

## Grafton Historical Notes

(28)

By T. R. M.

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In order that the contents of these notes may not belie the title it might be well at this point to summarize the local incidents, most of which have been mentioned before, in connection with the War of 1812.

At this late date it requires a vivid imagination to reconstruct a mental picture of the district as it must have been in 1812. Between York and Kingston were no villages of any size. In Amherst were a few houses and inns clustered near the Court-house, but only one building stood on the site of Cobourg. With the exception of a few scattered log houses in the clearings along the southern fringe of settlement, the whole district was covered with primeval forest. Although there were numbers of sailing ships on Lake Ontario, yet many of the troops marched along the Danforth Road between York and the Carrying Place, on their route to and from the strategic post of Kingston. Haldimand was of some importance at the time, particularly because it was the home of the local Assembly Member who was also Commissariat Officer.

Rogers was commissioned as Second Major in the first Regiment of Northumberland Militia in Aug. 1812, but it is not probable that this position had any direct connection with the supplying of the troops. The document published in No. 21 of the Notes illustrates the important function that such an officer filled. To passing troops he doled out food, drink and apparently money. The Army Bills mentioned therein tell of the scarcity of specie. Paper money of varying denominations was printed in order to facilitate exchange, and these Bills were redeemed by the Provincial Parliament at the close of the War.

It is not fanciful to suppose that various bodies of men, local Militia companies as well as passing British and Colonial regiments, visited the Rogers house during the War years. Sheaffe's letter published in No. 2 reveals that the Haldimand military station was a convenient stopping

familiar uniforms over the ruts and corduroy of the Danforth road. During the summer the troops encamped on the sloping meadow south of the Rogers house, a field now devoted to the peaceful pursuits of picnics and base-ball. During the colder weather soldiers were billeted in neighbouring houses. Apparently it was on such an occasion that the chimney of Eliakim Barnum's house caught fire and the building was burned. It may well have been that the compensation was such that young Barnum was emboldened to build the present mansion, but no trace of the architect or the circumstances surrounding the building have yet come to light.

A characteristic letter (now in the Land papers in the Archives) written by Rogers to Surveyor-General Thomas Ridout of York throws light on a post-war problem of long ago, and illustrates how, loyalty was rewarded. It is interesting to recall that Ridout, whose headstone may be seen in the porch of St. James Cathedral, Toronto, was the great-grandfather of Miss Mabel Green and Mrs. Hilda Runchman, now of Cobourg. The letter reads as follows:

"Haldimand, 10 May, 1815.

"Dear Sir:—

"The Bearer, Wilson Rus is coming up to York to endeavour to get a lease of Lot 21, first Concession, Haldimand. This lot was leased to one Francis Burnham who went to the States during the War, but has since been back and transferred the lease to a person of no better character than himself. Rus is now on the lot, having before the war purchased a part of it from Burnham but unless Government interfere I fear he will lose even what he bought. Surely those vagabonds that went away are not to be allowed to return and dispose of their property.

"Rus has served in the Incorporated Militia and all his sons have behaved well. He is poor but if he could hold possession of the Reserve it would be a living for him. . . . Ask my friend George to assist Rus.

A very pretty in New York of when Vera Bl Mrs. Blackburn Wm. Blackburn, in marriage to son of Mr. and New York, the officiating.

The bride came of sunset roses, gown of blue trimmed with quilted taffeta j Bakuk hat trim and yellow accented by Mrs. who was attracted flowered chiffon ture hat. She

The groom was brother, Mr. He

Following the Mrs. Espersen came home of the b Mr. Whitney Corners, where was held. The decorated with mer flowers, del roses, providing ting for the re luncheon. The Blackburn, received mauve figured Mrs. Davidson with a rope of

Miss Kathleen borne, sister of ted in grey triple neckline and trim vet.

A buffet lunch table centred with prettily decorated the floral decoration pink, candles in

Included in the and Mrs. Johnstone and M Fenelon Falls; A Johnstone, Cobol Beatty, Port Thompson, Tor James Thompson Thompson, Col. . . .



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soldiers were billeted in neighbouring houses. Apparently it was on such an occasion that the chimney of Eliakim Barnum's house caught fire and the building was burned. It may well have been that the com- pensation was such that young Barnum was emboldened to build the present mansion, but no trace of the architect or the circumstances sur- rounding the building have yet come to light.

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"I am, Dear Sir,

"Your very Obedient Humble Servant,

"D. M. B. ROGERS."

(To Be Continued)

A-Gratton (07-32)P.2

## Obituaries

The Late Mrs. Janet Oakman

The funeral of Mrs. Janet Oakman, whose death occurred on Monday of

about two weeks ago.

The remains were interred in the family plot in Centreton Cemetery on Thursday.

The service was largely attended by a number of people from Bethany, Warkworth, Rosebath and from oth- er places. Many beautiful floral trib-

officiating.

The bride can of sunset rose gown of blue trimmed with quilted taffeta. Bakuk hat trim and yellow ac- tended by Mrs who was attra flowered chiffo ture hat. She

The groom brother, Mr. H

Following th Mrs. Espersen home of the Mr. Whitney Corners, where was held. The decorated with mer flowers, de roses, providi ting for the r luncheon. Th Blackburn, re mauve figured Mrs. Davidson with a rope of Miss Kathle borne, sister of ed in grey tri neckline and tr vet.

A buffet lun- table centred w prettily decorat the floral decor pink, candles h

Included in and Mrs. Joh Johnstone and Fenelon Falls; Johnstone, Cob Beatty, Port. Thompson, To James Thompson Thompson, Col

The bride, a popular teache New York, ha vacations for a Cobourg wher friends.

Mr. and Mrs in Emporium,

## Artillery

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