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Richmond Hill and Vicinity No. 17.

Col. David Bridgford.

To the Editor of THE LIBERAL

We now come to one whose longevity
brought him within the memory of many
of us who have entered on life forty years
after he began his history as one of our
earliest settlers, Col. David Bridgford,
the first owner of Lot 47 Vaughan.
We will remember his tall form bent
under the storms of nearly four score
winters, his venerable white head, and
trotting step as he walked to and fro
from his residence to the Post Office.
The Col. was born in 1792. His father
Captain Robt. Bridgford was the owner
of a vessel that sailed between Grenock,
Scotland, and New York the passage each
way occupying a month. Having drawn
a large sum of money from the Bank he
was murdered on his way home and his
body thrown into the river. The widow
married the first Robt. Marsh and came
to Canada with her son David who was
about seven years of age in 1799. Arrived
in York they put up at the McDougal
Hotel, owned by the grand parents of the
Hon. Wm. MacDougal. Their next jour-
ney was to our village then not out of the
woods—their conveyance an ox cart—
their pioneer, an axe—and the time two
days from York to the "Hill."

They were not long here before there
was something to do. The war of 1812
was declared on June 18th and a draft
was made for every available man. Young
Bridgford went to Bishop Strahan for
counsel who shrewdly advised him to
avoid the draft by volunteering. Men
were wanted for the front where along
the banks of the Niagara the most san-
guinary events of the campaign occurred.
The 3rd Regiment of the York Militia
was ordered to man the fort at York.
On the 29th of July a detachment of
volunteers were ordered to be in readi-
ness to go to the head of the lake, by
command of Major Allan, to be fitted
with caps, blankets, haversacks, regiment-
al coats, and canteens. The names men-
tioned in the Order were Capt. Hewett,
Lieutenant Jarvis, Sergeants Humber-
stone, Bond and Bridgford. During
the war Bridgford was often in active
service. He was at Detroit on the 15th
of August, 1812, when the American
commander, Hull, surrendered, and signed
a capitulation that gave Canada his
whole force of 2,500 men, 33 cannons, a
vast quantity of military stores and the
whole State of Michigan. To the end of
his life the Col. wore upon his breast one
of the silver medals struck to commem-
orate the exploit. He was at the battle
of Queenston Heights on the 13th of Octo-
ber, and saw the gallant General Brock
fall, pierced through the breast by a
bullet by an American sharp-shooter, and
also in the battles of Chippewa, Lundy's
Lane and Fort Erie. On the 27th of April,
1813, he was in the fort at York wait-
ing orders when the magazine exploded,
blowing into the air 200 of the American
invaders with their commander, General
Pike, and killing several of the British
garrison who had not retired. Among
those who were so suddenly compelled to
take an aerial trip was the gallant Col.,
who was picked up for dead, and sent on
a wheelbarrow ambulance to head quar-
ters, but on the way suspended animation
returned, he was more stunned than hurt.
As a reward for their services each volun-
teer was entitled to Government land,
the Col. securing his share on the shore
of Lake Simcoe.

Col. Bridgford again comes to the
front in the stirring events of 1837. The
cause and subsequent results of the up-
rising of those days are well known to
every student of Canadian history so we
will confine ourselves to that which ap-
pears to parties and places under con-
sideration.
Wm. Lyon Mackenzie's speeches, pam-
phlets and papers had made the grievan-
ces of the day the topic of conversation
in every house, and opinions were gov-
erned to a great extent by political pre-
ferences. The arrangements were that
hostilities were to be commenced on
Thursday, Dec. 7th. The Mackenzie
party were to assemble at Montgomery's
Cavern on Yonge St., and then proceed
to the capital, where they expected to be
joined by a large portion of the people of
the city, march to the city hall, seize
4,000 stands of arms, the Lieutenant-
Governor, the garrison, &c., &c. But
the whole ill-starred scheme fell through,
by having too many leaders.

Through an order given, unknown to
Mr. Mackenzie, Lount and his men came
from the north armed with pikes and
guns three days too soon, and arrived at
Richmond Hill on Monday, the 4th of
Dec. That morning Col. Bridgford
stroled over to the Hill in quest of the
latest news, and was immediately ar-
rested by Lount as an adherent of the
'Family Compact.' Lount, however,
was on friendly terms with the Col., and
offered to let him off if he would go
straight home. He promised, and did
so, but afterwards hearing the rumor

that it was the intention of the insurgents
to take Toronto and burn it, he became
uneasy and crossed over to Col. Moodie's,
to whom we have already referred, then
residing in one of our historic landmarks,
now occupied by Mr. Mintern.
Moodie had noticed small parties of
strangers passing south, and was in con-
sultation with Capt. Stewart when Bridge-
ford arrived and related his adventure
on the Hill. A resolute determination
to inform the Governor at all hazards
was immediately formed. As in former
letters we have followed Col. Moodie
and know the tragical result, we will
now follow Col. Bridgford.
(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The third page of the Toronto DAILY
MAIL is noted for "Want" advertisement.
If you want to buy or sell anything. If
you want a situation, a mechanic, a busi-
ness, machinery, lodgings, if you have
lost or found anything, or if you want to
find out where anyone is, advertise in the
Toronto DAILY MAIL and read the ad-
vertisements on the third page of that
paper. The charge is Two Cents a word
each insertion. Address THE MAIL,
Toronto, Canada.

Fire Brigade Meeting.

The Richmond Hill Fire Brigade held
a Special Meeting on Friday evening, the
9th inst.
Captain Pugsley on behalf of the com-
mittee appointed to make enquiries rela-
tive to procuring the basement of the
Masonic Hall for Fancy Drill purposes
reported that said committee had exam-
ined the piece, and considered it would
be suitable. As to the terms, the Masonic
Body could not give an answer until after
the 12th inst.

On motion of the Secretary, seconded
by A. Wright the above report was ac-
cepted.
Moved by Stewart, seconded by C.
Wright that the procuring of the base-
ment of the Masonic Hall be left in the
hands of the committee appointed at last
meeting—Lost.

It was afterwards decided that the
committee get a statement as to terms,
accommodation &c., of the Masonic base-
ment, and report at a special meeting to
be held on Tuesday evening, the 13th
inst.
The entertainment committee reported
through the secretary.
Moved by W. E. Wiley, seconded by
J. Brownlee that the report be adopted if
suitable terms can be obtained, the price
of admission to be left over till another
meeting—Carried.

Moved by Lieut. Savage, seconded by
C. McLean that the Captain, Steward,
Secretary, W. D. Atkinson and C. Wright
be a permanent committee to make and
carry out arrangements for the Entertain-
ment to be held on New Year's even-
ing.—Carried.

The meeting then adjourned to meet on
Tuesday evening.