

LOST MARKS BY THE RIVERSIDE

This contains some of the early tales and legends of the Johnstown District, as told by an old settler and compiled for the present generation.

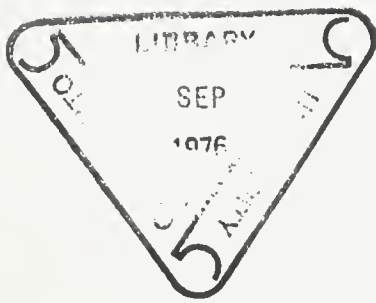
"Lest Je Forget"

E. A. McKis

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"Foreword"


I write these sketches lest they be forgotten with the passing years. The riverside and adjoining districts are teeming with interesting history, much of which has never been recorded and will soon be forgotten if not recorded. A few still remember facts related to them as boys. I can still recall old men giving first-hand information about the cholera epidemic and the heavy winter traffic of war-supplies up the third concession during the war of 1812-1814.

A few older men in this locality have taken an interest in these stories and enjoy telling what they remember. They try to be as accurate as possible. I have listened to many of these gentlemen in the past few years. Using all sources of reliable information, I will try to set down as clearly as possible, some of the most interesting of these stories. I hope mistakes and short-comings will be overlooked. If these efforts of mine help some one to record these events in a more permanent form, my ambition will have been attained.

I wish to acknowledge much valuable information from Mr. J. A. Sharp, a resident of Laitland and vicinity for the past eighty-two years. Mr. Sharp came here from Ireland at age of four years.

I am also indebted to Mr. George Hough, a descendant of one of the first settlers in North Augusta, and to Mr. Hiram Lemon of Laitland. His father was an officer in the Grenville Militia in the war of 1812 and helped manufacture the first farm tools made in Canada.

Levitt's History of Leeds and Grenville, J. Ross Robertson's History of Masonry, old copies of Brockville and Prescott newspapers, and a host of friends and neighbours have all contributed much valuable information and to all I give my sincere thanks.



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THE ROAD

The first road surveyed in Upper Canada was the one along the North shore of the St. Lawrence from Cornwall to the west line of Elizabethtown. This survey was made about 1783. This line was only run by Major Holland with a view to laying out the farms. The road itself was not necessarily built along this line. The first road from Brockville to Prescott followed the river shore more closely than the present one. It followed the line of least resistance in crossing streams and passing over the hills.

The present route was chosen when a Company, called the Prescott and Brockville Plank Road Company, was formed. The road was surfaced with planks which were three inches thick. Four toll-gates were maintained between the two towns. When the planking wore out, the surface was covered with stone, which was broken by hand. These toll-gates were retained until the road was purchased in 1919 by the Townships of Augusta and Elizabethtown and the Province of Ontario. It then became a Provincial Highway.

Starting from Brockville and going East we will try to relate some of the history of each farm. We hope to tell nothing to offend and to be accurate enough to create interest.

On the site of the Lurray Farm are now some of the finest residences in Brockville. This farm was first owned by a man named Butler. It is not known whether he was a Loyalist or a disbanded soldier. This was one of the first farms to be cleared and has passed through several families until it came into the possession of the present owners. The barn just north of the railway, which was burned a few years ago, was the oldest building of its kind around Brockville.

There was an epidemic of cholera about the year 1803. A story is told that the owner of this farm, no doubt Butler, was one day pitching off a load of hay in this barn when he suddenly felt ill. Coming down off the load he sat on the floor with his back to the hay-mow and was dead in three minutes. So many of this and neighbouring families died of this terrible disease that they were buried on the river-front of this farm just south of what is now King Street. This was the beginning of the small cemetery which can still be remembered by many of the older residents of Brockville. The bodies were supposed to have been removed some years ago. I am informed by a reliable witness that while watching some men at work on the sewer being laid in that part of the town, he saw very convincing evidence that all the bodies had not been removed. Due to the nature of this plague the panic-

stricken people buried the dead immediately, in many cases without coffins, and without the rites of state or church. Since doctors were scarce and unskilled in any new disease, and Coroners were unknown it is no wonder that whole families were buried in any handy spot and their graves soon totally obliterated. Others in this section were buried in the nearest sand hill. This was the beginning of the many small cemeteries which are now neglected and have become a difficult problem to some of our municipalities. Others were the nucleus of such well-kept cemeteries as Reid's, on the third concession. This cemetery is still in use and is a great credit to the counties.

When we recall that two or three hundred people afflicted with this plague were housed in sheds on Block House Island, and scores dead and dying all over the district, we can not but wonder at the fortitude of these early pioneers.

The next farm which stretched from the North Augusta Road to the one running north just west of the Ont.-Hospital was owned first by a man named Covell. From the railroad to the river, this farm was long ago divided into building lots. Many of the finest residences of the town were built on these sites, for example, the Keefer place, the Page residence where now stands St. Albans School, Belvidere where the late Mrs. Jones put Canada on the map as a producer of Jersey cattle, as well as many others. The land north of the railway was also divided into many small holdings.

The river front of this farm had two much talked of features in these olden days, the picture rock and the cave. We do not know if there is any connection between these two. The picture of a canoe was painted on this rock in red, and was undoubtedly of Indian origin. It showed a canoe with a number of paddlers holding their paddles in a peculiar manner. It may have had a meaning to others of their tribe. One version is that a certain chief was unfaithful to his people. As punishment he was tied hand and foot and thrown over this cliff. Another version has it that, as a flotilla of canoes was ascending the river, one was upset and a brave and his whole family were drowned. One guess is as good as another and no white man really knew the true meaning of this picture. I do not know if this picture still remains and would be glad of any information on this subject.

The cave was also well known and much discussed. The entrance is down the face of the cliff almost in line with the side road which runs north past the Nurse's Residence of the Ontario Hospital. Entrance was made by dropping over

the cliff to a ledge where an opening about four feet high was found. I have not heard this cave mentioned for years. One man tells me that he advanced a short distance in this cave about sixty years ago. He said there were traces of fires and pieces of bones. For want of light the boys did not enter farther. Another man told me that he entered the cave about forty years ago. He went with a party of young men who were equipped with candles and were able to penetrate some distance till they thought they were under the highway. This group said the cave was cold and spooky, that it was a natural crevice which widened as one entered. Since they made their estimates by the light of a tallow candle, we cannot be any too certain of their stories.

It is said that this cave was used as an Indian hide-out, and by smugglers and war-refugees. It takes a good deal of imagination to think of chests of tea or casks of rum being hoisted up the cliffs. This cave is still a mystery which few have visited.

One of the Sister Islands is situated just opposite this cave. Stone piers were built on this island forty-five years ago. These were to support an International Bridge which was to carry the railroad across the river at this point. The plans called for a very high structure which would have passed above the Senator Hardy home and about thirty feet above the highway. The workmanship on these piers is of a very high order. The mortar, holding the huge blocks of stone, was Portland cement, which was brought from England. It was the first of its kind ever used in Canada. This bridge was never built. We still have solid reminders of an attempt to build such a bridge. The present generation have not even made such an attempt.

The farm on which the Ontario Hospital now stands was originally taken by a man named Kilborne. Tradition has it that his sympathies were not well placed during the war of 1812, and that he suddenly departed for southern districts where his views were held in greater favour. This land reverted to the Crown.

After the war it was bought by one Charles Jones, who had as his farmer a man called Pickens who leased and lived there many years. Thus we get the name Pickens' Point but Pickens never owned it.

It later passed into the hands of the late Mr. Barrigar who sold it to the Ontario Government when the late Honourable C. F. Fraser was Minister of Works for Ontario.

We must all agree that a better site could not have been chosen. If the original owner could now see it, his amazement would be greater than it was at the war of 1812.

On this river front, about opposite the main Entrance to the Hospital, stood the first Township school and perhaps the first rural school in Leeds County.

The farms now owned by Mr. W. Henderson and Mr. E. Sherwood were originally owned by another Milborne, perhaps a brother of the one who owned the adjoining farm. This man was a Loyalist. It is reported that he took his own life. When his farm was put up for sale it was bought by Hamilton Sherwood who had contracts to build parts of the Welland Canal. He built the large house on the river side of the road, now the home of Mr. Van Dusen. The farm was afterwards divided, one part being retained by the parents of the present owners.

The next farm, known as the Dyer Farm, came into possession of the family from two old soldiers who owned it jointly. Both were bachelors and ended their days with the Dyers.

The Dyers were stone masons. Their work is to be seen in most of the principal buildings in Brockville. This name seems to be dying out in this locality, but they have left behind many examples of their work which will weather the winds for many years to come.

The farm of Mr. Higgins was first claimed from the Crown by Baldwin, who also drew land in the Rideau District. He sold this river property and moved north. He was the original of the numerous Baldwins to be found in Augusta and Wolford Townships.

Mr. Baldwin sold to Mr. Easton. This was the original home of the Easton family who are so well known throughout this district. Eastons soon sold to a man named Cranson who was in poor health and was later found dead on the river shore. Tradition has it that this man's widow was dispossessed for a debt of fifty pounds. She, her children, and household effects were placed on the side of the road by the merchant. The story does not tell us what happened to the woman, but it does say that the Koller family bought the farm and sold to Mr. Higgins.

Everyone is familiar with the next long low house, the home of Mr. J. A. Sharp. This is the oldest house between Brockville and Prescott, at the present time. It was

built before 1800 by Daniel Row, the first owner of this land and the fore-father of the numerous Row families of this section. He was a builder and wood-worker by trade and was followed in that occupation by several of his sons who settled in different parts of the counties.

The late Judge McDonald stated that he had seen legal papers drawn up in this house before 1800. It was probably the most pretentious house in the locality at that time. Mr. Row sold to Mr. Sherwood, then to another of the same name, then into the Keefer family and finally to the family of the present owners. Under the different owners and tenants much has taken place in this old house. About 1812 a grocery store was located here. In after years the first rubber to be manufactured in this district, perhaps in Canada, was made into small articles in this house. The same people made saddles and harness. Another operated a small brewery here. There is no doubt a volume could be written about the romances and tragedies of this old house. It was here that the Hon. Billa Flint courted his wife, a Miss Clement. The house looks as though it can still weather another hundred years.

A visit to the present occupant by anyone interested in history is an entertaining occasion. Mr. Sharp was born in Ireland. He came to Canada at the age of four. He has been collecting facts and stories ever since he came. He tells these in a manner that creates an interest for more. I hope he will be spared many more years to tell of the pioneer days of the north shore of the St. Lawrence. To him I owe much of this material.

Smuggler's Highway was that narrow side road running north from the river east of Mr. Sharp's farm. Perhaps more contraband goods have flowed, both north and south on this road than on any other similar road in Canada. The smugglers had many narrow escapes from the Custom Officers at Brockville and Laitland. The fact that it was little used and lead directly into the country made it an ideal location for these enterprises. This was no petty smuggling by some farmer of his own supplies, but a wholesale running of goods by the ton, to supply the stores in the Rideau District and beyond. Tea, tobacco, cotton and many other articles were delivered at the foot of this road and teamed back into the country. When the officers were too vigilant these goods were hidden in the woods or hidden in a farmer's barn. Many a farmer has uncovered a load of goods hidden in his hay-mow. He said nothing and the goods disappeared in a day or two. Fast teams and light sleighs or wagons were used to transport these goods. Capture meant loss of goods and equipage, but profits were

high and risk worthwhile. Live horses were the principal commodity smuggled wouth to the United States. The horses were made to swim the river. Adventure, excitement, risk and profit lured the man into the quiet hours of the night on Slugglers Highway. Now all is quiet on the river front, and few there are who remember the good old days.

The first farm east of this side road, known as the Perry Farm, is now owned by Frank F. Jones, a financier of Montreal, formerly of Brockville. This farm was part of the original Sherwood grant which extended east to the County Line. One of the original owners, Miss Sherwood, married a man by the name of Ferguson. This couple built the large stone house. The stone work was done by the Shepherd Brothers who were pioneers in the stone mason trade in this district. A daughter of the Ferguson family married a man by the name of Perry who came from Montreal, an agent for the Jones Forwarding Company, and later Postmaster of Brockville. They were the ancestors of the well known Perry family of this district, but the name seems to be dying out. This house was once used for a hospital for small-pox for the town of Brockville. An out-break of that disease occurred about fifty years ago. This is a choico building location and will soon be built up.

Ralph's Dairy was also part of the Sherwood grant. It was owned by Kilborne, then by Nessel, a stone cutter by trade. The first building was a stone one which is now used for a dairy. It was built for a workshop with living quarters above. The stone-work in this building is a fine example of his skill, especially the large arch which is cut from a single piece of stone. It is reported that the living rooms were as well finished. Since then the place has passed through many hands, each adding his contribution of buildings. It was once owned by the late W. H. Comstock. It was the home of the late Timothy Burns. It came into the hands of Mr. W. Ralph about twelve years ago. He is responsible for many of the modern improvements.

Much of the stone in the leading building of Brockville was quarried from the above mentioned farms. Many men were employed in cutting and dressing this stone. The skill of their workmanship compares favourably with the best we have to offer today.

In 1784, Lot 1 Concession 1, was granted to Thomas Sherwood, an Officer in Jessup's Corps. He drew four lots, or eight hundred acres which extended to what is now the Third Concession. For many years he was also in possession of that strip of land between the two Counties, known as the

Commons. This was left for the building of roads. The lines were not clearly defined and it was on this strip of land that he built his first shanty, the first to be erected in the County. This shanty was built near the river near the mouth of a small stream which crosses the highway. I do not know how long he occupied this shanty but traces of it can still be seen. Later he built a pretentious frame house just north and east of the stone house residence now on the farm. Mr. Sherwood lived on this farm for forty-two years and died in 1826 at the age of eighty-one years. Here the first white child was born in the Counties.

On this lot was cut the first tree on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, for the purpose of clearing a farm. The first corn and potatoes, planted by white man, were grown on the river side of the road. The first mill of any kind was built on the bank of this stream. It was a hand-made affair and run by water which operated an upright saw to cut logs into lumber. It was as slow as the old sawpit method, where two men pulled a saw, by hand, one above and one below. The mill was much easier on the backs.

Mr. Sherwood was the first Magistrate appointed in the locality. He had the power to perform the marriage ceremony since there were no ministers for a hundred miles. Many marriages were performed here, perhaps more than in any other spot in Eastern Ontario. If man must be born and married, so must he also die. Mr. Sherwood donated a plot of ground on the river bank for a cemetery. It may be neglected now, but it holds the remains of those who by their untiring efforts began most of the branches of our present day civilization. Here were held, military camps, religious meetings, Masonic Lodges, Courts of Law and all other gatherings for the good and well-being of the community. It would be fitting if some of our organizations would erect a marker to make known to our generation some of the important events which have taken place on this spot.

A son, Adiel Sherwood, owned the farm later. He was the first native born school teacher in Upper Canada, and afterwards, the first Sheriff of the United Counties. He disposed of this property to an ancestor of the Family of Bradfields.

In 1850 the Bradfields built the fine stone house, which is one of the best examples of the art of stone-cutting in Canada. The stone was quarried on the farm. The Bradfields were stone-cutters and masons, and this house is a splendid specimen of their work. They erected a large saw-mill on the river shore. Logs were brought there in rafts. Large wharfs were also built and much business was transacted.

The mill passed into the hands of a man named Griffin, who manufactured explosives for commercial purposes. He soon disposed of it to a German chemist who manufactured the first nitro-glycerine in Canada. This business began to flourish. At six o'clock one morning the countryside was shaken for miles by a terrific explosion. Not one stick of the building remained. The men had not arrived for the days work and no reason can be given for the explosion. It is thought a stranger gained admission to the building and accidentally caused the explosion. The concussion was so great that all windows within radius of a mile were broken. Many people still remember the explosion. The mill was never rebuilt because of public opinion. The chemist, Herr Volany, departed and thus ended the last industrial venture on Lot 1.

The school situated on this property is not the original school of the section. The first one was just east of the town, as mentioned above. The second school to be built was on the Second Concession and is known as Stewart's School. This very old building is still in use.

The property east of Lot 1, through which the stream runs, is known as the "Commons". It was originally without owner or title, and Mr. Sherwood seems to have had possession for some time, no doubt until his lines were properly established. The Commons was left in the first survey for road purposes, one running north on the east side of every township and a narrow one through the centre. It was supposed that a settler could have as much of it as he could clear if he would clear a forty foot roadway along side. In this case no road was ever built as the nature of the ground made it impossible at that time. It was possessed in some manner by a man named White of whom nothing is known, then passed into the hands of the Shepherd Family, and is still known as the Shepherd Farm. It is now owned by Mr. G. Power who lives just east of it.

At this point we cross the County and Township lines from Leeds to Grenville, from Elizabethtown to Augusta. The first and second Concessions of Elizabethtown to and including Lancaster were the first to be surveyed. Major Holland made this survey just before the main portion of the United Empire Loyalists landed in Johnstown. The major first numbered the townships, changing his number every ten miles, thus creating a new township. The survey was completed to the west side of Elizabethtown which was number nine. Augusta was therefore number eight. Soon after this the townships were named after the children of King George the Third. There were not sufficient townships to honour all his family as there were thirteen royal children. The County of Leeds was named after Francis Osborne, the Fifth Duke of Leeds. Grenville took its name from the British Secretary of State, Lord Grenville.

The surveys were begun from the east side of the townships, and all lot numbers run in the same direction. Therefore, when we pass into Grenville County of Augusta, the first lot is naturally the last lot surveyed or Lot 37.

The last four hundred acres in Augusta were taken by Lieutenant Alexander Campbell, a Scotchman who came with the Loyalists from Mohawk Valley. He cleared a great deal of the land on it and carried on extensive farming operations for about forty years. He then sold all his holding and seems to have disappeared from this part of the Province.

In 1828 Mr. Freeland purchased this farm from Lieutenant Campbell. From his accent, manners, and religion, Mr. Freeland was considered to be Scotch, but was born in the County of Connaught in Ireland. His family were one of the original Irish Protestants. He came first to New York. He was a shrewd business man, and having some means, saw in Canada greater opportunities than in the United States. No doubt his British instinct played a major part in bringing him to the north shore of the St. Lawrence. Whether his predecessor gave the place the name of Burnside is not known, but the Freeland Family always used the name, even in later years when they possessed only the east half of the farm now owned by Stanley Ralph. Mr. Freeland built the stone house and most of the buildings now occupied by Mr. Power. Besides farming on a large scale, Mr. Freeland carried on extensive chandler business, making candles by the thousand to sell wholesale. He continued this business until the kerosene lamp drove him out of business about the year 1830.

The name Burnside was derived from the word "burne" the Scotch for brook. This stream crosses the highway just west of this property. On the east side of the farm another brook empties into Dunham's Bay, so the name is very appropriate.

When the elder Freeland passed on, he left his farm to his son, Henry, who sold the house and the river front on the west half of the farm, as well as two acres on the north side of the road, to James Hargraves. The remainder of the west half of the farm was sold to Mr. Lower, the father of the present owner.

Mr. Hargraves, a Scotchman, had been for many years a factor in Command of a Hudson Bay Post in the Northwest. He improved and equipped Burnside House, as it is now called, to distinguish it from Burnside Farm. The stone buildings on the north side of the road, (there was no large barn then) had a stone-paved yard open to the road. He also built the

stone arch gate on each side of the road, and the battlement walls which make the place look like a fort. He may have copied these from some place in Scotland or Lower Fort Garry about twelve miles from Winnipeg. However, his setting was perfect and he had an ideal country home for a gentleman of that period. It is said that he grew peaches trained to the south side of one of the stone walls. He grew rare flowers in his garden and in his conservatory. He did not live long to enjoy the fruits of his labours and plans. After his death his wife lived here a short time and then returned to Scotland.

The place was vacant until the death of Mrs. Hargraves, when it passed into the possession of her grandson by the name of Schofield. Not wishing to live in Eastern Ontario he sold it to the present owners. It is now known as the Power Farm and is one of the best dairy farms along the river.

The east half of the original farm now owned by Mr. S. Ralph was retained by Mr. Henry Freeland. Some of these buildings were used many years ago to house the help and cattle on the original farm. The large white house now in use by Mr. Ralph was built for Mr. H. Freeland. The buildings which housed the chandler works were moved to this location. Many of the older inhabitants of this district still remember the manufacture of these candles and remember Mr. Freeland who drove his stout cob-ponies, hitched to a wicker phaeton, on his way to Kaitland, or up to the old Kirk on Sunday morning. He lived to be an old man. After his death the farm was sold in 1909 to the present owners. It is still known as the Burnside Farm. One field of the river front was retained, the remainder was sold years ago to Mr. F. Keeler who established an orchard and fruit and market gardens which he still owns. Few farms along the river have been developed and continually improved as Burnside has.

Entering the valley on the east of Burnside, we come to the farm of Mr. C. E. Johnson, now celebrated for its fine herd of Ayrshire cattle. This farm was purchased about fifteen years ago from Mr. George Dunham, a grandson of the original owner, Daniel Dunham, a soldier in Burgoyne's Army. He came to Canada with the first brigade of Loyalists in 1784. When he drew this lot he, with some others came here by boat, and landed in the bay which is still marked on river charts as Dunham's Bay. Daniel Dunham drew also four hundred acres where the village of North Augusta now stands. He started to erect a mill on the stream there. Before it was completed he sold his holdings to Mr. Bellamy, who came there from England. Mr. Dunham returned to his river front property, which remained in his family until 1909. Mr. Dunham married a daughter of Rueben Sherwood, the original owner of Lot No. 1 Elizabethtown.

The flotilla of boats which plied the river, even sailing schooners stopped at Dunham's Bay where there were large piers, the remains of which are still visible.

Three generations of Dunhams raised large families on this farm. Family cemeteries were then in vogue and one is found behind the large barn. A few years ago there were many well preserved head-stones. I understand that these have since been removed and the ground worked over. I presume that no reserve was made at the time of the transfer. To tear up a pioneer cemetery ought to be made a major offence. Men who took the land in its primitive state and made a farm from it, should be entitled to at least six feet of earth for all time. Let their bones rest in peace; their work lives after them, and the last resting place of their choice should remain sacred.

Going up the hill from Dunham Bay we come to a stone house a few yards back from the road. This house is of peculiar structure, having at each corner small stone wings, standing out in front but attached to the house proper. This farm is said to be part of the Dunham grant but was sold at an early date to two men, either brothers or business partners. The house was built for two families. A hallway divided the house into identical living quarters. One of the builders died and the house was sold to the grandfather of the present owner, Mr. William Byers. The Byers Family came from Scotland to Prince Edward Island with the early British settlers. They were granted a large tract of land where the City of Charlottetown now stands, but the colony was slow to develop. The Byers, like so many Scotch families, were interested in the building trades, gave up their lands, and moved to the rapidly growing city of New York. Here they moved buildings to widen streets and became very prosperous. Then they came to Montreal and engaged in the same trade. Many of the streets in Brockville were very narrow so the Byers were sent for to straighten and widen the streets.

Mr. Byers came to Brockville, looked over the situation, and decided that there was not enough work there and made up his mind to return to Montreal. While in this vicinity he saw this farm for sale and suddenly determined to buy it and settle his family there. He returned to Montreal, loaded his family and equipment on a sailing boat, and started up the river. As they neared their destination they were caught in a fog, the vessel became lost and nosed her way into a bay and anchored there for several hours. They learned afterwards that they had anchored in Dunham's Bay, a few rods from their future home.

Mr. Byers unloaded his equipment at Brockville and straightened the streets. He retired to his farm where he raised his large family. Afterwards he bought a farm from Mr. Longley of Laitland for one of his sons. Others went into the manufacturing business in Cananoque. The family have become well known throughout Eastern Canada. The farm is still the Byer's Farm. In the last few years Mr. Byers sold several river lots, one to the Walker Tourist Camp another to L. Dunn for an ice-house. Mr. Byers still retains a large part of his land along the river front.

The next farm is owned and operated by St. Mary's College. This was never granted to the United Empire Loyalists but was kept as part of the Clergy Reserve. It was owned first by Mr. Koyle, then by Mr. Finley, who built the house over seventy years ago. It was known as the McLawon Farm before Mr. E. Byers bought it. Mr. Byers sold to the present owners and moved to Lynn. Many people have lived here yet there are no stories of importance to relate.

East of this farm house and belonging to the same lot is St. Mary's College, a training school for boys, conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers of the Roman Catholic Church. This fine building was erected during the war and opened in 1919. It can accommodate about three hundred students. The original plans called for many additions none of which have been built as yet. Each year some improvement is added, one notices especially the lawn and flowers. They have a very modern heating plant, water system from a wonderful spring and a fine athletic ground. This institution has purchased three farms and raise a large part of the food they require. Their modern barn and equipment was burned a few years ago, and has not yet been rebuilt. They employ a farm manager and other help. The course at the College is similar to the matriculation with languages as a major subject.

The large stone house with spacious lawns on the river side of the road is the summer home of Mr. George Hislop of Toronto, who purchased it from Mr. D. W. Ogilvie of Montreal. The house was built by Paul Glassford. His father, John Glassford, originally came from Scotland and settled in the Mohawk Valley. There he became disgusted with his neighbours and their rebel sentiments and he left the Valley before war was declared and made his way to Lake Ontario where Sackett's Harbour now stands. From there they made their way to Niagara and up the south side of Lake Ontario in small boats. Young Paul became lost in the woods on the way. He lived for several days on wild fruits until he was found by some soldiers and restored to his parents at Niagara.

John Glassford joined the King's Army during the war. When the survey was made for the Loyalists along the St. Lawrence, he drew land in Latilda Township, County of Dundas. Paul built this house on the river in 1820 and carried on a mercantile business in these buildings. He was magistrate and sometimes Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions. After a few years he moved to Brockville where he died in 1858. The place passed into the hands of his son-in-law, Robert Hervy, whose son, Robert Glassford Hervy, made a name for himself building railroads. At one time R. C. Hervy was associated with famous railwayman of Western United States, James Hill. It was Mr. Hervy who built the Brockville and Westport and some lines near Shelbourne, N.S. He then retired and died in Laitland in 1908. The Hervy family sold the house to a man named Ward who lived there many years. The house and farm were separated about twenty-five years ago. When Mr. Ward died the place passed through several hands.

Just east of the College and belonging to it is a farm with the river-front complete. There are no buildings on this land. The river-front is used by the students for bathing etc. It is part of a grant made to Asa Landon. It was an independent farm for years, and has had at least two houses on it. It has had many owners before it came into the possession of the College.

The next farm, with the house well off the road is now owned by Mr. W. Vandusen. He is developing this land into a well-kept market garden. This hundred acres was granted to Mr. Landon as well as several other lots away from the river. He, like so many other pioneers, lived on his land by the river a few years, then sold and moved to their farm farther inland. The farm was bought by Wells, then Cameron, then Billie Fox who built the present house. It was then sold to Burns, and since then has been known as the Jim Burns Farm. The river front of this farm, like many others, has been sold in small lots for summer homes. Some have built permanent residences. The river front has greatly changed in the last twenty years.

Travelling east the next farm is the Brannan Farm. This place has been in the family for many years. It was he who built all the barns and house, replacing the old log house. Mr. Daniel Brannan bought the farm from Mr. McCracken who never lived on it. Mr. Madden had it before Mr. McCracken. On this farm and others near by grew the tall spire-like poplar trees. Levitt's History tells us that these trees are found in groups along the river and were planted before the coming of the British Colonists. It is thought they were planted by the French as landmarks. That may be, but we notice them in rows along the highway so the pioneer may have got his cuttings

from these early groups. It is quite evident that they came from France in the first place. If they grew in groups among our native trees they would make conspicuous landmarks along the shore, and could be observed on a clear night against the sky-line. There were many of these trees in this vicinity and many of the old stumps can still be seen. The Lombard poplar and stone houses are characteristic of this North Shore.

At this point on the highway we cross a small stream which runs in the spring of the year, but no doubt ran all year when the country was covered with forest. This house with the orchard on the north side of the road is the home of Thomas Burns. He is eighty-seven years and still manages his farm and lives alone. Opposite the house on the river side of the road is a small hill where the first house and buildings were erected by the original owner, Caleb Clason, of whom little is known. The house was built on the side of the hill, the second story could be entered from the ground, a form of architecture much favoured by the early pioneers of this County. The barns were built in the same fashion and an ashery was operated here. These asheries were very common. Ashes from fire-places and from piles of logs were bought at so much a bushel and brought to the ashery. Lye was extracted, boiled down to potash, then packed in barrels. At one time this was the only product which could be sold for cash in the Counties. The price of the product was controlled by its strength. Magistrates had to set a standard as some were making an inferior product. This was one of the first asheries. Since it was situated on the river shore it likely sold "grog" as well, as most such places did. However, it is not an established fact.

There is a story in circulation that it was used as pay-master's office, for many years, for troops stationed along the river. More old coins have been unearthed here than at any other place along the river. Stories of suicide and accidental deaths still linger around this old site. Mr. Sharpe tells of some one committing suicide and burial was refused in all the cemeteries. He was buried on the north side of the road where the orchard now stands. The grave was marked by a large round stone of two or three hundred pounds.

About seventy years ago Mr. Sharpe's family lived here. He tells about driving the harrow as a boy, when it struck a stone. The horses were frightened and ran away, injuring themselves and the driver. The next day he removed the stone and was informed by some neighbours that it was the marker for "So and So's" grave. No one ever located the grave again.

Early in the last century the farm passed into the possession of Lewis Dunham, a son of Daniel Dunham. He was a bachelor and did not operate the farm himself but leased it to tenants. After many years he sold it to Mr. J. J. Gilman of Prescott. He never lived here. Mr. Burns bought the farm from Mr. Gilman about sixty years ago.

The original buildings on the river side of the road have long since disappeared and the ground levelled. Mr. Burns has sold several river lots but has never parted with the little hill where these old buildings stood.

The next farm is now owned by Mr. J. Allen Grant and his son Charles. The river front which is shaded by a long row of old maples is occupied by the son's residence and some summer cottages. The stone house and other farm buildings are situated some distance from the road to the north of it.

This half lot of one hundred and fourteen acres was originally granted to David Breakenridge, a prominent man in the community. In the early days he was associated with Thomas Sherwood of Lot 1 in many undertakings of benefit to the pioneers. Little information about Mr. Breakenridge is at hand but we know he was granted this farm in Augusta as well as one acre on Water Street in the town of Johnstown, and five lots or a thousand acres in the Township of Oxford on the Rideau. His house was built on the north side of the road and just behind the lot and small cottage of Mr. Spatford. The barns were just east of the house, and long after they were built it was found they were over the line and on the property now owned by Mr. C. McLean.

Mr. Breakenridge was a member and took a prominent part in the old Masonic Lodges that met in this district between the years 1783 and 1817. He had a brother Captain James Breakenridge who drew eight lots or sixteen hundred acres in Oxford Township.

The farm passed into the possession of the Cumming Family, father of the late James Cumming of Lya, well-known for his activities in the milling business. It is said that the numerous stone walls on this farm were built by Mr. Cumming. It was then owned by the late Judge Mallock, but occupied for a long time by the Wilson Family who bought it at his death. In a few years it was sold to Mr. Grant who was a descendant of the Elizabethtown family of that name.

There is much history in connection with this place but it is not available at this time.

From the east line of the Breakenridge Farm to the west line of Lot 27 was not granted the United Empire Loyalists. This includes all the land from what is now the Grant place to the old Pearson Farm now owned by Mr. M. Weatherhead. Several reasons why this land was not granted have been advanced but none can be proven. The most plausible is that it contained the ruins of the old French Fort on Lot 29. This was withheld from colonization for ten or twelve years as ordnance or military land. It was then granted only by special permission.

The east half of Lot 32 and the two lots below, five hundred acres in all, or all the land from there to the road running north in the Village of Laitland, were granted to George Longley. This half lot remained in his possession for some years when it was purchased by a member of the Byers family who built and occupied the house now owned by George McLean. Mr. McLean purchased this farm from the Byers estate about thirty years ago. He has added more buildings and purchased more land, none of which is on the river front. There are no interesting tales about this house as it is comparatively new.

General Amhorst landed his army in the bay opposite this house in the year 1760, when he captured the French Fort half a mile below.

There are many indications that the Indians used to camp here. On the river shore are found two hollow stones for the grinding of corn. These stones would hold about a pail of water. A large round stone fitted in the hollow part of the flat rock, and the round stone was turned until the corn was finely ground. There was a trough or depression in the rock which caused the meal to flow to one side. These stones were also used for grinding their colours for paints. Mr. Sharp tells me that when water remained in these hollows it turned a shade of red. He said that he had seen it many times about eighty years ago.

From the east side of Mr. McLean's farm to the road running north is the remnant of the Longley estate. The river side is composed of the house and well-kept grounds of Mrs. (Dr.) Webster. On the north side is the Skinner farm and part of the Village of Laitland.

George Longley was born in Westmoreland, England. He came as a young man to Quebec where he engaged in the business of buying timber and making masts and spars for the King's Navy. Timber suitable for the purpose became scarce in Quebec and scouts were sent to the different parts of the country to obtain it.

A man by the name of Price was sent up the Saguenay River. The descendants of this Price now make up the firm of Price Brothers, one of the largest timber and pulp firms in Canada.

At the same time Mr. Longley was sent up the St. Lawrence as agent for the Royal Navy. They had authority to cruise the country and, finding a suitable tree, mark it with an arrow-shaped cut. This was called the King's Arrow and no one could cut the tree for any other purpose. These trees were cut in the winter and hauled to the nearest river, made into a raft, and floated down to Quebec. All such trees were hauled to Naitland.

When Mr. Longley came to Augusta he purchased or was granted from the Crown for his services the five hundred acres composed of Lots 30, 31, and half of 32. This work for the Navy did not hinder him from doing business for himself. He became an important dealer in timber. Levitt's History of Leeds and Grenville states that Mr. Longley came to this part of the country in 1826 but that must be an error. Mr. Longley donated the land for St. James Church and Cemetery. The church was built in 1826 and the cemetery in use then. It is believed that he came during the War of 1812-1814 or shortly afterwards.

Mr. Longley's first house was built on the Point where Mrs. Webster's house now stands. It was a long house, built to accommodate a family in each end. It had a large stone central chimney which served the fireplaces in the two houses.

This point was well-known to the French voyagers who camped here at night, on their way to Catarqui or Niagara. It was in use before the fort was built and was called Point au Barrell or sometimes Point au Pin as it was covered with pine trees.

The story is told that very early in the French occupation of the country a canoe capsized here and two men were saved by clinging to a floating barrel and hence the name. Other stories are also told, but no one knows the correct version. The name was never used by the United Empire Loyalists.

Close to Mr. Longley's house was a small block-house built of squared oak logs. This no doubt belonged to a chain of fortifications built by the British and Canadians during the war of 1812. It was never a part of the French fort, a half mile below, for Amherst in 1760 landed his troops in the bay above without any hindrance. When workmen were digging the foundations for the present house, skeletons were found. It is not known whether they were of Indian or white man.

Mr. Longley lived in this house on the "Point" for many years and carried on an extensive trade in square timber, which were floated to Quebec each spring. The story is told that Mr. Longley saw a raft in the river and approaching began to talk to the owner. He noticed that the timber was of very fine quality, so he bought it. He took it down the river and sold it realizing enough profit to build the large stone tower which is still standing. This was built in 1828. It was modelled after the one below Prescott, built by a man named Hughes. The mill at Prescott was used with some success to grind corn, but Mr. Longley's did not work so well. In fact it worked only when the wind blew from where Merristown now stands. Mr. Longley determined to have a mill so sent to England and imported the first steam engine that ever turned a wheel, in Upper Canada. This was a large engine with plenty of power. More buildings were erected and a flour mill operated here. The business grew until it was the largest mill west of the Ottawa River. By this time steam-boats were in use and large wharfs were built and warehouses as well. This wharf received more freight than any other point on the river.

When work began on the Rideau Canal about 1829, all supplies for the works at Merrickville and for miles around were unloaded at Laitland, and were teamed north in the winter. When boats carried mail it was unloaded here and carried by team through the bush as far as Bytown. Boats were also loaded with flour for points up and down the river. Mr. Longley prospered according to the volume of his business.

Mr. Longley was also very interested in his farm and sent to England for what is said to be the first pure-bred cattle in Upper Canada. It is thought they were of the Durham breed, at least they answer to that description.

In the meantime, Mr. Longley erected for his home the fine Colonial stone house on the north side of the road now occupied by Mr. and Miss Skinner. In a recent publication called the "Builder", a New York magazine devoted to architecture, this house is described as the most perfect and best preserved model of a Colonial house in Canada today.

Mr. Longley took an interest in all civil and religious activities as well as business. He donated the ground for church and cemetery which is now one hundred and nine years old. It is supposed to be the oldest and best preserved church in the Diocese of Ontario.

St. James Church was built under the rectorship of the Reverend Robert Blakey of whom we will hear later.

The history of the west side of the village is the monument of Mr. Geo. Longley Sr. He was elected Member of the Provincial Parliament of Upper Canada in 1828, the year he built the tower. The land from the church to the river he divided into streets and lots. From the church to the second concession he divided into small holdings of about four acres each. Many of these were taken up and built upon and can be seen today.

Mr. Longley married Ruth Wells, a daughter of William Wells of Augusta. The family took a trip to England in 1842 but Mr. Longley died after landing at Gravesend at the age of 54. He is not buried in St. James Cemetery. He had three children but only one lived to maturity. George Canning Longley was born in 1837 and inherited his father's estate. Mr. G. C. Longley was married in 1856 and lived at Maplehurst. He married Sarah Herry, daughter of Robert Herry and granddaughter of Paul Glassford. Mr. Longley Jr. was not a business man but a student. He collected one of the finest libraries in this part of Canada.

Mr. Longley was much interested in Free Masonry and organized St. James Lodge in Naitland, and received all the degrees ever given in connection with Masonry. He also instituted many other bodies of the craft, in this village, so that it became a centre for the craft and was known the world over.

Mr. Longley's mother lived until the year 1857. Mr. Longley operated this farm in Naitland, but always in charge of a foreman. One of his managers, Archibald McDougall, and his wife Polly Day manufactured the first cheese, in any quantity, in this district. The McDougalls milked sixty cows on the Longley Farm and Mrs. McDougall made the cheese. This couple were the grand-parents of Mr. H. S. McDougall of Brockville.

The river side of this farm was sold to the firm of Borse and Halliday who erected a large distillery which operated for some years. The whole point was covered with buildings. There were stables to hold one thousand head of cattle which were bought in the fall, and fattened during the winter on the residue from the grains used in the distillery.

The Grand Trunk Railway began to operate in 1855 and Naitland was a busy place. Several hundred men were employed to supply the thousands of cords of wood for the boilers.

This prosperity was shortlived. Litigation with the Excise Department put the distillery in bankruptcy. The buildings were dismantled and the land returned to the Longley

Estate. Mr. Longley died about this time. The estate disposed of the land north of the railroad in two farms, and one farm between Lapplehurst and the village was sold to the Wells Family.

Lapplehurst with about forty acres, was purchased by Mr. R. G. Hervey, Mrs. Longley's brother, along with the point on the river side of the road. Mr. Hervey was away from home most of the time building railroads, but his family were raised here. Mr. Hervey finally sold Lapplehurst and moved his family to Nova Scotia. The late William Skinner bought the farm and it has passed on to his son Robert.

Mr. Hervey retained possession of the point, and after some years returned here and lived till his death about the year 1908. The Misses Hervey came into possession and sold the place to the late Doctor Webster. Mrs. Webster still owns it together with some farm land purchased a few years ago. She made a success of breeding fancy horses, many of which have made names for themselves.

Such is the story of the farms from Brockville to Laitland. The village itself is worth a close study from the stately old church which crowns the hill to the water's edge. Much history has been made here.

Three or four hotels used to operate here. The large stone houses throughout the village were built long ago, some by the first Mr. Longley.

The first school in the County was opened in Laitland, as well as the first Grammar School in the two Counties, which stood where the Milk Plant now stands. The Grammar School represented the high school of today. The old frame school was afterwards used as a Customs House, and was torn down about forty years ago to make room for a cheese factory. It is not known where the first public school stood but the little stone building beside the present school was in use as a school over eighty years ago, and not new then.

The present store and post-office is conducted by the third generation of Duxbrilles. The grand-father operated a store but not always on that site. The store now owned by Mrs. Thompson has been in operation seventy-five years and has passed through many hands until it was purchased about thirty years ago by the late Ross Thompson. The old blacksmith shop and the frame house back of Mrs. Thompson's were built over a hundred years ago by the late Major Lemon.

The last hotel operated in Laitland was owned by the late Pat Doyle. A hotel has been operated on this site since 1784.

Before the war of 1812 a distillery was operated on the river shore behind the old blacksmith shop. This was afterwards turned into a brewery by Mr. McCarthy before he built the one near Prescott.

A flax mill to scutch and beat the flax was in operation seventy-five years ago. Many handicrafts have been carried on in small shops such as shoe-making, coopering, weaving and the making of furniture.

Laitland has sent its sons far and wide and they have won many honours for themselves, but it has yet to produce a first class criminal.

The English were not the first to develop the north shore of the St. Lawrence. This is the only spot between the Ottawa River and Kingston, where the French cut the trees and built a habitation during the time they were in possession of Canada.

In the year 1748 Abbe Picquet came from Quebec and established a mission at the mouth of the Oswegatchie River where Ogdensburg now stands. The Iroquois had expressed willingness to embrace Christianity and the French wished to keep them from the English who were quickly settling in the centre of what is now the state of New York. This mission Fort, for that was what it was, was called la Presentation. Oswegatchie was the Indian word for black water, and the name is suitable. After the fort was built the French wished to build some ships of war to operate against the English on Lake Ontario. When scouting for a site for a ship-yard, a point a few miles up the river was chosen because of the abundance of fine oak and pine trees. This was the east side of the Village of Laitland. Here they built the ship-yard. It was surrounded by a palisade fort somewhat star shaped, and enclosing six acres of land. The block-house was made of squared oak logs. There were two pitlike trenches dug to the water level in which the stocks or framework was set up to build the ships. Mr. Sharp says that when he came to Laitland, the old stockpits were visible and the blockhouse still standing. This was torn down and used for fuel by people who lived nearby. This fort was situated on the property now owned by Mr. A. B. Henderson, Mr. Fox and Miss E. Baker. The north point of the fort can be seen today on the farm of Mr. Barber, about five rods north of the stone cairn which was erected by the Historic Sites Department at Ottawa.

This cairn and tablet commemorates the naval battle between the French and the British in small boats, the latter were victorious. The battle took place above Point au Barrell.

The fort was not built to help in the struggle against the British, but as a ship-building station, and the palisades as a protection against the Indians. At no time were French soldiers stationed here. These palisades were made of cedar logs eight to ten inches in thickness and about twelve feet high. The logs were sharpened at the ends, and were set in a trench as closely as possible. At the north end of the fort, the nature of the ground made it impossible to dig a trench so the palisades were banked on each side. This ridge is still about three feet high.

Little interest was taken in this site till about nine years ago when the local branch of the Wescott's Institute erected a marker giving the information, and the cairn was built later. Due to these ladies the site is now well known locally and will never be forgotten.

General Wolfe took Quebec in 1759, as every school boy knows, but few know that the French did not give up their possession along the river until the following year.

The French were forced to give up their out-posts when General Amherst came across the country to where Sackett's Harbour now stands. There he embarked his army of ten thousand red coats and seven hundred Indians, in eight hundred small boats, and made his way down the St. Lawrence. This vast army journeying down the river and through the wilderness must have been an imposing sight, especially among the Thousand Islands.

The first fortifications to be reached were this French Ship-yards then named Pointe au Baril. General Amherst unloaded his men in the Bay above the point and sent them to surround the fort. The French fired a few shots as they embarked in their small boats and retreated down the river to Fort Lewis where Ogdensburg now stands. The British followed and took the fort a few days later. These were the last shots exchanged between the French and the British in North America.

General Amherst found some half completed ships in the stocks at the ship-yard which he burned. One or two ships were at anchor in the Bay and these he sunk.

No better place to launch ships could have been found along the river shore, using the primitive methods of that time. A short distance from the shore, the rocks drop off sharply into quite deep water.

The late Mr. E. H. Pearson told that when he was a boy, about ninety years ago, two men spent several days on this bay trying to locate these vessels. They claimed to have

located one, but never came back to raise it. The vessels were about one hundred and sixty ton boats and were equipped with sail and carried a goodly number of cannon.

The first two vessels built here were named the Iroquois and the Ontaouise, and were the last French vessels to sail on Lake Ontario. These two vessels were captured by General Amherst above the point. In that engagement the Ontaouise carried fourteen guns and a fighting crew of one hundred men.

When the Loyalist pioneers came in 1783-4, they found the ruins of this fort. The district round about was called New Oswegatchie until after the war of 1812-1814.

The old fort was situated on Lot 29 Augusta. John Ross Robertson, in his history, says that this land was granted to a soldier in Amherst's army. This seems to be a mistake as it was held as military land which included the land half way back to the second Concession. It is known that the Black Family who came directly from the Old Country cleared and built on the rear half of this land. However, the rest of the history relating to this part of the village fits in with the story of the next farm.

The next farm is now owned by Mr. H. Barber. The river front of this property is now built up with fine summer homes. This farm is on Lot 28. This lot does not appear to be granted to the Loyalists of Jessup's Corps who landed at Johnstown in 1784.

The first individual to own this land was Eiba Phillips who took possession in 1788. He came here before the revolution from Syracuse, N.Y. where he was employed by the Selina Salt works. Before coming here he moved to the shore of Lake Ontario and built the first house where the City of Oswego now stands. He was agent for the salt works, and in that capacity visited Canada, as far east as Quebec, at least twice. There is no record that he took part in the war, but being very British in his sentiments he withdrew from the States and came to Canada to make his home. It is not known whether he purchased this two hundred acres or if it was granted to him.

On a little hill between the road and the river, just where Mr. H. E. Stephenson of Montreal has built his summer home, Mr. Phillips built his first house. The shape of the foundation was quite visible when Mr. Stephenson built. The east end of this old foundation can still be traced on the lot

just east of this one, now owned by Mr. C. F. Dunbrille. This old house must have been built of logs but had a stone foundation. Lombard poplars were planted around it. Some are still growing, the stumps of others can still be seen. A well was dug to the north west of the house. Mr. Phillips did not engage in farming, nor do we know that he cleared the land. He sold or let the land on the north side of the road to two brothers by the name of Hogan. It is not known where these brothers came from but they were supposed to be priests. There is some doubt about this claim as there are no records that they ever celebrated Mass or took part in any church activities. These brothers brought some money with them for they built the large stone house with the cottage roof which is so well remembered. Mr. Barber built his barn on the foundation of this old house. It was a large house, three stories in height, and walls nearly three feet in thickness. There was a large fire-place on the second floor which was supported in the basement by a large stone buttment.

It is supposed that the road then ran along the north side of the house. It was here that the surveyor ran the first base line to lay out the farms. It is certain that the line ran in front of St. James Church. All the land from this line to the river was called "broken front". Each lot from the base line to the second line contained two hundred acres. The broken front lot was not included in the two hundred acres, but was added as an extra.

It is said that the Hogan Brothers built this large stone house to start a college. About the time it was completed one of the brothers was found drowned in the well in front of the Phillips house. The well was immediately covered with a large flat stone and two feet of earth. It was forgotten until six years ago when some workmen were grading the grounds of Mr. Stephenson's home and the well was uncovered. The present owner has had it cleaned and drilled, it can now be seen from the highway.

It is thought the house was built about 1800 - accurate dates cannot be ascertained. In 1807 it was owned by Samuel Weatherhead who came here from Barbadoes, West Indies. He brought with him several slaves. The chimney of the old slave quarters was standing till a few years ago. Many old residents tell stories of these slaves.

Masonic records tell of a lodge being held in this house in 1807-8, but do not say who lived here. It must have been Weatherhead, as Mr. E. L. Weatherhead of Brockville has an old day book of a store operated here from 1807 till after the war of 1812. In the war records there is an account of a party of Americans plundering the Weatherhead store and shooting several men in the doorway of the store.

The Weatherheads must have possessed the whole lot, as the point where Mrs. McKay's house now stands was marked on the old river maps as Weatherhead's Point. Some of the Loyalists, especially the Bissell Family, tell of their people coming in boats from Johnstown and landing on this point. At that time it was without a name, and was afterwards called Weatherhead's Point.

John Weatherhead, the oldest son, was an officer in the war of 1812, and distinguished himself at Chrysler's Farm. He was afterwards a Custom's Officer at Brockville. The Weatherhead Family moved to the Rideau District when the Canal was built.

The northern part of this lot was sold off years ago. From the railroad to the river was in possession of the Adams family for years. South of the road was bought by Mr. H. Lemon who divided it in lots.

From the highway to the railroad came into the possession of Mr. Barber and he remodelled the old stone house into a barn. The Phillips family occupied the house by the river until 1818 when getting possession of the old French fort and adjacent grounds. Mr. Phillips journeyed to York, now Toronto, to get a title from the Governor, so the government must have held claim to this military land up to this time.

The locality was still called Now Oswegatchie or Svegatzie. The last name is often used but I have never found a meaning for it.

The Governor for Upper Canada at that time was Sir Peregrine Kaitland and in the interview Mr. Phillips had with him they agreed upon Kaitland for a name, so that is how Kaitland was named.

It was under Mr. Phillips that the east side of the village was laid out. He built a house near the river in the old ship-yard and another one up the hill, near the church, on a lot now vacant and owned by Mr. F. Winterson. Many can recall the old house when it was occupied by Mr. Alfred Vanorman, a relative of Mr. Phillips. At one time Dr. Ziba B. Phillips, a son of the original settler, lived in this house. Dr. Phillips was born in Oswego in 1787 and was one year old when he came to Canada. He was a lieutenant of twenty-five when he was wounded in the war of 1812. Later he studied medicine and practiced around Kaitland and Brockville till he died in 1847.

Dr. Phillips is better known for his activities in Free Masonry. He was in reality the first Canadian Grand Master. Although he was not officially in that office he performed all the work. It is through Masonic history that the story of this family is so well known. The time of the death of Mr. Phillips Sr. is not known but he can be called the "Father of the Village of Laitland".

Another landmark on the Phillips Farm is the old headstone which marked a grave by the river shore. This is on the lot now occupied by the summer home of Mr. H. M. Dunbrille of New York. The grave was in a little hollow near the water. This hollow has been filled up. The stone was laid flat before the grading. Nobody is buried there now but an interesting story is connected with it.

About the middle of the last century the Adams Family came here from the southern States. They bought the Phillips Farm including the river front. Mr. Adams had a son who was a great hunter and keen sportsman. He went north annually to hunt deer. In the summers he spent a great deal of time in the little dell down near the river. He was stricken with a lingering illness and expressed the wish that he be buried in this little dell. His wishes were carried out and his father erected a white marble headstone in the style in vogue at that time. This stone could be clearly seen from the river, and was well known to all rivermen until a few years ago when it was obscured by bushes. One Sunday morning a few years after his death, some boys found the grave freshly dug up. This caused much excitement and many stories have been told. It was said that while he was hunting his favourite dog was shot by an Indian. He immediately shot the Indian and left at once for home to escape the vengeance of the tribe. It is thought that some brave dug up his bones and scattered them to avenge the death of his tribesman. This story would have been believed if a medical student had not been seen in the vicinity that day in conference with a local character. This man had no money on Saturday and some on Monday so the medical student from Ogdensburg was continuing his studies. This true story was never told and the one about the Indian was believed until a few years ago. No harm can come of telling the true version now. A well known citizen of Brockville was one of the boys who found the open grave sixty years ago.

This old landmark is gone now and nearly forgotten as there are no descendants of the family.

The east half of this farm is now owned and occupied by Mr. B. Dillon, a well known architect of Brockville. He owns the east half of Lot 28 which lies between the highway and the railroad.

In the year 1852 the late John Dumbrille, grandfather of Clifford Dumbrille, came here from the County of Sussex in England. He built the stone house now occupied by Mr. Dillon. The Grand Trunk Railway was under construction at this time. Mr. Dumbrille had learned in the Old Country telegraphy, and was appointed the first Station Master in Laitland, and held the position for about six years. He then became interested in the mercantile business and opened a store in the village in 1858. This store is still operated by his grandson. Mr. John Dumbrille was a man of some education and was granted a dispensing chemist's certificate. He also kept the office for the Montreal Telegraph Company, was Justice of the Peace, Reeve of Augusta for several years, and Warden of the United Counties in 1876. When he retired from business his son Frank took over the store.

Mr. Dumbrille sold his farm about the year 1876 to the Reverend Richard Lewis, P.A., who was at that time rector of Prescott and Augusta. He built the stone house of many gables on the river side of the road, now the home of Mrs. McKay. Mr. Lewis gave up the Prescott parish and became rector of Laitland about 1862. He was a man much interested in all phases of farm life. He owned and operated the farm now owned by Mr. G. A. Fox. Mr. Lewis employed several men and personally supervised his farms as well as attending to his duties in the parish. His house and grounds were always in fine order and a beauty spot in the neighbourhood. As he grew older he was assisted in the parish by several curates. He died in 1899 having been in charge of this parish for forty years. When his estate was settled the house and farm were sold separately. The house was owned by several people till Mrs. McKay bought it about twenty years ago. Today it is one of the finest homes on the river front.

The next place with the fine stone house and the river front not yet divided into lots is the home of Mr. E. I. Weatherhead. This is known as the Pearson Farm and is the west half of Lot 27, and was granted originally by the Crown to Corporal Abijah Hawley, patented February 10, 1797, and contained one hundred and thirty acres. Nothing is known of Corporal Hawley. There is no record that he took part in any of the activities of that time. The farm passed into possession of James Pearson 1808. Pearson, just from England, lived here only a short time when he moved to the Rideau section where Merrickville now stands. The Pearsons were very active in the development of that section. He left on the farm in Augusta, his son Albert who was a great factor in the military and business life of the river front.

Albert Pearson was the first man to manufacture shoes in any quantity. Before this the shoemaker visited the homes once a year making shoes for all the family. Many small tanneries were started throughout the country. In fact, every third or fourth farmer tanned hides for himself and neighbour. The tanning pits were usually near a stream, and several years were required in the process. Albert Pearson's first step was to acquire the land along the stream to the east. Here he started to tan leather in larger quantities. He started to manufacture shoes and sometimes employed five or six shoemakers, for all work was done by hand. The business was of considerable size for the times, but was increased after he sold it. The stone building just east of the house with the end to the road was used as the shoe shop. Mr. Pearson also operated several large farms. He took part in the war of 1812 and was promoted till he commanded two companies of the Grenville Militia, evidently given the rank of Major. His commission and sword are still in the family.

Mr. Pearson built the large stone house. His son, the late W. H. Pearson, told that when the house was still under construction a man came along who was selling clocks. He may have been Thomas Haliburton's Sam Slick. Mr. Pearson bought a clock for one hundred dollars, a lot of money in those days. The clock, according to directions was placed on the wall before the house was plastered. Great care was taken that it would be level. The clock was then plastered to the wall. For many years it was the most accurate timepiece in the community. The old gentleman was always proud of his clock and well satisfied with his purchase.

Mr. Albert Pearson had two sons, Albert and William Henry, both of whom spent their lives in this locality. Albert Sr. spent all his life on this place. The late Simon Pearson of Prescott was his son. A. D. Pearson of Laitland is the son of William Henry. Both are grandsons of the Albert Pearson who built the house, and great grandsons of the first James Pearson, the first owner of this place.

Mr. E. Weatherhead has owned the Pearson Farm for some years. It is just east of the lot where his grandfather kept store throughout the war of 1812-1814.

The Pearson Farm was the west half of Lot 27. The east half of Lot 27 and all of Lot 26, over three hundred acres, was granted to Elijah Bottum, who held the rank of Captain under Rogers or Jessup. Down to the river, through the lot to the east, flows what is now called Lemon's Creek. This stream is marked on the old French maps and charts which show the old fort. It was then called the New Oswegatchie. They seemed

determined to retain all the names used farther down the river, the idea being to keep the new venture under one control. While in that day the stream was much larger than it is now, it requires some imagination to compare it with the slow black waters which empty into the river at Ogdensburg.

The first industrial development of any size in the Counties was at the mouth of this stream. It consisted of different units making the necessities of pioneer life.

This one hundred acres together with the land at the mouth of the stream was disposed of by Captain Bottum soon after he drew it. It was purchased by a man named Hulbert who built a saw-mill just south of where the highway crosses this stream. The mill was run by water power. It was built about the same time as Sherwood's, a few miles west, and was really the first mill to saw for the settlers. Mr. Sherwood's mill was a small affair and built for his own use. The one built by Hulbert was of much larger capacity. Mr. Hulbert sold a few acres below the mill near the mouth of the stream to Mr. Pearson for his tannery, which needed large quantities of water. In 1812 both these businesses were in operation.

Just at this time Major Lemon enters the picture. He was always referred to by that title. Major Lemon was born in New York State. His father served under Burgoyne during the revolution. He set out for Canada with a band of Loyalists, accompanied by his wife and one small child. The father died on the way or shortly after his arrival. His wife and child were cared for by another Loyalist named Butler, who drew a farm at the east end of Brockville. Butler was one of the early cholera victims. When the Lemon boy was quite small he was apprenticed to a blacksmith, named Seeley, who ran a blacksmith shop north of Brockville where the Tin Cap is now situated. In this shop they started to manufacture scythes which are said to be the first farm implements to be made in Upper Canada. When war broke out in 1812 Seeley and young Lemon enlisted in the Militia and served throughout the war. Lemon finished with the rank of Lieutenant. Shortly after the war he came to Maitland and built the stone shop now used as a garage. He also built a house which is still standing. He married a daughter of Adoniram Burritt of Lot 29 on the second Concession.

When Major Lemon started his blacksmith shop the only available iron were pigs of raw iron weighing one hundred pounds. These were sledged into the desired shapes. About this time the Hulbert saw-mill burned down from an over heated shaft. Major Lemon, seeing an opportunity for development bought the farm and remains of the old mill, including the water rights. The tannery was still in operation. Major Lemon

erected another mill south of the tannery and other buildings in which he started a foundry, and blacksmith shop. Here he operated what was probably the first farm implement factory in Upper Canada. Ploughs were the main line and the Lemon Plough was known all over what is now Ontario. Much rich land of the Western Counties has been broken with this plough. Other implements were manufactured as well. Later a grist mill and a mill for carding wool were added. When his oldest son grew up he built a large stone flour mill, about thirty rods east on the river shore. A large flume carried the water under the road and down to the mill which was driven with an over-shot wheel. This mill did a flourishing business until the son, Charles B., had to leave the business on account of his health. The business was sold and passed through several hands. Later a steam-engine was installed. It was dismantled some years ago and Mr. W. McGill uses the building for farm purposes. It is a four storey building and can be seen from the road.

Major Lemon commanded a company in the fight at the Windmill in 1838, and had command of a large section of the riverfront during the Fenian Raid in the sixties.

About the middle of the century the Pearson Tannery was purchased by Mr. Hall, afterwards of Brockville, who enlarged and modernized it. He employed about twenty men. With the tannery, the saw-mill, the foundry, the carding-mill, and several other trades working in the vicinity, this was a busy place which contributed many of the necessities of life of the countryside. Many of the workers lived nearby, and some in the village.

Major Lemon was married the second time when well on in years. Miran Lemon is a son of this marriage and still owns the old farm.

The first house on the place was built by Mr. Hulbert on the site of the house on the north side of the road. The house by the river and all other stone buildings were built by the Major. The stone work of these were laid by the Young Family, who were Scotch stone-masons, and whose descendants now live on the Second Concession of Augusta.

In those days there was no thirty-five hour week and no minimum wage law. Each man worked to up-hold his reputation and for wages that would be spurned today, yet each family was well clothed and well fed. The sound of the spinning wheel was heard in every house and the thump of the loom in every third or fourth home. Flax and wool were spun and woven in the early days in Augusta. About every twenty-five years the men had to shoulder the old muskett and drive the invader from the border, and they never failed.

This is a very short account of the happenings around this small stream. Many more stories could be told, and much better explained as to how goods were made by methods now obsolete.

Next along the highway is the hip-roofed or double-roofed house. This is situated in the centre of the three hundred and some acres which were granted to Elijah Bottum. On the north side of the road is a large basin which in the olden days was full of water, held there by a dam, to run the mills. This basin is now dry. In the spring time water can be seen pouring over a five-foot waterfall with a roar that would do credit to a much larger falls. In different spots in this pasture are quarries from which stone was taken to build the stone buildings in the vicinity. Just inside the fence and opposite the house on the other side of the road can be seen the foundation of an old blacksmith shop where axes were manufactured. It was operated by a man named Hurd who once owned the farm. It was in operation when the plough works and other such industries were running. The first implement of the pioneer was the axe. With it he cleared the land and built his log house. With the plough he broke the land and with his scythe he cut his crop. With the wool and flax he made his clothes, with the tanned hides he made his shoes. Surely this vicinity was self-contained!

The farm on the north side of the road is now owned by the writer and has been in the family for over forty-five years.

The land on the south side of the road contains about sixteen acres, and is beautifully sloped down to the river.

The large old-fashioned house was built by Captain Bottum. At one time this house was twice its present size. The other part was like the remaining portion and had one end to the river. Captain Bottum was an important man in these parts. There is a record of a speech he made at a banquet at Johnstown given in honour of the Governor Simcoe. The story goes that after the Governor had departed up the river the other members of the party remained at the table until all had disappeared under the table.

The Captain was described as a soldierly figure with a basket-hilted Scotch sword or claymore strapped to his side. There are no descendants of that name in the vicinity today but the Haley boys of Maitland are great-great-grandsons.

Captain Bottum sold the place to the Hurd Family who were pioneers on the rear of Lot 29 on the second Concession. Mr. Hurd ran the farm and the axe shop for several years. In

the middle of the century it was purchased by a retired sergeant of the British Army named Bowyer. This family held the river front until about twenty years ago. It then passed through several hands until it was purchased a few years ago by the late Professor Lacoun of the Department of Horticulture of the Dominion Government at Ottawa. He considered this an ideal location and planned to retire here, but he died amid his flowers and fruits on the grounds of the Experimental Farm at Ottawa. He gave to the country many new varieties of fruit and some of the outstanding varieties of apples. He was also engaged with Dr. Saunders in introducing hardy varieties of wheat.

There was a rumour that a monument was to be erected in Professor Lacoun's memory. What better step could a grateful country take than to make a memorial park of this piece of ground which he wished to improve? The Government has never seen fit to place any of the beautiful Grenville river front at the disposal of the public for picnics and swimming. The County of Leeds has such a park. This is an excellent site for such a park, and is so situated that it would be a pleasant weekend drive from some of the larger centres such as Ottawa.

Professor Lacoun made no money out of his discoveries, they belonged to the country he served. If he had patented a good mouse trap he would have had more money in his pocket. Much money is spent for less important purposes than building such a park, even in these stringent times. The first occupant of the farm was a good soldier, the last a good horticulturist.

The next farm is now owned and operated by Mr. T. McLean. This is the east side of the Botton grant. This was sold early in the last century to a Scotchman named Rylie. He cleared the land and built the stone house and other buildings. He was noted for his success in farming. He had one daughter who married Mr. W. McTaggart who operated this farm until Mrs. McTaggart died and the farm was sold to Mr. McLean about thirty years ago. Mr. Rylie is buried in St. James Cemetery but Mr. McTaggart is still alive and lives in Western Ontario with his daughter. He is ninety-four years of age and makes his yearly pilgrimage to Kaitland to see his friends and the scenes of his youth.

The next farm without any buildings belongs to Mr. Wm. McGill who owns and lives on part of the old Lomon property. This half lot was originally granted to Henry Cross. Nothing can now be learned about this man or his family. It is known that he built a house and barns and lived here. In the History of Free Masonry of Canada is found an account of the first Masonic Procession and Banquet in Upper Canada. The account

reads "The Lodge met in New Oswegatchie at high twelve and paraded to the house of Brother Henry Cross on Lot 25 Augusta where dinner was served. No clergyman being present, one of the members read a sermon for the edification of the Brethren". This was on St. John's Day the 27th of December 1788. The records do not say where the lodge met. There could not have been a tavern in the village at that time. We do not know just where the road ran, but it was somewhere near the base-line which would make it above the falls on Lot 26. Down this road for a mile paraded a few men, two by two, in proper dress which consisted of short trousers, white stockings and gloves, white aprons, and three cornered hats. The Masons of this district still observe St. John's Day.

The original house on this farm was some distance back from the road. The farm was sold to the Pearson Family who built a house near where the road now runs. The cellar of this house can still be seen.

An incident worthy of note took place along this road about this time. The exact spot cannot be determined but it is thought to be near one of these farms. A man, named Church, met another man whose name is not known. These men quarrelled for some unknown reason and Church was hit over the head by a club. Church returned the blow, some say with a bottle, others say the handle of a pick-axe. It had the unfortunate effect of killing the man instantly. Church immediately gave himself up to the acting Sheriff. No court with authority would meet for some time so the prisoner was entrusted to Timothy Hodge for safe-keeping who promised to produce him in court when properly called to do so. For nearly nine months Church lived with Hodge and assisted in the clearing of several acres of land. In due time the court assembled near, or in Cornwall, and Church was tried for manslaughter and convicted. His sentence, the only one of its kind on record in Upper Canada, was having an ear cut off, a red-hot iron run through his hand, and banishment from the country.

While these pioneers were British to the core, they seemed to have brought some of the Puritan spirit with them from the New England Colonies. At this time petty offences were punished by so many hours in the stocks, or so many lashes at the whipping post. The ducking-stool does not seem to have been used. Lost offenders were banished to the United States which was an easy way to be rid of undesirables. Of course there were no Immigration Officers at that time.

In front of the old Cross Farm and the adjoining one are the high clay banks which are so well-known along the river. The water here is shallow and the bottom hard and smooth, making this a favourite spot of the small boys on a hot summer's evening.

The large square house is the home of Mr. G. A. Fox. This farm was part of the land granted to the Wells Family. The house was built by Isaac Brock Wells, son of the pioneer William Wells. Isaac Brock was born in 1812 at the beginning of the war, and named after General Brock. Isaac lived on this farm and in this house till he was appointed Postmaster at Maitland. He held that position until he was made Collector of Customs for that Port. That was in the days when the volume of business was very large and several officers were employed there.

The northern part of this farm was sold when the railway was built to the late John Burns, and is still in the family. The Wells Farm contained some of the best farm land in the Township. At this point the present road goes down a hill, and through a cut in the banks, crosses a small stream. Here you can see the remains of the old road which ran close to the water. It can be traced to Prescott, sometimes along the present road and sometimes some distance away.

This stream today is small and of little use but was used extensively in these early days when Dunham boats were in use. These boats were long with flat bottoms with a shoe of iron to protect the keel in shallow water. They were propelled with poles with wooden pins about every yard on the upper part of the handle. These boats kept to shallow water. There were two poles to a boat and two men to a pole. The poles were placed against the bottom of the river and the men, hand over hand, grasping the pins as if climbing a ladder. These boats were often forty feet long and carried heavy loads. When the wind blew they made for the nearest creek and waited there till the wind died down. The late Mr. Alex Halcy told that the Well's Creek was a favourite harbour. There was plenty of water in it to float a Dunham boat for forty rods from the river. In the war of 1812 they were completely hidden in this creek which could be easily defended from the bushes on the banks.

On the river shore, just east of this creek, stood a school house. It may have been the first school in Augusta. It is certain that the vicinity of Maitland had the first Grammar School. Mr. F. P. Smith of Kingston in his History of Education in Eastern Ontario will properly locate the sites of these schools.

The road which runs north at this point is still known as the Well's Road. It does not run straight but due to swampy land turns and runs thirty rods to the west after it crosses the railroad tracks, then runs straight north for two Concessions.

At the junction of these two roads is the fine farm and buildings of Mr. George S. McLean, now the Deputy Reeve

of the Township. These buildings replace those destroyed by fire some years ago. The old buildings had been erected by William Wells, and were situated by the river. Here the first cheese factory was operated. This factory with considerable capacity was owned by Mr. Russell McNish, a pioneer in the cheese business in the Counties. It then passed into the hands of Mr. McLeans father and then to Mr. McLean who operated it till business changes and motor transportation made it unprofitable.

Just east of the Well's Road and the Highway stands a very large stone house similar in style to most of the houses on this part of the river. This is the old Well's homestead and is now owned by Mr. Henry Cole. Mr. Cole is one of the very few graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College who is farming in Eastern Ontario. Mr. Cole purchased the eastern half of the original farm from the estate of the late Mr. James Burns who had purchased fifty years ago from the Well's estate. This is a short list of owners.

The house was built very early in the last century. I can not establish the exact date. It was erected by William Wells who was born in New Hampshire, then a British Province. His father was a revolutionist but William disagreed with his father and friends. When he was nineteen years old he left home and started for the Loyalist settlement on the St. Lawrence. Here he drew a grant of land near where Mallorytown now stands. He lived here a short time and then moved to Augusta. Some records say he bought this tract of land but the old list of grants gives his name and that he was granted one half a lot. It does not mention the rest of the farm so it may be assumed that he was the first owner of all the land from Henry Cross' lot to the line below the stone house.

Mr. William Wells made a trip back to his old house in 1799 and was married to Sarah Clough, daughter of Benjamin Clough of Salem, Mass. We may surmise that it was about this time that the house was built. Immediately after his marriage he started in the timber business which extended along the St. Lawrence and into the Bay of Quinte district. He did a flourishing business in the Thousand Islands. He leased two large islands from the Indians, the larger of which is still known as Well's Island. The other is called Grindstone Island. On these islands he laid out farms, improved them, and then rented them to tenants. After he had spent much money on this land it was ceded to the United States and Mr. Wells was never compensated for his heavy loss. He then extended his operations to the Rideau district which was attracting much notice at this time by the building of the Rideau Canal. He also operated on one of the tributaries of the Ottawa River and was the first to lumber on the Bonnochere. He retired from the lumber business about 1832.

Mr. Wells served in the Grenville Militia, first as a Lieutenant, then as a Captain. He served in the war of 1812-1814, and at one time was taken prisoner in his house and taken to Ogdensburg. He was on parole till 1814. There was quite a struggle in the capture of this house and the bullet holes can be seen yet. The enemy crossed on the ice and after capturing the house used it as a military post. The Americans were in command of a man called Forsyth. He held this house until he was forced to retire by the Canadians.

Mr. Wells was one of the Commissioners of the Peace for the District of Johnstown and magistrate as well. If any one will take the trouble to read the political happenings of the time he will discover that Mr. Wells took an active part in politics. He died October 10, 1842 after a very busy life. He contributed much for the betterment of the Counties.

The next farm is owned by Mr. Albert Keeler who carries on extensive gardening operations. This half lot contained originally 11 1/2 acres and was granted by the Crown to Benoni Wilcox. Little is known in Augusta of Captain Wilcox. He must have sold this grant in Augusta very soon because we find that Captain Wilcox located the first land and built the first log cabin in the Township of Young and Prescott in the County of Leeds.

Just a few rods east of Mr. Keeler's house can be seen the remains of an old house. This house was large and was long and low compared to some of the pioneer houses. I understand this was built by Doctor Henderson who acquired this place at an early date. Dr. Henderson was a prominent figure in Augusta in the first half of the last century. He was a good medical doctor and a much respected gentleman.

After his death the farm came to his son the late Rufus Henderson who sold it to the Keeler Family about fifty years ago. Mr. Henderson retired to the Village of Fairland. He left no descendants of that name but there are several great grand children of Doctor Henderson who live in the district.

Leaving the Keeler Farm we now come to the Jones Estate which is still of the original width. It was granted to Doctor Solomon Jones when he arrived in Augusta with the Loyalists. He was granted the east half of lot 23 and all of lot 22, 345 acres in all, which does not include a grant of many acres farther from the river. This is the only property on the highway between Brockville and Prescott that has not changed hands or been sold out of the family at some time.

The father of Doctor Jones came to America from Wales about the time Canada was taken from France by the British. He settled near Fort Edward, New York, and raised a family of seven sons. At the outbreak of the war the whole family remained loyal to the Crown. Dr. Solomon Jones, one of seven, joined Burgoyne's Army as Medical Officer. When this army surrendered at Saratoga the doctor was not taken prisoner. He escaped to Canada and joined the British forces at Three Rivers acting in the same capacity as sergeant.

After the war Doctor Solomon threw in his lot with the Loyalists who were settling on the north bank of the St. Lawrence. He seems to have been more fortunate than some of his neighbours for he was able to have some of his effects and his family safely transported to his holdings. We understand that the family still possess a large grandfather clock which was carried through the bush slung between two horses. In this clock was packed a set of china which is still intact today. The transportation companies have nothing to boast of in these modern times.

The first house was the usual log structure of the pioneer. The doctor started to practice his profession as soon as he arrived. His district was from Montreal to Kingston. Later another doctor started to practice in Cornwall which cut down his territory. There were no improved roads in those days so a horse and saddle carried the worthy doctor far and wide.

The large stone house was built for him in 1796 and was the first of its kind on this stretch of road. He chose a site well back from the road for we know the old road followed the river closely along this part of the shore. Many traces of it still exist. I should judge that at this point the roads coincide.

Doctor Jones was very interested in the advancement of this new country and was elected to the first Parliament of Upper Canada. He was also Judge of Johnstown Court. His brother David was unmarried and resided with the doctor. David died before Solomon who died in 1822. They are both buried at the Blue Church along with many succeeding generations.

He was succeeded by his son, Dunham, who was born in 1793 and served throughout the war of 1812-1814, and the insurrection of 1837. He afterwards commanded the Grenville Militia as Lieutenant Colonel. He was for many years Collector of Customs at the Port of Laitland. He died in 1877.

The late Doctor W. H. Jones of Prescott was one of his sons. No man in Grenville was ever more respected than he was.

The farm came to another son, Andrew, who passed a long and useful life here. Then it passed into the possession of Mr. Harold Jones. Mr. Jones and his son, Justus, have made a name for themselves by producing apples. A large portion of the tillable land has been planted with trees.

This is the fifth generation to operate the farm and all have lived in the same house. The house is sturdy enough to withstand the wear and tear of several more generations.

Just east of the Jones Farm we come to the Wilson Farm now occupied by Mr. E. Dawson. This is the west half of Lot 21 and is not mentioned in the old lists of grants. However, we know the first owner was Daniel MacKenzie, a Scotchman, but not a Loyalist. He with his cousin Sir Alexander MacKenzie and his party were the first white men to cross Canada and discovered the MacKenzie River, as well as many lesser ones.

We do not know whether he was granted this half lot or bought it. He built the house which is without doubt the oldest on the north shore. We do not know exactly when it was built. Mr. Harold Jones says it was erected before theirs, which was built in 1796. The house is made of wood. It has several large fireplaces. It is told that in connection with one of these fireplaces is a secret room or cache which would hold a boat load of goods. It was supposed to be used to hide smuggled tobacco or tea. In those early days the road followed the shore very closely for at this point the road ran between the house and the river.

About 1840 this place was sold to Andrew Wilson who came from the Bathurst district in the vicinity of Perth. The Bathurst settlement was begun by a group of disbanded Scotch soldiers. The Wilson Family were among these settlers.

Andrew Wilson and his brother started to study law. While very young Andrew married Jane Bolton and was forced to abandon his studies by an increasing family. His father bought him this farm on the St. Lawrence.

His brother, John, continued his studies. While he was still young he quarrelled with a fellow student who challenged him to fight a duel. Wilson fought the duel and killed his opponent. He was arrested and tried for manslaughter. He conducted his own defence and was acquitted. This was the last duel ever fought in Canada. He was admitted to the Bar and later became Judge Wilson of Middlesex County.

Andrew Wilson raised a large family on this farm, ten girls and three boys. He was a man of education and sound

judgement and filled many public positions. He was Reeve of the Township and was appointed by the Provincial Government a member of a commission to report on the condition of agriculture. He was succeeded on the farm by his son, John, who was the father of the present owner, Willis Wilson, C.R.R. agent at Morrisburg.

East of the Wilson Farm is the modern home of Mr. William McLean. It is known as Maple Row Farm. This farm was purchased about sixty years ago by the father of the present owner. It was he who built the brick house and the out-buildings. It passed into the hands of the son about ten or twelve years ago.

This farm is the west half of Lot 21 containing 128 acres. This was granted by the Crown to John Snider a Loyalist who came from the State of New York.

The land on which New York is now situated and the land along the coast belonged to the Dutch before the coming of the British. It was known as Lanhattan and was a colony of Holland. The Dutch forbid her colonists to trade or barter with anyone but the Mother Country. She allowed a very low price for the furs obtained from the Indians and supplied the cloth and other goods at a very high rate. This Dutch settlement did not prosper under such treatment. When Lanhattan was taken by the British and her colonists began to settle here the Dutch settlers were well treated and their trade was not restricted. They prospered and enjoyed more freedom than ever before. When the revolution broke out many of them felt honour bound to the British. They gave up their land and came with the Loyalists. Many of the names on the old lists were of Dutch origin. They were not the same or related to the German Palatines who came from what is now the province of Bavaria. These are the people about whom Washington Irving has written much in his numerous stories.

John Snider was of this Dutch race and we find that he was granted this half lot and several whole lots in other Townships. He built and lived on this farm and then passed it on to his son, Peter, who lived here all his life. The original families are all buried in the Blue Church Cemetery. Captain W. L. Snider of Brockville is a direct descendant.

East of Maple Row is the farm of Mr. R. J. McLean, a brother of William. This lot was bought without any buildings from the old Harlock Farm. Mr. McLean has made many improvements. His fine apple orchard is well known. This is the west half of Lot 20 and belongs to the grant described in the following paragraphs.

Lots 19 and 20, Augusta, were granted to Ephriam Jones. He was the father of the Honourable Charles Jones and others of Brockville. Ephriam was better known as Commissary Jones because it was he who had charge of distributing the supplies issued to the settlers, and supplied by the Imperial Government. It must be remembered that the Loyalists had practically nothing to begin with and were issued certain tools and supplies. Commissary Jones was in charge of these supplies and we are led to believe that on this farm was the supply depot for the United Counties. When supplies were discontinued he started in the mercantile business in Brockville.

It seems very hard to get reliable information about this important farm which is now divided, though at the present time in possession of Doctor T. M. Robertson.

The Commissary sold the farm early in the century to a man who came here from the Old Country whose name was Simpson. Mr. Simpson lived here four years but later lived somewhere in Quebec. Mr. Andrew Young tells me that his grandfather came here from Scotland with his family to work this farm for Mr. Simpson. The Young Family were all stone masons. They operated this farm until it was sold to Thomas Lurdoek who bought it without seeing it because the price seemed reasonable. Mr. Young tells me that there were two houses on the farm near where the railway now runs. He understands that Mr. Lurdoek built the large stone house with the cottage roof, but he does not seem to be sure of this point.

This makes this farm the one which several have endeavoured to locate as the home of the Right Honourable John A. Roebuck when he was a boy in Canada. Roebuck was born in India and spent his early years in an English school. His father was dead and his mother was married to a man named Simpson who lived in Canada for four years. He is said to have lived somewhere between Brockville and Prescott but all effort to locate the exact farm has failed. So, no doubt, this is the farm.

Roebuck was a member of the British House of Commons, and was known as a radical reformer. Some of his utterances would seem to fit in with some of our Communistic ideas of today. He was a strong supporter of Papineau and pleaded his cause in the British House. In the Executive Council he worked for Responsible Government for Canada. The only link connecting his name to the Counties is a district in Augusta known as Roebuck. Perhaps he never travelled that far back in the Township. In his autobiography he has much to say about his boyhood days in Augusta. In fact, tells more of conditions in Augusta in 1815 than can be found elsewhere.

Mr. Lurdock cleared most of the land and perhaps he built the stone house. Roebuck lived in a stone house which he said was built by Ephriam Jones. Levitt's History says that E. Jones built the first stone house in the Counties. Mr. Lurdock divided the farm and built the brick house for one of his sons. This was afterwards sold to the Bennington Family and was the home of Colonel A. A. Bennington until his death. The farm still belongs to his estate and is leased to Doctor Robertson who owns the west half. These two farms are operated by the doctor whose herd of Holstein Cattle are becoming famous throughout the country. Some river lots have been sold. One summer home is owned by a sister of the late Colonel Bennington.

Between the Ephriam Jones Farm and the Heck Farm is one without a number. It is known as the Centre Commons. It was an "over-run" when the first survey was made. It was meant for a road but no road was ever built. This farm is now owned by Mr. H. Lynn and is noted for his large collection of black foxes.

This land was taken very early by the Hartley Family. They must have been Loyalists, at least they came from New York State. The records do not show that they received any grants of land. They built the house now occupied by Mr. Lynn. One of the daughters of this Hartley Family married Peter Snider, and a son of the second generation married the eldest daughter of Andrew Wilson. This was the last of the family as he moved back to New York State and settled on a farm near Gouverneur.

The farm was next owned by Hugh Shields. He had no family and left the place to the late George Bowyer who lived here many years. Since then it has changed owners several times until it came into the possession of Mr. Lynn who has added many improvements.

Passing the Fox Farm or Centre Commons we come to Lot 18 which must be considered with Lot 17 for these two lots were known originally as the Heck property. The old lists of land grants omit these two lots and we do not know the reason.

Samuel and Jacob Heck, sons of Barbara Heck, bought these lots in 1799. Recently records have been found which state the farm was bought from Alphous Jones who was afterwards lost Kaster at Prescott. It could not have been that Alphous Jones for he was a son of Commissary Jones and was not married until 1790, so it must have been his father who owned it. We understand the patent had not been issued, just the script, which were much traded in sometimes.

The Hecks received the first deed issued and they must have bought for they had already received their grant on the third Concession, Lot 14. The first stone house we come to on the north side of the road was the second one built by Samuel Heck. It is now owned and occupied by Mr. William Boddie, the genial clerk of the Township of Augusta. It is a coincidence that in the year 1813 when Augusta was under the Quarter Sessions of Johnstown Magistrates, Samuel Heck was the clerk for Augusta. I understand that he held the position for some years, so the records are at home once again.

The large stone house on the south side of the road and nearer Prescott is the original Heck home, and was built the year they bought the farm, 1799. Much has been written and told about Barbara Heck and many stop to see her grave at the Blue Church.

Since we do not wish to quote history at length we must give a short sketch of this worthy matron who is more talked of now than she was a century ago. Much has been written (we regret to say) without regard to actual facts. So we will try to give the bare facts. To obtain more information on this subject read any good history.

Barbara Heck was the wife of Paul Heck who was born in Ireland. Barbara's name was Ruckle and she belonged to a colony of Germans who came to Ireland in 1709 under the protection of Queen Anne. They came from the Palatine, which was then under French rule. The people of this district in Germany were very ardent members of the Protestant Church. Louis the fourteenth of France undertook to extirminate these people and many whole villages were destroyed. The inhabitants fled but many were killed by the French soldiers. A number were assisted by the British and came to Ireland. They formed a colony at Ballingrave where most of them became farmers and leased some land from the Irish landlords. They were frugal and very industrious and soon became prosperous. John Wesley toured the north of Ireland where he preached to these Germans. Always a deeply religious people, they accepted his teachings and formed one of the strong Methodist Societies of Great Britain. Such were the Ruckles, Hocks, Emburys, and Laurences.

After these Germans had been in Ireland for fifty years, or about 1759, their leases expired and since they had made a success of farming the landlords tried to raise their rent. At this time many people were coming to America, so the whole German colony came to New York in 1760. When the Revolution broke out these Germans remembered the help given by the English and remained loyal to the Crown. They joined the Loyalists and came to Canada and Eastern Ontario benefited greatly by their coming.

Many of these people of German descent settled in the County of Dundas. They were still members of the Lutheran or Reform Church and the first church in Eastern Ontario was a Lutheran Church situated below Morrisburg. This still stands. From these people sprung some of our most enterprising men.

Those who had accepted the doctrines of John Wesley, the Methodists, were separated from the Lutheran brethren and were given lands in the County of Grenville, Township of Augusta.

Paul Heck was a carpenter when he was in New York. These people neglected to set up a place of public worship when they first came to the new world. In 1766 Barbara Heck went to Phillip Embury, a preacher in Ireland, and pleaded with him to start to preach. He asked, "where?". Barbara Heck replied, "In your own house. I will furnish the congregation." This she did by bringing the Lawrences and her own family to the first Methodist sermon preached on the North American Continent. This was where Park now stands near the Post Office in New York City. Two years later they dedicated a chapel where the John Street Methodist Church now stands.

Thus Barbara Heck brought the Methodist form of worship to the United States and to her falls the honour of introducing it into the Dominion of Canada. The Hecks, the Lawrences and the Emburys came with the Loyalists to Johnstown and soon introduced it into Canada.

The Hecks were granted Lots 13 and 14 on the third Concession of Augusta. These lots are east of the road running north of the Blue Church. The buildings were on or near the site of the present home of Mr. Harlow Ferrin. On this lot also stands the large brick church known as Laynard Church of the Circuit of Augusta. The first Methodist services were held in this neighbourhood. A church was built on the third Concession of Augusta in 1817. Before this time meetings were held in the open or in any convenient building. It is quite evident that Barbara Heck attended these first meetings. Her husband, Paul, died in 1795 when they lived on the third Concession. Barbara lived in this locality for fifteen years.

In 1799 she moved with her sons to the farm by the river. She lived in the large stone house on the river side of the road now owned by Mr. Royal McLean. Barbara Heck died sitting in a chair under a tree on the south side of the house with an old German Bible on her knee. This may be true but some writers grow very poetical about such subjects and take many liberties with the truth. However, she deserves all the good things that have been said about her for she was a notable character, a good Christian and a loyal British subject. Her

grave and that of her husband can be seen in the Blue Church Cemetery. Thus we pass another interesting and important site by the river side.

The next farm is owned by Mr. Connell who lives on and owns the Wiser Farm just west of Prescott. The house is generally unoccupied but the farm is well looked after. This farm is part of the Heck property. I believe the late Edward Shewell purchased this farm from the Hecks and erected the buildings. He lived here most of his life. He was a successful farmer and a respected gentleman. He lived to a good old age and when he passed on the farm was sold to Mr. Connell.

From here we go down the hill through a valley and cross a stream. This is known as Snades' Creek. The fine stone house on the north side of the road is the family home. They also own the brick house on the river side. The farm is owned by Gordon and Hubert Snades and their mother. This is another farm which remains in the hands of the original owners. It was originally granted to Diana Snades on May 7, 1802. The original buildings were farther back from the road than the present ones. This house was built by the father of the present owners. We understand that the place was once sold out of the family. The grandfather of the present owners returned from several years at sea and bought it back. It is our sincere wish that it may always be retained in this family.

The Snades' Lot was numbered 16 and here we have a break in the Loyalists grants of four lots or eight hundred acres frontage. The next lot, number 15, was Clergy Reserve and was controlled for a long period of years by the Church. On this lot we find the famous Blue Church and the Cemetery. As we approach this spot we cross a small stream and marsh. Here the road runs very close to the river where it follows the old road.

We come to the little Blue Church and the Cemetery nestled among the tall pines. This is one spot in the Counties which we should reverence. Here we could fittingly apply God's command to Moses: "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet for the place whereon thy standest is holy ground." For on this spot was erected the first altar to Christianity in this district, and under these pines lie buried many men of church and state as well as their brothers of the axe and plough. These are they who transformed this land from a howling wilderness to a civilized country. They lie here on one common level in the best known landmark by the river side.

We will first consider the church building itself. This is the third on this site. The building is very small,

twenty-eight feet long and twenty feet wide. It has two windows on either side and a spire topped by a ball covered with tin. The spire is not over thirty-five feet in height. The church is now really a funeral chapel as the need for a place of worship has vanished. The building like its predecessors is painted blue. It has a name board with the title "Church of England". This has been erected in late years as many thought it was a Methodist Church because Barbara Heck is buried here.

On this lot of two hundred acres the first church was built in 1790. Around this site the town of Augusta was surveyed and streets were laid out to accommodate several thousand people. This was the site chosen for the next centre above Johnstown. So the first step was to build a church. I think it was under the direction of Mr. Stewart, the first Anglican clergyman to come to these parts. All classes of people gave support in the building of the church. Members of the church in Elizabethtown gave subscriptions with the understanding that the money be returned when they were ready to build. This I understand was done when the church at Lamb's Pond, now New Dublin, was built. So support for this church came from far and wide. Out of their small earnings they freely gave. Just to show that men of other denominations took part in the building of this church, we find among the names of the building trustees that of one of the Heck brothers. While the church was Anglican the cemetery belonged to the community, although under the control of the Anglican Church. If these early settlers when alive did not believe in the same creed, they buried their dead as brothers and neighbours.

The first church was burned early in the century and was replaced by another, the largest of them all. Meanwhile the town of Prescott had developed and St. Johns Church was built. Then St. James Church in Maitland had been built and there was no congregation left for the original church in Augusta. As a result the second Blue Church was torn down and some of the material was used to build the church in north Augusta. After some time the present small church was erected more from sentiment than necessity. The people of every creed have a great veneration for this old Blue Church.

Turning our attention now to the cemetery we find many historic dead. Of course, the grave of Barbara Heck with its pretentious monument brings the most visitors and creates the most comment from strangers. This monument was erected by the Methodists of North America about 1909. In 1934 a tablet was added to the back of the monument to commemorate the passing of two hundred years since her birth.

This however is not the only grave which makes the cemetery famous. Here lie many who have made great contributions

to the development of the country as a whole and the Counties in particular. Among such we find the grave of Daniel MacKenzie who was with Sir Alexander MacKenzie when he discovered the MacKenzie River and made his way to the Pacific Ocean, really the first white man to cross Canada. In the Jones plot is found the grave of Doctor Solomon and his brother David.

It is said that David Jones never smiled after he came to Canada. He never married. The story goes that he was to wed Jean McCrea the daughter of a Colonial Rebel. She was supposed to be beautiful and have golden hair. When the Loyalists were at Fort Edward, New York, he was a Lieutenant at that time, he sent for her to come to him with the Loyal Army. In some way the Indians brought him her scalp. It is not known whether he sent Indians for her, or whether they waylaid her escort. The shock was so great that he never smiled again.

Many more of note lie buried in this cemetery. An hour spent here will repay any student of local history. The cemetery is well kept and a credit to all concerned. They have an advantage over most old burying grounds in that they have several acres in reserve and it will be a very long time before they will have to stop expansion.

We must remember that this is a small part of the two hundred acres which belonged to the original church. The rest is worthy of our attention. The remainder of the front portion is now attached to the Shades' property. That portion over the railroad is now divided into several holdings. Just north of the track and some distance from the side road are the ruins of a set of stone buildings. No one seeks to know who built them but it is evident they belonged to church property for the Reverend Robert Blakey came in 1820 and he administered this property. He let this farm to the Coates Family when they came from England about 1829. This was the first home of the Coates Family in America. I understand that many of the older generations of the family were born here before they moved, some to Brockville, others to Prescott, and now scattered throughout North America.

At this point we can recall an old story of a road used by the pioneers and known as the "Spring Brook Road" which left the river road about here and wandered across the farms in a north-westerly direction. Many traces of it can yet be found and old building sites noted. Beside it flowed a good spring and hence the name. Of course, there was no road where the second Concession now runs and the road then followed the ridge of land, crossing the second line in the rear of Commissioner Jones' farm. I think it came out on the Haitland road

where Stones Corners is now. I understand that this road was much used in the war of 1812, as most of the traffic kept away from the river. The third Concession was the main road running west to Kingston at that time. However, this old road is nearly forgotten, although I have talked with a few who can tell stories about it.

This farm and the ones to the east were covered with a very thick stand of pine as can be clearly seen today. Early in the War of 1812 a party of soldiers, an escort with coin to pay General Brock's troops, were camped near the river. That night an alarm was raised that the Americans were making a raid on Canada. It is said that the soldiers hid the money and that it was never located. This story has never been confirmed but for many years people kept looking for this coin.

These few hundred acres of pine woods were considered by the military authorities a good place for the enemy to land and hide their troops. Men were sent and the whole block of trees felled, and left in such a manner that it could be fired. That put an end to the danger from the enemy but it also put an end to the valuable pine. A small cluster of tall old pines has long adorned the rear end of the Shades' Farm. It is said that these were left standing when the rest were cut during the war.

We now cross the road running north known as the Blue Church Road, and will consider the place to the east which is now the fine farm home of Mr. William Myers. This is Lot 14 and was held as a school lot. A certain number of these were held in each Township, the proceeds from the sale of which were to build schools. That the present school was built on this lot had nothing to do with this fact. The first school in this section was on Lot 13, a quarter of a mile east and on the south side of the road. School lots and Clergy Reserve Lots were always considered good prey for the squatter as they were not closely looked after. Here the squatter would clear some land and build a house and would have free rent. If he was unmolested for a few years, he could hold by right of possession. Several small places on this farm were taken in this way. Most of them were on the road running north. This was part of the land which was cut over during the war. Little is known about this farm till the middle of the last century when it was purchased by the firm of Fingland and Eggleston. A large establishment to make bricks was built on the river side of the road. Many buildings were erected and much money was spent. This firm had neglected to make proper tests of the clay and when the brick was made they were not a success. There were marine deposits in the clay which made the bricks break apart.

The firm went bankrupt and the property was purchased by the late Edward Myers, father of the present owner. The Myers family built the fine buildings and improved the farm as a whole.

After passing the Blue Church the school and the Myer's home, we ascend a gradual slope on the top of which, nestled among some shade trees, stands the farm home of the Bevan Brothers. This long low stone house fits into the landscape harmoniously. It was built in 1821 by the grandfather of the present owners. He was the Reverend Robert Blakey who came to Canada from England as a missionary, sent out by the Church of England. While numerous Divines of the church had passed through or been stationed in the district, Reverend Blakey was really the first who came with the avowed purpose of making his life work administering the rites of the church in this district of Augusta. At that time it was an important locality. Already it contained the Blue Church with a town site surveyed around it. The parish extended from Cornwall to Brookville and as far north as he wished to go. It looked like an appalling task.

On his arrival Mr. Blakey bought this farm, Lot 13, from a man named Campbell, and built his house. His choice in architecture and materials was as fitting then as it is today. We do not know Mr. Blakey's ability as an orator but we do know that his judgement and ability to see the drift of the population must have been excellent. It did not take him long to see that the town of Augusta was not going to be a success. He saw that the newly named village of Laitland and the town laid out by Major Jessup, now Prescott, were increasing faster than the one in his own parish. Both of these places were part of his parish and we find him giving these special attention and building churches in each place. He considered Laitland to be the chief town in the locality, for in 1826, five years after he came he built St. James Church. Again his taste in architecture left nothing to be desired. On a hill stands this church and in whose shade sleep the pioneers of the land.

His own house and St. James Church are two great monuments to Mr. Blakey. About this time he built a church in Prescott which was made of wood. We do not know whether it was lack of funds or lack of faith in the development of Prescott. This church was not as fine as the one in Laitland. It was built on the site of the present St. Johns Church, a beautiful site for the fine stone church. Laitland is now the head of the parish of Augusta and Prescott in a parish of its own. The Blue Church is part of the Prescott parish.

Mr. Blakey died in 1858 in the forty-first year of his ministry. It is needless to say that he is buried in the Blue Church Cemetery.

Down in the hollow, east of the buildings and on the south side of the road, stood the first school of this vicinity - a little stone building with two small windows to a side. I have heard many old people tell of attending there in the days of their youth when a Mr. McLeod held sway and ruled with a rod of hickory. The old buildings were torn down not many years ago and the foundations can still be seen.

The next two hundred acres or Lot 12 was originally with the Blakey Farm. Neither of these lots are in the lists of Loyalist grants but are supposed to have been taken in some manner by a man named Campbell. The road which runs north here through Lot 12 is called the Campbell Road. On this road lives the present Reeve of the Township, Mr. I. Bradley. His house which has been in the family for three generations is on Lot 12. On the west corner of the highway and this road is the home of Mr. Brady. On the east corner lives John Hannah and his mother. This house was built by an old river captain by the name of Miller, who was well known along the river seventy years ago. He built this place and lived there while he was captain of a steam tug for a well known towing company. Although he had a limited education, he was recognized as the best pilot on the river, especially in navigating in swift water and the stretches between the canals.

An interesting story is told of him. A new tug was delivered to his company. It was the most powerful tug on the river at that time. When he was bringing it up the river from Montreal the son of the chief owner was aboard. He told Captain Miller that the boat could climb some swift water where no boat had ever gone before. Against his better judgement the captain consented to try, while the young man went to persuade the engineer to put on more steam. Seeing that she was not making the desired progress, the young man tied down the safety valve without the captain's knowledge. In a few moments the boat was blown up and part of the crew with it. The young man's body was never found. The captain landed some distance away in the water. He grasped some part of the wreck and managed to reach shore safely. That was the first and last time a steam boat ever tried to climb that particular stretch of water. Captain Miller sold this place to John Hannah's father about forty years ago.

The next house on the north side of the road is white with archways in the front. This is the home of Mr. Percy Kirkby. It has long been known as the Bill's Place and was in the possession of that family for many years. This is situated on the west half of lot number eleven. This seems to have belonged to the two lots above. It is said that the house was built by Campbell who owned this five hundred acres but information on the subject is scarce and I have as yet been unable to find much information about him.

The next place is a Tourist Camp and is known as the Nayside Inn. It is owned and operated by Mr. Freeman Kirkby. This is on the east half of Lot 11 and was granted by the Crown to Caleb Clawson, a Loyalist. On this lot was situated the first Post Office in Augusta. Clawson also drew a farm just above Maitland. We know he lived here and we cannot be sure who built this old house on the river shore. The old cellar can be seen just a few yards west of Mr. Kirkby's gas-station. The first floor was on the river shore while one entered the second storey from the road. In the early part of the last century this house was used as a store and a tavern. People by the name of Shaver ran the tavern until about 1875. Then old Mrs. Shaver lived here and ran a little shop selling light groceries and beer. It is not known who was the first Postmaster. The first mail for these counties came, no doubt, from Johnstown. It did not take long for the people to find out that Johnstown could never be a place of importance because of the shallow water. So that port was closed in 1807 and the town site moved to Augusta where they made use of the deep water off the point now known as Blakey's Point.

The Post Office of Augusta had been opened in 1790 on this site and in this stone building. Elizabethtown may have had a Post Office but I think not till after this year so at this time this was the only Post Office in the two Counties. During the war of 1812 it was the only office in Grenville County. Prescott was developing very fast because soldiers were stationed there to watch the Americans at Oglensburg. The office in Augusta was closed in 1814 and was transferred to Prescott.

The mail from the Old Country took nearly three months to reach Augusta. There were no stamps, the receiver paid the postage. It cost a shilling to send a letter from England to Canada. It was a tragedy to know there was a letter in the Post Office and have no shilling to pay for it. This often happened in the best of families.

Few today notice these old walls. This site should not be forgotten. Perhaps the local branch of the Women's Institute could be persuaded to follow the example of the Maitland branch and erect a marker to mark the spot. They could do no more deserving act. This is one of the most historic sites along the river shore; note it well the next time you pass.

The next two farms or Lot 10 was granted to Thomas Brown. Very little is known of him at the present time. For many years the farm was in the possession of the Hulbert Family who built the first mill on Lemon's Creek. The farm is now owned and occupied by Mr. E. Moore and family.

The next place with the large brick house is the home of Mr. D. Brady. This was also part of the Brown grant. About sixty years ago it was purchased by James Quinn who built the house. He was an official in the Grenville Brewery. It then passed into the hands of the Yule Family and Mr. Brady purchased it from them.

The next is now the farm of Mr. Robert Reynolds. It is the west half of Lot 9 and was granted to Rice Honeywell who also had a grant a few farms farther to the east. This farm has long been known as part of the McCarthy Farm and was part of the farm to the east which Mr. Bradley operates as a dairy farm. These two were part of the lots granted to the Sherwood Family.

On the south side of the road stood (it was torn down just a year ago) the Grenville Brewery. This was one of the largest breweries in Ontario. It was established in 1869 by John McCarthy and James Quinn. Before this Mr. McCarthy ran a brewery in the Village of Kaitland, on the waterfront behind the old blacksmith shop. When he moved to this site he first built and operated a distillery. He operated this only a short time when part of the buildings were burned down. The place was rebuilt and beer alone was manufactured. They had a storage capacity for two thousand barrels. The farm on the north side of the road contained two hundred acres or more. Between the brewery and the farm many men were employed. As long as Mr. McCarthy lived this was a very busy place. After his death the business gradually diminished and owing to conditions was finally closed. The buildings were allowed to fall to pieces and were finally torn down in the fall of 1934. The material was sold.

Just east of the Grenville Brewery is a marsh with a creek running through it. The highway crosses the creek by a bridge built near the river shore. No doubt, when the country was a wilderness this stream was much larger as all streams were. The shores of this creek have been the seat of much industrial enterprise. Over a century ago a distillery was erected on the west bank on a site north of where the railroad now runs. This distillery was operated by a man named Connolly and did a large business for that time. It was afterwards owned by a man named Morrow. It was this business that John McCarthy took over in 1869 when he first moved to this vicinity. As the buildings were in ruins he built new ones on the river shore. The old ones were also cut off from the shore by the newly built railroad. The stream was then known as Connolly's Creek and before that Honeywell's Creek. Honeywell owned two farms in this vicinity; the second farm west and the one east.

In 1838 when the Rebels landed at Windmill Point we are told that a small party completely destroyed the bridge

over Honeywell's Creek. This was good strategy on the part of the Rebels. They did their job so well that it caused serious delay to the dispatches and the movement of the Militia. All traffic from the west had to make a land detour up stream to cross this creek. It had been well guarded in the war of 1812 lest reinforcements should be cut off. To look at this stream today it is hard to think that it ever was of importance in war time.

There are many who still remember the brickyard that was operated on the east side of this stream fifty years ago by Mr. Ward. This was the most important brickyard in the Counties. It did a flourishing business for many years till it was taken over by the Wiser Interests. When it became unprofitable it was wrecked and the machinery sold.

Climbing the hill from the old brickyard we come to the farm of Mr. W. Connell. This is the largest farm between Brockville and Prescott. It is made up of part originally granted to Sherwood, Lillian Martin and Rice Honeywell. This farm must have been disposed of early by the first owner for the first development is credited to one Lervin. It was he or Honeywell who built the house in which Mr. Connell lives.

The road running north at this point is known as Lervin Lane. It was much used in early times and some queer stories are told of happenings on it. One small hill is known as Spook Hill and here the Lord of the Underworld was supposed to hold tryst with his envoys in Augusta. Years ago I have heard old people tell these yarns as if they believed them. Perhaps some did. Someone with a good sense of humour may have had a lot of fun telling these tales to his listeners.

After Lervin the farm was owned by a man named Shoecraft who sold it to the late J. J. Wiser. Mr. Wiser came here from the United States and erected the distillery business in Prescott. His business soon developed and he purchased this large farm which he called Mysdyk Farm. He was very interested in race horses. He purchased one called Mysdyk from the State of Connecticut for which he paid ten thousand dollars. The farm was called after this horse. Mr. Wiser owned and bred many fast horses on this farm and through them he became well known throughout Canada and the United States. He also maintained a large herd of beef cattle but in later years he grew hops extensively.

The farm house was occupied by his manager, Mr. James McCarney, who was one of the best known and best liked men of Prescott.

Crossing Mervin Lane we come to the fine large residence north of the highway which was the home of the Honourable J. D. Reid. For many years he was a member of the House of Commons for this riding. At one time he was Minister of Customs and later Minister of Railways and Canals. Mrs. Reid owns this home and lives here at least part of each year.

Next is a brick house close to the road and is known as the Boyle Farm. It is still owned by that family but was originally granted to William Martin of whom nothing is known.

The last farm east of Prescott, with the house and large barns well off the road, is the dairy farm of W. Ward, well known in town and country. This place has passed through many hands since it was granted to Corporal Nicholas Loshier, great grandfather of James Loshier of Algonquin. This is the first land sold and the deed transferred in the records of the two Counties. On December 13, 1797, Loshier transferred this lot to S. Covell.

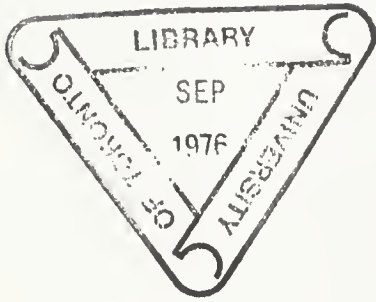
We now come to the town of Prescott, the west side of which was granted to Sergeant Joseph Knapp. Another hundred acres on which the town was built was granted to Lewis Loshier, the remainder of the land in the town was granted to the Jessup Family. This includes the site of Fort Wellington which was built about 1814 and named after the Iron Duke.

It is not our intention to write a history of the town, but before coming to the Fort we might mention that much of note has transpired here, much of which must not be forgotten. The first steam boat on the St. Lawrence was built in Prescott in 1817 and was called the Dalhousie. It ran to Kingston and could make twenty miles an hour. One of the first mowing machines built in Canada was made here. It was called the Warrior and was made in the stone building on Water Street where the Baker Brothers have their Feed Store. Many more stories of development could be told but let us look at the Fort.

MANUSCRIPT UNDATED

JK

Copy made: 26th September 1951



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Land marks

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