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Richmond Hill and Vicinity
The Fatal Quarrel.

(WM. HARRISON.)

Before the advent of civilization in our village, long before Richmond Hill had acquired a local habitation and a name, the two miles immediately to the south of us was marked on the original map of this locality as the Black Ash Swamp. Subsequently divided by Yonge street into east and west, surveyed into lots in the early part of the century it began to open up for settlers.

For many years these lots and the town of Little York beyond were reached by a corduroy bridge nearly a mile long, which oscillated under the loaded team, and in the rainy season sometimes floated in sections on the mud and ooze of its swampy bed. A great contrast to the macadamized and electric thoroughfare we have the pleasure of travelling to-day.

The north part of our vicinity was settled by the French Refugees; the south by the United Empire Loyalists. By years of clearing, draining, cultivation and hardship scarcely realized by us these pioneers developed from the most miserable surroundings and cheerless circumstances the splendid farms their successors now enjoy.

As has been seen in a former series of sketches which have appeared in THE LIBERAL of early pioneer life among us, these lots and early settlers have not been without their historic incidents, amusing, pathetic and instructive. Nor has the comedy in the history of the settlement of our south end been without its tragedy.

One day during the latter part of August, 1814, eighty-five years ago, there might have been seen four men engaged in cutting and binding oats in a field on lot 38, in the township of Markham, now owned by James Russell, Esq., the well-known agriculturist and stock-raiser.

One was a hired man of the name of Betts, another a wandering Frenchman called Bulger, the proprietor of the farm, and a neighbor who owned the farm opposite. On the temporary cessation of work caused by the completion of a job, the neighbor invited the others to his house with the promise of a treat. Those were the days of trials of strength, sports and athletics. For filling up of the leisure hour the daily paper was a thing unknown, and a book from the Public Library a thing undreamed of. At any gathering, large or small, in village or field, with nothing special to attract attention, a challenge to a test of strength, speed, or agility, was always popular, and a pugilistic encounter was no unusual occurrence.

The two young farmers, the chief characters in this sketch, were athletes. One a sturdy son of brawn and muscle, good tempered in victory or defeat. The other his equal in size and strength, whole souled and generous in many respects, but passionate and impulsive. The two young men were in the prime of manhood. They were rivals in the sports of that day. At the neighbor's home a wrestling match took place resulting in the defeat of the owner. A war of words ensued, irritating still more the rising temper of the defeated athlete. A threat to shoot met with a daring defiance. The ever ready rifle was brought into requisition for its deadly service. The two men, thinking matters looked serious, fled for protection to a place of safety. The young farmer also sought safety in retreat. While endeavoring to clear a low fence he received the fatal bullet in his left side and fell.

The perpetrator of the terrible crime was arrested by a constable by the name of Dye, who took his prisoner before Captain James Fulton, Esq., U. E. Loyalist, a hero of Brandywine and Bunker Hill, a sketch of whom has already appeared in these columns. Squire Fulton was our first Justice of the Peace, and at time owned the present Vanderburgh homestead. After a preliminary investigation, he was committed to await his trial at the assizes at York, now Toronto. On the way the prisoner had to pass his home. He requested the privilege of going in for some thing he needed. Once inside he locked the door, leaving the constable on the outside. For some time he was successful in holding the fort. Just at this juncture there passed a detachment of soldiers on their way from York to Penetanguishene, then the northern headquarters of the military. Dye induced some of the soldiers to make a charge on the dwelling. They entered the door with fixed bayonets. The prisoner was recaptured.

At the assizes on a Saturday afternoon the prisoner was brought for trial before Chief Justice Scott, found guilty of wilful murder, and sentenced to be hanged on the following Monday.

The scaffold was a most primitive affair. It was erected on the street in front of the old jail. In those early days there was no experienced Rad-cliff to arrange for the modern and more scientific exit of such unfortunate

violators of the law of God and man. All executions were in public and thousands flocked to the scene to gratify a morbid curiosity.

On Monday the guilty man was brought from his cell to suffer the demands of justice, and was requested to ascend the ladder for that purpose. Not liking the appearance of the arrangements above him, he firmly refused to do so. The late Rev. John Strahan, Bishop of Toronto, who from frequent pastoral visits to the early settlers in this vicinity, must have known both of the unfortunate young men, was then Prison Chaplain. To instruct his ward in the way he should go, the Chaplain mounted the ladder several times. His ward's perceptive faculties were somewhat slow in comprehension. Ultimately to facilitate the ends of justice, Sheriff Rideout got four strong men to lift the doomed man up to the fatal noose. Swinging into eternity he paid the penalty of his dreadful crime.

In 1869 some men digging a cellar in the locality of the gaol yard, Toronto, came upon a box about three feet below the surface of the ground containing a human skeleton. One of the Toronto newspapers suggested that it might be the remains of the murderer of the young farmer of lot 38, Markham, near Richmond Hill, fifty-five years before. This elicited from the late Mr. Geo. Munshaw, who resided among us, a correction of the supposition.

Mr. Munshaw was a near neighbor at the time. Was on the ground a few minutes after the tragedy. Was drawn for the jury, but was challenged by the prisoner. He witnessed the execution.

Mr. Munshaw stated that immediately after the execution the condemned man's wife obtained the remains of her husband from the authorities and that they were buried on the farm in the garden a few rods from Yonge street. The farm subsequently fell into the hands of the late Mr. Thos. Harris, builder. At that time the sunken burial spot, without head-board or stone, had become a nest for thistles. Each year the wild grass grew rank and tall above it. The murderer's resting place was fast becoming obliterated.

Early in the fifties, to save the surface from the plowshare, Mr. Harris placed over it a large work-shop, which still stands, a monument to hide from the public gaze an ignominious grave.

Address and Presentation

When it became known a short time ago that Mr. Wm. Harrison, who had been superintendent of the Methodist Sabbath School for the past 40 years, had definitely decided to resign his position, a number of the friends resolved on showing their appreciation to a certain extent for his faithful and valuable services. It soon became known that many who had removed from the village were anxious to join in the testimonial, therefore in order to give time, the presentation was delayed until last evening. A pleasant programme was arranged, and a large number assembled in the school room of the church and spent a social time together. Rev. Mr. McCulloch made an admirable chairman, and after singing, Rev. Mr. Large opened with prayer. During the evening the following musical programme was presented:

Solo, "Love's Old Sweet Song," Mr. W. A. Wright.
Solo, "The Old Horse-Shoe," Mrs. C. Mason.
Solo, "The Baggage-Coach Ahead," Mr. A. J. Hume.
Duet, "Maying," the Misses M. and S. Trench.

At the proper time Mr. Harrison was called to the platform, when Mrs. Wiley read the following address:

MR. HARRISON:
DEAR SIR,—To me has fallen a very important part in the programme of this evening. We are met for a purpose in which sadness blends with pleasure. We are sad when we remember that the close ties which have been in existence for the past forty years between you, sir, and our beloved Sabbath School have been severed. We regret that you deemed it better to carry into effect the notice given a year ago and that the persistent pleadings of your officers and teachers, failed to overcome that decision. Then, on the other hand, when we consider the work done by you in that time, the "Bread cast upon the waters" from which in many cases a fruitful harvest has already been gathered, our sorrow is forgotten and our hearts go up in praise and thankfulness to our Father in heaven who filled your heart to overflowing with a yearning desire for the moral and spiritual well-being of the children and young people of this village in which your life from your boyhood up has been spent. So, you see, sir, my duty to-night is one in which sorrow and gladness, regrets and pleasure, are aptly blended.
And, now, sir, in conclusion we ask

you to accept a small token of our regard and appreciation. We ask you to receive it as the spontaneous out- come of hearts in which your memory will be ever enshrined mid loving thoughts. We pray that He who for many years has been your Guide and Counsellor, may abide with you and keep you in His perfect peace and when He calls you up higher may those who have listened to, and profited by your teachings and counsels in Richmond Hill Methodist Sabbath School be the cause of added lustre to that crown of rejoicing which our Lord will bestow on all His faithful servants.

At the conclusion of the address Mr. Switzer, Mr. Harrison's successor as superintendent, made the presentation, which consisted of a purse of \$50, and a beautiful gold watch, suitably engraved. Before calling upon the recipient to respond, the chairman in well-chosen words, addressed Mr. Harrison, expressing, on behalf of those who contributed, the pleasure it gave them to assist in such a laudable undertaking. Among those from a distance who contributed, and whose letters contained expressions of gratitude for Mr. Harrison, were the following: Angus Smith, C. A. Storey, Wm. Freek, H. B. Myers, Mrs. A. J. Paul, John A. Storey, former pupils; Rev. W. F. Wilson (Hamilton), Rev. J. M. Simpson, Rev. W. R. Barker, Rev. J. W. Dean, Rev. Peter Addison, Rev. J. H. Starr, former pastors; and Mr. T. Carscadden, a former teacher of the Bible-class.

Mr. Harrison, although deeply affected by his surroundings, made an able and feeling reply, and closed by asking those present to accept on behalf of the donors his heartfelt thanks for the valuable present and words of comfort.

The chairman afterwards called on Messrs. J. Switzer, I. Crosby, A. Wright, and Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Storey. All bore testimony to Mr. Harrison's faithfulness and success as a Sabbath School superintendent, and as a safe instructor to the rising generation. Coffee and other refreshments were then served, and a most enjoyable and social evening was brought to a close.

King Plowmen's Supper.

The annual banquet of King Plowmen's Association held at Cosgrove's Hotel, Bond's Lake, last Friday evening was a most enjoyable and successful affair. The spread, the first course of which was oysters, was excellent, and in the after speeches the host and hostess were highly complimented on their efforts to tickle the palates of their patrons. The chair was filled in a happy manner by the secretary, Mr. J. T. Saigeon, who read letters of regret from Hon. E. J. Davis, Hon. Wm. Mulock, Mr. F. Daville, Messrs. Frost & Wood, and Mr. E. M. Morphy. The toast list which followed the supper was most interesting, and good speeches were made. The chairman proposed the following toasts:—
The Queen;
Manufacturing and Commercial Interests, responded to by Messrs. Carter and Fleury of Aurora and Mr. M. Coates of Ingersoll;

The Learned Professions by Mr. A. E. Coombs, M. A., Richmond Hill and lawyer Armstrong of Toronto;
The Press by Mr. T. F. McMahon of THE LIBERAL;

Municipal Institutions by Councillor Legge and ex-reve Cherry;
Agricultural Interests by Mr. Geo. Smith of Whitchurch and Thos. Legge, sr.;

The Ladies by Mr. J. Kyle, barrister, Toronto, and Messrs. F. J. Johnston and J. W. Forhan of Richmond Hill;

Host and Hostess, Mr. Cosgrove;

The musical part of the entertainment was first-class. The Mendelssohn Choristers of Richmond Hill were at their best, and songs by Mr. John Blough of Teston, and Mr. T. Butt of King City added much to the pleasure of the evening. The social gathering separated after singing the National Anthem.

Victoria Square

The semi-monthly shoot of the Victoria Rifle Club was held on the afternoon of Saturday, Jan. 28, with scores as follows:

	200 yds.	200 yds.	Tl
A. Quantz	39	40	79
W. Capell	43	33	76
W. Scott	33	34	72
W. Mustard	36	35	71
G. Forester, jr.	45	26	71

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