

A-Gores Landing (07-64) P.1
Gores Landing.
Ont.
Jan. 28th. 1968.

Mrs. J. Turnbull.
1304 Monaghan Rd.
PETERBOROUGH.

Dear Madam,

I received your letter of Jan. 18th. with considerable interest re Captain Anderson and Major St. Quintin. Since receiving your letter I have done some research in what material was available, and think to begin with can do no better than copy those paragraphs in my father's autobiography which describes the old Trading Post on Peter's Point, which was Captain Anderson's home for so many years and which my father rented and occupied for nine months in 1871.

As regards Major St. Quintin, I was told by Mrs. Minnie Simpson of the Alderville Indian Reserve, who was deeply interested in Historical Research, that she had contacted the St. Quintin family in England and had considerable correspondence with the present generation of his family. This old lady is a couple of years deceased but her Son - Everet Simpson, who is quite an intelligent fellow might still have the letters and could give you the address.

The following are the excerpts:-

I was now 22 and about as big a fool as most boys of that age. I decided I would go and live in or near Hiawatha and see if I could do anything in the way of buying fur from the Indians. I accordingly went and saw old Hatrick, an old Irishman who owned and farmed the Peters Point property where Captain Anderson has built his Trading Post. I was successful in renting the house from the old man for a year but I did not move thither until the lake opened.

There were two fire-places in the point house, both on the ground floor; one at either end of the wide hall or passage way which ran the full length of the house with cross counters which constituted the store and Trading Post. One of the fireplaces was 10 ft. in width and the other 17 ft. I used the smaller one to do my cooking on as I had no stove. On either side of this passage were two rooms. I elected to use the rooms on the West side as they were in better repair. On the East side was a door which gave access to the stairway leading to the upper story which was all in one room - 50 x 30 ft. At the back of the house was the kitchen, and back of this again at the distance of some 40 ft. was the Squaw house which had accommodated the women of the Captains establishment but which was now very ruinous. This was a building of some size with a stoop on the East side of it and a large fireplace with an iron crane to hang pots on.

I think I have before stated that ~~the~~ old Captain Anderson for his services in the war of 1812 had received a grant of 600 acres of land: this was now all farmed by white people. I do not think the old Blackett place was included in this grant and the old Blackett house near to the forks of the river was now occupied by a farmer by the name of John Carrey.

Peters Point in 1871 was a strange looking ruin of

A-Gore's Landing (07-04) P.O.

of quite an establishment. In the days of the old fur trader there must have been 6 or 8 buildings in all now falling to ruins. At the back of the dwelling house was quite a grove of Oaks: beyond this on the North side was the barn and also a large orchard of apple trees growing on the side of the hill - these were the most ancient kinds of apples such as no-one would plant to-day. To the West of the orchard was a plantation of cherry trees which were worthless due to black knot.

On the brow of the hill was the Anderson burial ground which was enclosed in a fence and some of the graves had posts of white marble and chains. To me the most interesting was the monument of Major Francis St. Quintin of Scampton Hall in Lincolnshire. My father has known him in the 1850's at Simcoe on Long Point. It seemed strange to me to find him buried here as he was said to have been much in love with a daughter of Captain Anderson who died. Major St. Quintin died at the Harris Hotel in Gores Landing in 1857. The monument is of grey marble. I believe the body was subsequently taken to England for burial there.

So ends my father's description of Peters Point.

I only remember the burned ruin of the old house when I was about 7 years old. I remember a great patio to the East of the house built of flat lime stone which my father said had been brought from Kingston. Also there was close to the shore a beautiful spring well and a huge Botat or Mealing stone with two big hollows in it in which the Indian women used to grind corn. This stone must have weighed nearly two ton but was carried off in 1910 - by what means no-one knows.

I believe that Capt. Anderson's body was eventually moved to the family burial ground in Kingston, but for this I cannot vouch. According to my father the old Point was supposed to be haunted by the ghost of a drover who was murdered there, and it was impossible to persuade any Indian to stay there after night-fall: their superstitious fear was so great that even the hunters returning from the mouth of the Ottonabee River would not paddle their canoes close to the shore after dark, but would paddle far out into the lake to avoid the Point.

Regarding Captain Anderson's family, tho he never married he had a numerous progeny by Indian mistresses who my father casually mentions - 3 sons in particular - William, John and Andrew. Andrew is buried in the Church yard of St. George's Church Gores Landing. He died Dec. 22, 1877. There were also several daughters. I believe there are still some descendants in Hiwatha. Hiawatha.

Now perhaps you can answer a few questions in return.

1. Who was Captain Anderson? Was he an Englishman, or did he come of a Canadian family natives of Kingston?
2. Did he ever hold a commission in the Imperial Army or was he a Capt. in the Canadian Militia of 1812?

Hoping that the information enclosed may be of use to you and to hear from you.

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Wigil R. Drayton