

EARLY DAYS OF WOODSTOCK.

W. O. RAYMOND.

NO. 17.

The season was so far advanced when the Loyalist regiments arrived at Parr-town, and the difficulty of obtaining sloops and boats to go up the river was so great, that many of the corps deemed it best to spend the winter at the mouth of the river. A good many men of the 3rd New Jersey Volunteers and of the King's American Regiment and other corps, however, pushed up the river to St. Ann's, where they passed a most trying winter. Others found shelter in the homes of the "old inhabitants" at various places along the river. But the majority, including the 1st Battalion of DeLancey's Brigade, remained at Parr-town until the following spring. The testimony of all writers at this period goes to show that the situation of the disbanded troops was a very distressing one. Edward Winslow's graphic description has already been quoted in these articles. The Rev'd. John Saxe, in one of his letters tells of the vast multitude at St. John whom, on his arrival there, he found utterly unsettled, many of them unsheltered and on the brink of despair, on account of the delay in allotting their lands to them.

Meanwhile Parr-town had been surveyed and laid out in lots by Paul Bedell, the deputy surveyor. Many of the disbanded officers and soldiers took advantage of their sojourn to draw lots in the "Lower Cove" district where they were encamped. The lots were 40 feet wide and 100 feet deep. About forty lots were drawn by the members of DeLancey's 1st Battalion, some of them scattered over different parts of the city, but the greater number lay side by side, near the water at the east end of Broad and Britain streets. The lots of Captain Jacob Smith and eleven others were on the south side of Britain street, extending from Wentworth street to the water, and the lots of Captain James French and a considerable number of his comrades extended from the site of the Old Ladies Home, on Broad street, to the water. Others of the Battalion drew lots in the immediate vicinity. Among these Parr-town grantees were Major Joseph Greer, Captains Jacob Smith, George Dunbar, Thomas French and James French; Lieutenants Benjamin Lester, Charles McLean, Daniel Hallet, Daniel Cameron and Nehemiah Rogers; Ensigns Richard Boyle, George Brewerton, Henry Ferguson, Ralph Smith, William French, and Nicholas Emanuel Old; Surgeon Nathan Smith, Quarter-master George Everett; Serjeants Daniel McSherry, Patrick McNamara, David Newman, Thomas Fowler, Edward McNeil and Abraham Brinkerhoff; Corporals Thomas Stanley, Jonas Highby, Richard Rogers; also a number of privates and several of the women of the corps.

A careful examination of the names of the grantees of Parr-town will show that many of the men of the disbanded Loyalist regiments drew land in the "Lower Cove" district, and that the grantees of several of the corps were grouped together in a similar way to that in

the case of the 1st Battalion of DeLancey's Brigade. The men of the Queen's Rangers, for example, drew lots where the St. John gas works have been erected, with some lots to the eastward in rear of the Wiggins Orphan Asylum.

It is altogether likely the disbanded men of the 1st DeLancey's passed the winter of 1783-4 in huts, or in canvas tents, at the spot where Captain Jacob Smith and his companions drew their lots. This circumstance should be of interest to their descendants.

Property in that locality is not particularly valuable today, but the situation is naturally a good one and commands a fine view of the bay.

The rank and file of the Loyalist regiments had at least three grievances in regard to their lands on the River St. John. The first was their remote situation. The second that the lands were not properly laid out for settlement at the time of their arrival. The third that the lots were too long and narrow. Concerning this last circumstance one can but wonder at the short sighted folly of the government of Nova Scotia in imagining any soldier would be willing to settle upon a farm 16 rods wide and from 3 to 4 miles long. The proportions are nearly identical with a building lot 200 feet long and a yard wide. The soldiers characterized their lots as "all length and no breadth." Frequent references to the narrow frontage of the lots of the non-commissioned officers and men are to be found in the memorials which were submitted to Governor Carleton upon his arrival. A few extracts from these memorials will serve the purpose of illustration.

"To His Excellency Thomas Carleton, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, etc., etc., etc.

The memorial of Peter Clark, of the late 1st Battalion of DeLancey's regiment, Humbly sheweth:—
That your memorialist having drawn his land in the Regimental Block No. 6—which by reason of the narrowness of its front (it being but 16 rods) renders him incapable of getting a livelihood thereon, and having cleared and improved on the Lot No. 30 adjoining his own, humbly prays that your Excellency will grant him the said lot, which is vacant and has been improved these three years by your memorialist; and he as in duty bound will ever pray, etc., etc."

PETER CLARK.
The memorial was complied with; the land cleared and improved by Peter Clark is now owned by the Messrs. Peabody. His log house stood very near the spot now occupied by the house of Mr. Stephen Peabody.

"The memorial of Coffee DeBoise humbly sheweth:—That your memorialist was a soldier in the second Battalion of New Jersey Volunteers, and is settled and has improved on the lands assigned him in the Parish of Kingsclear, but his improvements is almost totally lost to him by his having a contracted front of only fourteen perches [rods] in width, the adjoining lands being uncultivated so that his Grain remains shaded near half the day." It may be mentioned here that Coffee DeBoise was a colored man. He had a wife and two children. He was the ancestor

of those of the name who have since lived in Woodstock, including the well-known "Deacon" Deboise. In answer to his memorial he received a more generous frontage for his little farm.

Captain Isaac Atwood of the King's American Regiment wrote a letter to the deputy surveyor, Adam Allen, dated 15th August, 1785, asking for a survey of Block No. 4 assigned to his regiment, in order to obtain a grant from government. He says "I have not suffered any to take more than 20 rods front to a 100 acres, but the soldiers must consider it a hardship, and not without reason, that Refugees of all denominations, and but few of equal merit with themselves, should draw their land more than one hundred miles nearer St. John with twice the quantity of front. Though we are 40 miles above the Town of Frederick, could those who receive but 100 acres have 30 rods front instead of 20, it would give satisfaction and be attended with good consequence. And we want some stimulative to encounter the Rapids, as yourself can judge."

One more example will suffice.
"To His Excellency Thomas Carleton, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New Brunswick, etc., etc., etc.

The memorial of Patrick Birmingham most humbly sheweth:—

That your memorialist settled on Block No. 6 near three years ago, where he has done everything in his power for the improvement of the settlement, but his small front lays him under many inconveniences, having only 24 rods in front and as there is plenty of room below him, it being unsettled for three miles, your memorialist humbly prays your Excellency to grant him the usual allowance of forty-two rods, . . . and your memorialist shall ever pray for your Excellency's long-life! and prosperity!"

PATRICK BIRMINGHAM.
"I do certify that I believe the above representation is true, and that the memorialist is a good industrious settler.

I. ATWOOD, Captain K. A. R.
Woodstock, 26th Feb'y, 1788."

The land drawn by Patrick Birmingham consisted of 150 acres situated below Bull's Creek, and recently owned by the late Leonard Slipp.

Governor Carleton and his council practically admitted the injustice of so small a frontage as 16 rods in the case of a soldier's lot, by the regulations enacted, after the organization of the province, for the settlement of public lands. These regulations are of sufficient historic importance to be quoted in full. It will be noticed that the latter part of section VIII. provides for a more generous allowance to the men of the disbanded Loyalist regiments than was possible under the old regime at Halifax.

REGULATIONS, by order of His Excellency the Governor in Council, to be observed for the orderly and expeditious settlement of the Province of New Brunswick by the several persons entitled to or petitioning for Farms, and by all others concerned therein.

I. Every petition must be reduced to writing and delivered to the Secretary of the Province, that it may be considered in its

order by the Governor in Council.

II. If the petitioner prays for a proportion of vacant land without specifying a particular spot, his name and place of abode are to be entered in a Register kept for the purpose, that if his request be assented to he may have an allotment in his turn.

III. Whenever a sufficient number of farms are surveyed and ready to be drawn for, public notice will be given to an equal number of applicants, first in order on the Register above mentioned, to attend in person or by deputy at a day and place to be appointed, when and where a draft of the several lots will be made under the inspection of a Deputy Surveyor and two or more Trustees to be nominated by the Governor, and as soon thereafter as may be, each person's lot so drawn by him will be pointed out and possession given by the Deputy Surveyor aforesaid.

IV. If the petitioner asks for a particular tract and obtains the conditional approbation of the Governor in Council, he is then to publish the substance of his petition for three successive weeks in the newspapers, and also advertise the same publicly in the settlement nearest to the land petitioned for, the situation of which is to be pointed out that any person having claim thereto may be apprized and an opportunity given him of being heard before the Governor in Council previous to the issuing of a warrant of survey for the same; for the whole of which publication the Printers have agreed to take Five shillings and no more.

V. All persons who have obtained warrants of survey under the government of Nova Scotia are to transmit copies to the Secretary without delay that they may be taken into consideration.

VI. All Deputy Surveyors are to make returns to the Provincial Secretary of their several surveys, and to specify such lots as have been drawn for, that the several proprietors may be known, and the unappropriated lots of each survey assigned to others.

VII. The Agents of the several disbanded corps, or the senior officers of each in the province, are to transmit to the Secretary, without delay, a roll containing the present state of the Battalion, Troop or Company, and enumerating the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates by name, also their wives and children, together with the place of their residence, that all those who are present in the province and unprovided for may have their lands assigned them.

VIII. All those battalions or companies not satisfied with their allotments, and willing to take their lands in any parts at present unoccupied and ungranted of the tracts assigned for the disbanded corps, may have farms granted them in such other parts of the said tracts respectively as they shall apply for before the first of April next; after which time those tracts will be granted to such of His Majesty's loyal subjects as shall first apply for them; and for the encouragement of those who will settle above the numbers Six and Seven [that is above Woodstock] the lots will be laid out forty-two rods in front on the river for non-commissioned officers and privates, and eighty-two rods for every commissioned officer; and the drafts

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for such farms are to be made in a public manner as above directed, under the inspection of the Deputy Surveyor, the Agent and one or more officers of each Battalion, Troop or Company.

IX. The Deputy Surveyor, as soon as may be after such draft, will shew each proprietor, or his Deputy or Agent, the bounds and marks of the lot so drawn by him, which will be considered as a delivery of possession.

X. No person petitioning for lands is to have more than 200 acres granted him until the numerous and indigent claimants now in the province shall have been heard and provided for, excepting such of the commissioned or non-commissioned officers of the disbanded corps as shall be willing to take up the quantity to be allowed them in some one of the twelve mile tracts assigned to the disbanded corps and drawn for by them; and all persons are required to be as expeditious as possible in their applications, that their lands may be assigned them in season for cultivation the ensuing spring, for which purpose the Governor will sit in Council on the Tuesday and Friday in each week.

By Command of His Excellency the Governor in Council, the 14th of January, 1785.
JONATHAN ODELL, Secretary.

Deterioration of Noses.

When I was a girl the aristocratic nose was high, beautifully modelled, rising in a delicately waving ridge and at the tip standing well out from the face and not turned up. But now the fashion has completely changed. The pretty women one sees portrayed in illustrated papers and magazines very seldom have much to speak of in the way of noses.

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