## JAMES DURHAM U. E. L.

## By Isabel Armstrong Walsh

James Durham, United Empire Loyalist, came from New Jersey about the year 1788, and settled in Niagara Township. From papers and records of the Ontario Historical Society re Stamford, Vol. XXV, we have-"James Durham, having suffered imprisonment and the confiscation of his property because of his loyalty, took five of his children, left his home in New Jersey in 1788 and became a settler in Upper Camada". He received 200 acres of land near Queenston, which he improved and endeavoured to establish a home so that he might send for his wife, Eve and four children that he had left behind him. He died six years later. James Durham's sons were James, Edward, Isaac, John, Jeremiah and Joseph. His daughters were Catherine, Lois and Sarah. The last named married Haggai Cook. The three daughters were buried at Lundy's Lane, and all three have grave markers.

The earliest available record of the Durhams coming to Canada is that of July 8, 1794, when James, Edward and Isaac Durham appeared before the Land Board at Niagara "praying for a location of land." Following are the Board Minutes: "Petitioners are the sons of the late James Durham, deceased, that their father suffered imprisonment and loss of property in the colonies on account of his loyalty. Six years since, he came into this province and obtained 200 acres of land but never located for his sons. Pray for a location of land and that Lots 3 and 4 be assigned them in the Township of Flamborough, first Concession. Ordered that petitioners shall have grant of a lot each." A lot contained 200 acres.

The mother's name was Eve. May 16, 1797, she petitioned for, and was granted 250 acres family lands, and 200 acres as a settler. Later, she received a land grant in the Township of Burford.

The five sons of James and Evevall received grants of land as follows: James, a grant in Barton Township and also one in Esquesing Township, County of Halton; Isaac received a grant in Flamborough and one in Stamford; Joseph and Jeremiah each received a grant in Whitechurch Township; Edward received one in Barton Township; Mary, wife of James, received a grant in Burford Township; James Durham, one of the sons, settled on Lots 9 and 38, Niagara Township, probably inherited from the father, or was given the deed in his own name-we are not sure. At any rate, the deed we have in my possession is a Crown Land deed on parchment with a four-inch wax seal attached-one dated 1803 and the other 1798, for 100 acres each, to James Durham.

He built a frame house of the typical oblong pioneer home of this Niagara district. He had 12 children. Apparently, it was hard going about 1806, for he had to borrow &550 sterling from R. Hamilton, giving his farm as security with conditions of release on payment in two years. In 1808 restitution is made by turning over 8 acres to R. Hamilton. This 8 acres is now known as Glencairn. R. Hamilton subsequently sold this 8 acres to his brother, John Hamilton of Kingston, who built the present home in 1834, now owned by W.R. Robb.