

# Grafton Historical Notes

(26)

By T. R. M.

The early history of the Upper Canadian Militia is a fascinating, if complicated study. The following sketch of the Northumberland Militia makes no pretence to completeness, but the facts cited are at least tolerably accurate, based as they are on a study of the original documents.

As Upper Canada was largely settled by soldiers it was only to be expected that the military tradition would be perpetuated, and this appears to have been the case. The first enrolment of militia was made in 1888, only four years after the first Loyalist boats sailed up the Bay of Quinte. In the "Henry Young" papers, recently deposited in the Provincial Archives by Miss Mabel Young of Grafton, a direct descendant of the first Loyalist to set foot on the future County of Prince Edward, there are Militia Rolls of Captain Young's Company for 1789, 1790 and 1792. Previous to the latter year this part of the country was known as the District of Nassau, later the Home District. But by the Constitutional Act of 1792 the districts were divided into counties, and the Militia took the name of the county in which it was enrolled. In the ranks of the Prince Edward Militia are names which are encountered in later years in the Northumberland Militia, some of these early families having subsequently moved westward along the lake shore. This gradual westward movement is well illustrated by the Rogers family who settled first of all in the peninsula, but who moved later in successive steps to Brighton, Haldimand east, and Grafton.

In 1793 the Militia Ordinance of the old Province of Quebec was repealed and a Militia Statute drafted by Governor Simcoe was passed by the Legislature. Under this Act, to reproduce the exact wording—"Every male inhabitant from sixteen years of age to fifty shall be deemed capable of bearing arms." After 1794 however, Jay's treaty tended to reduce friction between Great Britain

removed to Cramahe about the year 1800 he was a member of the Legislature, and took his commission as Major in the Northumberland Militia on Oct. 5, 1801. As the population of the County was extremely sparse, even until after the War, it is doubtful whether the Northumberland Militia had been enrolled previous to this date. In any case, this is the first reference to the local Militia that we have discovered. By happy chance a document entitled "Roll of Major D. Rogers Company of Militia, County of Northumberland.—Murray, 18 Feb. 1802." has escaped the usual fate of old papers and is in the possession of the Rogers family at Grafton. In the Company, perhaps the original forty-seven men were enrolled.

Soon after the turn of the century, relations between Great Britain and the United States again became strained, and continued to remain in this state until war eventually was declared. The Militia Act of 1793 had been proved inadequate and a more comprehensive and efficient Statute was passed in 1808 at the instigation of Isaac Brock and Lt. Governor Gore. This Statute (48 Geo. III Cap. I.) remained in force for many years.

Military preparations proceeded apace and in the year 1810 the first Northumberland Regiment was formed. In the Rogers papers, the best source material available in the Provincial Archives, is the following letter:—

"Haldimand, 31 Jan., 1821.

"Lt.-Col. Bullock.

"Dear Sir:—

"Having served a long time as an officer in the Northumberland Militia and am now the only officer in the Regiment that was an officer in the said Regiment when it was first formed, and never having a taste for military tactics, I now offer my resignation - - - etc."

"Richard Hare, Senior Captain,  
"Northumberland Militia."

The original commission, in excellent preservation, signed by Francis

# Highlights

**THURSDAY, JUNE 27**  
LITTLE ROCK, Ark.,—A major flood fight shifted to today where 400 workers as convicts and National Guards waged a battle to save 150,000 of farm land from devastation.

LONDON—Italy's threat to the League of Nations over "interference" in her Ethiopia to-day spurred Great Britain to induce Germany's return.

**FRIDAY, June 21st**  
WASHINGTON — Possibility of news of President Roosevelt's 000,000,000 tax-the-rich plan have leaked to Wall street to permit a market clean-up interest in capital circles to "street" heard inheritance tax several hours before Mr. Roosevelt sent to Congress his plan to inheritances of wealth and a move to shift a larger portion of the cost of Government to richer portions of the population.

LONDON Bluenose may turn to Nova Scotia, according to Torquay report. Captain Walters will sell her to any yachtsmen, if he can get the wants, because the Nova Scotia fishing industry is taking to "You can't see a rival wall you, with you stuck in a debt" he is quoted as saying.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 22**  
ROME — The Italo-Ethiopian dispute raised again to-day the issue of the future of the League of Nations, with the burden of a apparently falling on Britain. Anthony Eden. Well-sources said that whether carries out her virtual threat the League may depend on forthcoming visit to Rome conversations with Premier Mussolini.

PARIS—Armed with instructions from the British Anthony Eden resumed his effort to overcome French resistance to the British German war

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David McGregor Rogers, whose name is met at every turn in the early history of this country was enrolled in Major Young's Company in the Prince Edward Militia, when he

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The original commission, in excellent preservation, signed by Francis Gore, is in the possession of Mr. Jack Hare, a direct descendant of Richard Hare. It is dated at York, June 20, 1810, thus establishing our contention that the Regiment was first formed in this year.

(to be continued).

## AN EXTRA HOUR-AND-A-HALF

Many telephone users have found it worthwhile to wait until 8.30 to get the night rates on their long

distance calls. Now it is no longer necessary—the low night rates begin at 7 p.m.

It is just as great to be able to accept kindly advice as to give it.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 22

ROME — The Italo-Ethiopian dispute raised again to-day the question of the future of the League of Nations, with the burden of a crisis apparently falling on Britain, said Anthony Eden. Well-known sources said that whether the League may depend on the forthcoming visit to Rome of Mussolini.

PARIS—Armed with instructions from the British Government, Anthony Eden resumed his effort to overcome French resistance to the British-German naval agreement. He had a luncheon with Premier Pierre Laval, they talked most of the afternoon. Eden, minister for League of Nations affairs in the British Cabinet, left on the night express to see Benito Mussolini.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

NEW YORK—Organizers of Communist pathfinders of Communism to control yesterday of the International Fur Workers' Union, American Federation of Labor organization membership of more than 100,000. Defying an edict of President