

JOHN, continued 2

The ice was usually cut by 'bees' down at the lake, unless the nearby ponds were deep enough, then hauled up the mountain to the Lee's and other farmers nearby. It was packed in sawdust and used in a home-made ice box, especially constructed to hold the creamer cans of milk. -- These were cans in which the milk was poured at milking time, then chilled, and when the cream had risen to the top the skim milk was drained off and fed to the pigs. One had to be careful to watch in the small glass window near the bottom to see when the cream was coming down. The cream was then churned into butter to supply the family and some for sale.

Rail fences were built along the lane, but pine stumps outlined the maple bush at the back of the property.

John served with the 5th Lincoln Regiment in the War of 1812, becoming a Colonel and serving under General Brock at Niagara Falls. When Brock was mortally wounded John helped to carry him back from the battlefield, and later was one of his pall-bearers. Some years later when it was decided to build the Brock Monument at Queenston Heights, each of the original pall-bearers was requested to assist in moving his casket. However, Col. John had contracted malaria and was unable to go. Therefore his name isn't included on the plaque at the Monument. Each of the pallbearers were given a square piece of the original coffin. This treasure was kept in the pine cupboard in the kitchen. Many years later, Marjorie asked her grandmother where it had gone, and she said she had thrown it out as it had all pulverized. Marjorie felt the dust should have been kept in a bottle for historical sentiment and be cherished.

When the British army was defeated at Niagara, they retreated to Burlington Heights (presumably Dundurn Castle grounds) and enroute the men were told by the commanding officer to take leave and stay at their homes overnight if any lived nearby. John therefore spent the night with Mary and the family. In the early morning, while Mary was at the spring for water, an American soldier came out of hiding in the woods nearby. She took him to the house for breakfast where he surrendered to John. He had fled up the mountain when the American's, who had encamped in Gage field (below the mountain at Stoney Creek) were attacked by whom they thought were Indians, by the weird war-whoops. However, it was the Canadian soldiers attacking, and the famous Battle of Stoney Creek. John had missed the battle, but when he and the American went back down the mountain they found the troops burying the Canadian, British and American dead. The "Lion Monument" opposite Battlefield House commemorates these dead.