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1812

To the Editor of TEE LIBERAL

In the war of 1812 when the Americans made their ungenerous attack on Great Britain and her colonies, when as champion of human liberty England was engaged in a death struggle with the great Napoleon, some of the incidents of those stirring times have for us not only a national but a local interest. War was declared by the American Congress June 18th, 1812. A people with a population of 8,000,000 against another with less than 300,000. Sparse as was the population of that time, postoffices few and far between, and newspapers rarely ever seen, yet the news spread with wonderful rapidity from town to every village and even to the back woods shanty that a fee was about to invade our shores, stirring the patriotism of every pioneer and rousing the belligerent spirit of the U. E. Loyaiists, who had risked and lost so much in the recent contest with the same foe. From all parts of Canada there came a burst of loyalty in support of the Government, an enthusiasm that animated to their country's call and to deeds of daring until the invader was driven back across the boundary line. General Sir Canada, of whom Canadians are justly proud, was particularly active in preparing to give the enemy a warm reception, and called upon every effective man, whether volunteer or militia, to be in readiness for active service. During the the dinners put down and everything in summer of 1812 there was a muster of all | good order. At 12 o'clock I saw the men's available men in Richmond Hill and the dinners dished up in good order. At 2 adjacent townships about half a mile o'clock I again visited the men's rooms, south of our village in the front of Col. found the men all present and sober. Fulton's, now the Vanderburg farm. Visited my sentries frequently during the This was a personal inspection by Sir | day and found them sober and alert, and Isaac Brock, who commended the men for gave them their necessary instructions. their patriotism and promptness in res drill under the eye of the commander-in- | have been strictly attended to." chief the governor requested that all who were willing to go to the front for active service to advance one step forward. Buttons - Metal, let, Ivory. Every man all along the line took the step but one, and he. perhaps, thinking of a home surrounded by loneliness and a family that might be left without a breadwinner, hesitated; but only for a moment, for almost immediately he, too, stept to the line. It was not long before some of coats, neat and fashionable, these men had their patriotism put to the test, for the same fall many an old veteran had to shoulder the musket that had done member a time when an over- duty at Brandywine and Germentown. and many a young Canadian who had never heard the cannon roar marched away from all that was dear to them to the tune of "The British Grenadiers," many of them to remain to fill the ghastly trench at Niagara, where friend and foe so recently arrayed in deadly conflict were laid uncoffined side by side to await the bugle call that shall summon them to the last Review.

We are told of two brothers of the Canadian militia who, at Queenston Heights, fought side by side in defence of their Canadian homes, when, in the moment of victory, a shot pierced the lungs of the younger, a youth of seventeen years with a fair innocent face, and he fainted and fell. The brother clasped him in his arms, and, amid a tempest of shot and shell, bore the dying boy from revived for a moment and, with a loving, lingering look into his brother's face, while the life-blood ebbed from his faral wound, he feebly breathed . "Kiss me, Jim-Tell-mother-that-I-was-notafraid-to-die!" when the blood gushed from his mouth and the brave spirit took its flight. Many as fearless of death as he were re'erred to by the gallant Brock, when he, struck by the bullet of an American sharpshooter, while the death-agony was upon him, shouted: "Never mind me. Push on the York volunteers." 15c. to \$1.00, Jersey Pins Those were times of grief and sorrow, for it is said that there could not be a gathering of any kind, even in the far woods, but in the rustic congregation a widow's cap or a bit of crape would show that isolated as they were they had not been passed unscathed by the horrors of war and all along the front when the sun rose on the tragic scenes of the slopes of the Queenston Heights of Chippewa, Lundy's Lane and Fort Erie it shone upon the pale, cold faces of many a young Canadian, there pride of many a Early in the fall of 1812, while the

regulars and the volunteers were assisting Generals Brock and Sheaffe at the front, the York militia were ordered to York to defend the town and "hold the fort." Capt. John Arnold's company, the 1st Regiment of York militia, consisted of fifty men, many of whom did duty that winter at the barracks. In looking over an old parchment bound muster-roll issued by the Government, which covers - Ont. 1816, which lies before me, I find the fol-

lowing names as officers :- John Arnold, captain; James Miles, lieutenant; Merser, ensign; sergeants - Samuel Forster, Jacob Brown, Christopher Hilts, John Langstaff. Among the privates-David Sprague, Henry Proctor, Thos. Frisby, Obediah Rodgers, Joseph Woodard, John Maliard, Peter Stover, Henry Phillips, Simon Teal, Abraham Van Horne, Josiah Hemmenway, Jacob and Charles Lunaw, John Nigh, Jacob, John and George Hilts, Mark Shell, Joseph Walls, Dan Horner, Christian Hendricks, John Fierheller, Aquilla Bennett, Fred Quance, John Stiver, Richard Stooks, John Tipp, Allan Perkins, Henry Teal and Wind Hollingshead.

There is also a list of all the Tunkers and Mennonites living on the 3rd and 4th concession of Markham, within the limits of Capt. Arnold's company. Among these are Bakers, Doners, Eyers, Nighs, Shells, Stakeleys, Heisies, Horners and Hoovers. The e names are interesting to us, as they show who were some of the early settlers in this locality.

In the muster-roll are the following en-

York Garrison, Oct. 16, 1812. "Yesterday between the hours of one and two o'clock, p. m., I visited the different guards and found them all properly posted, sober and alert. I went the guard rounds last night, between the hours of eleven and two o'clock, and

found the guards sober, steady and alert." Signed-Lient.-Col. Short, commander York Garrison; John Arnold, captain 1st Regiment York Militia

Oct. 17, 1812. "After guard-mounting I visited the different barrack rooms at 9 o'clock; found I declare that all orders, respecting the ponding to the call. After the customary | duty in which I have been employed,

Signed-John Arnold, captain.

While doing duty in the barracks at York the men do not appear to have got much in the shape of pay, and shared their expenses equally. In the same book are twenty-five entries, all exactly alike, name excepted, and many of them witnessed by Mr. James Miles. For the sake of gratifying curiosity I will select one, the last of the list :-

Ezra Clubine To your share of washing the sheets..... 0 0 14 One dish, 12 spoons, 10 kmves and forks..... Cash

To the amount of your pay

from the 18th to 24th Oct.

1812...... 3 9

Signed-Ezra Clubine.

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