

Grafton Historical Notes

(2) By T. R. M.

In view of the revival of memories of the War of 1812, the possible return of mace taken by the Americans at the capture of York, and the projected memorial to General Pike, the following letter is of some interest. Nor is it out of place in the Grafton Historical Notes, although it was penned twenty years before the little village received its name. Cobourg, also, unchristened had one house at this time. The letter, which is almost self-explanatory was written by General Sheaffe to Sir Geo. Prevost informing the latter of the capture of York. The original is in the Dominion Archives but is printed in Vol. 55 p. 85 of "Documents of the War of 1812" published by the Champlain Society. It was written from the house of David McGregor Rogers about whom more will subsequently appear in these notes. On the site of this log house "Homewood" was built, just west of Grafton Village. It is not difficult to picture the gallant but defeated General, letter case on his knee, writing to his superior officer the bitter news of the capture of Upper Canada's capital. As he lifts his quill pen from the paper after signing his name he hears through the open door the faint booming of cannon in the far distance and adds a postscript.

Haldimand, 30th April, 1813.

My Dear Sir George:--

I have the mortification of reporting to you that York is in the possession of the enemy it having on the 27th Inst. been attacked by a force too powerful to be resisted with success: sixteen Vessels of various descriptions full of Men, including their new ship the Madison formed their flotilla: the Grenadiers of the King's suffered first in the action with Enemy (in which Capt. McNeale was killed) and afterwards severely in common with other Corps by the ac-

cidental explosion of a battery magazine, which at the same time disabled the battery. It caused our Grand Magazine to be blown up, and have reason to believe that the new Ship and Naval Store were destroyed.

We met the Light Company of the King's four or five miles from York the troops consisting of the flank Comp'y and Capt. Eustace's of the King's.

Capt. McPherson's company of the Glengarry Lt. Infantry, and some of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment are about a day's march in the rear: they were but ill supplied with provisions for the first and second days but by coming forward myself, assisted by Major Rogers (a Member of the Provincial Parliament whom I had sent for to York to employ him in superintending the improvement of the roads) a sufficient quantity has been procured for them.

I am now in his house, and am at this moment interrupted by the arrival of Captain Munday with letters from the military secretary of the 6th and 7th Inst.

I cannot inform Your Excellency what our loss has been. I shall as soon as possible get the Returns, and from Kingston do myself the honour of writing to you in a more official shape.

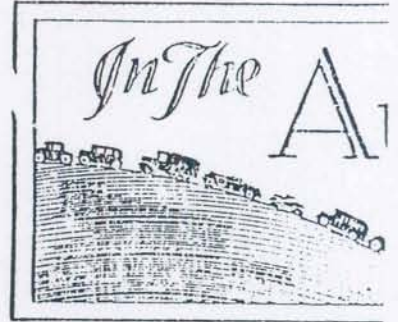
I am, My dear Sir George,

Your very faithfully devoted servant,

R. H. SHEAFFE, etc.

I did not bring anything from York except a writing case containing Your Excellency's despatches and some other papers.

Firing from Niagara was heard in the afternoon of the 28th and both yesterday and to-day the firing at York, though the wind was fresh at East, was heard even at this distance.



Bus Ousts Reindeer

From Lapland comes the trade-in story. Up in that Arctic country, where roads practically non-existent, horses not be used in the deep snow the favorite form of transport is by reindeer and pulk, though being an amphibian sled for where else in the world. Later they built a road from Karasjok to the Arctic coast, and many and pulk owners in Karasjok cars, trucks or buses. One driver bought a bus which was first General Motors produced seen in the town. To the driver seemed fitting that the discarded fit of the new bus owner be a part in the deal, and that explain the General Motors Export Dept. at New York is clearing a valuable place to receive one reindeer and pulk from Santaland.

Twenty Thousand Miles of

Ottawa, Canada -The motor vehicles of Canada, if mustered one monster parade with a 100 feet of highway allowed to each vehicle, would form a procession 20,000 miles in length -four-fifths the distance around the world at the Equator. With a little crowd utilizing the trucks and bus the whole population of Canada might be carried. Such a motorcade motion, would consume more than 50,000 gallons of gasoline for each mile of travel.

Car's Name "In Lights"

The Chicago skyline will be dominated by the world's first electric sign. Built for C.E. the display is located at the end of Grant Park, on the side of the Michigan Central rail spans two driveways and six tracks, and is said to be the first electric sign in the world to be on the air rights of a railroad company. Plainly visible from a

THE HOUSEKEEPER
AND HER

HEADACHES
SLEEPLESSNESS
INDIGESTION

