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## EARLY DAYS OF WOODSTOCK.

W. O. RAYMOND.

NO. 13.

The decision to settle the Loyalist regiments so far up the river was a cause of intense disappointment to Colonel Stephen DeLancey. He wrote from Annapolis Royal on July 11th, 1783, to his brother agents Winslow and Allen, that he had just learned that the vacant lands on the lower part of the river were to be given to the "Refugees" (primary Loyalists) and that the lands reserved for the disbanded troops were to begin at St. Ann's and go northwest to Canada, or elsewhere. This he characterized as, "so notorious a forfeiture of the faith of Government that it appears to me almost incredible." Colonel Allen did not fully approve of the decision either, as we learn from one of his letters. [See Winslow papers, page 116.] Nor did Governor Parr quite approve of it, as is shown by his letter quoted in the last article of this series. The responsibility for the selection seems therefore to rest principally with Edward Winslow. In a letter, dated July 23rd, he tells his friend Chipman that he had just returned to Fort Howe after the most agreeable tour in all his life. "Barclay, Allen and a number of young Bucks and myself," he says, "have explored this grand river one hundred and twenty miles from its mouth, and we have returned delighted beyond expression."

In a subsequent letter to Chipman, written on the 27th of August, Winslow says:—"I really do think the River St. John is the pleasantest part of this country, and I am sure the land is better than any I have ever seen. I therefore intend to take my estate upon that river. When I left it there had been no survey for the Provincials [Loyalist troops]. Since I have arrived here I have obtained an order for Murray and his regiment to take possession of a particular spot. In the neighbourhood of this I am determined to lay out farms for half a dozen of my friends, and when they are surveyed and bounded I will apply for the grants, and—what's more—I will obtain them. I am induced to do this for a thousand reasons, one of the most powerful is that the regiment will assist so essentially in clearing, etc. I enclose you an enthusiastic letter from Murray, who when I left was prejudiced against the country. You shall have a fine prospect, rocks, hills, etc., and there is no fear of your having water near your house. If you choose to build on the Intervale your lower story will be full all the spring season, which is very handy."

The regiment referred to above was the King's American Dragoons, commanded by Major Daniel Murray. The corps came to St. John about the end of June, and was for some weeks encamped on Lancaster Heights, just back of Carleton. On the 8th of August, the Dragoons were ordered up the river to the place selected by Colonel Winslow, twenty miles above Fredericton, which they called the township of Prince William, in honor of their Royal patron, who was afterward King William the Fourth. The order for their removal is of interest:—

"It having been represented to Brigadier General Fox that the King's American Dragoons cannot be enluted at the place where they are at present encamped, without inconvenience to the great number of Loyalists who are forming settlements at the mouth of the River St. John; and being also informed that His Excellency the Governor of this Province has assigned a certain tract of land for the accommodation of the Provincial Regiments on the River St. John, beginning at the upper boundaries of the Townships of Maugerville and Burton and extending up the river, I am directed to inform you that you have Brigadier General Fox's permission to remove the King's American Dragoons to that part of the district which has been allotted to the regiment by the agents for locating lands for His Majesty's Provincial Forces. . . . Lieutenant Colonel Morse, chief engineer, will, in consideration that your regiment may be exposed to peculiar inconveniences from being the first to hut on the river, forward to you such articles as he thinks cannot be procured at that place."

The commander and organizer of the King's American Dragoons was the celebrated Benjamin Thompson, afterwards better known as Count Rumford, but several officers of the regiment were prominent in our local affairs. Major Joshua Upham was a judge of the Supreme Court. Major Daniel Murray was for some years a member of the House of Assembly for York County and a leading magistrate. Captain Jonathan Odell was our first provincial secretary, holding that office for 28 years and passing it on to his son William F. Odell who held it for 32 years more. Surgeon Adino Paddock was a leading physician in the early days of the province and the progenitor of a long line of descendants who practised the healing art. Ward Chipman, paymaster of the regiment, became a judge of the Supreme Court. Lieutenant John Davidson was a leading land surveyor in the early days of the country and a member for York County in the provincial legislature. Lieutenant Simeon Jones was the ancestor of Ex-Mayor Simeon Jones of St. John and left many other descendants who are well known and influential citizens. Quarter-master Edward Sands was a leading merchant of the City of St. John. Cornet Arthur Nicholson was quite a prominent man in his day, and commanded the military garrison at Presquise.

Owing to the fact that the King's American Dragoons were not enlisted until March, 1781—being, in point of fact, the last corps of Loyalists enlisted in the King's service—they had no opportunity to achieve distinction. They were stationed, for the most part on Long Island until sent to the St. John river in June, 1783. The grant to the King's American Dragoons extended from Long's Creek, twenty miles above Fredericton, to "The Barony" at the mouth of the Pokioik. Many descendants of the officers and men of this Loyalist corps are living on the St. John river at the present day.

Governor Parr seems to have rather reluctantly assented to the choice of the St. John river as a place of settlement for the Provincial troops. In his letter to Sir Guy Carleton, of August 15th, he says that he is happy to find that the Provincial corps can be accommodated upon the River St. John, near the source of that river, leaving the lower part to the Refugees now settled there, but he adds, "Notwithstanding the Provincial corps are settled to their satisfaction, I cannot avoid expressing my concern that some of these corps were not set down upon the eastern side of the River St. Croix, or somewhere upon the Bay of Passamaquoddy, the frontier of this province, to resemble the cantonments of an army, agreeable to your Excellency's letter dated the 26th April."

Governor Parr's anxiety about the protection of the boundary at the River St. Croix was justified by subsequent events, and the settling of the Royal Fencible Americans and some disbanded troops from the British garrison at Penobscot, in that locality, proved a wise precaution in view of the attempt made by the Americans not long afterwards to fix the international boundary at the Magaguadavic rivet. Governor Parr never himself visited the River St. John, and seems to have had very little idea of its magnitude. He wrote to Lord North on the 30th September, "The settlement on St. John's river, by far the most numerous and considerable, and which, I conceive, will people it to its source. I would have visited, had not the distance and waiting for instructions put it out of my power."

The authorities at Halifax seem to have been too dilatory in completing their arrangements for locating the Loyalists. The burden of responsibility was thrown upon Major Studholme, who was well nigh overwhelmed with the cares and responsibilities of his position.

About the time the regiments were to sail from New York, General Fox notified Governor Parr that it was the wish of Sir Guy Carleton that they should be discharged as contiguous as possible to the lands on which they were to settle, and that it was necessary at once to determine the district of country to be assigned to each one of the corps, that they might on their arrival be sent to their destinations.

About the 16th September, General Fox, with his military secretary Edward Winslow, left Annapolis for St. John in order to make

a personal examination of the tract of land assigned to the Provincial troops, and to arrange with Major Studholme for their reception. While he was up the river he issued the following order for disbanding the King's American Dragoons:—

TOWNSHIP OF PRINCE WILLIAM,  
28th September, 1783.

SIR.—In consequence of His Majesty's instructions to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and the General Orders herewith transmitted, you are hereby directed to disband the King's American Dragoons on the tenth day of October next. And you are to take particular care that all the non-commissioned officers and private men are cleared with to that date; and fourteen days pay from that time will be allowed them (as a gratuity) which you are also to deliver each of them without deduction, agreeable to the instructions above referred to.

I am Sir, &c., &c.,

HENRY E. FOX, Brig. Gen'l.

Major Murray, commanding King's American Dragoons.

On his way down the river General Fox halted at the Indian village of Aukpaque, where he wrote an interesting letter to General Haldimand, the governor of Quebec, which, with a little abbreviation, is given below:—

AUGH PACK, Sep'r. 28, 1783.

SIR.—Being on a tour on the River St. John's, and a convenient opportunity offering by Capt. Munro, I avail myself of it to acquaint your Excellency . . . that the whole of the Provincial Regiments, consisting of upwards of 3,000 men, are embarked for the River St. John's, where they are to become settlers, and a tract of land is assigned them by his Excellency the Governor of this Province, extending from the Townships of Maugerville and Burton on both sides of the river on the route to Canada as far as to accommodate the whole, which will be a very considerable distance. This circumstance will facilitate the communication between the provinces of Nova Scotia and Canada, an object which I am informed your Excellency is anxious to effect, and which it is very evident must greatly contribute to the benefit of both provinces. . . . &c., &c.

H. E. FOX, Brig. Gen'l.

His Excellency Gen'l. Haldimand.

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The receipts of the French Tobacco monopoly in August were \$200,000 above the average. The cause of this is said to be the closing of the schools for the holidays—when the schoolboys were free and could smoke cigarettes.

## PILES

Dr. Chase's Ointment is a certain and guaranteed cure for each and every form of itching, bleeding and protruding piles. See testimonials in the press and ask your neighbors about it. You can use it and get your money back if not satisfied. 6c. at all dealers or EDMANSON, BATES & Co., Toronto.

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A cabinet organ newly tuned and in good condition. For particulars apply to MRS. ARTHUR EVERETT, Orange Street, Oct. 24.

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Agents to take orders for our low priced books, Works on Religion (Catholic or Protestant), Medical Books, History, Etc. Sold on monthly payments if necessary. Write for full particulars to Murphy and Son care DISPATCH.

### TENDERS.

Tenders for drugs, groceries and meat supplies for Carleton County Hospital will be received up to December 3rd. Contract lists may be procured from Mr. A. G. Bailey. Lowest or any tender not necessarily received. B. G. WALKER, Assistant Secretary.

### FOR SALE.

The subscribers want to sell out their tin business on Main Street, including stock, tools and shelf goods, the entire business. For further information apply to HAMILTON BROS., Main Street.

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### DEPARTURES.

(QUEEN STREET STATION.)

6.45 A MIXED—For Houlton, McAdam Jct. St. John and points East; Vanceboro, Bangor, Portland and Boston; Pullman Parlor Car, McAdam Jct. to Boston. Palace Sleeper, McAdam Jct. to Halifax. Dining Car, McAdam Jct. to Halifax.

9.50 A MIXED—For Aroostook Junction, and M intermediate points.

12.06 P. M.—MIXED—For all points North; Fort Fairfield, Caribou, Presque Isle, Plaster Rock, Edmundston, etc.

4.35 P. M.—EXPRESS—For Fredericton, etc., via Gibson Branch.

5.25 P. M.—EXPRESS—For Houlton, St. Stephen, St. John, and East; Vanceboro, Sherbrooke, Montreal, and all points West, and Northwest, and on Pacific Coast; Bangor, Portland, Boston, etc.

11.10 P. M.—EXPRESS—From Fredericton, St. John and East; St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Houlton, Vanceboro, Bangor, Portland, Boston, etc.

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I shall be pleased to see intending insurers. LOUIS E. YOUNG, Woodstock, N. B.

Jan 9 tf