

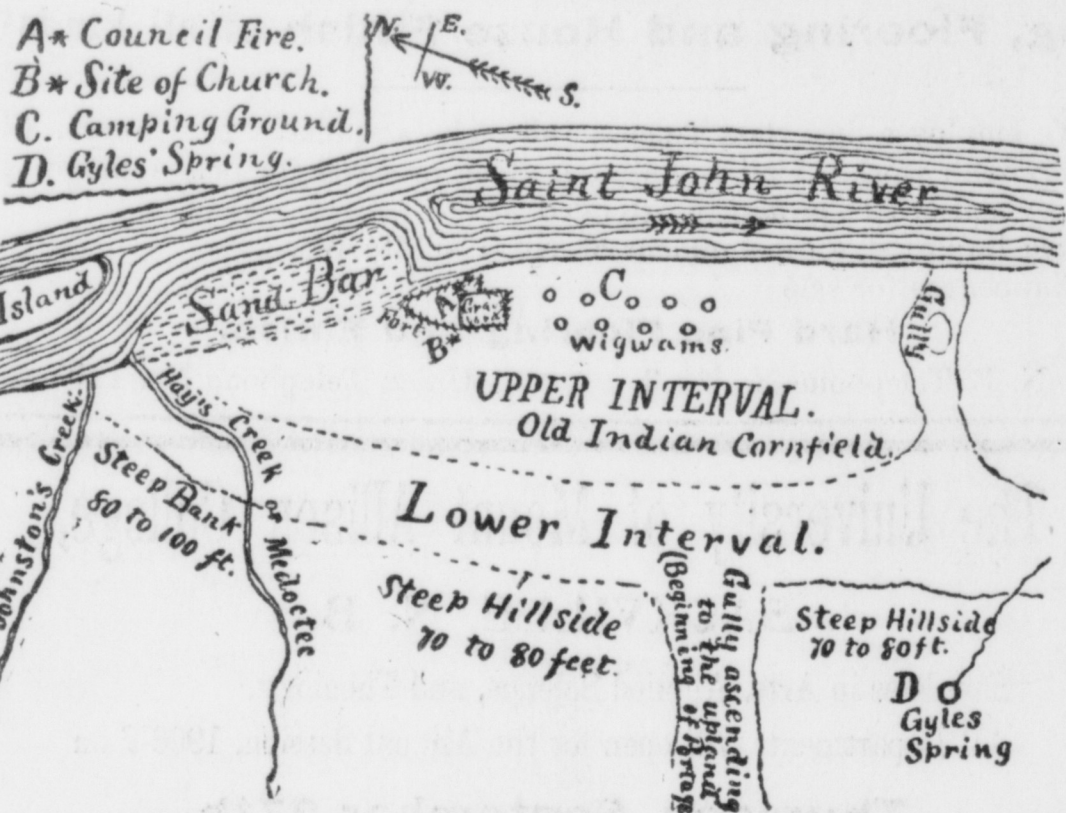
EARLY DAYS OF WOODSTOCK.

W. O. RAYMOND.

No. 3.

The name of Meductic—or Medoctec, as the French generally wrote it—was a very familiar one to the French governors of Acadia, and frequently appears in their official dispatches. We shall see, in the course of these articles, that the name outlived the period of French occupation, and was applied by the first English settlers to the whole neighborhood included in the present parish and town of Woodstock, which was known in a general way as Meductic for some years after their arrival.

The Indians maintained at Medoctec, from the earliest recorded times, a palisaded fort, within the enclosure of which were several cabins, great and small, one of which served as a council chamber and was the scene of the tortures inflicted on John Gyles and other white captives during the period of King William's war. Medoctec was the usual place of rendezvous when anything of a warlike nature was afoot on the River St. John. It was also the seat of the first mission of a permanent character established among the Malisets of the St. John river region. The accompanying plan and description (quoted from the author's History of the St. John river) will give a good idea of the character of the site of the first aboriginal settlement within the limits of the Parish of Woodstock.



"The site of this ancient Malisette town is a fine plateau, extending back from the river about fifty rods then descending to a lower interval, twenty rods wide, and again rising quite abruptly sixty or seventy feet to the upland. The spring freshet usually covers the lower interval, and the elevated plateau then becomes an island. The spot is an exceedingly interesting one, but, unfortunately for the investigator, the soil has been so well cultivated by the hands of thrifty farmers that little remains to indicate the outlines of the old fortifications. It is impossible to determine with absolute certainty the position of the stockade, or of the large wigwam, or council chamber, and other features commonly found in Indian towns of that period. The only place where the old breast-work is visible is along the south and east sides of the burial ground, where it is about two feet high. The burial ground has never been disturbed with the plough, the owners of the property having shown a proper regard for the spot as the resting place of the dead. It is, however, so thickly overgrown with Hawthorn as to be a perfect jungle difficult to penetrate. Many holes have been dug there by relic hunters and seekers of buried treasures.

"At the spot marked A* on the plan between the grave-yard and the river, there is a mass of ashes and cinders with numberless bones scattered about. This is believed to be the site of the old council fire. Here the visitor will find himself in touch with the events of savage life of centuries ago. Here it was that Governor Villebon harangued his dusky allies; here the horrible dog feast was held and the hatchet brandished by the warriors on the eve of their departure to deluge with blood the homes of New England; here at the stake the luckless captive yielded up his life and chanted his death-song; here the Sieur de Clignancourt bargained with the Indians, receiving their furs and peltry and giving in exchange French goods and trinkets, rum and brandy; here good Father Simon taught the savages the elements of the Christian faith and tamed as best he could the fierceness of their manners; here too when weary of fighting the hatchet was buried and the council fire glowed its brightest as the chiefs smoked their calumet of peace."

Many people imagine that the old fort was an elaborate structure, with bastions, etc., but it was undoubtedly, at its best, merely a rude Indian fortification with ditch and rampart, surmounted by a strong stockade, within which was a strongly built cabin, in size about thirty by forty feet. Parkman, in "the Jesuits in America," gives a good description of similar forts built by the Hurons and other tribes of Canada. The labor in-

involved in the original construction of the fortification must have been very great. The stout stakes of the stockade were cut, pointed and firmly planted with no better implements than the stone axes, wooden spades and clubs used in prehistoric times.

So far as known, the first occurrence of the name of Medoctec in any public document is found in the grant (or concession) to Rene d'Amours, sieur de Clignancourt, of his seigniorie on the upper St. John, which grant was made in 1684 by de la Barre, the Governor of New France. In this grant the lower bound is called "li lieu de Medoctec" (the place of Meductic) and the grant embraced both sides of the river as far north as the Grand Falls. Just one hundred years later the first considerable grant of land on the upper St. John was made by the English to the disbanded officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the 1st Battalion of DeLancey's Brigade, embracing what is now the Parish of Woodstock. This grant is described as "beginning at an Ash Tree on the western bank of the River St. John about two miles below the island called Maductic." The date of the grant is October 15, 1784. Curiously enough it included within its bounds a smaller grant of 4,000 acres of land, made less than six weeks previously to Captain John Munroe of the King's Royal American Regiment. The grant to Captain Munroe was nearly evenly divided by Hay's Creek, which is called in the grant, "the river or creek Maductick." *The grant had a frontage of nearly a mile

and a quarter on the main river, with a depth of about five miles and a half. The complications that arose out of granting the same tract to different parties will be more fully referred to hereafter.

The reference just made to old land grants will suffice to show that the name of Meductic plays an important part in the early history of the country going back to the earliest records and continuing until after the English speaking people had taken possession of the country. It is a source of congratulation that the principal village in the vicinity of the old Medoctec Fort has revived the old historic name.

The first French missionaries on the Upper St. John belonged to the order of the Recollets, or Gray Friars, founded early in the 13th century by St. Francis of Assisi. They came to the River St. John from the province of Aquitaine in France as early as 1620, but the first of the order at Medoctec, of whom we have any definite information, was the worthy father Simon, who is mentioned so frequently and in such glowing terms in the well known narrative of John Gyles. He probably took up the duties of a missionary to the native Indians very soon after Bishop St. Vallier's visit to the St. John River in 1686. Father Simon did all he could to promote the ascendancy of the French in the land they loved to call New France, but his influence with the savages was always exercised on the side of humanity. On this point the testimony of John Gyles is conclusive. He says: "The priest of the river was of the order of St. Francis, a gentleman of a humane, generous disposition. In his sermons he most severely reprehended the Indians for their barbarities to captives. He would often tell them that excepting their errors in religion the English were a better people than themselves."

The French posts established at the mouth of the St. John and later at the Jemseg and Nashwaak served to give them control of the river for many years, and during that period the Indians were their devoted allies. Father Simon led a considerable band of Malisette warriors to assist Villebon in the defence of Fort Nashwaak, when it was attacked by Colonels Hawthorn and Church in 1696. By the fatal plague that broke out amongst the Indians on the St. John river in 1694 there died a large number of every age and sex, including many of the best warriors and their chief. Medoctec itself was abandoned for a brief period, but the savages soon returned. The Recollet missionary Simon died about the close of the century and was succeeded in his mission by one of the Jesuit fathers, Joseph Aubery, who came to Medoctec in 1701 and remained seven years. He afterwards took charge of the Abenaki mission of St. Francis where he continued for forty-six years and died at the age of 82. Chateaubriand drew from his character and career materials for one of the characters in his well known romance, "Atala."

*FOOTNOTE.—In No. 33 of the original series of articles it is stated that Munroe's grant was at the mouth of Eel river. This is a mistake, it was at the mouth of Hay's Creek, which in plans in the Crown Land Office is called Maductic Creek.

Baby Nearly Dead.

Mrs. John Cuddy, Killaloe Station, Ont., says:—"My baby was so nearly dead that I had to place my ear close to his breast to know that he was breathing. He was in this condition when I first gave him Baby's Own Tablets and I hardly dared hope that they would save him. But they helped him almost at once, and soon made him a well child. He is now two years old and weighs forty-five pounds and has never known a sick day since I first gave him the Tablets." Baby's Own Tablets cure constipation, indigestion, diarrhoea, teething troubles, break up colds, expel worms and give little ones natural healthy sleep. And the mother has a guarantee that this medicine contains no opiate or poisonous soothing stuff. Sold by all medicine dealers or sent by mail at 25c a box by writing The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Boockville, Ont.

Carleton County Exhibition.

The Carleton County Exhibition will open next Tuesday. Among the speakers who are expected to be present at the opening ceremony are His Hon. Lieut. Gov. Snowball, Judge Carleton, Premier Tweedie, Solicitor General Jones, Hon. L. P. Farris, F. B. Carvell, M. P., J. K. Flemming, M. P. P., B. Frank Smith, M. P. P., Warden Bailey, Mayor Munro, J. C. Hartley County Secretary and others.

Indications point to a greater number of exhibits than at any previous exhibition held in Carleton County.

The attendance should be very large as the C. P. R. are offering low rates on all trains and on Friday, which is children's day, they will run an excursion from Perth, returning the same day. The train will leave Perth at 6.30 a. m., and returning will leave Woodstock at 5.45.

The pulling contest is already beginning to attract attention. Teams are entered by J. J. Hale who won last year, and by John Harper of Wakefield, William Trafford of Wilmot, G. W. Shaw of Northampton and Arthur Fawcett of Woodstock and others are expected.

The horse races are expected to be more interesting than usual. The management have provided for a large number of amusements not strictly essential to a County Fair, but that make it more interesting to old as well as young.

MR. JAMES HAUGH, a respected citizen of The Barony, died last week at the age of eighty years. He was operated on for cancer of the lip about five weeks ago. Other diseases set in and caused his death. He leaves one son, Clarence, at home, one daughter, Mrs. Wm. Gaunce, Upper Kent. The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Wm. Ross.

THE Presbyterians will hold an Oyster supper on Tuesday the 2nd of October in the Armoury. Refreshments of different kinds and other attractions will be provided. Admission 10 cents. Supper 25 cents. Begins at 5 o'clock p. m.

BORN.

RITCHIE.—At Woodstock, Sept. 12th, to the wife of John S. Ritchie, a son.
MANZER.—At Woodstock, on Thursday the 13th instant to the wife of E. B. Manzer, a son.

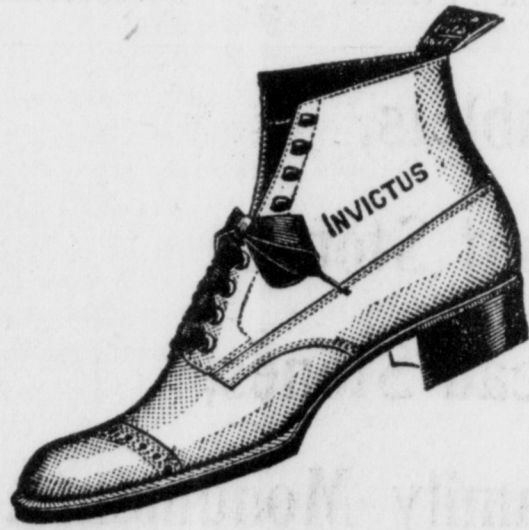
MARRIED.

CARVELL-FOWLER.—At the residence of the bride's parents, Lakeville, September 13th, by Rev. G. A. Sellar, of Chatham, assisted by Rev. G. Ayers, of Centreville, Lewis A. Carvell, of Boston, and Myrtle I. Fowler, of Lakeville.

NEVERS MONTEITH.—At the residence of the bride's parents, Northampton, Wednesday September 12th, Miss Leola Monteith, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Monteith to George A. Nevers.

DIED.

McBRIDE.—At Pioneer, September 9, Letitia, wife of the late Thomas McBride, of Lindsay, age 76 years.



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"THE INVICTUS,"

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