

Moodie buried in Thornhill

One of the first owners of Lot 49 on the east side of Yonge Street, now marked by a historic site plaque at the bus loop, was Col. Robert Moodie, the first casualty of the Rebellion of 1837.



yesterdays
by mary dawson

A native of Fifeshire, Scotland, in 1794 at the age of 16 he joined the Elgin Fencibles as ensign.

Two years later he became a lieutenant in the 28th Regiment of Foot and served in the Peninsula War.

Earning his promotions, rather than acquiring them by purchase, by 1800 he was a captain in the 11th West Indies Regiment.

In 1803 he was in New Brunswick as a captain in the New Brunswick Fencible Infantry which later became the 104th of Foot.

Moodie won his majority in 1811 and the same year married the daughter of the Hon. George Sproule, surveyor-general of the province.

Battle wound

He accompanied the regiment when it marched to Quebec in the winter of 1812-13, took part in the battle of Sackett's Harbour in 1813 where he was wounded and was also present at the battle of Queenston Heights.

In 1814 he became a lieutenant-colonel. He retired to St. Andrew's, Scotland, with his family

in 1817, when the regiment was disbanded.

Canada again

In 1835, they returned to Canada, Moodie purchased 190 acres of Lot 49 from A.F. Reid and occupied the frame 1½-storey residence which had been built about 1820.

It was in this house on the evening of Monday, Dec. 4, 1837, that the magistrates of the neighborhood met with Moodie to decide what action should be taken regarding the small groups of men, some of them armed, seen earlier in the day marching from the north toward York.

They knew an armed clash with those who supported William Lyon Mackenzie was imminent.

Call to arms

Mackenzie's plan had set Dec. 7 as the day for action but Dr. John Rolph had sent word to Samuel Lount at Holland Landing to bring the men in from the north three days earlier as he believed the capital would be more susceptible to attack and was also present at the battle of Queenston Heights.

In the late afternoon of Dec. 4, Moodie and his companions decided to send a warning letter to Sir Francis Bond Head in York.

But Rolf and Gibson (from Willowdale), disheartened by news of the failure of the rebellion in Lower Canada, again interfered and wanted to wait to the next day.

Mackenzie agreed. He set up three lines of guards in the vicinity of the tavern, then set out to determine the nature of the city's defences.

When the loyalists arrived from the north, Moodie and Stewart got through the first line of guards, about 60 rods to the north of Mon-

tgomery's and then through the line right at the tavern (estimated to contain 150 men).

But the third guard, located 70 rods south, was strong.

Moodie challenged them, "Who are you, who dares to stop me on the Queen's highway?"

The reply was, "You will know it in time."

Moodie then fired his pistol and three guns were discharged at the riders.

Moodie was fatally wounded and Stewart was

taken prisoner. The other members of the party, cautiously rode around the guard posts and finally reached the capital to warn Bond Head of the imminent attack.

Thornhill burial

The remains of Moodie were interred at Holy Trinity Cemetery in Thornhill Dec. 7.

Those attending the funeral were armed with swords, daggers, pistols, fowling pieces and pitchforks as protection against the rebels.

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TOWN OF MARKHAM NOTICE

Proposed By-law to stop up and close part of Shrivensham Court commencing at a point approximately 380 feet south from Simonston Boulevard and located in Block F, Registered Plan M-1444.

TAKE NOTICE that The Corporation of the Town of Markham intends to pass a By-law to stop up and close a portion of Shrivensham Court.

The proposed By-law and Plan showing the lands to be affected may be seen at my office, Municipal Building, 8911 Woodbine Avenue, Buttonville, Markham, Ontario.

The Council of The Corporation of the Town of Markham shall hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be prejudicially affected by the By-law and who applies to be heard at a meeting to be held Tuesday, April 13th, 1976 at the Municipal Offices, at 2:00 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter.

Diane E. Whetter,
Clerk,
Town of Markham,
8911 Woodbine Avenue,
Markham, Ontario,
L3R 1A1

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