Militia, and the Grenadier Company of the 41st Regiment. The former arrived.

We were then ordered to advance. Our little field-pieces commenced firing. It was returned by the Americans, with a 6-pounder masked in the brush. A rapid advance was ordered, without firing a musket-shot on our part, until a small distance from the enemy under cover of the woods and underbrush. We were then ordered to halt and fire, which was done. About this time the company of the 41st joined us on the extreme right.

We stood still but a short time, until, I supposed, we were ordered to advance with a double quick time. The musketry made such a noise I heard no orders, but as others moved we all followed. The object, I supposed, was to dislodge them from their cover, and, if possible, take their field-piece, for without knowing or seeing (for the smoke was dense) we, our

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\* The Chisholm house is at present occupied by Mr. Smeaton.

company, came smack against their field-piece, which, when we advanced, I suppose they had abandoned.

The General and his aide, no doubt, as they ought to do, had a position where all was clear to them, but as the wind blew from the enemy we had their smoke and ours in our faces. To be more brief, the Americans, not being under discipline, would not be brought up again after they broke, but sought concealment under the bank. Our regulars and militia forces numbered about 800 and perhaps from 80 to 100 Indians. I must observe that the most severe and destructive part of the engagement to our people was in the morning before and a little after the death of Gen. Brock. The prisoners after the engagement numbered about 900, exclusive of the dead and wounded.

Sir, all this is from personal observation by myself. I may err in some minutiae, but it is correct in the main features.

I have written a great deal without conveying much intelligence.

Yours,  
(Sgd.) W. WOODRUFF.

DAVID THORBURN,  
Queenston.



## LETTER OF MRS. JENOWAY.

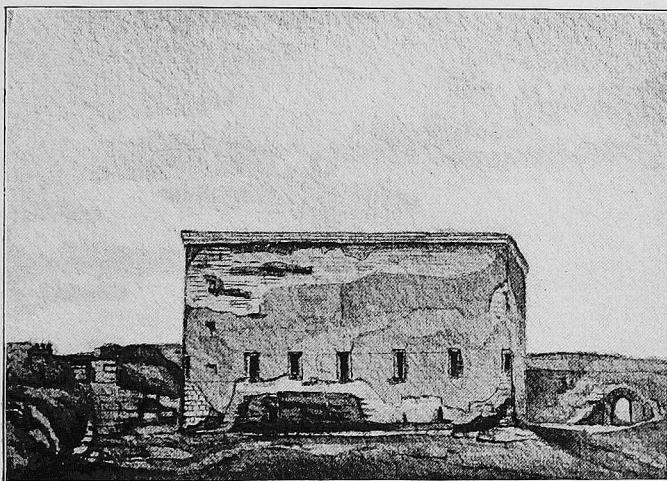
The remains of earthworks in the rear and west of Brock's Monument, on Queenston Heights, has occasioned many surmises as by whom and for what purpose they were constructed. The following letter given to Hon. J. G. Currie by Mrs. Saxon, wife of the late Frederic Saxon, Esq., written by his aunt, Mrs. Jenoway, has been accepted by the Niagara Falls Park Commission, and placed on record as a satisfactory explanation as to the cause and time of their construction :

HOPE COTTAGE, FORT GEORGE,  
4th September, 1814.

Miss Jenoway—

To the care of R. O. Middleton, Esq.,  
Cowper Street, Salford,  
Manchester, England.

MY DEAR SISTER,—It is with great pleasure I write these few lines to you to tell you of our good fortune so far, and I hope and trust in the Almighty for its continuance. It is now about five months since your brother was made Assistant Engineer at this place, and am glad to say his emoluments are very great, and so are his exertions. I only fear he will be ill with his great assiduity. We are living in a cottage of his own building. I assure you I am quite delighted with it, but am greatly afraid of our good fortune not lasting long, as it seems to me to be too good to remain any length of time. We have a fine horse and carriage of the country, which just holds our family and a little baggage. I have now been with my dear husband three months, which is the longest period we have lived together since we came to Canada. After I left Mrs. Robinson's family at Kingston, which was on the eleventh of December, Mr. Jenoway having got leave of absence for three weeks to take us up to York, where I remained at a boarding



FORT MISSISSAUGA, 1888.



school. I had one room and boarded with the family, and paid at the rate of a hundred a year. I stopped there until the sixth of June, when I left to join my husband, who was at Queenston, having been ordered from Fort George to erect the fortifications there. I had only been a fortnight there when five thousand of the Yankees landed above Fort Erie. Mr. Jenoway was left to command Queenston and the fortifications he had constructed, but unfortunately our army had to retire after a hard battle, with only fifteen hundred of the British to oppose so many of the enemy. Consequently your brother had to blow up the batteries and make the best of his way to Fort George with his men and guns. Previous to that, about eleven o'clock in the night, I was obliged to make my retreat with the children. When we had got four miles from Queenston, six Indians rushed out of the bush and asked me for my money. The servant was so frightened he durst not speak to them, but I had courage enough to make them understand I was an officer's lady, when they immediately went away. You may easily suppose what a tremor I was in. As we went towards the Twelve, before we got within six miles of it, our servant upset us. Fortunately we had no limbs broken, only much bruised. We were near a Mr. Thompson's, where we staid three weeks, with the Yankees within four miles of us and came a few times within a mile and a half of us. After the Americans had retired to St. David's and Queenston, my dear husband fetched me to Fort George, made the family a present of twenty-five dollars and drove off. My poor little Richard and his brother is, and has been for several weeks past, extremely ill of the ague and lake fever. 'Tis a second attack of it this time. It is nearly as bad here for that disease as in Walcherine, only not so dangerous. Hannah is well and grows a fine girl, but very backward in her talking. Your brother has pretty good health at present, but is almost hurried off his legs. I assure you that he is so very much employed that I have little of his company, as he has the entire command of the Engineer Department at

Fort Mississauga and Fort George. The former is a large new fort, which he had the direction of at the commencement, and considered the largest and most important of any in Upper Canada. Not doubting you will participate in our good fortune, we hope the accompanying order on my brother will be acceptable.

(The remainder of the letter is family matters.)

Believe me, your affectionate sister,

HARRIET JENOWAY,

Address to us—R. O. JENOWAY,

Assistant Engineer,

Fort George or elsewhere,

Upper Canada, America.





## CHAPTER XX.

### *PAST AND PRESENT NAMES OF PLACES.*

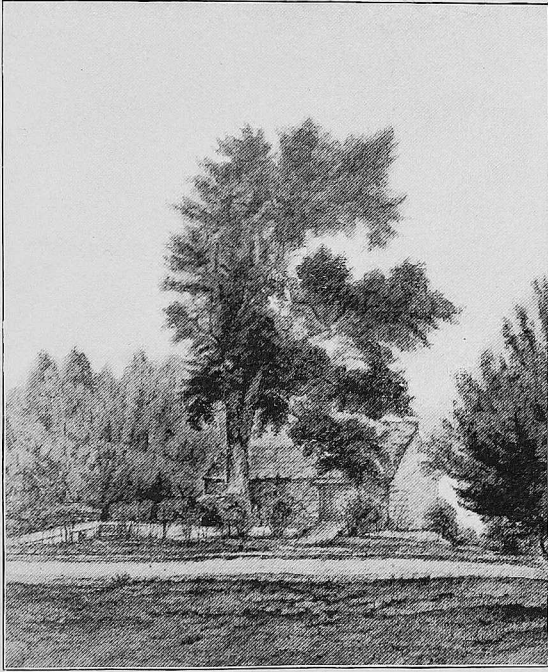
IN the early period of discovery, from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the head of Lake Superior was called on the ancient maps the St. Lawrence.

Governor Haldimand had first named the district Nassau. Governor Simcoe changed the name to Niagara. He also named the ridge of land from Queenston to Burlington Mount Dorchester, the highest point being at Grimsby.

In looking over letters and documents it is found that some places have changed their names more than once.

Past Name.	Present Name.
Fort Conty - - - - -	} Fort Niagara, N.Y.
Fort Denonville - - - - -	
West Niagara - - - - -	} Niagara.
Onghiara - - - - -	
Butlersburg - - - - -	
Newark (by Governor Simcoe, New	
Ark Refuge) - - - - -	
Niagara-on-the-Lake - - - - -	

Past Name.	Present Name.
Niagara Falls, Ontario, included the present Niagara Falls Park, together with the islands, Bridge-water Mills, and what was formerly Clifton - - - - -	} Niagara Falls.
Lundy's Lane - - - - -	
Drummondville - - - - -	} Niagara Falls South.
Drummond Hill - - - - -	
Elgin - - - - -	} Niagara Falls.
Suspension Bridge - - - - -	
Clifton - - - - -	
Street's Grove, sometimes Street's Creek, west of Chippewa, on the Chippewa Creek - - - - -	
Short Hills comprised what is now - - - - -	
Fort Riall, so named after General Riall - - - - -	} Pelham, Font Hill and St. John's. Fort Mississauga.
Lawrenceville - - - - -	
Four Mile Creek - - - - -	} Virgil.
Ten Mile Creek and Upper Ten Mile Creek - - - - -	
Twelve Mile Creek - - - - -	} Homer. St. Catharines.
Shipman's Corners - - - - -	
Suspension Bridge, N.Y., and Manchester are included in - - - - -	} Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Twenty Mile Creek - - - - -	
Forty Mile Creek - - - - -	Jordan.
Ball's Mills - - - - -	Grimsby.
Merrittville - - - - -	Glen Elgin.
Crookston - - - - -	Welland.
Four Mile Creek Mills - - - - -	} Chautauqua, Niagara. St. David's,
Davidsville - - - - -	
St. David's Town - - - - -	



BRIDGEWATER MILL, 1893.  
In Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park.



## CHAPTER XXI.

### *AN OLD LEDGER.*

IN the endeavor to bring back the past, there is often great disappointment in questioning aged people. We have been told that early impressions are indelible, but when an attempt is made to particularize facts and dates, we seem to come upon the impossible. If we ask for old letters, there are but few; for diaries or records, there are none. It is only fading memories, seldom recalled, that can be gathered, and tangled threads which we vainly try to straighten.

In an old ledger, happily saved from destruction, and kindly lent by a friend, Dr. John A. Carroll, of St. Catharines, there are some good reasons for the silence and obscurity of the past. Everything was against the preservation of private or public documents. The price of paper and ink, the high rate of postage, the imperfect ways of communication, the length of time, and last, but not least, the imperfect education of our forefathers, are a few of the obstacles. Many men could scarcely sign their names. They did not spell correctly. Very few women could write; it was not thought necessary. If a woman

LEAF FROM AN OLD LEDGER.

<i>St. James Second Cr</i>				
1806 -				
Feb 17	By 50 feet 2 in: Boards.....	36		
29	To Supers.....			10
30	To 1/2 of 1st Room 7/10 1/2			10
31	To 1/2 of 2d half 1st room.....			14
	To Tobacco 1/2 Gal 8 1/4 of Room 9/6			11 ✓
1807 -	By a very interesting	3		
3	To 1/2 of 1st Room			4
11	To 1/4 of 1st Room			15
24	To 1/2 of 1st Room 1/4 rest of 1st			4
26	To 1/10 of 1st Room			2
28	To a pair of shoes			16
Dec. 1	To 1/10 of 1st Room			2
	To 2 Cops of 1/2 of 1st Room			44
2	To 1/10 of 1st Room			14
3	To a handkerchief			86
15	To a pair of shoes			2
17	To 1/6 of 1st Room			1
31	By Balance		5 10 5	5 15 5
	To Balance of 1st Room			5 0 11
1807	Jan 30	To a Soap Trench		16
	2	To 1/2 of 1st Room		16
		To 1/2 of 1st Room		15
Feb 8	To 1/2 of 1st Room			56
	2	To 1/2 of 1st Room		56
	5	To a pair of shoes		1 2 1
	5	To a pair of shoes		1 3
	7	To 1/2 of 1st Room		2
	9	To 1/2 of 1st Room	4.6	
	13	To 1/2 of 1st Room	70.0	
	14	To 1/2 of 1st Room		
	By Balance	24.6	7 14 2	

could muster courage to make her mark on some extraordinary occasion, this was considered enough. If the pioneer life was hard for the man, it was still harder for the woman.

The ledger of which we write, and from which selections will be made, was the property of Mr. Thomas Dickson, a merchant in Queenston. Queenston at that time might be considered the commercial centre of what is now the Province of Ontario. From Queenston were sent the supplies needed in the remotest settlements. These settlements had no names. The currency of that time was not in dollars and cents. One shilling would be 20 cents of the present time, 20 shillings £1, and 5 shillings \$1.00. It is quite necessary this should be remembered as you read the prices of ninety-four years ago. The ledger was from 1806, through 1807 and 1808 and part of 1809. The names are mostly of German ancestry, a few French, some English and Scotch, and not many Irish.

Paper,	3/ to 4/6 per quire.	Bible, 12/ ; Testament,	5/
Sealing wax,	2/6 per stick.	Spelling-Book,	2/6
Almanacs,	1/2, Dutch 2/	25 Quills, 4/ ; by bunch,	5/
Lottery ticket,	3/4	Postage,	from 1/6 to 4/
Primer, 1/,	Pasteboard, 1/3 per sheet.		

Postage was very high, anywhere from 2/ to 4/, and on foreign correspondence still higher. Whenever it could be done, letters were sent by private hands to save the expense.

The necessities of life were very expensive ; luxuries were not much indulged in. Here are some of the prices :

Muscovado Sugar, 2/4 per lb.	Hyson Tea, 8/ to 10/ per lb.
Loaf Sugar, 3/6 "	Bohea Tea, 5/ "
Maple Sugar, 1/ "	Salt, 12/ per bushel, £2 per bbl.
Coffee, 4/ "	Tobacco, 3/ to 6/ per lb.
Chocolate, 4/ "	Candles, 18d. "
Pepper, 5/ "	Starch, 2/6 "
Snuff, 4/ "	Ginger, 4/ "
Indigo, 3/ per oz.	Allspice, 5/ "
½ cwt. Flour, 13/	Nutmegs, 1/6 apiece.
Eggs, 1/3 per doz.	Potatoes, 3/ per bushel.
Ham, 1/3 per lb.	Vinegar, 2/6 per quart.

*Articles Worn.*

Printed calico, 5/6 per yd.	Thread, 6d. per spool.
Flannel, 5/6 "	Ball and skein thread most commonly used.
Striped cotton, 8/6 "	Sewing silk, 1/ per skein.
Needles, 1/perpaper.	Brown Holland, 4/6 per yd.
(Generally sold by the ½ doz.)	Morocco slippers, 10/ per pair.
Stockings, 9/ per pair.	Cotton, 3/ per yd.
Man's fine hat, £3 12s. 6d.	White vest, £1 4s.
Bandana handkerch'fs, 9/ to 13/	Muslin, 10/ per yd.
Set knitting needles, 1/	
Cotton handkerchiefs, 3/ to 4/ apiece.	

*Articles for domestic use.*

Copper tea kettle, £1 18s.	Tin canister, 3/
Iron pot, 7/6	Brass tacks, 1/6 per 100
Frying pan, 18/	Pudding dish, 4/
Shears, 3/6	Whip-lash, 3/
Cow-bells, 8/6	Pins, 3/ per paper.
Spade, 12/	Comb, 4/
Skates, 16/	
Brass candlesticks, per pair, 16/	



Building materials and tools were very expensive.

Nails,	2/ per lb.	Lock,	9/
Gimlet,	9d.	Hammer,	4/
White lead,	3/ per lb.	Screws,	2½d. each.
Glass, 7 x 9,	1/ per pane.	Door latch,	4/
Brick,	6/2 per 100	Chamber lock,	16/

*Luxuries.*

Locket,	£1 6s.	Sword, sash and belt,	£3 4s.
Breast pin,	6s.	Proportion for a dance,	£1 6s.
Snuff box,	3s.	Wine glasses,	3/ apiece.
Watch key,	3s.	Windsor soap,	1/6 a cake.
Watch,	£8 12s.	Pair of boots,	£3 4s.
Tobacco,	3/ to 6/ per lb.	Silk handkerchief,	13/
Ladies' twist a specialty.			

*Useful Articles.*

Digging grave,	6/	Wash tub,	12/
Making a cupboard,	£1	Iron kettles,	from £1 to £4
Folding bedstead,	16/	Brass kettles,	£2
Cradle,	8/	Pewter teapot,	16/
		Mouse trap,	6/
		Tumblers,	1/6 apiece.
		Sad iron,	6/
		Gun powder,	6/ per lb.
		Japanned pitcher,	£1
		Turpentine,	3/ per pint.
		Chairs,	12/ apiece.

*What they drank.*

Rum,	14/ per gal., 3/6 per qt.
Whiskey,	2/ per qt.
Brandy,	16/ per gal.
Barrel of cider,	£2
Spirits,	16/ per gallon.
Wine,	18/ " "
Port Wine,	18/ " "
Teneriffe Wine.	
Madeira.	
Beer, per keg,	16/

*Medicines.*

Glauber salts.

Turlington.

Sulphur—Brimstone.

For horse-shoeing, repairing of furniture, freight transportation from Detroit to Montreal, and to every hamlet, pork, beef, flour, everything marketable, were taken in exchange.

The stores had in stock everything needed for domestic use. Much of the trade was in exchange for articles raised, or of home manufacture. There are charges for making men's best suits of expensive material and those for common use. As Queenston had other stores, there were supplies for all kinds of vessels, from His Majesty's warships to the fisherman's bark and the Indian's canoe. One can readily see what were the necessities and what the luxuries of that time. There was gilt-edged china, cut glass and all grades of cutlery. There were medicines and drugs. Brimstone was always necessary, as also pills and ointments. The women were not forgotten, for frequently we see untrimmed bonnets, ribbons, etc., and occasionally thread-lace and velvet. Furniture also, for common chairs were 12/ apiece. There was probably a cooper's shop, for barrels were in great demand. A blacksmith shop also in connection, as there are charges frequently made for work of this kind. The only difference between the general store of a hundred years since and the departmental store

of the present is, that the wants of that age were less, and there were no bargain days!

Value of currency used one hundred years ago:

York currency, \$2.50 to the £.

Eight York shillings, 12½ cents, \$1.00.

Halifax currency, \$4.00 to the £.

Five shillings at 20 cents to the \$1.00.

The military accounts were kept in sterling money.

Guineas, 21 shillings.

Twenty shillings sterling £1.

The money in circulation was English and Spanish gold, Spanish silver dollars and quarters, York shillings and sixpences, copper pennies, half-pennies and farthings.

Mr. Morris, an old resident of Beamsville, long since dead, gave the following anecdote of the War of 1812. He had served as a volunteer and had furnished supplies for the troops. At the end of the war he came to Queenston to receive his pay. He was paid in Spanish silver, which he put in canvas bags and started to walk to Beamsville. Before long the bags became very heavy. They were shifted from one pocket to another in the vain effort to make them balance. The money was at last taken from the bags, and divided in the best manner possible. "It was the first and only time in my life that I ever had too much money."

## CHAPTER XXII.

### *MRS. GROVER, OF SEATON HALL, COLBORNE.*

A FRIEND has placed in my hands certain "Recollections" of the school experiences and daily life of Mrs. Grover, of Colborne. The selections from them form a connecting link between the period when the settler had overcome the difficulties of the first settlement and the invasion of 1812. It shows how the women of Canada were educated after the war, and what was thought necessary for a finished education. Mrs. Grover's ancestry was from families who were most prominent in revolutionary times, and is an addition to the honored names of the U. E. Loyalists. These recollections were written for her grandchildren when she was between seventy and eighty years of age.

Mrs. Grover is the granddaughter of Matthew Goslee and Ann Schuyler mentioned in the following pages.

No name stands higher in New York annals than that of her uncle, General Philip Schuyler, the brave soldier and courteous gentleman, of kindly heart to friend and foe, the wise counsellor and the right

hand of Washington ; the two united by a friendship commencing before the Revolutionary War and ending only with their lives. Such is the brief record of his noble life.

It will, no doubt, be a matter of surprise to find that a woman who had suffered so cruelly in every way as did Ann Schuyler, should choose for a husband a Loyalist, and, turning away from all that was pleasant in the life of those days, resolve to share his lot in the Canadian wilderness.

Mrs. Grover's recollections commence with the following obituaries. The precise dates are not given :

In the Colborne *Express*, of 1850, appeared the following obituary :

"On Monday, the 21st instant, 1850, in the village of Colborne, at the residence of her son, Ann Schuyler, relict of the late Matthew Goslee, and mother of J. D. Goslee, Esq., in the 88th year of her age.

"Mrs. Goslee was a niece of General Schuyler, of Revolutionary fame. She was born in Albany, and spent the early part of her life in the United States. She accompanied her husband at the end of the Revolutionary War, in 1783, to Canada, with other Loyalists. They left their home and their all from pure attachment to their sovereign, and suffered all the privations consequent upon settling in a new country. Mr. Goslee died in 1830, since which period the deceased lived with her son (her only child). She retained full possession of her faculties till the last hour of her life."

Other obituaries follow, the dates not given :

"Elizabeth Hamilton, cousin of Mrs. Goslee, and wife of Alexander Hamilton, died in Washington on Thursday. The

remains were brought to New York City, and the funeral services took place in Trinity Church to-day at 1 o'clock. Mrs. Hamilton was the eldest daughter of General Philip Schuyler, born at the old family mansion, Albany ; married to Hamilton in that city, December, 1780. At the time of her marriage Hamilton was aide to Washington, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and had just completed his twenty-fourth year. Mrs. Hamilton survived her husband over fifty years. Both she and her sister Catharine were cousins of Mrs. Goslee, whose obituary we publish to-day."

Mrs. Grover copies from an old register the following marriages, celebrated in 1780 :

"Married in Albany, Elizabeth Schuyler, eldest daughter of General Schuyler, to the gallant Hamilton,\* aide to General Washington, with the battle guns of the Revolution firing a salute, and Liberty Bell ringing a merry peal."

Again, two years later :

"The marriage of Ann, niece to General Schuyler, at the old Manor House in Albany, to Matthew Goslee, a soldier of the Revolution, took place on the 11th day of August, 1782."

"Catharine, the second daughter of General Schuyler, married Colonel Cochran, and settled in Oswego. She visited Mrs. Goslee, and at her death the funeral sermon was printed and sent to Mrs. Grover's mother."

"Mrs. Hamilton lived to be ninety-six years old. They had no children. Their graves are in Trinity church-yard, New York. Mrs. Goslee's mother died when she was quite young. Her father and only brother were killed at the same time, fighting on the Revolutionary side. General Washington, before those troublous times, had been god-father to her cousins, Elizabeth and Catharine Schuyler, and herself."

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\*Alexander Hamilton, killed in a duel with Aaron Burr, Vice-President of the United States, July 11th, 1804.

There are many anecdotes connected with these "recollections." One that Hamilton and Aaron Burr came together to General Schuyler's, and were given a cup of coffee by the sisters, Hamilton saying, as he took the cup, "May the Lord preserve you." In an old letter of Kate Schuyler's she says, "I have cut Aaron Burr, never to speak to him again."

An anecdote of Washington and General Wayne is given, very characteristic of both. Washington asked General Wayne if he could storm Stony Point and take it from Clinton, who had strongly fortified it. "I will storm hell if you will plan it, General," was the reply. "Try Stony Point first," said Washington, solemnly. Wayne did, and took it on the evening of July 16th, 1779.

Mrs. Grover gives a selection from an old song, popular in 1776, evidently written to show the Mother Country how well the colonists lived :

" On turkeys, fowls and fishes  
Most frequently they dine ;  
With gold and silver dishes  
Their tables always shine.

" Wine sparkles in their glasses,  
They spend the time away  
In merriment and dances  
In North America."

Mrs. Grover describes the scene where her grandmother, seated on the fence under a cherry tree, saw her father and brother, with a company of volunteers,

march to their last battle, and heard her brother's parting words, "Look out you don't fall, Sis!" Through the afternoon, from this position, she listened to the boom of the cannon, and saw their defeat. She then ordered a colored man, their slave, to saddle two horses and secrete them, until needed, in a hickory grove near by. Her friends were rushing past, telling every one to save themselves, for the British were victorious and were burning their homes and driving off their cattle. They saw the burning barns and knew their homes would soon follow. Her father's last letter had told that her uncle, General Schuyler, was stationed in the Jersey woods. With her attendant she rode night and day to put herself under his protecting care. While passing through a wood on the second day they saw tents in the distance, and hurried on till stopped by a sentinel with the command, "Dismount." The girl was suspected of being a spy. She stood on the ground and began to tell her pitiful story, while the slave was trying to disengage an enormous horse-pistol from his garments. Just at that time a young officer came riding up, and she noticed that his red coat showed one sleeve gone, and the place supplied by a blood-stained bandage. She knew at once that she was in the enemy's camp, with the evidences of battle surrounding her. She was weak and faint for want of food, and wearied with her long ride. The officer sent for food and wine, and told the colored man to put up his pistol, "for the young lady will come to no harm. Is she your mis-



tress, and who is she?" he asked. "Yes, massa; she is my mistress, Miss Annie Schuyler. The Britishers have killed my massa and Mr. Philip, then burn us up, and we run away to find my missus' uncle. We thought he was in these woods; guess we're mistaken." "My God!" exclaimed the officer, "a niece of General Schuyler in this wood with no protection but this slave!" He begged her to take the food. When she had done so he assisted her to remount her horse, and, leading the way, gave the necessary directions, following which, a few hours after, she found herself with her uncle at his headquarters. From there she was sent to the old Schuyler mansion near Albany, and remained with her cousins until her marriage, which was from his house and with his approval. It was there she again met the officer who had shown her such considerate kindness in those hours of bereavement, defeat and danger.

Scarlet riding-habits were the fashion of that time. The one worn on that memorable day was afterwards made into a cloak with a chapeau, long used during her Canadian life, and the saddle is now in Mrs. Grover's possession. Matthew Goslee was the name of this brave man, who afterwards became her husband. His family lived in Maryland, and six brothers served in the Continental Army. He served under Cornwallis, and was in the 33rd Foot, participating in many battles of the Revolution. He was with Cornwallis in his unfortunate campaign, and was among those who gave up their swords at the surrender of

Yorktown, October 11th, 1781. He ever referred to this as the most unhappy day of his life.

Mr. Goslee owned a plantation and fifty slaves. These were confiscated at the close of the war. The plantation was bought in by his brothers and offered to be restored if he would return and live there. He chose, however, the life of the Loyalists along with his faithful wife, Ann Schuyler.

Mr. Goslee settled near Colborne, and had 1,000 acres of land. The log-house was built among the pines to protect it from the heat of summer and the cold of winter. They lived the old story of the settler's life in its earliest days; the log-house with its immense fire-place and the large logs piled upon each other. Here the Indians, hungry and almost naked, slept before the fire. In Matthew Goslee's house they ever found help and shelter.

The only son and child of Matthew Goslee married at twenty-one the daughter of a U. E. Loyalist, and settled beside the old homestead, only a stream dividing them. They had three daughters and one son. One of the daughters was Mrs. Grover. She was born and lived for many years in her grandfather's house, and was ever asking from both her grandparents "stories about the war." They will not be given here, as they are familiar to the readers of American history, and corroborative of what has been so often told. She tells of her dress of striped linen, spun and woven by her mother, the stripe

brown, colored from the bark of the butternut tree. "Grandfather made me shoes from cloth."

The main road ran past her grandfather's house, with the "forest primeval" on each side. In summer they went in an ox-cart when not on horseback; in winter with a sleigh. Mrs. Grover's school life commenced with her grandfather taking her to the school, which was a log building and kept by a young man whose name was Daniel Cummings, a member of the Baptist Church. Mr. Goslee would put the child on horseback, hang her lunch basket on the horn of the saddle, and lead the horse to the school, coming for her at four o'clock. There she learned her A B C's, but "never mastered the multiplication table!" She was sent to an American boarding-school when twelve years old, much against her grandfather's wishes, where she stayed a year without coming home. At that school Harriet Beecher, afterwards the celebrated Mrs. Stowe, graduated the same year. Many Canadians were there. She gives some of her studies—geography, history, rhetoric, philosophy, mythology. With the others she made a drawing of the map of the world, which pleased her father very much. She made a drawing, also, of a mourning piece with a large tombstone and a lady standing under a weeping willow. While absent the beloved grandfather died. He could never be prevailed upon to visit the United States. On her return home she came partly by the stage coach and the Erie Canal to

Rochester, and then crossed the lake to Presqu' Isle, where she was met by her father and taken home.

The following year the young student was taken to York (now Toronto) to the school of the Misses Purcell and Rose. This was in May, 1831, her father giving her a ring engraved with her initials and \$25 for spending money during the term. The school was under the patronage of Lady Colborne, whose husband was Governor at that time. She gives the names of the teachers, and the persons attending the school, who were the daughters of the leading people in Ontario. "Miss Purcell was like a mother to us, and the school life was happiness and perfection." She tells of an invitation from Lady Colborne for the school to attend a bazaar, and for which a holiday was given.

"On the day appointed we marched down the street, two teachers in front, two behind, and the boarders two by two between them. The soldiers of the 71st Highlanders lined the corridors and room where the bazaar was held, and their band gave such heavenly music. I was fifteen then, and had never seen soldiers dressed in this manner, and I felt my face redden as I saw the bare knees. Their bearskin caps, too, surprised me. The tables were beautiful. Lady Colborne was at one, and her sister, Miss Young, at another. The young ladies at the different tables wore white dresses, and small black silk aprons with pockets. Sir John was present, walking up and down the hall and leading his little daughter by the hand. I knew he had been at Waterloo, and I thought of Washington, Cornwallis, and the people I had heard grandfather talk about."

Our narrator met at other times two ladies in deep mourning, one a Miss Shaw, the *fiancée* of General

Brock, who wore black to the day of her death, and a Miss Givens, "who was engaged to a son of Sir Peregrine Maitland by his first wife. This gentleman went to England for his health, and died on the return trip. Miss Givens lived to be ninety-one years of age, faithful to the love of her youth. I never forgot that beautiful day in June, and can see it still."

Mrs. Grover's house in Colborne, in after years, was named, in memory of those pleasant days, "Seaton Hall," Sir John Colborne having become Lord Seaton.

The recollections do not say what was studied in the Toronto School, but there were "pencil drawings, wonderful embroideries, with shaded silks to imitate engravings, and still more wonderful samplers." They had a French dancing-master, but the waltz and the polka were unheard of. After her return home at Christmas time there were private theatricals, her brother figuring as David, and a very tall serving man as Goliath. They had an ancient piano, and her brother had a guitar for serenades.

Mrs. Grover tells of a trip to New York with her father and mother, driving from her home to Brighton, taking tea at *Presqu' Isle*, and leaving there by steamer for Charlotte, the port for Rochester, United States. They stayed there two days, visiting places around the city. From there they went by the Erie Canal to Albany. The boat was drawn by three horses abreast, and they thought it a most delightful way of travelling.

“Twenty miles this side of Albany we saw the first railroad and enjoyed the change; then on a floating palace from Albany to New York. . . . New York City was a wonder to us. I supplied myself with everything new. Father took us to the Park Theatre. We heard Tyrone Power, who was afterwards lost on the ill-fated *President*. Father hired a private carriage and we drove about the city, Brooklyn and various places on Long Island Sound. We were in New York six weeks, and greatly admired the character of the people. While in New York we were present at the farewell of Fanny Kemble to the stage, and were fortunate in having good seats. The play was ‘The Wife,’ and the Opera House and all other places of amusement were closed, as every one wished to hear the talented actress for the last time. The house was full, and she acquitted herself worthy of her fame before the assembly of beauty and fashion. The excitement of feeling was of the most intense nature. Smiles, tears, wit, applause congregated there to give a dazzling effect to the whole. Many who had never entered a theatre before flocked to hear the great Kemble and his daughter as she took her farewell. At the end they came forward, and Mr. Kemble said, ‘We bid you farewell,’ amid the waving of handkerchiefs, fans, play bills, etc. After our return father sold his land and moved into Colborne. My sister went to school in Montreal, my brother to college. My father bought a horse for me, and I ever used the Revolutionary saddle.”

Well might Mrs. Grover say:

“Those lives were noble in their missions, strong in their fortitude, sublime in their patience, and tenderly humane in unselfishness and neighborliness. Often my grandmother, after her own duties for the day were ended, would carry a pine torch and wave it to protect herself from wild animals while going through the woods to a neighbor whom sickness or death had visited. It may be these are better times, but the more we catch the spirit of those days the nearer we shall be to nature’s God.”

## CHAPTER XXIII.

### *CONCLUSION.*

It has been the aim of the writer in these Reminiscences to recall the high character of the mothers of this Dominion. They were indeed worthy helpmeets of the men who levelled the forests and cleared the broad acres of their new home. With unwearied patience these women shared their varied toils ; with quiet fortitude endured the separation from kindred and the homes of their youth to bear with them the hardships and the isolation of the settler's life, with a loyalty and courage always rising to meet whatever the occasion and duty demanded.

There is no place that is not rich in local history. It is the duty of those who live among the men and women who made it, to gather their story and preserve their traditions before they are lost forever, that the names of these worthy pioneers shall not be forgotten and their services to the country remain unappreciated. A great statesman said, that "people who never look back to their ancestors will not look forward to posterity," and it is good advice for the past and the present. Strangers visiting among us have noticed this forgetfulness.

Mrs. Jamieson, the wife of an early vice-chancellor, came to Canada late in the year 1836. She had two objects in view—to see Niagara Falls, and to study for herself the characteristics of our Indian tribes. She did both. It was her privilege to meet the Indians under conditions seldom offered to anyone. She staid among them and saw the better side of the best men and best women of their race. She bears witness to the disabilities under which the Indian lived—the vain effort to escape the temptations set for him at every step, by the pernicious example of the white man, and victimized by the covetousness which robbed him of his lands for the most meagre compensation. Her keen observation saw other things, for she commented upon the political life and the mistakes of that stormy period. More than these, she saw with honest indignation the position of Canadian women, and with what silent fortitude they bore their lot.

Mrs. Moodie and Mrs. Traill came to Canada in 1832. The remainder of their lives were spent in this Province. They have given to the world their experiences as settlers in “*Roughing it in the Bush*” and “*The Backwoods of Canada*.” They helped our literature, and did much to make our country known in the old land from which they came. They, too, bear witness to the industry and kindness of our women. Let us not forget, as we recall the memories of the dying past, the tribute due to the living present. History is repeating itself before our eyes. The *Doukhobortsi*, now making homes for themselves and their children on the prairies of the great North-West,



may show the same gratitude to the friends who brought them across the seas, as did the Huguenots and the homeless sufferers of the Palatine. Their women, who, yoked together, with relieving ranks, turned the sod of the fertile prairies, are also training their sons and daughters to be our helpers and defenders in the years to come.

On every hand women are working in the "strife for truths which men believe not now." Through many difficulties and much opposition women can now enter the open doors of the University and Colleges to that higher education which men and women alike need. Both have a common interest in the great questions of the day. An intelligent comprehension of these questions is not above woman's capabilities, nor are they unneeding of her help. Women rise or fall as they understand the duties which the age brings upon them. While they choose their vocation in life they should remember with gratitude the patient years of study, the unobtrusive and undaunted courage, with which Miss Martin has won this right for herself and others.

The story of Laura Secord is again presented to the public with the hope that the time has arrived when our people will unite to erect a monument worthy of the courage and patriotism it will represent. But for Mrs. Curzon Miss Secord's name would have only been a foot-note in history. In rescuing her name from oblivion she gave an inspiration which it is our duty to perpetuate.