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HISTORIC LEAFLETS

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BURLINGTON BAY, BEACH

AND

HEIGHTS, IN HISTORY

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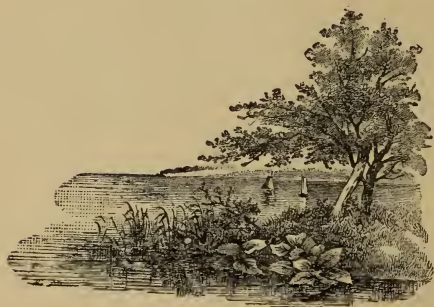
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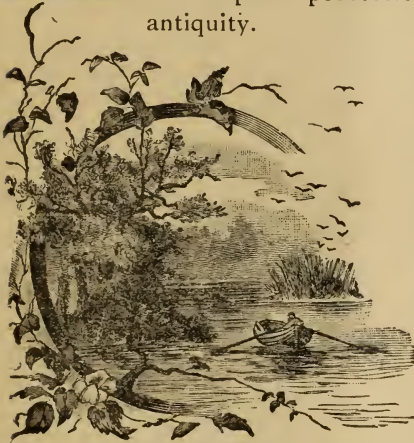
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Burlington Bay, Beach and Heights in History.



HE environs of the "Ambitious City" of the Province of Ontario claim the distinction of possessing a site of historic interest, not merely dating from the era of European possession, but one of still greater antiquity.



In the days of the barbaric power of the red men, the district formed part of the domain of the ancient kindlers of the peace fires—the smokers of the Pipe of Peace and the pacific arrow makers of old Canada; the chert beds of the Niagara escarpment supplying the materials necessary to make the flint arrow and spear heads so eagerly sought after as

the war implements of the surrounding nations.

Tradition tells the tale that, in the far past ages, when the Algonquin had multiplied into many families and tribes, bands of daring and adventurous hunters and warriors, taking with them their wives and little ones, separated from the parent stock to seek out new hunting grounds for themselves.

The Eries were the first to turn southward, cross the great river (St. Lawrence), turn their faces westward and follow the setting sun, finally settling down in the rich lands and fruit fields of the great central peninsula of "Ka-nai-der-a-da," "the country of big lakes and rivers." Band after band followed their footsteps, and soon, too soon, there arose feuds, quarrels and wars,

in the struggle of which should be the greatest. Every man's hand was raised against that of his brother, when the great Manito, the Creator of the Nations, summoned from the red heights of the big lake his children, to take council with him. From the north, south, east and west they came. With infinite pity and love He looked upon the assembled tribes gathered at His feet, glaring defiance and hatred one at the other. Stretching His right hand over them to subdue the sea of anger, wrath and stubbornness surging over the multitude, the Great Spirit instituted with His red children the ceremonial of the Pipe of Peace. Each tribe was commanded to take of the red clay before them and mould a Pipe of Peace, which they were to smoke together as a pledge to live in unity and peace as brethren of one family.

To the Eries, the head of the Neutral Confederacy, which geographically lay intermediate among the nations, was given the "divine right" of calling a Peace Council in time of war, thus becoming the arbitrators of all differences between the many nations and confederacies of North America.

A woman was to be recognized by all the nations as the head of the Neuter Confederacy, under the title of "Mother of Nations," and the custodian of the National Pipe of Peace. She had a right of calling a Peace Council in time of war; and to her lodge were carried quarrels and feuds to be there amicably discussed, the differences adjusted and the Pipe of Peace smoked together—metaphorically speaking, the litigants "burying the hatchet."

Charlevoix informs us that the Neuter Confederacy was exterminated in 1655. Other authorities place the event in 1633. The territory occupied by them was the valley of the Niagara River. Their limits extended from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie, with an indefinite breadth towards the Genesee River. On the north-east they stretched up the shores of Lake Ontario. They numbered twelve thousand souls and had a standing army of four thousand warriors. The present cities of Detroit and Buffalo were the two military strongholds and residences of the warriors of the Neutral Confederacy. They had twenty-eight villages and twelve large forts, or towns, which were similar to the cities of refuge of the children of Israel. The peninsula was

noted for its fertility. Game abounded and fruits of every description flourished in open air.

Gegosasa, as all the Erie queens were called, was protected by the sanctity of her office and character as keeper of the symbolic House of Peace; her wampum and Peace Pipe particularly so. The central point of her power was a place called Kieuka, on the Niagara ridge, not very far from the present village of Tuscarora, where she received in her Council Chamber, adjoining her Long House, messengers and ambassadors from the nations. Her authority extended to the foot of Lake Erie, where was stationed her strongest fortified town, called Kaquat-Ka (Buffalo).

For generations a "Mother" had ruled wisely over the Peace Councils of Kan-ai-der-a-da, but alas, for her sex and country, Yag-owan-eana was called "Gegosasa," and by her folly and frailty the crown of honor bestowed upon the women of America was lost by her betrayal of the sacred trust. At the head of Lake Ontario (Burlington Heights or Beach) an outrage occurred which she caused summarily to be punished, and which led to the fatal breach of trust and peace. The circumstances are these: Two Seneca warriors had sought the shelter of the Peace Lodge, had been received and had just begun to smoke the Pipe of Peace, when a deputation of Mississagas were announced. The new comers informed the Queen that the two Seneca warriors had just returned from assassinating the son of their principal chief (evidently the Queen's lover). In a frenzy of grief, in answer to the demand of the deputation for the "Right of Blood," she delivered the two Senecas up to be tortured and executed. The news of this violation of the rights of office spread in every direction, war councils were held, the war cry reverberated through the land. Dreams were dreamt, visions were seen, while prophets and seers, in this crucial hour, foretold the downfall of Indian supremacy on the Continent. The cries and wailing of women filled the land, and now the glory and prominence given to the women of old Canada would be lost forever. Woman would henceforth be degraded, and in her humiliation walk with humbleness of spirit and downcast eyes.

The Neutral Confederacy was exterminated by the Iroquois, the avengers of the betrayed trust. This was the most savage

and ruthless war we read of in the annals of Indian warfare. A war in which vengeance was fanned and kept burning by religious fanaticism. The council fires of the Neutral Confederacy, in accordance with the judgment of the Onondagos (the Senate of the five nations), were extinguished and their name obliterated from the number of the tribes. The place where they once dwelt in womanly power knew them no more. The Sacred Lodge of the Mother of Nations was demolished and the tribes of the Confederacy left with no monument to carry their name and memory to distant ages, save the name of the waters of Erie.

The Indian towns at Medad, Tuscarora ; the Southwold excavations, and the records of the cities of Buffalo and Detroit, mark these places as important centres or supposed " Cities of Refuge " of North America ; and, no doubt, if excavations had been made before the War of 1812-15 at Burlington Heights, now the city of our dead, still more valuable data would have been discovered regarding them.

Most interesting ossuaries, or " bone pits," have been found on Burlington Beach, which taken into connection with the large number of burial mounds and cairns found at the foot of what is now known as Emerald street, seem to point to the scene of some ancient battle.

Indian tradition states that the heights and shores of our bay, stretching over the Beach, gave the site to the final battle fought between the Neutrals and the Romans of the New World. To this day, the mention of Burlington Heights to some of the old chiefs on the Grand River Reserve (the Six Nations) brings the same gleam to the eye and expression to the carriage as the word " Waterloo," or " Trafalgar," gives to a loyal Briton.

Chateaubriande, Drake, Colden, and many other authorities, write confirmatory of the following :

" A very remarkable feature in Iroquois' politics was the " power exercised by the women. Every family sent a member " to the council of deputies or supreme council of the Six Nations, " who was chosen by the women to represent them. Thus the " chief elective power lay in the hands of the women. To the " women was conceded the right, in all things pertaining to the " welfare of their homes, of reversing the decree of the supreme

“council, if they thought proper to do so. They also had the “right to interpose in bringing about a Peace.” The “Women’s Rights” question was certainly a very extraordinary feature in a government organized on a war principle, and among a people who lay all the burden of seed time and harvest upon the women and children, and yet it was so.

And perhaps it is a curious historical coincidence, that in this record year (1898) of Prohibition and Anti-Prohibition, I am able to read to you upon this occasion, as an illustration of the last authorities quoted, a copy of the first woman’s petition, asking for prohibition, ever made in America, and I think I am safe in saying, in the world, dated from “Burlington, 22nd May, 1802”:

“TEMPERANCE PETITION PRESENTED TO JOSEPH BRANT.

“Burlington, May 22nd, 1802.

“On that day the women of the Six Nations assembled together in council to which they called the chiefs. They were addressed as follows :

“UNCLES,—Some time ago the women of this place spoke to you, but you did not make them an answer, as you considered their meeting insufficient. Now a considerable number of those from below (Caughnawana, near Montreal) have met and consulted together—join in sentiment and lament, as if it were with tears in our eyes—the many misfortunes caused by the use of spirituous liquors. We therefore mutually request that you will use your endeavors to have it removed from our neighborhood, that there may be none sold nigher to us than the mountain (the Heights). We flatter ourselves that this is in your power, and that you will have compassion on our uneasiness and exert yourselves to have it done.”

(Strings of Wampum).

The chiefs adjourning for a short time for consultation, they returned, and Captain Joseph Brant delivered the following reply:

“NIECES,—We are fully convinced of the justice of your complaint ; drinking has caused the many misfortunes of this place and has been, besides, a great cause of the many divisions, by the effect it has upon the people’s speech. We assure you, therefore, that we will use our endeavors to effect what

“you desire. However, it depends in a great measure upon government, as the distance you propose is within the line. We cannot, therefore, absolutely promise that your request will be complied with.” (Strings of Wampum).

From these addresses we have modern corroboration, surely, as to the foregoing accounts of women's rights in the days of patriarchal Canada, a condition which must have evolved from the institution of the ceremonial of the Pipe of Peace.

Now we come to the French explorations and identification of our lands and waters.

1615. In 1615, Champlain, the pioneer of all French exploration, starting from Quebec, by way of canoe, followed the Ottawa River in a north-westerly direction. He reached Lake Nipissing, French River, Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. He spent the winter with his Huron allies, who were most unwilling to allow him to return to Quebec. They, however, permitted him to proceed southward in the spring, when he discovered Lake St. Clair. It was no doubt during his forced stay with the Hurons that he must have heard of the existence of the Pukawana, or Peace Pipe smokers, and of the Neutral Lodge of the Queen of this pacific league.

1616. He happily found his way to the Mother of Nations at one of the large towns, or forts, which he reached, supposed to be the old Indian town at Medad, a distance of six miles from Burlington Heights, from where he was guided to the waters of Macassa; and from Flamboro Heights he first saw Lake Ontario stretching towards the horizon. As he gazed east, and from the high banks of Oaklands saw the waters of Ontario in all the calm serenity and perfect beauty of a June day, it is little wonder that, after having witnessed Lake Huron and Georgian Bay tossing in all the mad fury of autumn and winter storms, he should have exclaimed “La mer douce!” over which he was canoed by Neutral guides safely to Quebec. The first map of Lake Ontario is to be found in Champlain's own writings. The outline is most perfect. It is marked “La Mer Douce, 1616.” He evidently knew nothing about Lake Erie.

1640. The lion-hearted Brebœuf and saintly Chaumonot were the next noted Frenchmen who left Quebec by canoe, taking Champlain's map of 1616 as their guide. They at last

reached the waters of Macassa. They wished to establish missions of the Church among the people who had treated Champlain so kindly, but the long standing feud existing between the Hurons and Iroquois prevented the Neutrals from allowing the missionaries to carry on missionary work on Neutral ground; and, though treated with courtesy and kindness, they were at last forced to abandon their project and go northward among their Huron allies, where they afterwards suffered most cruel martyrdom from the hands of the Iroquois, in testimony of the Christian faith.

It was after the Iroquois wiped out the Neutral confederacy from our Peninsula, that they in a like manner drove the Hurons from their old home on the banks of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, forcing what was left of them to take refuge with the French in the Province of Quebec.

1678 La Salle, the famous navigator of the Mississippi, accompanied by two priests, Dollin de Casson and Galinee, twenty-two young Frenchmen desirous of winning adventurous renown, and some Seneca Indians as guides, left Montreal. The party travelled by canoe, coasting the southern shores of the lake, and after thirty days' journey reached Macassa. La Salle was attacked here by a serious illness, aggravated by the shock which he received upon seeing so many rattlesnakes, the Heights being infested by those odious reptiles. He struck tent on the point we know as Oaklands. The first map of the country was made by Galinee, though considered incorrect in many ways. On his recovery La Salle proceeded from Oaklands toward Lake Erie. In the month of September, near the present Westover, he met Commissioner Louis Joliet and his party, who were returning to Quebec, via Macassa, from the Upper Lakes, where they had been sent by Intendent Talon, to investigate into the truth of reports received at Quebec of the existence of copper mines near Georgian Bay.

After the year 1764, the Mississagas, having joined the Iroquois League, with the permission of the League swept down upon the vacated neutral lands, and took up their abode on the frontage of Lake Ontario, from Mississaga Point, opposite Fort Niagara, on the south shore, to the present site of the city of Belleville on the north.

Burlington Bay, Beach

In the treaties and transfers of lands made to King George III. with the Mississagas, Burlington Bay is described as "Lake Washquarter," and the Dundas Marsh as "Small Lake Washquarter," "with the woods, ways, paths and water courses, the waters of which empty into Lake Ontario, at the natural cut "at the north-easterly point of the lake."

The Beach is also clearly defined and included in the deed of sale to the King, that in consideration "of the sum of one thousand one hundred and eighty pounds, seven shillings and four pence, of lawful money of Great Britain, all the tract of land lying between Lakes Erie and Ontario became the property of the British Crown."

It was a very curious reflection which passed through my mind, as I turned over the pages of this particular transfer of land, among other transfers of land in Upper Canada to George III., to read the list of parties concerned therein. They are the following: "Chiefs," "Sachems," "Warriors," "*Principal Women*" or "*Noted Women*," and the people and our Lord and Sovereign King George III. of Great Britain and Ireland.

These documents are surely the only such recorded in any archive in the world's history, where the "noted" women of a country have, as their acknowledged "right," inscribed their names, totems or "marks," on state documents as transacting parties with an old world sovereign.

BURLINGTON BAY

is one of the most lovely sheets of water in Canada, and has been known by a variety of names—"Macassa," "Onilquition," "Washquarter," "The Geneva of Canada," "Burlington Bay," and still more recently (which is to be regretted) "Hamilton Bay." It is shaped like an equilateral triangle, the base of which is the Beach, a stretch of fine drift sand curved concave to both sides of the depositions of sand, and was evidently intended by nature to be part of the lake; but the waters, which at one time in past ages poured into the Bay over the Dundas Marsh, rushing in mighty volumes to join the waters of the Lake, met the opposing waters when driven by a north-east wind, causing such a conflict and commotion, that a large and ever-increasing deposition of sand and debris took place, which in

course of time formed the Beach, which is stationed exactly where the balance of power took place between the opposing waters.

1820. In a Government report of 1820, I find the following : "That during the Spring and Fall seasons, 'Ocean Winds,' "as they were called by old mariners, rose, causing the waters of "the Lake to rise and fall in intensity and velocity with that of "the Atlantic, rushing through the cut (present Canal) at a velocity of between six and seven miles an hour, forming a tide in "the Bay, raising the waters round the shores, flooding Coot's "Paradise, above, almost to the town of Dundas, so that when "the storm abated the pent up waters returned to the Lake with "a similar velocity." The small wash-quarter, "Coot's Paradise," or Dundas Marsh, forms a miniature of the Bay, enclosed with high banks, known as the Flamboro Heights, and had, in those days, a singular peculiarity, also that of being an inland swamp, acted upon by the tidal waves—a very rare phenomena to be met with in nature. The waters rushed over the swamp from the Bay when a Lake storm existed with the lull back, leaving an irrigated paradise for water fowl. Wild rice grew here luxuriantly, and from the same report I learned that the swamp contained about two hundred and fifty acres of ground which might be made into a most valuable rice farm.

1792. It was the intention of Governor Simcoe to make the Heights the site of the little town which was then springing up, but Mr. Richard Beasley, who carried on an extensive trade with the Indians, laid claim to the land where Dundurn Park is now situated (in fact, Dundurn Castle was built over the foundation of the old Beasley homestead). He also pre-empted the adjoining property known as Beasley's Hollow, and afterwards erected a mill on the stream flowing into Coot's Paradise. Feeling confident that no other site was possible for the future town, Mr. Beasley demanded such an exorbitant sum for his rights, that Governor Simcoe withdrew the offer of the purchase made, the settlement taking a more southerly and easterly direction.

Burlington Heights, the "Quebec of Ontario," command the Bay and occupy one of the most important strategic positions in Canada, nature in her laboratory of waters having moulded

this embankment into an almost impregnable military site two hundred and fifty feet above the waters of the Bay.

In pioneer days, the Beach served as a portage and a barricade, over which freight and military stores were transported from the schooners anchored, at the head of the Lake, over Brant's trail, which led along the southern shore of the Bay (now covered by the Grand Trunk Railway) over the Heights, from which point the freight was sent by wagon, drawn by oxen over the Indian trails leading south, south-east or west as desired.

All naval supplies for Lake Erie had to be sent on from Burlington, after the Declaration of War of 1812.

1812. The Heights, in every campaign projected by the Americans, were laid down as the coveted vantage ground to be gained by the invaders, for what Sackett's Harbour was to them, so was Burlington Heights and the Head of the Lake, or Beach, to the British, a harbour of refuge in distress for repair and reinforcements, and the key to all N. W. possessions.

The Heights and the naval fort of Kingston can be bracketted together as having been most desirable to the Americans, and though both attacked, the colors of the Union Jack were not once, at either port, during the war, lowered to give way to the Stars and Stripes,

The transportation of heavy guns, rigging, anchors, naval and commissariat stores, for the little army on the lakes, cost England a very large sum of money. Guns, shot, cordage, iron-work, even masts required for the equipment of the British squadrons, had to be brought from England to Quebec and from there drawn by horses over the ice-bound rivers or snow-packed roads through a wooded district, a distance of seven hundred or eight hundred miles.

The southern sweep of the Beach is known in official despatches, and in contemporary history, as the "Head of the Lake."

It is an historical fact that the Head of the Lake was a great gathering place of the Indians, and that in the days of Joseph Brant it must have been no uncommon sight to see the narrow strip of sand covered with hundreds of canoes drawn up to the glistening shores, sure sign of an Indian encampment, lasting days at a time, while the great Indian hero of the Revolutionary

War held council with Ojibuay, Mississagas and Six Nations chiefs and warriors, or distributed ammunition, clothing and necessary supplies sent out by the Great Father across the sea to his faithful allies. In the time of Joseph Brant, Indian council and government store houses of rough block timbers were here built.

John Lewis Thomson, an American historian of the year 1820, writes, that after the evacuation of York (Toronto) on the 1st of May, 1813, two American schooners, under command of Lt. Brown, were ordered to proceed to the Head of the Lake with two hundred regulars, commanded by Captain Morgan, to destroy or capture the public stores which were known to be there stationed. Upon the approach of the American schooners, the British guard, seeing themselves outnumbered, fled to the Heights. The Americans landed, carried away the stores, then setting fire to the buildings returned to the ships. The charred ruins of their destruction are to be yet seen on the south-east part of the Beach, and yet further, both Indian and old folk traditions corroborate, and an entry has recently been found in an old family diary of the year 1812, in which is recorded in a few brief words, the landing of the Americans and the burning of the buildings. But promptly as this was effected by the Americans, still more far-seeing and prompt was General Vincent on this occasion, for on the 29th of April came news to the Heights of the capture of York, by Captain Merritt, who bore with him orders to remove all boats from the Bay and Head of the Lake to 12-Mile Creek, to prevent them falling into the hands of the enemy—a service performed in sixteen hours, and which earned the thanks of General Vincent.

The Heights in 1812 were untouched by railway excavation, or cut by Dundas canal. They were reached from York by a narrow isthmus which was defended by field works ; the Heights rising above as a natural bulwark, from which any approaches of the enemy, by boat, could be swept back by the cannon commanding the Bay.

Large sums of money were spent in secret service by both sides of combatants. Spies were to be found in Canada as well as the United States, who for money were ready to sell information to the highest bidder. Two such traitors, Peacock, a

squatter, from Peacock's Point, Lake Erie, and a man named Dunham, were suspected, courtmartialled and hung on the gallows erected on the Heights.

1812. When Gen Brock first heard of the invasion of the Province by Gen. Hull and his forces, he determined to proceed westward in person and call for volunteers to accompany him to Amherstburg. The following is an extract from a letter written by him to the Governor General, Sir George Prevost: "That the Provinces cannot be maintained by the present force of regulars is very obvious, and unless the enemy is driven from Sandwich it will be impossible, much longer, to arrest the impending ruin of the country." In answer to Gen. Brock's proclamation five hundred young men, chiefly the sons of United Empire Loyalists, offered themselves as his body guard. With two hundred and fifty of these, on the 6th of August, he left York by boat, heading for Burlington Heights, where he found awaiting him, upon his arrival here, another nucleus of the army of Upper Canadian Militia under Captains Hull, Durand, Chisholm and Hatt. These flank companies made up a very important part of the body of true and faithful men to whom Gen. Brock gave his dying command on fatal Queenston Heights, when he cried, "Push on the brave York Volunteers."

From the hour when Brock stepped on this threshold of the war, the Heights, during all the fluctuating fortunes of the times, became a "City of Refuge" to the Province. Here were brought the sick and wounded. After the defeat of Proctor at Moraviantown and the death of Tecumseh, western Indians, to the number of two thousand, with their families, like sheep without a shepherd, instinctively flew to their old national shelter. Women and children and the aged, the sick and the wounded, after the burning of "Old Niagara" by the Americans, were brought over fearful roads here for protection and care. Precious relics were buried in the grounds of Dundurn for safe keeping and live stock driven from every direction for safety from bands of predatory marauders.

Brock, Prevost, Vincent, Proctor, Harvey, Yeo, DeRottenburg, Bishopp, and many other distinguished personages of the war, with regiments, companies of regiments, and, as in the case of the 41st regiment after the siege of Fort George, "all

that was left of them," during one campaign or another, rested, supplied guard or awaited orders at Burlington Heights.

Prisoners of war, including the two American Generals, Winder and Chandler, after the evening sortie and engagement of Stony Creek, were brought here to be sent on under guard to Kingston, thence to Quebec.

At one time the 103rd Regiment was here quartered, eight hundred strong. Both sides of the Beach harbored punts and boats, ready at a moment's notice to carry ammunition, men or provisions from post to post as required.

Admiral Yeo's little fleet, after the taking of York by the Americans, found at the Head of the Lake anchorage and protection from the guns commanding the Heights while undergoing repairs after damages met in with on the waters, or boarded fresh reinforcements and stores.

On the last day of May, 1813, Gen. Vincent took up a strong position on "Beasley's Farm" (Dundurn), Burlington Heights, where he there proposed making a stand until he received reinforcements or instructions to advance or embark for Kingston. Flanked on one side by the lake and the other by a broad and impassable marsh, his encampment could only be approached in front by a narrow neck of land, which was blocked by a field work, behind which he planted the whole of his artillery. So important did Vincent consider the occupation of the Heights that he declared, "Without it he could neither retain possession " of the peninsula, nor make a safe exit from it."

Vincent had then at his command a compact and efficient body of eighteen hundred officers and men and eighteen guns. A braver and better disciplined force could not have been assembled on the continent. Five companies of the 8th or King's Regiment under Major Gen. Ogilvie, numbering three hundred and eighty-two of all ranks; the wing of the 41st mustered four hundred, but was deficient in officers, having only ten for five companies and but two captains. The battalion of the 49th had been reduced by casualties to six hundred and thirty-one officers and men, while the detachment of Royal Artillery (four officers and sixty men) was much too weak to work their guns without assistance from the infantry. The 49th was commanded by Major C. A. Plenderleath and the

Artillery by Major Wm. Holcroft, well tried and excellent officers. The small detachments of the Royal, Newfoundland and Glengary Regiments had behaved splendidly at Niagara. The Militia, including Runchey's Colored Corps and Merritt's Dragoons, numbered only one hundred and thirty-one, but these were men of undoubted loyalty and courage, thoroughly acquainted with the country and its inhabitants.

In this position Vincent felt secure, though the military chest was then empty, and he had been forced to borrow five hundred guineas from Lt. Col. Clark to relieve Col. Proctor's starving division at Detroit, yet at this moment his own troops were suffering greatly for want of shoes, stockings, blankets, tents and shirts. Captain Fulton informed the Governor General (Prevost), at this time, that the soldiers were "in rags and without shoes," and the 49th "literally naked," while Gen. Vincent wrote that the "ragged army of patriots," stationed on Burlington Heights, awaited orders with but ninety rounds of ammunition to each man. Fortunately, 340 Caughnawaga Indians and a band of French Canadian voyageurs and fencibles under Major Du Harem, Captain Ducharum and Lt. Lorimer, arrived to the relief and assistance of the encampment.

The valley town of Dundas was almost the only bright spot to live in during these stirring times. It contained a number of the oldest and most respectable families settled in the district, who were noted for their hospitality. The officers quartered at Burlington Heights found in this little town their only relaxation and social enjoyments. The ladies of Dundas spent themselves in alleviating the wants of the sick and wounded, and opened their homes to the worn soldiers by affording them amusement and social pleasures. The tale is told that on the 1st of December, 1812, when a most enjoyable dance was in progress at the home of a Miss Cooley, the sounds of revelry were suddenly stopped by a call "To arms." The detachment from the Heights had been summoned to 40-Mile Creek. Box sleighs were hastily made ready, packed with muskets, blankets and men. Swiftly they sped over the heavily snow-packed roads, arriving at their destination at day break to find that a false alarm had interrupted their evening's enjoyment.

Another Burlington association of the war—for a proper

description of which I ought to leave to some member of the "Royal Yacht Club." I refer to the exciting running naval engagement kept up for two days on the Lake between Niagara and Burlington under Admirals Chauncey and Sir James Yeo, known as "The Burlington Races," in which the American flagship was severely disabled with a loss of twenty-seven men killed, accompanied with the dismantling of the Pike, Gov. Tompkins, Madison and Oneida, American war vessels; while the British flagship, the Wolfe, becoming quite unmanageable on a wind, through the loss of her maintopmast, was obliged to run into Burlington, covered by the Royal George. Yeo was intensely annoyed at the unusual experience of having to run from an enemy before a man was hurt, and was overheard to say: "If we were on the high seas I would risk an action at all hazard, because, if I were beaten I could only lose the squadron, but to lose it on this lake would evolve the loss of the country; the salvation of the Western Army depends on our keeping open their communication."

In the month of July, 1813, Gen. Boyd (American) informed Admiral Chauncey that, from reliable information which he had received from escaped prisoners from Burlington, as well as deserters from the British ranks, a valuable magazine of supplies and captured ordnance had been formed at Burlington Heights, which was reported to be then guarded by about one hundred and fifty men, and suggested that this post might be surprised by a small land force embarked from Fort Niagara on his fleet.

On the 26th of July, the Lady of the Lake arrived with a message from Chauncey to Gen. Boyd, that he entirely approved, and that he would at once proceed to Burlington with his whole fleet, but needed information and guides. Col. Winfield Scott, with a company of artillery, accompanied by Major Chapin and several refugees and deserters as guides, embarked on this vessel, which rejoined the American fleet on the evening of the same day. It was decided to put into Niagara and take on board two hundred and fifty infantry, which was accomplished early next morning. But the fleet, after sailing some distance, remained weather-bound within sight of both shores for the rest of the day and a great part of the next, so that it was late on the evening of the 29th before it anchored off Burlington,

The embarkation of troops and the course of the fleet had been observed by De Rottenburg, then in command at the Heights; and the delay of nearly forty-eight hours enabled Major Maule to reinforce the garrison by a forced march from St. Catharines with two hundred men of the 104th. Two invading parties were landed that night opposite Brant's house. They took some of the inhabitants prisoners, by whom they were informed of Maule's arrival with reinforcements. In the morning Scott's whole command, with two hundred and fifty soldiers and mariners, landed under Major Chapin's guidance at the same spot and marched forward on the British position with the apparent intention of making an attack, but they found the approaches to the Heights protected by the intrenchments and mounted cannon, thrown up under De Rottenburg's orders, and a small gun-boat cruising in the Bay. Upon sight of these preparations for defence, the Americans abandoned their design, and re-embarked before dark the same evening, carrying off with them as spoils of their venture, a few prisoners and what cattle they could lay their hands on.

The memory of Col. John Harvey, the hero of Stony Creek engagement, is very properly identified with our present day associations, in the little park situated on the Heights called "Harvey's Park," and upon which site we all hope to see yet a suitable monument erected to the memory of the heroic events which I have attempted to describe to you this evening. And it may be acceptable if I add as briefly as possible a short sketch of Col. Harvey's life.

He entered the army as ensign in the 80th Regiment, carrying the King's colors through the severe campaign of 1794 in Holland. Next year he took part in the ill-starred expedition to Isle Dieu and Quiberon Bay, and in 1796 served at the conquest of the Cape of Good Hope. During the three following years he saw hard bush-fighting in the interior of Ceylon, and shared in the glory of Abercrombie's expedition to Egypt. Returning to India he served in the Mahratta War of 1803-5, under Lord Lake, whose daughter he married. The three years preceding his campaign in Canada he had been Assistant Adjutant General for the south-eastern district of England. Arriving at Halifax in the winter when the St. Lawrence was ice-bound, he deter-

mined to attempt the march overland to Quebec, which he successfully accomplished on snow shoes; and being detailed for duty in Upper Canada, again, in spite of snow and ice, he set out at once for Niagara. His methods of defence of Canada were as follows: "First, by accurate news of designs and movements of the enemy, to be procured at any price." Second, "By a series of bold, active, offensive operations by which the enemy himself would be thrown upon the defensive." Harvey distinguished himself at Stony Creek and afterwards at Chrysler's Farm. After the war he was made Governor of Nova Scotia, where he died in 1852. His memorial tablet hangs in Halifax Cathedral.

The last attack made on the Heights was in 1814. After the cessation of hostilities, a raid of 700 Kentucky Rough Riders determined to attempt a descent on Burlington Heights from the south; they crossed over at Sandwich from Detroit and made their way to Brantford or Brant's fording of the Grand River, where, to their great surprise, they were met by a body of returned militiamen and a number of Indians, who pursued them back "to their ain countree," by way of Port Dover and St. Thomas. The pursuit was led by a company of Glengarries under Major Muir.

SIR ALLAN MACNAB.

It may not prove amiss to refer, in conclusion, to the stirring and patriotic career of one who was so long and so intimately connected with this historic and romantic locality:

Allan McNab was the father of Sir Allan of Dundurn Castle, on the present Burlington Heights. He belonged to the 42nd or Black Watch, and owned a small property called Dundurn, at the head of Loch Earn, in Scotland. During the Revolutionary War he served as a lieutenant of cavalry in the Queen's Rangers under General Simcoe. While thus employed he received no less than thirteen wounds. Subsequently, with his son Allan Napier (afterwards Sir Allan), then so young as hardly to be able to carry a musket, he took part in the War of 1812.

Allan Napier became a "middy" in Sir James Yeo's squadron, and went to Sackett's Harbor, where Prevost made such a failure. He then joined the 100th regiment, and received an ensigncy in the 49th as a reward for his valor in the taking of Fort Niagara. He was present at the burning of Black Rock

and Buffalo. When the western campaign ended, he joined his regiment at Montreal, and was unfortunate enough to be present at Sir George Prevost's defeat at Plattsburg.

His parliamentary career began in 1829, when he was returned for the county of Wentworth, a seat he occupied during three Parliaments. From that time until his retirement from the House in 1857, Sir Allan represented the city of Hamilton, and he was subsequently (1860) a member and speaker of the Legislative Council.

At the time of the rebellion (1837) he was the speaker of the Legislative Assembly. Heading the "Men of Gore," as the district of which Wentworth and Hamilton formed part was called, Col. McNab, with great promptness, called the militia of the district to meet him at Dundurn. He secured two schooners and, embarking his men, arrived in Toronto in time to lead the main body of the loyalists against the headquarters of the rebels, which was fixed at Montgomery's tavern on Yonge Street, about four miles north of the city. The conflict was sharp and decisive, and the rebels were put to flight after losing thirty-six killed and fourteen wounded. This encounter is known as the "Battle of Gallow's Hill." MacKenzie fled, and a reward of £1000 was offered for his capture. Col. McNab (Sir Allan), in December, 1837, with a party of his followers, seized the "Caroline," a steamer employed by the rebels to convey men and stores to Navy Island, fired the vessel and sent her adrift down the rapids and over the Falls. The act was a breach of the laws of neutrality and caused much excitement in the United States. It was in recognition of Col. McNab's services during the rebellion that he was knighted, and in 1860 made Aide-de-camp to the Prince of Wales. He died at Dundurn Castle on the 8th of August, 1862, at which time he was speaker of the Upper House. Sir Allan made a notable figure in early Upper Canadian history, and his memory deserves to be held in respect, if alone on account of his singleness of purpose and his goodness of heart.

The life preface to our National epic poems is unique on the page of history. The heroes of classic days were conquerors whose lives seem recorded in the life blood of other

nations. Ambition at the head of invincible hosts invaded a country foreign or neighboring, subduing or exterminating the rightful owners of the land, winning rule and supremacy by means of war and all its terrible consequences to both conqueror and conquered.

In circumstances like these the great heroes are the generals and soldiers of both victors and vanquished. In Upper Canada the hero roll tells the immortal tale of new life, not that of destruction and death, and the genesis of a nature springing into existence at the sound of the axe which first broke the silence of primeval forests. Builders and makers of homes were they, as well as tillers of the ground, delvers of mines and warriors of the winds, waves and tides; yet greater still than all this courageous enterprise and physical conflict with and conquest of *nation*, they possessed also the higher birthright of a religious, loyal and intellectual heredity, which they held as a sacred trust for their posterity—a legacy of education, political, civil and religious liberty, into which possession we, the children of the fourth and fifth generations, have entered.

MARY E. ROSE HOLDEN.

{ "Ka-rih-wen-ha-wi,"
Beaver Clan.
} Onondagas of the Six Nations. }

HAMILTON, Dec., 1898.

AUTHORITIES.

- Drake's North American Indians.
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 Neutral Confederacy Papers found in Buffalo Historical Society.
 Adair, Traveller and Historian of the XVIII. century.
 Chateaubriand, French Historian.
 Colden, English Historian.
 Life of Joseph Brant, by Stone.
 Treaties and Transfers of Upper Canadian Lands.
 Government and Military Reports.
 Blockade of Fort George. Captain Cruikshanks.
 The War and Its Moral. Coffin.
 History of Canada. War of 1812-14. Dr. Kingsford.
 Ten Years of Upper Canada. Matilda Edgar.

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