

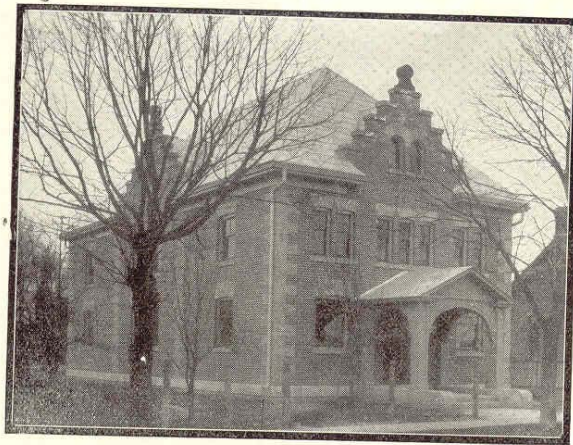
" DUCIT AMOR PATRIAE "

NIAGARA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NO. 30

SOME NOTABLE RESULTS OF THE WAR
HON. WILLIAM DICKSON

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS



Historical Building—Niagara Historical Society.
Formally Opened by Sir Mortimer Clark, 4th June, 1907.

PREFACE

When the first slight pamphlet of the Society was published in 1896, it was little expected that now in 1917, the thirtieth publication would appear. Several documents in the possession of the Society were published in number eleven and number twenty-seven and it has been thought well that others should be published. We are endeavouring to reprint all the numbers of which the edition is exhausted as many demands have been made for complete sets for binding, 1, 7, 10, had previously been reprinted with additions as numbers 12, 19, 21, and lately we have reprinted 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 13. We would bespeak for this number the same kind reception accorded to previous issues.

SOME NOTABLE RESULTS OF THE GREAT WAR

Lecture by Rev. A.F. MacGregor, B.A. in the Town Hall, Niagara, under the Auspices of the Woman's Institute, April 30th, 1917.

Alfred Tennyson in his first Locksley Hall, sang of a time in his life, when to use his own words-

"I dipt into the future far as human eye could see, Saw the vision of the world and all the wonder that would be."

Now and again in the history of mankind it is given to a seer to see far forth into the future, but what eye of man every saw the vision of our world, rocking from side to side with War, as it is this day? To whom, of all the sons of men was given prophetic penetration sufficiently clear to behold all the tragedy there is of woe and wreckage, on the one hand, and all the wonder of sympathy and heroic service on the other?

We may well be glad that we cannot read the book of fate and see the Revolution of the times. We may, indeed, thank Heaven that we do not know the future. Though it mocks, it also blesses us.

Shakespeare, in his play of Henry the fourth, makes the Earl of Warwick say, --

"There is a history in all men's lives
Figuring the nature of the times deceased;
The which observed, a man may prophesy
With a near aim of the main chance of things
As yet, not come to life; which in their seeds
And small beginnings lie intreasured.
Such things become the hatch and brood of time."

All the same, ladies and gentlemen, you may breathe freely here, for I am not going to play the role of a prophet this evening. Not being a prophet, nor yet the son of a prophet, I am content to study the pages of Providence already unfolded, and in the act of being unrolled, leaving the future to be determined by that "Divinity which shapes our end, rough hew them how we will"

If at any point in the course of this evening's address, I should so far forget my promise, in this respect, as to dip into the future, I can say it will be but for a brief

moment, and what I may report, you will take, just for what you think it is worth. The first notable thing about the War, which I would bring to your remembrance is:-

I.

THE STAUNCH RESISTANCE OF THE THRUST OF THE AUDACIOUS GERMAN INVADERS
BY THE PEOPLE OF BELGIUM

Did anyone foresee that the power which would promptly arise to limit the arrogance of the profane invading herd, who thought that nothing exists but what is gross material, would be the power of little Belgium? It soon became evident that the Belgians had the genius to be men who would not put up tamely with manifest impositions and breaches of contracts, written and implied.

I sent away for, and have studied a book entitled "Belgium and The Great Powers," written by a member of the Royal Academy of Belgium - an eminent scholar, who with calm dispassionate judgment after going over the whole ground of the histories and the treaties and the correspondence, upholds the right of the Belgians to oppose the violation of their territory by Germany. He shows that the neutrality of Belgium since 1839, required the action of 1914 - that the resistance of that year, dictated by a spontaneous sentiment of honor, was also the logical outcome of their national policy adopted by a clear consciousness of the only conditions under which Belgium could exist as an independent nation.

Remarkable it is, that a people who had buffeted through centuries of foreign dominations and revolts, who were forced by Europe into isolation by the side of powerful and rival neighbors, who were first among the nations on the Continent to experience the terrible social upheaval of the new industrialism, who were more densely concentrated upon their little piece of territory than any other people of the world, should have risen to a plane of self-reliance and unity and self-respect, and to such a degree as to challenge, and to earn, the admiration of the world.

It is not, perhaps, commonly known that often people come from abroad to study Belgian Institutions, to watch the working out of proportional representation -- the compulsory vote, the secret ballot, legislation upon workmen's dwellings, popular saving and mutual aid.

What originality! What enterprise! What consciousness that they, too, had, rightly, a place in the sun!

It is worth while recalling here, the fact that in the British Parliament on August 2nd, 1870, Lord John Russell called the attention of the House of Lords to the fact that, "The Prime Minister of Prussia and the Ambassador had initiated into the thoughts of the Emperor of France a proposal to violate the Treaty of 1839, to trample public faith under foot, and annihilate the independence of Belgium.

Belgium, said Lord John Russell has attacked nobody. It is a prosperous kingdom in possession of free institutions. Under the late King, and the present King, Belgium has maintained friendly relations with all the other States, guarding her own independence guarding her own independence and wronging no other country.

To Belgium, then, there is owing a debt of world-wide gratitude for its courageous assertion of the rights of small states, in danger of being not only ignored, but actually

wiped out of existence by a large one. The elimination of small communities for the benefit of the great communities, regardless of the inalienable rights of those smaller communities to life and liberty and self-respect, is a positively evil procedure, and merits swift rebuke and uttermost resistance.

Edmund Burke once asked the question, "What makes ambition virtue?" He answered it by saying, "The sense of honor." Is the sense of honor consistent with a spirit of plunder, or ravage or the practice of murder?

It will not soon be forgotten, it ought not to be forgotten, that the righteous resistance of the Belgians to so wicked an invasion plus the resistance of their sympathetic British and French helpers, stop! the insolent march of the German generals to Paris, and thence on to London, and how much farther - who of mortals can tell?

II

THE SPLENDID SUMMONING AND UNIFYING POWER OF THE LIFTED FLAG OF THE BRITISH FLAG

Sons of England and Sons of Scotland and Sons of Ireland, have, for centuries, adored Freedom. Their ablest pens, their most eloquent tongues have been exercised to secure and to maintain Liberty.

I quoted to you, Lord John Russel's words "We are bound to defend Belgium." In doing that, Britain knew that she was defending the freedom of a territory wider far than that of Belgium. The best established interests of Britain's policy demanded that a strenuous opposition to be made to a great military power, restless to seize a preponderating influence in Europe. One of England's celebrated Prime Ministers once said - "It is a permanent principle of the policy of this country that the lands situated along the coast from Dunkirk to Ostend, and as far as the inlands of the North Sea, should be possessed by free and prosperous states, practicing the arts of peace, enjoying the rights of liberty, applying themselves to the operations of commerce, which promote the interests of general civilization." That right being insolently challenged and those standing for it being truculently defied, there was no alternative for Britain but to take her stand with the people who would not yield their freedom at the threat of an arrogant scornful power. For the patriots of Belgium, that would mean their becoming defendants of a foreign power, and for the men of the north - our own men - it would mean indifference to their pledged word - a denial, indeed, of those convictions which are infinitely above all commercial calculations.

So the engaging scene was witnessed of England's determined men, not a few, of even her sons of leisure and high rank, together with Scotland's daring men, and generous Ireland's sorrow-proof soldiers, and those of Wales - proud Wales, along with native Indian soldiers, high-souled men, men of valour too, from Australia and New Zealand, West Africa and East Africa - mustering, responding, rallying, moving over to where the lightning gathered on the verge of the darkening sky. Passwords of faction forgotten - the barter of parties dropped, the hearing only of Duty's call, and the seeing only that Might was bent on crushing Right. Caring only that humanity should not be driven centuries back, as defiant iniquity carried out its infamous plans.

That was a great sight! So strangely new. So wholly unexpected. So completely out of the calculations of the designing Prussian plotters. That at the raising of the

glorious Old Flag of Freedom, men should willingly hasten from the cold north and the warm south, from the rich east, and the bracing west, to go to death for holy liberty! Never before saw the stars of heaven such a broad free march of men marching, not for gold, not for fresh acres, not for base lust, but for a great sentiment - that our world might be the home of virtuous liberty. Never while the world lasts will the great patriots, the friends of man forget this unified and unifying lead. It is proof positive that there is a God in Man, who makes his justice plain, and is angry, where fraud and falsehood weave their meshes for deeds of guilt and shame, at whose bare mention, noble hearts shudder and over which angels of pity must weep in sorrow.

III

THE VALUABLE VOLUNTARY REINFORCEMENTS TO THE ALLIED CAUSE SENT BY CANADA.

From the first, 32,000 Volunteers, so quickly mustered, so speedily available on to the last departing regiment, it will stand to the record of our Country, that an important augmentation of strength came to the righteous cause, at a critical hour, by the hands of our Canadian soldiery. Men said that we were bound to the Mother Country by one ropes of sand!

The world knows better now. It was a gracious tribute, which the "The New York Times" paid to Canada, in a recent issue of that paper, from which I quote the following "Canada has a new reason for pride. It was great, good fortune for her, that the taking of the Vimy Ridge, for which the allies had poured out so much of their blood, fell in the long run to her. April 9th, 1917, will be in history, one of the great days - a day of glory, to furnish inspiration to her sons for generations. Her new ally salutes her and rejoices with her.

Sir Max Aitkens remarked at Ypres, "The graveyard of Canada in Flanders, is very large." "The conduct of the Canadians was magnificent throughout."

A magnificent lesson it was to teach the sceptic Prussian, a great answer it was to the German idea that the world can be re-constructed, merely by material force without regard to the spirit of man.

It is but fitting that Canadians should be enthusiastic for the Dominion of Duty. The beginnings of their history were so noble, the traditions of Canadian heroes and heroines have been so inspiring that we might reasonably expect soldiers of Canada to be faithful and fearless to the last. Whoever thinks that they would allow insolent ruffians, beasts of ravine, to have their way here, in this our Canadian home, is profoundly mistaken. It is only what might be expected that Canadian free men should rise in defence of outraged freedom. To them, also, Whittier's lines apply:-

"They went where duty seemed to call,
They scarcely asked the reason why.
They only knew they could but die,
And death was not the worst of all."

RUSSIA'S EMANCIPATION FROM VODKA BY A SWEEPING IMPERIAL DECREE

It was a blow quickly given and almost annihilating to a foe of that Country, nearer far than the German. The resolve, the will, the act may seem to have been self-determined. It is nearer the truth, to believe that Divine forces worked out that wonder in statecraft, by which a people's strength with untried circumstances was immeasurably increased, and the curse of a destructive custom swept away.

The same remark may be made in reference to the last act in the drama of Russia's struggle for complete liberty. Her political resurrection, the speed and effectiveness, so far, of that political act, has made the world gasp with astonishment. From the fact that it was possible for the representative assembly to take over the reins of power in the midst of a military crisis, and to keep the wheels of industry revolving, and the military machine in efficient order, makes it easier to believe that the Russian people are capable of taking their place among the great democracies of the world.

In passing, may I be permitted to say that if Great Britain is to become greater still, she must not lag behind Russia and France, Canada and the United States, in making clear her title to be called in every particular, "The Mother of Free Nations" by freeing herself from slavery to the liquor traffic, so harmful to man, so hateful to God.

V

THE EMERGENCE OF WOMAN INTO NEW AND HONORABLE ALLIANCES.

The war has brought woman into new industrial, commercial and political relations. She is doing what the world did not dream she would do, and in the doing of it, she is showing herself acute, dexterous, prompt, dependable, and resourceful in every sort of useful occupation. There is little need that I tell you how women are taking infinite pains to do their noble share for the security of home and native land.

To us who are gathered here this evening, is it not enough, when thinking of woman's ability to mention the work done by the Institute, under whose auspices we are met, in this building? On, from the days of its first organization to the present hour, how much of good it has done for the Town and Community! I remember well its beginning under the Presidency of Mrs. F.J. Rowland - brave and beautiful soul, she was and is. How sanguine she was of its future, how convinced of its possibilities of great service! And as, in the course of the years, the work was handed over to other directing hands, the Institute has continued and developed, with pleasure and blessing to all concerned.

Strong characters doing strenuous work, mothers with their hearts dying within them for the boys that were their pride and joy, wives enduring loneliness and bereavement heroically, young women sad, but earnest, only able to speak to God in Prayer and to plead for Peace and Freedom. God mend the heart that cannot feel their holy zeal, and pity the sordid eyes that cannot see the beauty of their sacrifice, and the value of their consecration.

Of course there are, as there have always been, men rather blind morally and mean commercially. Three men - so the story goes - were in the smoking compartment of the car, when the traveller from Chicago happened to say, -- "That reminds me of a man out in my town who is so mean that he makes the members of his house write small hand in order to save ink." "A friend of my father's, sir, was even worse than that," came promptly from the Baltimorean. "He stopped the clocks at night, sir, because of the wear and tear on the works." Then the Philadelphian: Well, there's a good old Quaker out in

Wayne who won't read the papers, "Wears out his glasses, says he." Mean, meaner, meanest!

Not much longer can Pulpit or Press or Court or Parliament deny women, intelligent and efficient, their right to vote where and when and as they may think fit.

It is but the natural right of woman that she should have the freest exercise of her individual power in obedience to what she regards to be her duty and that she should have the fullest opportunity to assist in making the laws by which she has to be governed.

Freedom's vote in their hands, as in man's, the wrong will be less likely to prosper; the Right less likely to fail. This is just a bit of prophecy in passing! It is all but passed forever away - the idea of the non-significance and inferiority of woman. "Mamma, - a child asked - a man and wife are one, aren't they? Yes. And the wife is the better half? Yes. Then what is the man? A vulgar fraction." So much for connubial mathematics, and what I may call, the other side of the woman question! Old distinctions are passing away.

Only last week, a Judge asserted that the War had developed a new recognition of the common man. In the trenches in Europe, he fights side by side with his titled companion. In the munition shops, he is working side by side with the man, who in peace had been his lord's son. In the hospitals women are working side by side without any thought of superior lineage. But the word, "Vulgar" or common, as applied to man is a word to be dropped.

VI

THE LATE, BUT WELCOME COMING IN, OF THE UNITED STATES, WITH THE ALLIES FOR THE TRIUMPH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

For an anxious time, we thought that the people of the United States would let mammon pocket up the larger life. We say the danger of their losing their soul for material gain. But they took the splendid step over, and, we doubt not, with vast results of good to the world. As an opening warfund their first contribution of seven billion dollars is immense. An amount, according to the latest edition of the World Almanac equal to the total wealth of Canada. One of their leading papers in referring to this contribution said: "The amount of this grant will show the Germans that after all, it was no pigmy nations which they defied and forced to enter the war against them. They know - none better - what they could do if \$7,000,000,000

\$7,000,000,000 in a single first grant and a population of 100,000,000 people from which to draw recruits, were thrown into their side of the scale." Whittier knew not when this day would come, but he sang of its coming - with its happy interchange of good:-

"When closer strand shall lean to strand,
Till meet beneath saluting flags,
The Eagle of our Mountain-crag
The Lion of our Motherland."

VII

THE EVIDENCE SUPPLIED THAT RELIGION, AS A PRINCIPLE OF ENERGY AND SELF-SACRIFICE IS NOT WORN OUT OR IMPAIRED

I say nothing of any private or exclusive sect, nothing of Churchly rites for ceremonies, nothing of the rightness or wrongness of organic union for the Religious Denominations. This is not the time or place for such discussions remembering as we must, that men equally intelligent and devout hold different views on these questions. Some holding with the Dean of Durham, Dr. Hensley Henson in his plea for unity, made in the City Temple, London, England, a few Sundays ago, that "a fissiparous Christianity -- as he called it -- was not contemplated in the gospels. Others taking quite the opposite view, that those differences are, as in the natural order, Nature's effort after variety and individuality - the higher Nature's effort after variety and individuality.

Therefore, we have to, recognise to the full, the rights of individual liberty and development, including the right of difference.

But the War has brought home to many thousands the blessed fact that spiritual association is more than outward differences of religious forms. It is teaching us that there can be a fellowship of faith, love and service quite irrespectively of our Particular Church forms. That is what our soldiers are finding out. That the forces of a great love and an immortal hope are the great first and last forces of life. They join together in a union of largeness and freedom, which does not impoverish Religion, in any sense, but shows that faith is a divinely implanted instinct rather than a definition, and that humanity reaches its high water mark, in its better life, only as it freely acknowledges the force of the Apostles word to the Galatians - "that if a man is a Christian, neither conformity to a religious ceremony - twice honoured though it may have been - nor the omission of it, is of any importance, but faith working through love is all important." (T.C.N.T.).

The absolutely vital thing for these soldiers, hereafter, will be the voices within that speak of duty, of love, of sacrifice. These will be the things of final authority. To obey them - these inner voices -- will be to have the true Religion, to disobey them will be infidelity. Indeed as Mr. J. Brierly, years ago wrote, I think wisely, "Wherever you see a man taking his life in his hands, at the call of duty, stripping himself of present ease or goods that he may serve his neighbour, you see a believer, whatever the name he calls himself.

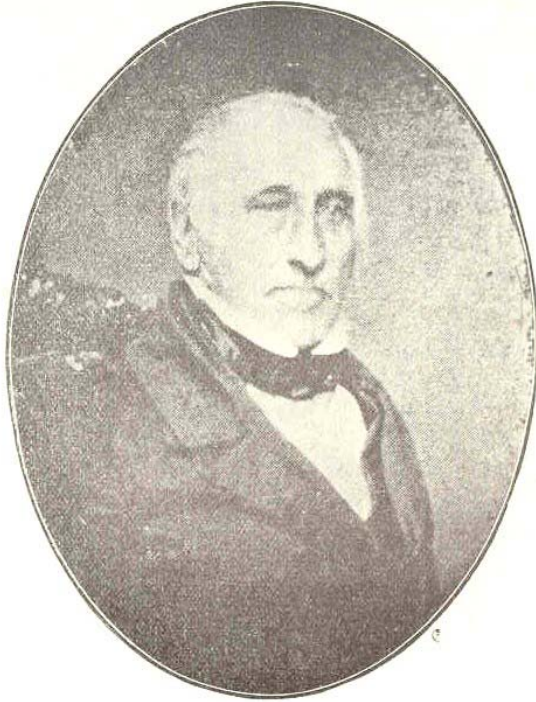
I have thus called your attention to these remarkable results of the War.--
(Summing Up)

- (1) The Belgian resistance to German barbarism.
- (2) The evidencing of the silken but strong ties which bind those belonging to the British Empire.
- (3) The glory of Canada's answer to the Call of imperilled Liberty.
- (4) Russia's new day of democracy.
- (5) The ways in which women have made good, in the great trial.
- (6) The new brotherly bond formed by the entrance of the United States into the War.
- (7) The re-adjustment in Religious Faith.

And now, a word of general application and I have finished. A grand result of the Great War is, that we and our children are given the opportunity to help refashion the world. Ours is the privilege, under God, of mouldering it afresh so that no nation can attempt usurpation and injustice, dwelling with evil delight on the prostrate condition of some timid unresisting people. We can combine so that there may be restored to Europe

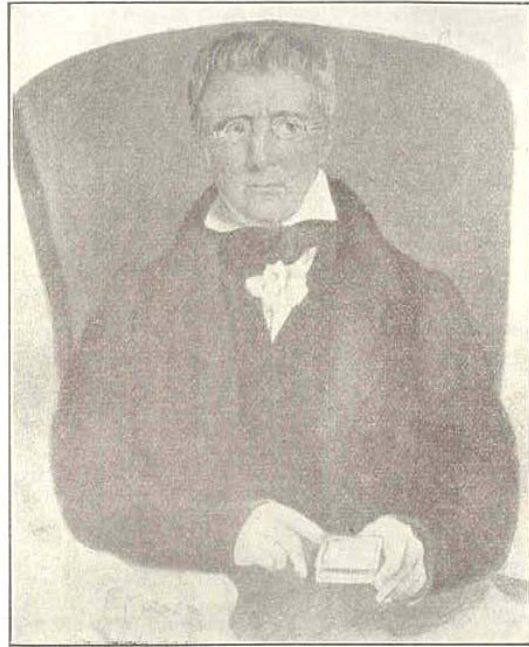
a settled Constitution of general policy, and, as William Pitt so well expressed it, "that to every negotiating power in particular, there may be given that weight in the scale of general empire which has ever been found to be the best guarantee of local independence and general security.

We can unite in a decision that, hereafter, no government, in contempt of the rights of other nations, shall avow schemes of world-wide Empire. The War will therefore be worth all its costs, when a clean sweep has been made of the accumulations of tyrannies and falsities and foulnesses which have attended the ways and works of the enemy. Every man of us, every woman here, has the chance of aiding the dawn of a new day, for Europe and the world – the day of true chivalry, liberty and love.



HON. JAMES CROOKS, 1778-1860

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



HON. WM. DICKSON, 1769-1846

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

SKETCH OF THE LIFE ON HON. WILLIAM DICKSON

By James E. Kerr

Read before the Waterloo Historical Society and by permission is now printed in the Niagara Historical Society, it being peculiarly appropriate that an account of one so prominent in the Town for so many years, should appear in our pages and we return our thanks to Mr. James E. Kerr and the Waterloo Historical Society for an article so well written and containing such valuable information. - Ed.

In this Centennial Year of the founding of Galt, it is thought that a short sketch on the life of Hon. William Dickson should find a place in our Annual Report of the Waterloo Historical Society.

My readers will, I trust, pardon me if I dwell too much on the history of Niagara, but it seems to me that some historical details are necessary. We must not forget that Mr. Dickson spent in Niagara, the greater part of his life, the period from boyhood to middle age and the period when, his work all but accomplished, he returned to his old home in which to pass the remainder of his life and enjoy the competency his ability and energy had won. Niagara was no ordinary village, for in it and in its vicinity events took place that decided the future of Canada. On many of these events, Mr. Dickson must have been a spectator and in some of them, he took a prominent part.

I beg to acknowledge my indebtedness to Miss Carnochan of Niagara for the material taken from her History of Niagara, to Miss Florence Dickson of Kirmichael,

Galt, for copies of letters written by her grandfather, and to Hon. James Young's Early History of Galt and the Settlement of Dumfries.

The family of Dickson came originally from the Parish of Caerlaverock in the southern part of Dumfries-shire, Scotland. They came of good Presbyterian stock, for we find that seventeen of the family signed the Solemn League and Covenant, whereby they bound themselves to use every means in their power to exterminate popery and prelacy in the Three Kingdoms and to establish uniformity in religion and worship by making everybody Presbyterian like themselves. The first of the family of whom we have any particular account was a Thomas Dickson who about the year 1700, left his parish and moved into Dumfries. There he engaged in trade. He married Margaret Bell, a daughter of one of the burgesses of the town. He left three sons, John, Thomas and Nicholas. We are only concerned with John, who carried on his father's business so successfully that he was able to add to it, several other commercial undertakings. He had inherited from his Uncle George Bell, the estate of Conheath. He was looked up to as a very successful merchant and his townsmen showed their appreciation of his ability by making him their Provost. Evil days came, however: the estate which his uncle left him was found to be heavily encumbered and the failure of a large banking concern with which he was in some way connected crippled him financially. He had married a Miss Helen Wight, a daughter of the Minister of St. Michael's, and had a large family, four daughters and six sons, Robert, William, John, Alexander, Thomas and Walter. Perhaps it was the losses their father had sustained that turned the attention of three of the sons to Canada, where the prospect of bettering their condition, seemed brighter than in Scotland. However that may be, Robert, William and Thomas found their way to this country. We know from his own statement that William came to Canada in 1784. He was born July 13, 1769, and therefore his age must have been about fifteen. The dates of the arrival of his brothers are not known. Probably Robert came with William as he was the oldest and Thomas, who was the youngest of the three, may have come sometime later. William entered the employment of his cousin, Hon. Robert Hamilton, who in partnership with Hon. Richard Cartwright, carried on an extensive mercantile business in the Niagara district.

Hamilton was an energetic, pushing, business man. His name was associated with everything that had for its object the betterment of the community. Bishop Strachan said of him that "he was remarkable for varied information, engaging manners, princely hospitality." William and Thomas Dickson were fortunate in their association with such a man. Of their first years in Canada, there are few particulars. Robert went out West and became a Fur Trader in the region of the Upper Mississippi which at that time was almost uninhabited except by roving tribes of Indians. He acquired by long residence among these, a profound knowledge of Indian life and character and was able to render valuable assistance to the American Government in its dealings with the red men. He retained, however, his British citizenship, and during the War of 1812, he induced many of the Indians to fight on the English side. For these services, he was at the close of the war rewarded by the British Government with a pension of three hundred pounds and a grant of a large tract of land. He died at Drummond Island in 1823. William and Thomas settled in the Niagara District. William seems to have stopped on his way from Quebec at Carleton Island on the St. Lawrence, but afterwards he lived at Niagara. Thomas took up residence at Queenston. In 1790 or perhaps a little later, William built the first brick house erected in Niagara. Both the young men seem to have been successful, first in the

employment of their cousin, Hon. Robert Hamilton, and afterwards in business on their own account.

The village of Niagara, which in 1795 contained, according to George Weld, only seventy houses, was from 1792 to 1796, the capital of the new Province of Upper Canada, which contained at the time from ten to twenty thousand settlers. In 1791, an Act was passed by the Parliament at Westminster by which Canada was divided into two self-governing provinces, Upper and Lower Canada, but it was not till the 17th of September of the following year that "the little yeoman Parliament of British Canada" as Goldwin Smith called it, was opened. A Constitution was bestowed which the Governor told his backwoods Parliament was "the very image and transcript of the British Constitution." William Dickson, who was present at the opening said in a speech made many years after that in Galt, "Well do I remember the joy and enthusiasm which pervaded all classes and ranks on such a boon being granted." The five sessions of the First Parliament were held in Niagara and there Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe resided.

To a visitor, the population of Niagara must have presented a strange medley. There were retired army officers, U.E. Loyalists, settlers from the States and a floating population of Indians half-breeds, negroes, voyageurs, traders and adventurers of all sorts. The constant presence of British troops quartered at Fort Niagara, and afterwards at Fort George, and in the village itself, added much to the liveliness and gaiety of the place. Not a few persons of note found their way hither in those early days. Here came in 1792, the fourth son of George the Third, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent. He was at that time, a young man of about twenty-five.

He was taken up by Governor Simcoe to see the Falls, wined and dined by Mr. Hamilton at Queenston and during his stay, numerous pleasure parties were gotten up for his delectation. In 1795, the Duc de la Rochefoucauld-Liancourt paid a visit to the Governor and he has left us an interesting account of what he saw. Another exile of the French Revolution, Count De Puisaye lived in the neighborhood of Niagara from 1798 to 1802. His mission was to establish a Military Colony of French Loyalists in Upper Canada, but this was unsuccessful. A brother of Sir Walter Scott was at one time quartered with his regiment at Niagara, "poor Tom, a man of infinite humor and excellent parts" Sir Walter says of him. Tom Scott died in Canada. Many people at one time thought that he was the author of "Waverley." Tom Moore the Poet came in 1804 as the guest of General Brock and spent a very pleasant fortnight. William Dickson, in April 1794, was married to Charlotte Adlam, an English lady, the daughter of Captain Adlam, of the Royal Navy. The notice of the wedding is found in the Register of St. Marks, though that fine old Church was not begun till 1804. Mr. Dickson was a member of the Niagara Library from 1800 to 1820. He had himself a valuable collection of Books which were burnt with his house in 1813. We find his name also among the early members of the Agricultural Society. He early began to take an interest in farming, a pursuit that was to occupy much of his attention in later years. The Agricultural Society was started in 1792. At the monthly dinners, a great silver mounted snuff box was handed round. Each President kept it during his year of office and then handed it over to his successor who I suppose refilled it. In 1796, in accordance with the terms of the Jay Treaty, Fort Niagara was given up by the British and for the first time became the property of the United States. The Garrison, along with the guns and stores, were removed to Fort George, a recently constructed Fort on the Canadian side of the River.

With an American Fortress opposite it and commanding it, Niagara was no longer a suitable place for the seat of Government, and the Capital was changed to York, the name at that time given to Toronto. In this year also, the Parliament of Upper Canada was dissolved. Governor Simcoe was recalled shortly after the dissolution. He was an honest and capable Governor, though his ideas of Government were too aristocratic to suit the people of Upper Canada.

In 1803, William Dickson received by special license to practise at the Provincial Bar. By an Act passed in July 1794, the Governor was authorized to license "such as he shall deem from their probity, education and condition in life, best qualified to act as advocates and attorneys in the conduct of legal proceedings." A better choice could perhaps not have been made than of Mr. Dickson, whose probity was unquestionable, who had received the rudiments at least of a good education and whose position in Society was acknowledged. It seems from the wording of the act that an extensive or thorough knowledge of law was not regarded as essential. If we give the subject any thought, we will come to the conclusion that at that time and in that community what Josh Billings called "strong horse sense" would be much more useful to a lawyer than a complete knowledge of legal technicalities. Mr. Dickson practised in Niagara for a number of years with success. He frequently acted in the magisterial capacity of a Justice of the Peace or a Judge of the District Court.

In 1806, an event of a painful nature occurred at Niagara which shows the method by which gentlemen at that period not infrequently adjusted their differences. I shall quote from the Albany Gazette of the time:-

"Mr. Weekes, a gentleman from Ireland who has practised, "at the Bar of Upper Canada for some years past, had the misfortune not to stand well with the late Governor (Simcoe) of that Province, and was at variance also with several of the most respectable members of the Government. On Monday, 6th October, he took the opportunity in an argument from the bar to abuse the terms of very gross invective, the memory of the late Governor and the character of several of his most intimate friends. This was passed over by the Judge without notice. Mr. Dickson, also a Counsellor at law, was also engaged in the same cause with Mr. Weekes and followed him in support of the question before the Court. Before concluding however, he thought it his duty as a gentleman and a Lawyer to enter his strongest protest against such declaration saying he conceived it originated in personal malice and malevolence and that were he the judge on the bench he would not permit such language to pass without censure. Nothing further happened in Court, nor was anything further intended at the time, as we believe, by either of the parties.

Unfortunately, Mr. Weekes spent the following day and night with a party at a Tavern in the country. Circumstances have led us to suppose that his resentment against Mr. Dickson had been aroused by the conversation of the party. Perhaps some hasty promise was then made to avenge the affront. On Wednesday, a man calling himself Major Hart, was sent by Mr. Weekes with a message to Mr. Dickson insisting on his making such an apology as Mr. Weeks might dictate and that this should be read in open court or that he should give him satisfaction in another way. The first was inadmissible, but Mr. Dickson, recurring to the alternative which he highly disapproved, made through a friend, a proposition to Mr. Weeks that if he would state in the Court that the language he made use of on a former day was only to support the cause he was engaged in and had

nothing personal against the character of Governor Simcoe, that he, Mr. Dickson, would in the same free manner, declare his sorrow for having misunderstood him. This being absolutely refused, they agreed to meet."

"As no gentleman could be found, who would associate with Major Hart, he was set aside, and Mr. John McKee went in his place. Dr. Kerr, (a son-in-law of Sir William Johnson) accompanied Mr. Dickson. They met on the American side of the river, near Fort Niagara, at 7 o'clock in the morning of Friday, 10th October. At a distance of twenty yards, they fired nearly together. Mr. Weekes missed his aim, but Mr. Dickson's ball entering Mr. Weekes' right side, went through his body. He died about twelve o'clock the following day."

Public opinion was strongly in favor of Mr. Dickson, and, as the duel had occurred on American soil, no legal proceedings appear to have been taken in the matter.

Mr. Dickson visited Scotland in 1809, taking with him his sons, Robert and William, whom he placed in a school in Edinburgh, where his youngest brother Walter, who was a writer to the Signet lived. Walter took a fatherly interest in the lads and reported from time to time to their father at Niagara, the progress they were making in their studies. Mr. Dickson's letters to his brother in Edinburgh are not very interesting reading, but they leave the impression that the writer was a kind hearted man in whom family affection was strong.

In the war, which came in 1812, Mr. Dickson does not seem to have taken an active part. Shortly after the taking of Niagara by the Americans, May 27th, 1813, he and a number of leading residents were in violation of a promise made to them by General Dearborn, seized and taken prisoners to Albany, the journey thither lasting almost two months, and being attended by many privations. It was not till the end of the following January that Mr. Dickson, liberated on parole, reached home to find his house in ruins. Before retreating, the Americans had burnt the Town. By this unprovoked and cruel act, several hundred people were rendered homeless and many destitute. Mrs. William Dickson, who was sick at the time, was carried out and from a couch placed on the snow, watched the burning of her home. Retribution came quickly. In a few days, Lewiston and other villages on the American side were given to the flames, Fort Niagara stormed and its garrison taken prisoners. Colonel Thomas Dickson, William's younger brother, commanded the 2nd Lincoln Militia Regiment at the Battle of Chippawa, where his conduct and bravery and the gallantry of the Regiment under his command, earned high commendation from General Riall. In this battle, Colonel Dickson was wounded. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly which met at York, and he carried on a successful business at Queenston. He died in 1825, and his grave is in the burying place of the Hamilton family.

The fratricidal war came to an end in 1815. It decided nothing except that Canada should remain British. The short-sighted and cruel treatment of the Loyalists after the Revolution, drove thousands of them into Canada. They carried with them the bitter feelings which persecution had engendered and were ready to take up arms in defence of the country that had sheltered them and given them homes. Among the Canadians, affection for the motherland was strong. England had treated them generously. It had given them home rule. In Lower Canada, it had respected the wishes of the French population, leaving to them their Church and in a large measure, their old laws. To the Canadians of Upper Canada, it had granted a constitution which if not, "the express

image and transcript of the British Constitution" satisfied for a time their desire for self-government. The hypocritical assurances of American demagogues that they were coming as liberators to an oppressed people, were treated with the scorn that such assertions deserved.

Canadians felt themselves competent to work out their own destiny under the aegis of Britain.

The war cost many valuable lives and left bitter feelings that only a full century of peace had eradicated. To the credit of the New England States, be it said that they were opposed to the War. To this opposition may be ascribed the immunity from invasion which Canada enjoyed on her north-eastern frontier.

In November, 1815, William Dickson was summoned to take his place in the Legislative Council He lived to witness and take some part in the great struggle for Responsible Government which was about to commence. In the politics of that time, he belonged to the Family Compact, which thought it contained many conscientious and excellent men, must now regarded at the party of retrogression.

In 1784, the British Government gave its friends and allies, the Six Nation Indians, a strip of land six miles on each side of the Grand River, from Lake Erie to the Falls of the River at Elora, and containing over a half million acres. This land, which is now one of the most valuable and productive areas in the Province, was at that time a wilderness. After it came into the possession of the Six Nations, they used it merely as a hunting-ground. The only portion of it which they made any attempt to cultivate, is what is now called the Indian Reserve a few miles below Brantford.

The lands on the upper reached of the Grand River, the Indians, after keeping for about a dozen years, expressed a desire to sell. They sold to Mr. Philip Stedman of Fort Erie on March 2nd, 1795, the block of land, afterwards known as the Township of Dumfries, giving him a deed signed by Joseph Brant and forty-one other sachems and war chiefs. A Crown Patent, granted in 1798, was required to validate Stedman's title. After Stedman's death, there were a number of transfers, which is unnecessary for me to recount, till the land was purchased by Hon. Thomas Clarke, of Stamford, in 1811. In that year, Clarke turned the land over to Mr. Dickson, probably giving him an agreement of sale. The deed from Clarke to Dickson was not given until July 3rd, 1816. The land which Mr. Dickson acquired, was a block a little more than twelve miles square containing 94,305 acres. The southern boundary crossed the Grand River at the point where it is joined by the Ninth. The place was known at that time as the "Forks of Grand River." The price paid for the land, including the assumption of a mortgage is said to have been 24,000 pounds, which reckoned in Halifax currency, would amount to \$96,000 or at the rate of a little more than a dollar an acre.

Having obtained his Deed, Mr. Dickson with characteristic energy set about the work of settlement. He was fortunate in his choice of an assistant in this task. Mr. Absalom Shade was a young Pennsylvanian, shrewd, wide-awake and money-making. The son of a Farmer and by trade a Carpenter, he had every qualification needed for leadership in a backwoods community.

On a July day in 1816, Mr. Dickson and Mr. Shade set out on their journey from Niagara to Dumfries. Mr. Dickson wished to explore the country and somewhere on the Grand River, to choose the site of a village which would serve as a trading centre for the farmers who should settle on his lands. The travellers after reaching Hamilton took "The

Governor's Road" to "The Forks of Grand River." From thence they engaged an Indian guide. Mounted on ponies, they followed the old Indian trail which led up the east side of the stream till they arrived at the place where the Mill Creek joins the river. Here they were not only struck with the beauty of the spot but also with its suitability for the village site. At this point in its course, the river runs between banked high enough to confine its waters even at flood time to its proper channel. By the construction of dams on the river, and the creek ample water-power could be obtained at a moderate cost and the comparatively level ground between the streams afforded good locations for houses and stores. Proceeding up the creek a couple of hundred yards, our site seekers came upon the site of a little mill that had been built by an early settler and abandoned, probably for the reason that no good title could be obtained for the land on which the Mill was built. This little Mill Mr. Shade afterwards "fixed up" and it was used till it was superseded by the Dumfries Mills." After lingering some time on the site of the future village, the explorers continued their journey up the river and found shelter for the night in the little log cabin of a squatter on the flats below Cruickston Park. Here they had reached the northern limit of the purchase and next morning they returned to the Mill Creek, and having taken another look at the place, were more than ever pleased with the location they had fixed upon.

A log house, one end of which contained a little store in which Mr. Shade and his wife served at the Counter, was the first building erected in the village. It was situated according to Mr. Young, where Mr. Sloan's Grocery Store now stands. After that followed a Saw Mill in 1817 and the Dumfries Mills in 1818. In the following year, the Main Street bridge was built. A small distillery commenced work in 1820. It stood on the south side of Chapman Street, about half way between Ainslie Street and the G.T.R. tracks. In 1821, a Tavern was built at the Woods and Taylor corner. Despite these conveniences of civilization, the little village grew very slowly for a number of years. The fact is that immigration from Britain had hardly commenced. The backwoods of Upper Canada were harder to reach than Timbuctoo would be now. As yet, Canada had no immigration agencies and the country was generally considered in Europe as a land of snow and ice, the fitting abode of the trapper and Indian. Mr. Dickson soon realized the necessity of making known the benefits that Canada, and especially Dumfries, offered to the enterprising and industrious immigrant. He sent agents to Scotland and through their efforts and through articles he supplied to the Scottish press, a large number of small farmers from the south of Scotland were induced to give up their holdings and to take up land in the new Township. The land was offered at about three dollars an acre. How these settlers were treated is best described in the following extract from a resolution passed at a public meeting held in Galt in 1839, for the purpose of inviting Mr. Dickson to a dinner to be given him by the inhabitants of Dumfries:- "That the settlers of this Township are under a heavy debt of gratitude to the original proprietor, the Hon. Wm. Dickson, not only for that indulgence and considerate lenity for which he has always been distinguished, but for the parental and effective aid with which he strengthened the hands of very many of his earliest settlers, and enabled them to contend with and overcome the manifold difficulties encompassing those who without means to take upland and locate in the woods."

Mr. Dickson, who had hitherto lived at Niagara, took up his residence in Galt in 1827. He lived in the village until 1836, when he returned to his residence of

"Woodlawn" near Niagara leaving the management of his affairs to his son, William Dickson. In 1827, the village which up to this had been known as "Shade Mills," was now given, the name of "Galt," in honor of John Galt, the Scottish novelist, who paid a visit to his friend, Mr. Dickson, in that year. As Mr. Galt was only a little boy five years old, and living in Irvine when in 1784, Mr. Dickson came to Canada, they could not have been school companions in Edinburgh as Mr. Young states, but meeting in Canada in 1827, they may well have become friends, for they were men of similar tastes and at that time were both deeply interested in the sale of farm lands.

During the period of Mr. Dickson's residence in Galt, he lived in a little rough-cast house near the south-east corner of Queen's Square, and afterwards in a house, of which only part of the foundation remains, on the hill above Crescent Street.

In the thirties, the wisdom of Mr. Dickson's policy of advertising the merits of Dumfries, became apparent in the large number of Scotch farmers who took up land. As the Township filled up with these settlers, the village became prosperous. The chief lack was of roads, especially of a good road to the head of navigation at Hamilton, between which place and Galt, the Beverly Swamp presented an almost impassable barrier to travel. It was not till 1837 that a macadamized road was commenced. This road, built at Government expense, added much to the prosperity of the Townships of Beverly, Dumfries and Waterloo.

A few words about Mr. Dickson's family may not be uninteresting. The Hon. William Dickson had three sons, Robert (1796-1846), William (1799-1877) and Walter H. (1806-1884). Robert and Walter were Barristers and lived at Niagara. They were both in the Militia and probably both served as Cavalry Officers during the Rebellion of 1837. Walter represented Niagara in the Assembly from 1841-1851. He was appointed a Legislative Councillor in 1855 and after Confederation, he sat in the Dominion Senate. Robert also was a Councillor. He died at Leghorn, Italy in 1846. William lived at Kirkmichael, Galt, where he died in 1877. Hon. Walter Hamilton Dickson of Niagara, married Augusta Maria Geale, daughter of Lieutenant Benjamin Geale, 49th Regiment. They had five sons and four daughters - William, Watler, Augustus, Julia, Mary Louisa, Robert George, John Geale, Florence Augusta, Arthur and Augusta Maria.

A few years before his death, which occurred at his residence in his seventy-seventh year at Niagara on the 19th of February, 1846, the Hon. William Dickson retired from active business. His estate he divided equally between his three sons, retaining only enough to support him comfortably in his declining years. He to the very last, manifested a lively interest in the progress of Galt and the settlement of Dumfries and was unflinching in his attendance to his public duties in the Legislative Council.

The Dumfries Courier, Feb. 21st, 1846, in the notice of the death of Mr. Dickson, pays the following tribute to his memory.

"The Township of Dumfries which under his fostering care, has in an incredibly short period been converted from a wilderness into one of the most flourishing and prosperous parts of the Province, bears witness to the wisdom and benevolence of the late lamented gentleman, whose memory will be long cherished in the hearts of thousands to whom he has been indeed a benefactor and a friend.

In the "Reminiscences of the Early History of Galt and the Settlement of Dumfries" is an account of the dinner to Hon. Wm. Dickson and his speech in reply which gives us a more intimate view. While the political condition of Upper Canada is

referred to at some length, we select the personal reminiscences as more interesting to us. -- J.C. Editor.

RESOLUTION PASSED

At a Public Meeting called in Galt, June 22nd, 1839, "that in consideration of the debt of gratitude owing by the settlers of the Township to the original proprietor, Hon. Wm. Dickson, not only for the indulgence and considerate lenity he has always shown but for the parental and effective aid and assistance with which he strengthened the hands of many of the earliest settlers that they feel desirous of showing him a public mark of respect by soliciting the honour of his company at a dinner to be given by the inhabitants of Dumfries, he to choose the day."

Thirty four gentlemen of the Township of composed the committee. The reply to the letter of Absolom Shade is dated, Niagara 26th June, 1839, and contains these words: "I have from age and other considerations withdrawn myself from all business or avocations for the last few years and do not feel myself perhaps exactly prepared to undergo the excitement that usually ensues upon public occasions but as I shall chiefly meet with old acquaintances and friends, I give my cordial acceptance of the kind invitation and name the 13th proximo, that being the day of my birth and the day upon which I shall have arrived at the age usually allotted to man."

In an account given these words are used: "the father of this township having twenty-three years ago, first pitched his camp in a desolate and trackless wilderness which under his judicious management and fostering care is now the abode of a large and thriving population containing three prosperous villages of Galt, Paris and St. George. There were present at his right and left hand, his three sons, William, Robert and Walter Dickson and after the customary toasts, the song of "The Old English Gentleman" followed and the stout hearted old gentleman still active mentally, made a vigorous speech which has been carefully preserved." The speech occupies six pages of the History of Galt by Hon. James Young and shows a keen, logical mind, a knowledge of the history of the country at a critical period, a patriotic spirit, kindness of heart and a strong sense that righteousness and morality should govern the country.

A few extracts are given, chiefly personal. He touched on the subject of Crown lands, emigration, the neighbouring republic showing a grasp of the difficulties facing the country.

"Mr. President and Gentlemen:

When I perused the resolutions of the public meeting of the Township of Dumfries, my feelings may be easier imagined than described. It was a soothing and grateful consideration to receive such a mark of respect from a body of men with whom I have so long had intercourse in the various occupations incidental to the arduous and laborious undertaking of settling new lands. The Township of Dumfries, containing 94,305 acres of land, originally formed part of the Indian possessions on the Grand River. I made a purchase of the property in 1811, and in the year 1816, I commenced the settlement. This tract at the time, was actually a wilderness, as many may now remember. Embarrassments and difficulties beset me - despondency sometimes showed her unwelcome visage. However, the interest on the debt due by me was regularly discharged and the payments made by you enabled me to rub off all encumbrances and gradually to pursue a system of accommodation and benevolence. When a newcomer

presented himself, with a family, I did not make the enquiry so much for money as I did to ascertain if the party was honest, industrious and laborious. Assistance in cattle, provisions, and other necessaries was given, and under a personal supervision, the Township has become the residence and abode of a happy and wealthy population, seldom or never having recourse to the ruinous and compulsory process of law, during a period of 25 years. In recurring to many incidents during so long a period and to a strict self-examination, I am afraid you may have over-rated my merits; for in rendering you assistance in advancing your views, I was not negligent or unmindful of my own and now my most sanguine anticipations have been realized. In all my difficulties a moral principle and a religious sentiment sustained me. Many of you have had your days and night of gloom - you have encountered privations, toil, trouble and up-hill exercise, but many of you have attained the summit of your wishes, and others are in a progressive advance. Have I not reason to be proud of such a class of men, of generous mind and intelligence, who can feel such gratitude and express such sentiments as are embodied in your resolutions?.....

I was at Niagara when Gen. Simcoe first addressed the assembled Legislature, and well do I remember the joy and enthusiasm which pervaded all classes and ranks... I have heard much in my time of grievances, but I can conscientiously declare that I think we have as few in Upper Canada as in any country under the sun. A residence of fifty-five years in the Province and a seat in the Legislative Council for twenty-three authorize me to claim some knowledge of our institutions, having in the course of my life in this Province, both practised and administered the Law, without at any time receiving any emolument from, or giving any pledge to His Majesty's Government, beyond the duties of a good subject.....

I have now done with public and general subjects. I shall take leave to speak merely for a few moments shortly of myself. I was born at Dumfries, Scotland, in the year 1769 and this day is the Anniversary of my birth. I have attained the advanced age of 70 years; the future can only be a remnant, and should be devoted to high and solemn purpose. I trust when that remnant of time shall likewise be run out, that I may be found prepared for the great change that all men must sooner or later submit to. I have now only to announce to all my friends here assembled, the heart-felt expression of my gratitude to God for permitting me in the midst of my family and at this late period of my life, to enjoy health and strength sufficient to receive and acknowledge the honour and approbation you have this day conferred upon me. - J.C. Ed.

Original documents in the Scrap Book of Niagara Historical Society.

MEMORANDUM RESPECTING THE MILITARY RESERVE.

Niagara, 11th June, 1787.

As the line comprehending the ground reserved by the King on the south west side of this River, is the most material object to be first ascertained. It was therefore directed to be begun at a deep hollow at the north east corner of Lot No. 23, First Concession, Niagara Township and to run from thence, due west till it strikes the 4 Mile Creek in which Government erected Mills presently occupied by Mr. Daniel Service (Servos), thence down the bank of said Creek to the Lake, thence along the Lake and up the River to the place of beginning at the distance of forty-five chains, seventy-five links

from the place of beginning, the line goes over a split rock which is here taken notice of as a lasting mark. There is an allowance of one chain between the Garrison line and Township for a Road or any other purpose to which it may be deemed necessary to apply it and then an allowance of one chain on the southwest side of every other lot for thoroughfares, etc.

The stony ridge on the left hand side of the road leading to the Landing is ejected for Common on account of a Spring there is on it, reserving to Mrs. Fields, the widow of George Fields, deceased the breadth of her lot as far as the river and to be looked upon as a consideration for her fifty acres and to Michael Showers, as much as comprehends all his buildings at the foot of his lot, this Common to extend along the river on the left of the Highway going to the Landing as far as the deep hollow at John Chisholms with a reservation of all buildings and gardens at present in possession of Widow Van Every, Charles Depew and Peter Miller. The foot of the first Tier of lots beginning three chains and forty-five links from the river, due west. The land as yet is exceeding low on the second tier of lots and not fit for Highways until the Country shall be more opened by clearing, etc.

The breadth of the Lots in this Township is twenty chains and the depth 50 chains, containing 100 acres with allowance for highways, the course of the division lines due west, an allowance of one chain is also made between every concession for Roads. - October, 1787.

The Division lines will answer to run due south as far as the Forty Mile Pond and from that to the Head of the Lake, south eighteen degrees, west from the Lake. The same allowance is made as in Township No. One.

November 5th, 1787.

The Township on the Mountain has only one chain of allowance. Every sixth lot, it was begun at the corner stake and upon what was called the sworn line which varies four chains easterly. At the end of the sixth lot, there is a vacant space of 8 chains to be divided into 50 acre lots. This space is between Township No. One and the above. The sworn line varying three chains and ninety-six links to the eastward, it was thought advisable to pay no further attention to it, it having been examined by three persons. There is an allowance of one chain upon every sixth lot going southerly. There is a chain of allowance every concession westward for highways.

Niagara, 27th August, 1788.

Issued two advertisements prohibiting any person whatever from settling upon any vacant land left between Townships or places not yet surveyed.

Niagara August 28th.

Issued four advertisements by advice of the Commandant desiring all persons whatever, might make previous application to the surveyor before they fixed upon any land in this settlement in order to prevent disputes.

Copy of a letter from Major Campbell, 29th Reg't. Commandant of Niagara:-
Sir, - I am to acknowledge the favor of your letter of the 29th May, enclosing a copy of your instructions from the Surveyor General and finding from this irregularity allowed of

Augustus Jones, re survey of Garrison Line.

To all whom it may concern, I do hereby certify, that on the first day of October, 1828, I visited the deep hollow or Ravine above Navy Hall, being the point at which Mr. Frey and myself, commenced running the line between the Military Reserve (a) (The Military Reserve comprising Fort George, the Common, Military Hospital, formerly Indian Council House, Butler's Barracks, contained 444 acres exclusive of the Reserve at Fort Mississauga and the Engineers Quarters. The Turf Club laid out the race course in 1797 used for many years by the Military and others.) and the Township of Niagara in the year 1787, and traced the said line westerly, passing a white oak tree, marked by us in that year and mentioned in my field notes, which tree is now standing between the mouth of the River and the said Ravine, and the road leading to Queenston, marked "I.W." and another stone monument between the said road to Queenston and the split rock, marked "I.W." and another stone monument between the said road showing the true bearing of the Garrison line as originally surveyed by us to the Split Rock in 1787. And I do hereby certify that on the survey of the said Garrison line we did not leave any allowance for road to the north of it, but that on the survey of the Township of Niagara, subsequently made by me, I verily believe that there was an allowance for road left on the south side of the said Garrison line, given under my hand at Niagara this 3rd day of October, 1828. (b) Augustus Jones, D.P.S. (Augustus Jones, the Deputy Provincial whose wife was an Indian, was the father of Rev. Peter Jones).

I do hereby certify that I was present and did see the before mentioned monuments, planted by Mr. Jones.

M. Burwell, Deputy Surveyor.

The foregoing monuments were also planted in presence of Jacob Willson, John Haun, William Haun and I.S. Haun. A. Jones.

McFarlane & Gibbs

20th June, 1794.

Know all men by these Presents that we, Peter McFarlane and Benaiah Gibbs of the Town of Montreal, Province of Lower Canada, Merchant Tailors, have made, ordained, constituted and appointed and by these presents do make ordain, constitute and appoint, and in our place and stead, do put and depute our trusty, loving friend, John McFarlane (c) (The name is now spelled McFarland and the fine brick house on the River Road built in 1800 is in good preservation at the present day. In the War of 1812, it was used as a hospital. James McFarland was one of the pilots when Fort Niagara was taken Dec. 1813.) of Niagara (boat builder), our true and lawful Attorney for us and in our name either under the firm of McFarlane and Gibbs or separately as Peter McFarlane or Benaiah Gibbs, and for our use to ask, demand, sue for, recover and receive all sums of money, debts, goods, wares, dues, accounts and other demands, etc.

Whatsoever which are, or shall be due, owing, payable and belonging to us, by any person or persons in the Home District of Upper Canada, now resident therein, giving and granting unto our said Attorney by these Presents, our full and whole power, strength and authority, in and about the Premises to have, use and take all lawful ways and means

in our name, either as McFarlane & Gibbs, or Peter McFarlane or Benaiah Gibbs, for the recovery thereof..... In witness whereof, we have jointly and separately set to our hands and seals hereunto at Newark in the Province of Upper Canada, this second day of June, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred and ninety-four, and in the thirty-fourth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith, etc. etc.

McFarlane & Gibbs.

Peter McFarlane, Benaiah Gibbs.

Signed, sealed and delivered, in the presence of: Ralfe Clench, Clerk of the Peace, Joseph Haines.

(Original)

LETTER OF CHIEF BRANT, 1799

Dear Sir:-

I have heard that one of the Petits was ill used by two of our young men on the long bridge in the Swamp, near Niagara. We would wish, therefore, if he would take oath to the particular circumstances of the treatment, when we are apprised to a certainty how the affair happened, to have reasonable satisfaction given. I would wish to hear from you as soon as convenient.

Dear Sir, I am your most humble and obedient servant.

JOS. BRANT (d)

Robert Nelles, Esq.

(d) The letter of Capt. Brant shows his desire for Justice to both parties.

(Copy) LETTER WRITTEN BY CAPT. STEVENSON, AFTER THE BATTLE OF CHIPPAWA

JULY, 1814, TO REV. R. ADDISON, HIS FATHER-IN-LAW (e)

(e) The letter of Capt. Stevenson shows how many of high rank were in the Regiment and how heavily they suffered in the Battle of Chippawa. Jno. Stevenson was Lieutenant in the 100th Regiment.

My Dear Mr. Addison:-

Of course you will have heard, ere this of our unsuccessful attack on the Americans last evening. I can't describe to you, the dreadful and destructive fire that was kept up on both sides for three quarters of an hour, much less the scene of carnage on the Field of Battle.

Our Regiment has been almost entirely cut to pieces. I know not, except under the mercy and kindness of Almighty God, how I escaped. Men were falling beside me like hail. I was slightly wounded in one of the fingers of my left hand by a musket shot. We had, including the trifling circumstance, thirteen officers killed and wounded and one hundred and eighty men. Lieut. Gibbons, who commanded the Grenadiers (Miss

McNabb's friend) and Ensign Rea were killed, and Capt. Sherwood (?) received three balls in him, Capt. Sligh dangerously wounded in the groin, Lieut. Williams wounded in three places, Lieut. Vallantine in both legs, Lord Tweedale, in the thigh, Lord Lynn in both legs, Ensign Johnson in the shoulder, Lieut. Fostren in the shoulder and leg and taken prisoner, Ensign Clark in the foot. Thus you see what a miraculous escape the remaining four of us have and how very grateful we ought to be. The enemy must have suffered severely as our Artillery was so well served.

They must have been at least seven thousand men, I believe. We will leave this, we are so weak. Excuse this not sufficient explicit detail, the manner it is written. God bless you. Adieu, your son,

JOHN STEVENSON.

If you will mention to Col. Armstrong when you write, that Buecetin of the Royals is safe and not wounded. J.S.

FORT NIAGARA, 1814

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER WRITTEN TO LT. S.H.P. GRAVES, 9TH FOOT BY DR. LOWRY, HALF PAY, LATE 8TH FLANKY REGT. (f).

(f) This incident must have occurred shortly after Fort Niagara was captured by the British, 19th December, 1813, a few days after Niagara was burned.

31st Eccles St., Dublin.
Jan. 31st, 1873.

Dear Graves:-

As you say you would like to hear the anecdote I was told your father, as well as I recollect it, you shall have it. We had been some time during the Winter of 1813-1814 in Fort Niagara on the American side, that the 100th Regiment had taken. The day was particularly cold and dark and masses of floating ice had been coming past the Fort all day and as only a certain number of women were allowed to remain in it, Col. Young ordered a young woman and child to go over to the Fort George side in a large boat that was in charge of Sergt. Black of the 2nd Company and six men that were going across for wood. In spite of all our exertions to cast ropes for them to lay hold of, they were carried down into the lake and finally got jammed in the ice about half a mile from shore. Fortunately the wind had been blowing on the shore all day which caused the pieces of ice to freeze together, but the cold was so intense, we thought they would all be dead in a short time. Before going to mess, Major Robinson and some of us went on the ramparts to look over the picketting, which we did with great danger of being frost bitten. At grey in the morning, the first that went on the rampart brought word he saw them moving in the boat, which turned out to be true. The men had fortunately on their great coats, fur caps, &c. and Sergt. Black, a smart little fellow from the neighbourhood had made them all lie down in the bottom, the woman and the child in the middle and to keep turning all

night. We saw by glasses they had got a boat out on the ice and were trying it. Wonderful to relate, they all got safe to shore, seven men, the woman and child.

After getting over the long winter, we had some funny scenes. The Fort was surrounded on three sides by forest, about a mile and half off. The woods were full of large pigs which used to venture to come out sometimes towards the Fort, when we used to try to get between them and the woods, armed with shot guns. One occasion, Lt. McNair, a fine little fellow, thought to stop a large pig, which absolutely got between his legs and was carrying him off into the forest.

(Original)
1815.

Stamford, 28th June,

Madam:-

The Province of Nova Scotia, having voted the sum of two thousand, five hundred pounds for the relief of sufferers on the Niagara frontier, from the conflagration of their houses by the enemy. The Trustees appointed by the late President, Sir Gordon Drummond, to distribute the fund, have deposited in the hands of Thomas Dickson, Esquire of Queenston, the sum of sixty-three pounds, twelve shillings, eight and one half pence to be paid to your receipt on demand. They have done this on the supposition that such a sum might be acceptable although no application to share in this benevolence has been made on your part. Should you decline the acceptance of this sum, the Trustees request that you would signify your pleasure to Mr. Dickson as early as possible, after the receipt of this, that it may be divided amongst others. Thomas Scott (g) Wm. Dummer Powell, John Strachan. Mrs. Major Campbell, New Brunswick.

(g) The Loyal and Patriotic Society was formed in 1813 to help the sufferers in the War. Large sums were raised, Bishop Strachan was the Secretary. The book is very rare. A Copy is in possession of the Historical Society. Fort Major Campbell was buried at Fort George and the son Judge Campbell built the house now standing (afterwards the property of Senator Plumb), on the site of the house burned in 1813.

(Original)

Canada, 1813.

My late husband served His Majesty, during the Revolutionary War with America and was taken Prisoner with Lord Cornwallis at York Town, was placed on the Half Pay at the end of the War and in the year 1793, received a Lieutenancy in Sir John Wentworth's Nova Scotia Regiment at Halifax; in 1795, a Lieutenancy in the Royal Fusiliers; in August, 1804, he obtained the staff situation at Fort Major, Upper Canada, and in the same month, a Company in the 5th Regiment, on the 7th March, 1805, was placed on the Half Pay of the Royal York Rangers and holding the staff situation of Fort Major which situation he held at the time of his death on the 1st December, 1812.
E. Campbell (h)

(h) Donald Campbell, a native of Argyleshire was living in North Carolina and when the Army of Lord Cornwallis was passing through, joined it and served for thirty-seven years. Mrs. Campbell it is told by Alexander Stuart in a letter to Alexander Good (both lawyers) when her house was burned and money taken from her, walked with her infant, four miles to have it baptized by Rev. R. Addison, and when it died, she herself dug the grave and covered it. She seems to have retired to New Brunswick for some time.

DISPUTE BETWEEN CAPT. VAVASOUR, R.E. AND JOHN GRIER, 1817-1819

To understand a Map in the Historical Building and the following letter, it may be explained that John Grier, a merchant at Niagara in the early years, wrote a letter of complaint to the Governor at Quebec, complaining that in the War of 1812-1814, by order of the Military, his tan pits had been filled up and his business injured. The Governor wrote to Capt. Vavasour, blaming him for this. Capt. Vavasour then wrote defending himself and sent maps showing the positions of Navy Hall, St. Mark's Church and the Engineers Quarters. John Grier, like other Scots of whom we have heard, resisted vigorously and it is believed carried his point. J.C. ed.

(Copy)
Fort George, 5th January, 1819.
Sir:-

Royal Engineer's Office,

On receipt of your letter dated 22nd ult., I ordered Lieut. Stephenson, Clerk of Works, to accompany Mr. Grier and point out to him a spot of ground nearly half way between Fort George and the beach guard, supplied with a Spring and in every respect eligible for the establishment of a tan yard, and as I am confined to my bed, I desired a written report of his proceedings. I now send you the report he has made with two sketches to enable you to understand the subject. The points marked in red ink A. and B., have each been offered to Mr. Grier, both of which he declines on the plea that the bank, runs at those points, too far into the swamp to allow him to establish his tan yard.

My own knowledge of the ground, leads one to form a quite contrary opinion. The ground is firm and there is abundance of room for the purpose required. You will see by the sketch signed by Lieut. Walpole, that Mr. Grier has made a choice of spot where he has the very worst part of the Swamp to contend with, in fact where there is nothing but hill and swamp. With the proceedings, (whatever they may have been) connected with Lieut. Walpole's sketch, I have never been made acquainted. I was ignorant of the existence of such a sketch until a few days past, but I do not recommend that site as a situation for a tan yard. It is in my opinion too near the Town, the Church and the Engineer's Office Quarters, to each of which it will prove a nuisance. Will you be good enough to pitch upon some place decided for this tan yard. The question will then be at rest. The whole bank is provided with springs.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant.

(i) Henry Vavasour, Captain, Royal Engineers.

(i) John Grier was a Merchant at Niagara and was one of those taken prisoner by General Dearborn, although a non-combatant.

FORT MISSISSAGUA
(COPY)
Office,
Quebec, 24th April, 1818.
Sir:

Royal Engineers

I have the honor to transmit the plans and estimate of a new Barracks for Mississagua Point near Fort George, agreeably to the instructions of His Excellency the Commandant of the Forces and if rendered it applicable to the Fort proposed by my predecessor, Lieutenant Colonel Nicholl, on a work embracing curtailed lines of defences which I hope the comparative plan herewith sent will fully exemplify to be feasible. I have likewise the honor to submit for the information of His Excellency, an estimate of completing a less extensive work, either on a pentagonal or square construction, in either of which I apprehend there would not be a difference of expenses worth mentioning, further than what is mentioned at the bottom of the estimate. As the boundaries of the Town of Newark (which town was burnt during the late War) extended up to a foot of the Glacis of Lieut. Col. Nicholl's project on buildings may be erected on any part thereof, a circumstance militating much against this defence of any work. I beg to suggest, and most strenuously, to recommend that the site of the town should be removed within the boundary of the present Government Reserve. The few houses already established on the site of the old Town may not be of sufficient consequence to propose removing them, but the building of such a town, as I apprehend would be soon built particularly, and a new fort commenced, must be considered a great objection to the establishing a work of consequence at Mississagua Point without these preliminary arrangements are made.

The distance that ought to be reserved is eight hundred yards from the works, certainly under no condition less than six hundred, which latter spaced traced on the plan by a red dotted line, as also small reservations round the Government Wharf and stores barracks be now existing on the present reserve lands.

I have the honor to be,
Durnford, Commanding Royal Engineers.

(Signed) E.W.

(Copy) EXCHANGE OF LAND WITH HON. JAMES CROOKS, 1822.

The Honorable James Crooks owned much property here, was the first who shipped wheat to Montreal, built the first Paper Mills in Flamboro, was a Member of the Legislative Council for twenty-five years.

Sir: -

It is desirable to encourage the extension of the Town of Niagara towards the Southward and Eastward to remove the mass of buildings as far from Mississagua as possible. I do not think it would be advisable to allow the ground in the neighbourhood

of Mr. Bell's house to be blocked up with buildings. From that house, runs a ravine through the present Engineer's Quarters leading on Mississagua and terminating at too small a distance from the Fort. This line should if possible be kept open, for if occupied by buildings, it will no easy matter to dislodge a besieger. Holding the above object in view, I should prefer to give to Mr. Crooks in exchange for his 40 acres, a block of land on the front of King Street, containing 16 acres situated, as marked in the outline to which may be added 4 acres in the neighbourhood of his store to make up the 20 which he demands. The last 4 acres are most valuable, and in my estimation, the 16 acres are equal in value to the land adjacent to the Church. This will not interfere either with anything military or the uniformity of the Town; and this site is equal in value to any part of the reserve which does not bound on the River. I am unwilling to part with so much on the beach, and I should prefer to add to the 16 acres block, was I not apprehensive that it would not be accepted. It will be prudent to reserve the right of fishing, most interesting not only to the Town, but to the Country for 30 miles around. The white fish are taken in abundance on the line from Navy Hall to the Beach Guard House and in numbers at no other spot of the river. In the arrangement which I propose, I do believe that Mr. Crooks will be a gainer in the proportion of 2 to 1 at the lowest calculation. I have marked 2 houses on Mr. Crooks' land with an enclosure of half an acre, which I understand he values at \$2,500. I consider them worth \$1,500. The figure marked No. 1 on your sketch includes a piece of land asked for and I believe granted on a license of occupation during pleasure to Mrs. Racey, and the one marked C., includes an acre held by Mrs. Grier on a similar tenure.

With a view to give you all the information in my power, I shall make a few observations which possibly may be of use. The ground contained within the ravines, marked on the outline (red A.) with the red dotted line, connecting the ravine heads is desirable to an Officer of Engineers fortifying Fort Mississagua and defending that fortification. In the defence, the first idea would be to destroy every building at the Mississagua side of these ravines, wherever the point is occupied by an adequate fortification. The line of the ravines will probably be defended by a few towers as the advanced protectors of the work and to see into the broken ground nearly surrounded Mississagua, which can never be commanded from the work itself. It would therefore be prudent to keep this object in view, and to reserve for the purchase of the lands and houses which may be required the more valuable commercial sites of the present military reserve sites at present much more valuable and which will with the increase of commerce rise in value in a rate much surpassing the lands around Mississagua Point and that part of the Town which may be required with respect to the River.

From the Beach Guard House to Mr. Crooks' Wharf the river is shoal to a distance inconvenient (at least in the present infancy of the country) for the construction of wharves: not so the lines from Mr. Crooks' store to Navy Hall - here the water deepens rapidly, and is at all times protected from weather, an advantage, which the other line does not possess. The merchants land their goods along the last line.

You will perceive that my object is to prevent a mass of buildings along a range of broken ground, which even in its present state is too favourable for the attack of the intended works at Mississagua. The farther, therefore, you can remove Mr. Crooks from that work, the better.

When writing this letter, Mr. Crooks unexpectedly called on me. I mentioned to him, my proposal. He makes no objection, but appears to be inclined to meet the exchange in the manner which will be the most accommodating to the public interest. He is anxious to possess a Spring in the rear of his store which is included in my 4 acre red lot as an equivalent for the one he relinquished near to Mr. Bell's house and which he held on license of occupation. This in the exchange will be given up to Government. Mr. Crooks has informed me, that he has explained to you the subject of the houses on his land near Mississagua. It would be desirable to possess those houses. I have been informed by Mr. Crooks' brother, that no lease has at yet been granted. I mention this because I believe you have been told that these lots were sold. I have marked in your sketch a number of commercial and building lots, parallel to the line of King Street, each presenting a front of 280 feet to the river (the square root of an acre) and running back to the extended Town. They will give you some idea of my meaning.

I have the honour to be,

(Signed) H. Vavasour, Captain, Royal Engineers.

Signed: A true copy, John Berkis.

RE: EXCHANGE OF LAND WITH HON. JAMES CROOKS, 1823.

Report of a committee of the Honourable Executive Council respecting a proposed exchange of part of the Military Reservation near Fort George.

Executive Council Chamber at York,
Wednesday, 16th April, 1823.

Present: The Honourable William Dummer Powell, Chief Justice, Chairman, The Honourable James Baby, The Honorable Samuel Smith, The Honourable and Rev. Doctor John Strachan,

To His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland, K.C.B., Lieutenant Governor, Governor of the Province of Upper Canada and Major General commanding His Majesty's Forces therein. May it please your Majesty:

In consequence of your Excellency's reference of certain documents respecting a proposed exchange of part of the Military Reserve near Fort George in the Township of Niagara for certain lands prospected by James Crooks, Esquire, the Committee of the Council have considered the same and having heard Mr. Crooks.

It appears to the Committee that the tract to be ceded by Mr. Crooks comprehends the site of two houses sold by Mr. Crooks and which of course, he retains from his Cession to the Crown. It appears from Mr. Crook's verbal report to the Committee that besides the sixteen acres in front of the marked blocks Nos. 31, 32, 39, 40, he is to receive half of block No. 17 and 18 and the broken front No.9, quantity one and a quarter acre, together with the water lot in front of the said lot 9. As this representation differs somewhat from the Captain Vavasour's Report, 8th February, 1822, Mr. Crook's explained that your Excellency coincided with Captain Vavasour in censuring such alteration. The Committee therefore respectfully submit. The exchange so sanctioned, may take place if such should be your Excellency's pleasure and that he said twenty-one

and one-fourth together with the water lot in front of No.9 be confirmed by grant of the said portion of the Reserve in Niagara to James Crooks, Esquire.

All which is humbly submitted.

Signed: Wm. Dummer Powell, C.J.,

Signed P.M.

ORIGINAL - 1824

AGREEMENT FOR SIX MONTHS WITH BOND BETWEEN HIRAM
LEAVENWORTH OF ROCHESTER
AND WM. L. MACKENZIE OF QUEENSTON.

(The old building now in ruins at Queenston is often pointed out as where the first paper was printed in Upper Canada (the Colonial Advocate), 1824, whereas the first paper (the Upper Canada Gazette or American Oracle) was printed in Niagara, 1793.

Village of Queenston in Upper Canada on the twenty-third August in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and twenty-four, between Hiram Leavenworth, now of the village of Rochester in the county of Monroe in the state of New York, printer on the one part and William L. Mackenzie of the Village of Queenston, aforesaid Bookseller and Publisher on the other part. Witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the covenant provisions and payments to be done, made and fulfilled on the part of the said William L. Mackenzie, he, the said Hiram Leavenworth doth agree to conduct, manage and carry on for and on behalf of the said William L. Mackenzie and for his interest and benefit the business for Printer in the said Village of Queenston to work in, manage and superintend the said concern belonging to the said William L. Mackenzie and to bring on his, the said Hiram Leavenworth's establishment of Press, types, and printing materials from Rochester to Queenston, both aforesaid to be employed in printing for the above establishment of said W.L.M, the said H.L. farther agrees that in case he should be necessarily obliged for a few days, from the urgency of his private affairs or from sickness or any other good and lawful cause to depart from his duty as a printer that then and in that case he will provide a person in his stead at his own on term expense, competent to manage, superintend and carry prop he said printing business. The said H.L. further agree to offer his establishment of Press, type and printing materials to the said W.L.M. at a just, fair and reasonable price, that is as low a price as he could have possibly afforded them in Rochester had they been there sold for cash and not to exceed on any account the full and entire sum of eighty seven pounds, ten shillings provincial currency (\$350) that he shall conduct the said business solely for the benefit, interest and under the direction of the said W.L.M. and further that the bargain on the part of the said Hiram Leavenworth as for six months according to the true intent and meaning thereof and made and fulfilled their respective payments, works and agreements the one to the other, that then at the end of six months this agreement in that case shall be at an end and full and complete and each shall fully release the other from its penalties and farther in consideration of the services, works and mechanical advantages which he the said H.L.

shall work and confer on the said W.L.M, he, the said W.L.M. agrees to pay to the said H.L., in full for six months, the sum of fifty-two pounds, ten shillings of lawful money of this province in full for the same.

He further agrees that in case he should, on seeing the said H.L.'s types, Press and materials refuse to buy and pay for the same and that at the price so fixed on or to be fixed on by H.L. aforesaid, that then and in that case he shall, over and above any other sum or sums by this agreement named pay six pounds, five shillings for the use of said types, for said six months that all payments to be made by him to the said H.L. shall be at such time as it may suit the said H.L.'s convenience, weekly if required but not oftener the one half to be in cash and the other in goods or produce such as may be by the said H.L. from time to time required for himself and his family and further that he the said W.L.M. will at his own cost pay the duties at the Custom House and the freight and charges of the said printing materials, Press and types from Rochester to Queenston aforesaid and further that he will pay immediately two pounds, ten shillings to the said H.L. for his expenses from Rochester hither, as is usual and farther that the said W.L.M. at his own cost shall furnish his said office with all other necessary materials for completely carrying on his business as a Printer and also that he shall allow Harvey Newcomb, one pound currency weekly in lieu of board and wages for six months - he, the said H.N. said H.L. may object to any journeyman whom the said W.L.M. would wish to hire on account of his temper or disposition or for any reason and he the said, W.L.M. shall not hire him nor shall he retain any journeyman in his employ than the said H.L. shall be satisfied with the said journeyman's conduct, the said H.L. shall have the sold control over every person employed in the Office, as regards their portions of what work shall be by the said W.L.M. desired or requested to be done. And further, it is mutually understood that if the said W.L.M. shall hire to the printing business, one or more apprentices the said H.L. will instruct him or them during said six months as much as he or they are willing and capable to learn and further that no other remuneration or board or compensation other than is herein expressed will be paid by the said W.L.M. to the said H.L. as to the said H.N. In witness whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto each set their hands and affixed their seals the day and year first above written.

W.L. MACKENZIE

HIRAM LEAVENWORTH.

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

DAVID THORNBURN

His

DANIEL X GLEASON

Mark

On the fourth side of the foolscap paper is the bond for one hundred and five pounds, in the usual form, signed by Hiram Leavenworth for the performance of the within agreement, 24th August, 1824 with the same witness. The foolscap paper has been torn with accounts for the omission of words. - Ed.

ORIGINAL WAR LOSSES OF JAS. ROGERS PAID

This is to certify that on the 11th December, 1821, I paid to Mr. John Wilson of Niagara, by order of Mrs. Mary Truesdill, Executrix of the Estate of the late James Rogers of Niagara, deceased, the sum of Two Hundred and Eighty-five Pounds Currency on account of the losses sustained during the late War.
Queenston, 2nd April, 1825.

Robert Grant.

ORIGINAL GRANT OF LAND TO COL. WILLIAM CLAUS, 1826, BY INDIAN CHIEFS OF THE SIX NATIONS.

(Col. Wm. Claus, the Superintendent of Indians was the son of Daniel Claus, the son-in-law of Sir Wm. Johnson.)

To all to whom these presents shall come we the Sachems and Chief Warriors of the Six Nations of Indians inhabiting and owning the land situate, lying and being on the Grand or Ouse River in the County of Haldimand and in the Province of Upper Canada, send greetings. Whereas His late Majesty did by a certain instrument bearing date the twenty-fifth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred and eighty-four, under the hand and seal of Sir Frederick Haldimand, then Governor of Quebec, allot and grant unto us the banks of the said river running into Lake Erie six miles deep from each side of the said River beginning at Lake Erie and extending in that proportion to the head of the said River. And whereas the Honourable William Claus of the Town of Niagara in the District of Niagara hath been for the last thirty years, our Trustee and hath during all that time conducted and managed our affairs with great advantage to our interest and made profitably available our money without any compensation from us whatever. And we the said Sachems and Chief Warriors willing to attribute such disinterested conduct to feelings which have characterized his ancestors Sir William Johnson and Sir John Johnson, towards our Nations, besides his father, who served with us during the whole of the French War as well as that of the Rebellion and being more particularly able to be our friend from speaking our languages and who together with himself resided among and amongst us and guarded our interests with parental solicitude.

Wherefore we, the said Sachems and Chief Warriors have this day in General Council of our Nations taken into consideration the long, arduous and faithful services of our said Trustee and to pay and satisfy his just claims upon us and as the most convenient to ourselves and as manifestation of our esteem and gratitude for the services of him and his ancestors who have always shown themselves our steady friends and best advisers, unanimously determined to surrender to His Majesty to and for the use of the said William Claus, his heirs and assigns forever, the tract of country herein after described in order that the same might be confirmed to the said William Claus, his heirs and assigns by letters patent under the Great Seal of this Province. Now know ye that for the said several good causes and weighty considerations of the said claim of the said William Claus upon us, we the said Sachems and Chief Warriors have and each of us hath surrendered, relinquished and yielded up and by these presents do and each of us doth

surrender, relinquish and yield up unto our Sovereign Lord the present King's most excellent Majesty, his heirs and successors all that parcel or tract of land situated, lying and being on the south side of the River and within the limits of our in part recited grant and in the County of Haldimand in the District of Niagara and Province of Upper Canada, containing by admeasurement, fifteen thousand, three hundred and sixty acres, more or less, and which is butted and bounded or may be known as follows: That is to say commencing at a stake placed on the Indian line, between lots twenty and twenty-three in the Township of Walpole about three chains more or less, from the house of one Bellour, a settler in Walpole, thence along the Indian line on the said Township of Walpole and Township of Rainham, South sixty-three degrees, east five hundred and eighty chains, then north twenty-three degrees east or at right angles to the Indian line, between the said Township, to the said Grand River, three hundred and twenty chains, more or less, then up the stream of the Grand River, the several courses and windings to a stake in the bank of the said River thence south twenty-seven degrees, west extending to the point of commencement, and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim, property and demand whatsoever of us the said Sachems and Chief Warriors of into, or, out of the same or any part in parcel of the same. For the express purpose and to the interest that the same and every part thereof may be confirmed by letters patent from His Majesty to the said William Claus, his heirs and assigns forever.

In Witness whereof we the said Sachems and Chief Warriors of the said Six Nations have in General Council hereunto set our hands and seals thus, this third day of August in the year of Our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and twenty-six.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of,
Here follow the names of fifty-four Indian Chiefs with seal attached to each name and the words His mark.

ORIGINAL INDENTURE OF APPRENTICESHIP BETWEEN JOHN BLAKE AND DAVID THORBURN, QUEENSTON

(David Thorburn occupied many important positions, was a Member of Parliament, and a Warden of the County for many years.)

This indenture, made the tenth day of March in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Eight, witnesseth that John Blake of Queenston, hath of his own free and voluntary Will and with the Advice and Consent of his Uncle (being his present guardian) John Abbot of Lewiston, State of New York, Millwright placed and bound himself apprentice unto David Thorburn of Queenston, Merchant, to be taught and instructed in merchandising affairs and accordingly employed therein (as well as foreign parts as within the Dominion of Great Britain) and with him the said David Thorburn to dwell, continue and serve as apprentice from the day of the date hereof until the tenth day of March, one thousand, eight hundred and twenty- nine at which date, the said John Blake will be twenty-one years of age, during all which term comprising four years, the said apprentice, his said master well and faithfully shall serve, his secrets keep,

and his lawful commands everywhere gladly obey trust to his said master. He shall not do willingly or suffer to be done by others but to the utmost of his power shall let and forthwith give notice thereof to his said Master. His goods he shall not waste nor embezzle, nor lend them to any without his said Master's consent, from the service of his said Master, he shall not at any time depart, nor absent himself without leave but in all things as good and faithful apprentice shall and will demean himself towards his said Master during the said time. And the said Master, his said Apprentice, shall and will teach and instruct or otherwise cause to be well and sufficiently taught and instructed after the best way and manner he can in the trade and occupations of merchant which he now uses and all things thereunto belonging -- and shall and will allow to the said apprentice meat, drink, washing and lodging suitable and convenient for him during term above mentioned and further will pay or cause to be paid unto the said apprentice, in lieu of wearing apparel, as follows:- For the first year of the said term, the sum of fifteen pounds, for the second year, the sum of twenty pounds, for the third year, the sum of twenty-five pounds, for the fourth year, the sum of thirty-seven pounds, all Halifax currency per annum.

ORIGINAL

BROCK'S HAT

Letter From Jno. W. Ball and Mrs. Margaret Ball of Locust Grove, Sept. 5th, 1887.

General Brock's hat came out from England after his death. His nephew, Captain Brock with some troops was stationed at the time at Ball's Mills to protect a quantity of father's flour from the American Army. As the General was killed about that time Capt. Brock on leaving the Mills presented the hat to father, the late George Ball, Esq., Locust Grove, Niagara. It was in a good state of preservation until it was loaned to be place on the coffin of the late General Brock when his remains were taken from Fort George to be placed in the first monument on Queenston Heights, (October 13th, 1824) when it was completed and again when the next monument was finished for the removal of the remains thereto. (October 13th, 1853) Instead of being cared for as promised by the Colonel in charge, it was fingered and tried on by so many people as to leave it in its present shabby state. The hat I think loaned the third time when the Prince of Wales visited the Monument (1860) and was again subjected to the same treatment.

Signed by John W. Ball
Margaret Ball.

To G.H.H. Ball, Barrister, Galt, Ontario