

1913

# Essex Historical Society Papers And Addresses Volume 1

Essex Historical Society

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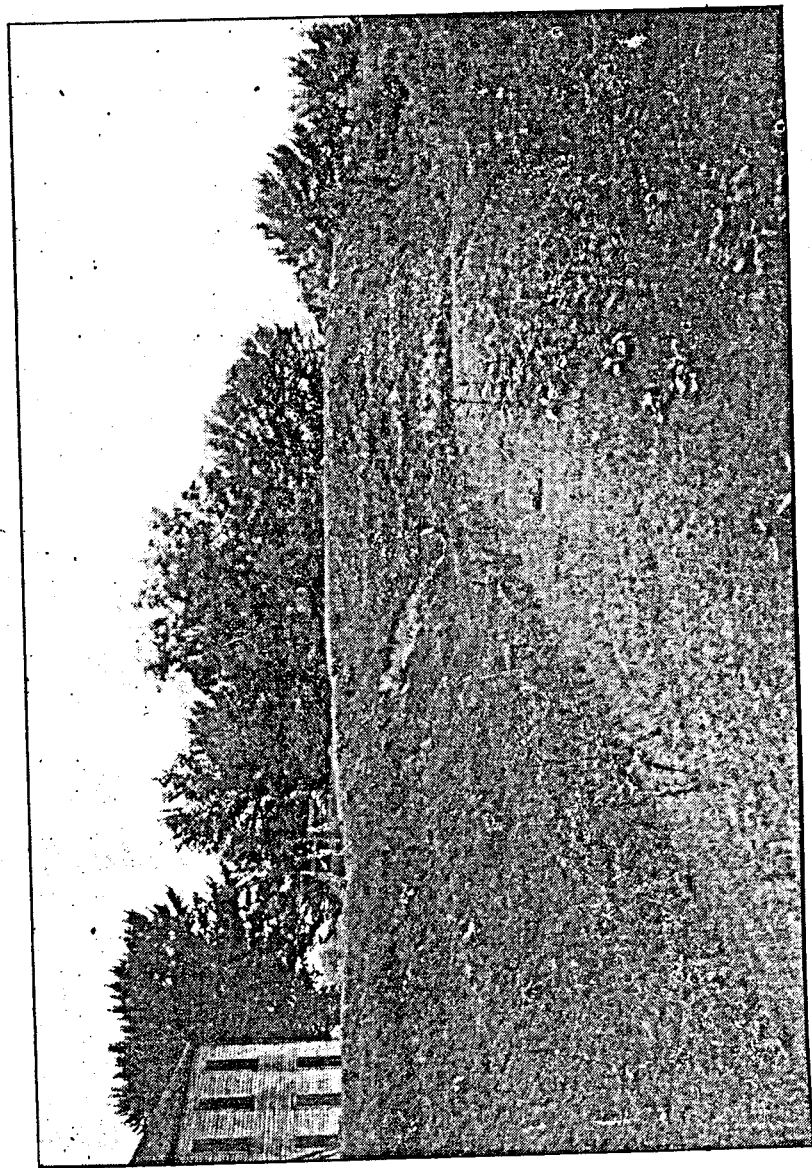
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Essex Historical Society  
Papers and Addresses  
Vol I

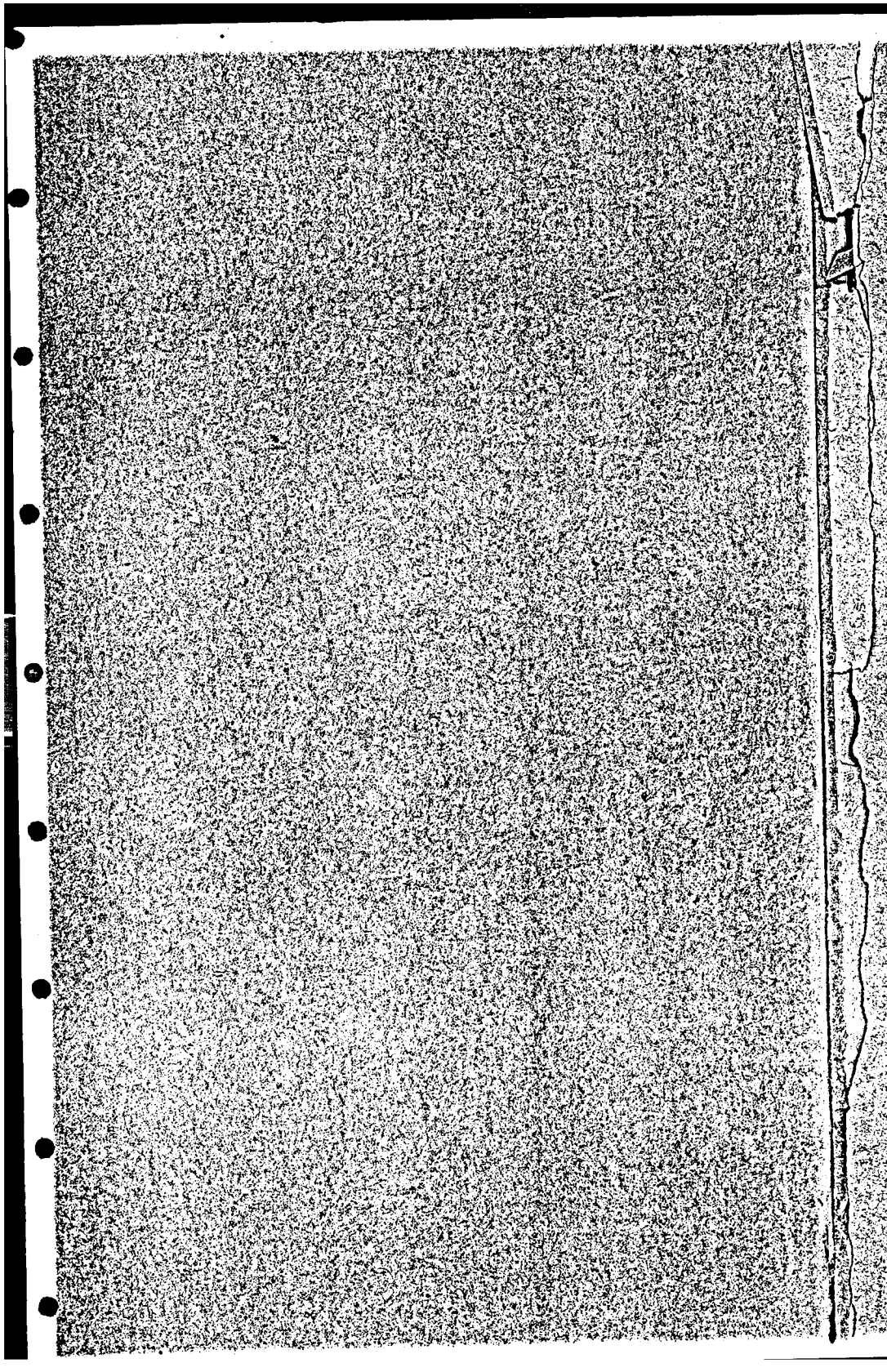
CONTENTS.

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	PAGE
First Report of the Essex Historical Society.....	3
Notes of the Early History of the County of Essex...	5
Local Historic Places in Essex County.....	16
Battle of Fighting Island, February, 1838.....	28
Justice in the Early Days of Historic Sandwich.....	31
The Literature of the Essex Frontier.....	34
The Labadie Family.....	38
Fort Malden.....	56
Place Names of Essex County.....	58
Fort Malden and Old Fort Days.....	69



THE NORTH-WEST BASTION OF OLD FORT MALDEN.



FIRST REPORT OF  
THE ESSEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WINDSOR,  
ONTARIO

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*President*..... Francis Cleary.  
*Vice-Presidents*..... A. P. E. Panet and  
Rev. Thos. Nattress.  
*Secretary-Treasurer*..... A. J. E. Belleperche.  
*Corresponding-Secretary*.. Miss Jean Barr.

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*Executive Committee.*

Miss Kilroy, Mrs. Panet, D. H. Bedford, A. W. Joyce,  
John Barnett, Judge McHugh, and Principal Gavin.

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REPORT OF THE ESSEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The Essex Historical Society was formally organized at a meeting held in the auditorium of the Public Library on the evening of the 19th of January, 1904.

For a number of years spasmodic attempts have been made to start such a Society, but came to naught, principally from the fact that nobody seemed willing to take the initiative. Finally Mr. Andrew Braid, Secretary of the Public Library Board, succeeded in calling a fairly well attended meeting in the auditorium of the Public Library, where the project was discussed and met with such approval that at a subsequent meeting held on the 19th of January, 1904, as stated above, the organization of the Society was effected and the name "The Essex Historical Society" was adopted.

The aims of the Society are best set forth in a report of the Executive Committee, which I incorporate here with:—

1. To invite all persons who are interested in the natural, civil or ecclesiastical history of the Province to become members of the society.

2. To request by special invitation all pioneers or their representatives to co-operate with the Society in procuring, collecting or donating contributions of incidents, papers, pamphlets, books, maps, portraits, Indian relics, natural curiosities or ancient records bearing on the early history of the country;

3. To have a Vice-President appointed in each township of the county who would send in to the Secretary of the Society the names of persons who desire to become members or who would contribute papers to the archives of the Society;

4. That the Library Board grant the Society the privilege of using a special place in the Library as a repository for the historical collections;

5. That the Library Board be requested to appoint a representative on the Society;

6. That a date in mid-summer be named annually for social re-union of the members and their friends at some point of historic interest in the county;

7. That a Committee be named to prepare a constitution and by-laws for the Society;

8. That the membership fee shall be fifty cents per annum for gentlemen and twenty-five cents for ladies, payable in advance in January of each year;

9. That the meetings of the Society be held at least once a month;

10. That the meeting for the election of officers be held in December of each year.

The above recommendations were accepted by the Society.

The Library Board has appointed one of its members on our Executive Committee.

The Society has held one public meeting, and many meetings of the Executive;

We now have a membership of 47, including gentlemen and ladies;

I beg leave to present to the Ontario Historical Society the above report of the Essex Historical Society.

A. J. E. BELLEPERCHE, *Secretary.*

## NOTES ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

BY FRANCIS CLEARY.

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Read at the Annual Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society, at  
Windsor, June 1st, 1904.

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Alexander Pope has said, "The proper study of mankind is man." No less instructive, and, perhaps, of more importance, is the study of one's country, and to narrow this down to the knowledge of the locality we live, or rather reside in, must always be interesting.

A recent French writer, in describing a fishing town on the coast of France, said it was a place which had left its future behind it. This, I trust, cannot be said of our own county of Essex, for, while it has played its part in the early history of this Canada of ours, it is yet too early to prophesy of its future, but as the history of a country is measured, not by years, but by centuries, it may yet share with other parts of the Dominion in making it a prosperous and happy country, with the freest Government under the sun.

Before the division of Quebec, as Canada was then known, in 1791, into the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, the former was grouped into counties or districts known as Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nassau and Hesse, these being changed later into the Eastern, Midland, Home and Western.

The counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton, as is well known, formed a small portion of the Western District. The county of Kent was the dominant one in this district organization in earlier years, and was entitled to send two members to Parliament, while Essex could only send one. To Kent at one time belonged all that territory that lay to the north up to the boundary line of Hudson Bay, and south to the Ohio, and westward to the Mississippi River. The first two members from Kent were elected from Detroit, the district town, in August, 1792, and were William Macomb and David William Smith, afterwards Surveyor-General of Upper Canada. This latter gentleman served

as member of Parliament for twelve years; was Speaker in 1797; was called to the bar in 1794; and held many judicial offices.

Jean Baptiste Baby, son of Jacques Duperon Baby, judge of the Court of Common Pleas, was the first member of Parliament from Essex, elected in 1792. He was succeeded by the following members, down to 1856, viz.: Thomas McKee, in 1801; Matthew Elliot, 1801, 1805, and 1809; David Cowan, 1805; J. B. Bray, 1809 to 1820; William McCormick, 1813 to 1817; George B. Hall, 1817; Francis Baby, 1828, 1829; William Elliott, 1831; Jean B. Macon, 1831; John Alexander Wilkinson, 1825, 1829, and 1835; Francis Caldwell, 1835 to 1840, and Colonel John Prince, of Sandwich, 1836 to 1856.

Of the appointments made to office after 1792, when Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe organized the Government of Upper Canada, I may mention a few, such as judges of the District Court for the Western District: Robert Richardson, in 1807; in 1826, Robert Richardson and William Berezy; in 1832, William Berezy and Charles Eliot; in 1833, Charles Eliot, and on the 26th May, 1845, Alexander Chewett.

The Judges of the Surrogate Court for the same district, from 1800 down to 1836, were James Baby, Richard Pollard, William Hands, and John Alexander Wilkinson, appointed 9th March, 1836.

The sheriffs during the same period were: Richard Pollard, 1800; William Hands, 1802; Ebenezer Reynolds, 1833; Robert Lachlan; 1837; Raymond Baby, 1839; George Wade Foot, 1840; John Waddell, 1849; William Duperon Baby, 1857, and John McEwan, on the 6th May, 1856.

A few of the registrars appointed, and then I am done with these early officers, were, in 1793, Richard Pollard, for Essex and Kent; in 1825, William Hands; in 1831, James Askin; on 3rd July, 1846, John A. Askin; and in 1872, the present registrar, J. Wallace Askin.

Besides these we had, of course, many other gentlemen, who filled responsible positions, such as members of the Western District Council, justices of the peace, collectors of customs, postmasters, etc., the mention of whose names would show that many of their sons and daughters are still residing in our midst.

The affairs of Essex were managed for many years by its District Council, district courts, and justices of the



peace, appointed throughout the district. The latter were quite numerous and contained the names, in 1841, of the most prominent and wealthy men of the country, such as Jean B. Baby, William Duff, Francis Caldwell, William Gaspe Hall, William L. Baby, John F. Elliott, John Prince, John G. Watson, James Askin, Charles Askin, James Dougall, Henry Banwell, Josiah Strong, and others.

Lord Sydenham, Governor-General, in his speech from the throne on the opening of the first Parliament of United Canada, on 26th May, 1841, made special reference to our then municipal institutions, and recommended the more extended application thereof, stating that the principles of self-government should receive more favor, and that the people should exercise a greater degree of power over their own local affairs.

A bill was accordingly introduced in the same year "to provide for better internal Government of that part of this Province, heretofore Upper Canada, by the establishment of local or municipal authorities therein."

This bill, like other Home Rule measures of a much later date, met with great opposition. It was called "Liberal without precedent," "Republican and Democratic," "An abominable measure," and one introducing democracy with universal suffrage.

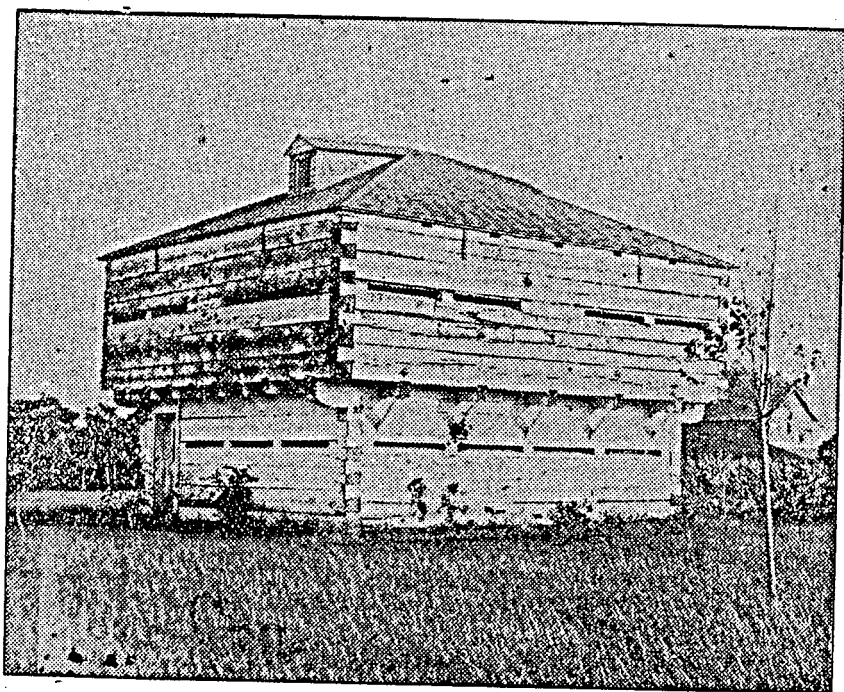
The bill, however, passed under the title mentioned, the Act being 4 and 5 Victoria, Cap. 10, and went into operation January 1st, 1842.

The first meeting of the District Council of the Western District under this Act, was held in the Court House, Town of Sandwich, on the 14th February, 1842, and continued to be held at the same place from time to time until the close of the October session in 1849.

After this date the counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton were united, and the Municipal Council for the same met at Sandwich on 28th January, 1850. This Council was in existence for only one year. Kent then separated from the union.

The next Council being for the united counties of Essex and Lambton, met at Sandwich on the 27th January, 1851, and for about two years thereafter while this union lasted, the same having been dissolved on 30th September, 1853.

After this date the county of Essex being constituted a separate municipality, the first meeting of the County Council was held at Sandwich on October 26th, 1853.



**BLOCK HOUSE, BOIS BLANC.**

None of those who took part in the early deliberations of this Council, down to and including the year 1860, are now alive, with the exception of Mr. John A. Askin, then of Sandwich, and Napoleon A. Coste, of Malden. Among their names will be found men who would do credit to the Council of the present time; men who subsequently filled important positions of much greater responsibility.

We must now turn to a very short reference to the early settlement of our county, and other matters connected therewith. At the meeting of the first Parliament of Upper Canada, on July 16th, 1792, at Newark, now Niagara, the Province was divided into nineteen counties, and the districts renamed, as before mentioned. In 1793 it was provided that courts of Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the Western District, should be held at the Town of Detroit, which, at that time, as we have seen, formed the district town of the County of Kent. A meeting of that court was held there in 1794, and the last one in January, 1796. In the following summer the removal of the court took place to Sandwich. The Act of June 3rd, 1796, called the "Exodus Act," provided for the departure of British authority from Detroit to Sandwich. The Treaty of Versailles, in 1783, recognized the independence of the United States, but news travelled slowly in those times, and British authority did not actually depart from Detroit until July 11th, 1796.

The books containing the entries relating to the confirmation of the titles of lands, held by the locatees, or settlers on both sides of the river, and the documents showing subsequent transfers up to that time were brought to Sandwich and remained in the registry office there for many years, until an Act was passed by our Parliament, some thirty-five years ago, for the removal of such books and documents, as related to lands in the County Wayne, and State of Michigan, to the registry office at Detroit. The first Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the Western District was the Honorable Wm. Dummer Powell, appointed in 1789, with Gregor McGregor, of Detroit, as sheriff, in 1788.

The county of Essex, including Pelee Island, has an area of about 450,000 acres. It is, as is well known, the most southern part of this great Dominion. With the adjoining county of Kent they form a peninsula stretching far south of the State of New York and some other parts of the United States. This situation, and being almost

entirely surrounded by water, should give it exceptional advantages over other portions of Ontario, and it certainly does.

Fishing Point, as the southern extremity of Pelee Island is called, and Middle Island, a small island lying immediately to the south of Fishing Point, and within less than two miles of it, are the most southern points in the Dominion. Pelee Island lies in latitude  $41^{\circ} 36'$  north. It may be interesting, therefore, to note that a line running east and west through Pelee passes through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Nevada, and California, on this continent, and in Europe, through Northern Portugal, and Southern Turkey. Portions of Spain and Italy lie north of Pelee. The southernmost verge of France, reposing amidst its olives and orange groves, is nearly fifty miles farther north than Fishing Point. Due east of the Pelee vineyards lie the famous old cities of Saragossa and Valladolid, and the orange groves of Barcelona. The northern extremity of the State of Virginia is little over fifty miles further south than Fishing Point, and distant from it, as the crow flies, only one hundred miles.

Passing through Essex by rail gives one but an imperfect idea of its fertility. It is certainly wanting in scenery, being without hill or vale, and almost as level as a prairie.

To the emigrant from the British Isles, it is unattractive, notwithstanding its productiveness. It presents, however, some strange and curious features, not the least interesting is the fact that it is one of the oldest, and also one of the newest in the whole Province. Settlements began about the year 1700 under the French regime. In 1701 Cadillac built his forts on the present site of Detroit, and shortly afterwards settlers from France began to make their homes on both sides of the river, on farms of two arpents wide. This is still the size of the original farms in the townships of Sandwich East and West, bordering on the river, and extending back three concessions. The reason for the narrow frontages being the same as existed at a much later date among the settlers of the Red River in Manitoba, to gather more readily, and be better prepared to ward off the attacks of hostile Indians.

Nearly two centuries ago the district or parish of L'Assomption, as the French settlement on this side of the river was called, and upon a part of which the Town of Sandwich now stands, was a mission for the Huron Indians. The Rev. Father Ricardie (Richardie), a Jesuit,

was one of the first missionaries, and continued his pastorate for about thirty years. In 1747 the mission-house was built on the bank of the river, on the spot where the Girardot Wine Company's building now stands. This mission-house is still standing, though somewhat changed in appearance, having been removed a few hundred feet only, a few years ago, to give place to the wine vaults.

In 1762 this parish passed with the rest of New France into the hands of the British, and French emigration thereto somewhat ceased.

At the close of the American War, and about the year 1788, the U. E. Loyalists began to emigrate from Pennsylvania and other families settled in North Essex, and shortly afterwards the Wigles, Foxes, and Kratz, or Scratches, as they are now called, with the Wilkinsons, Stuarts, and McCormicks settled in South Essex.

In 1824 the total population of Essex was only 4,274. In 1837 it was 8,554, while at the last general census in 1901, it was nearly 60,000, making it one of the largest counties in population in the Province.

Of the many interesting places in this county, I shall only mention a few. Amherstburg is undoubtedly one of the oldest towns in the county. I believe it was incorporated as a town about the year 1802. It was settled by the British after the surrender of Detroit to the American Republic, in 1796. It is a curious old town, possessing some strange features. In some respects, very British; in others, very French. Shortly after its occupation by the British troops it was laid out; the streets, as is well-known, bear very British names, such as King, Gore, Apsley, Richmond, Murray, Dalhousie, and the like, and all being similar to streets in French towns and cities, very narrow. It was also known as Fort Malden, the British fort of that name being located within its limits, and the remains of which were in existence until some thirty years ago or later.

In searching the title of a lot on First, or Dalhousie Street, in 1872, situated on the corner of Gore Street, near the residence of ex-Mayor McGee, I found that it was conveyed by deed, dated 22nd July, 1799, by Richard Pat-  
tinson & Co., of Sandwich, merchants, to Robert Innis & Co., of the same place, merchants; there being erected thereon a dwelling house and stable, and was subsequently, in 1808, conveyed by Innis & Grant to William Duff, of Amherstburg, merchant; the consideration being £362 10s,

or \$1,450. It is described as being lot No. 11, on the Garrison Ground, Amherstburg.

The township of Anderdon, lying on this side, and adjacent to Amherstburg, was known for a long time as the "Indian Reserve," and was occupied by many of the Wyandotte tribe of Indians. About thirty years ago they surrendered the last portion of this reserve to the Dominion Government, receiving in return grants of land and a money compensation.

The town of Sandwich next claims mention. We have seen that, in 1796, many persons preferring to live under British rule, removed there from Detroit. The place became pretty well known after this date; the judges of the Western District holding court there, and from 1829 court was regularly held once a year in Sandwich. It was not, however, incorporated as a town until 1857. Here the first newspaper of the county, the *Sandwich Emigrant*, was published in 1830, by Mr. John Cowan, the father of Mr. Miles Cowan, of our city. Previous to and after the last-mentioned date, Sandwich, for many years being the district town, the elections for members of Parliament were held here, there being but the one voting place, and the electors from Essex, Kent, and Lambton had to come here to cast their votes, the election lasting a whole week.

In these early days the village of Windsor was known as "The Ferry," being the place where the people were afforded the means of transportation to Detroit. On the Ouellette farm was an inn, kept by Pierre St. Amour, on the spot where the British-American Hotel now stands, and he also kept for the ferry to Detroit a log canoe. Francis Labalaine, who resided on the Jannette farm, near where the C.P.R. station now stands, kept the other ferry-boat, also a log canoe. The fare was 25 cents the round trip. At that time the only settlers living in and about the village were John G. Watson, merchant, Charles Jannette, Francis Baby, Vital Ouellette, Francois Pratt, and a few other farmers. An important resident previous to this date should be mentioned, viz., Jacques Duperon Baby, His Majesty's Indian Agent, a fur-trader and a farmer, and who was at that time the owner of several of the farms upon which Windsor now stands. His store was on the river front, near what is now called Church Street, and almost opposite Fort Pontchartrain, then situated where Griswold Street is in Detroit. The Hudson Bay Company had an important fur-trading post, afterwards known as

"Moy," on the bank of the river, near the residence of Mr. John Davis; the old house yet standing and being known by that name, but, no doubt, much modernized. Windsor was incorporated as a village January 1st, 1854, with a population of 1,000, and as a town in 1858, with a population of 2,000.

Fighting Island, in the Detroit River, was surveyed in 1858 by O. Bartley, and was patented to the late Major Paxton, in June, 1867. The major was well known throughout the country, and died at Amherstburg in 1874. The Isle au Pesche, or Fishing Island, in French, and now called Peach Island, is another portion of our county. Situated as it is just above Belle Isle, it was once the home of Pontiac, the renowned Ottawa Indian chief and warrior, and who was a great friend of Jacques Duperon Baby, before-mentioned. This island was famous as a fishing station; large catches of *poisson blanc* being made here in early days. It was held for many years, under lease from the Indian Department, by the late William Gaspé Hall, and finally was purchased by the late Hiram Walker, some twenty years before his death. This island has a history of its own, which can be traced over one hundred years.

Strange to say, slavery existed in Canada, at any rate in Essex, for some years after it was abolished by the Act of the first Upper Canadian Parliament, passed in 1794, many years before the British Emancipation Act.

Jacques Duperon Baby, the Indian fur-trader, owned no fewer than thirty slaves.

Colonel Elliott, who was one of the early British settlers from Virginia, brought with him, in 1784, sixty slaves, and settled just below Amherstburg. Remains of the slave quarters are said to be still on the place, now occupied by Mr. Fred Elliott.

Antoine Descomptes Labadie, a wealthy resident of the township of Sandwich, now the site of Walkerville, by his last will and testament, dated May 26th, 1806, bequeaths to his wife, Charlotte, her choice of any two of his slaves.

The late Mr. W. L. Baby, of the Customs, Windsor, in his book, "Souvenirs of the Past," gives an amusing account of the attempted rescue of a Kentucky slave, who escaped from his master in 1830, and sought refuge at the home of the late Charles Baby, in Sandwich. Needless to say, the master had to beat a hasty retreat after learning something of British justice, and the rights of the negro under the British flag.

Mr. Charles Mair, formerly of Windsor, and author of "Tecumseh," had in his possession a deed in French signed by Pontiac, the Indian chief, with his totem (a turtle), dated 17th September, 1765, and which conveyed to Lieutenant Abbott, of the Royal Artillery, a piece of land on the Detroit River, and upon which the Walker Distillery now stands, formerly the property of Antoine Descomptes Labadie.

Pontiac and his braves, no doubt, occupied a considerable portion of Essex. He laid siege to Fort Detroit, in 1763, unsuccessfully, and died in 1769.

Perhaps no other dwelling or place in the county of Essex has such a history as the Baby mansion at the town of Sandwich, erected about the year 1780, by the Honorable ~~James Baby~~ <sup>ERR</sup> Inspector-General, and Legislative Councilor, the father of the late Wm. L. Baby, previously mentioned, and the late Mr. Charles Baby, Clerk of the Peace, who became its owner, and resided there for so many years previous to his death, about thirty years ago. The dwelling was, and is yet, a most substantial one. Its orchard contained several of the famous old French pear-trees, over seventy feet high, planted by the Jesuits more than one hundred years ago. It was the headquarters of General Hull when he invaded Canada in 1812. Its halls have echoed to the voices of Hull, Brock, Proctor, Harrison, and Tecumseh. Like Detroit, its neighbor, it has been under more than one flag.

It is not necessary here to relate the various struggles between contending armies and lawless invaders which took place on our frontier, merely mentioning the War of 1812; the driving off Fighting Island of the so-called Patriots by the British troops and volunteers, in February, 1838, and in the following month of the same class of invaders from Pelee Island.

The Battle of Windsor, on the 4th December, 1838, will also have to be left for others to deal with. It will make a good paper in itself. I would advise you to read the Memorial Tablet, in St. John's cemetery at Sandwich, erected to the memory of Dr. Hume, who was killed, or, rather, to use the words of Colonel Prince, who is said to have written the inscription, "was brutally murdered" on that occasion whilst proceeding from Sandwich to Windsor to render assistance to Her Majesty's troops engaged in repelling the invaders.



Let me conclude by saying a few words about the fertility and varied productiveness of our county. I have mentioned its want of scenery, and its most southerly position. It is well-known that Indian corn is the leading crop of the county, yielding nearly fifty bushels of shelled corn, on an average, to the acre, and much more than the famous corn States of Missouri or Iowa. At nearly every country agricultural fair in the Province that particular county is claimed to be the garden of Canada. Of course, we think Essex alone can truly make this claim. It is one of the best agricultural counties in the Dominion. There is no other which surpasses it. It is the home of almost all the fruits of the temperate climate.

Occasionally the mean temperature in April is 55°, about the average temperature of Toronto in May. The midsummer months are nearly as warm as at New York. Spring is early, and generally free from frost, whilst autumn is most beautiful and warm. Besides other fruits, peaches and watermelons are of the finest quality, and yield a most abundant crop. The culture of tobacco has been largely and profitably engaged in. It is the only county where the Catawba grape has been successfully grown; the crop on Pelee Island being equal to that produced on the banks of the Ohio. The late Mr. Theodule Girardot, of Sandwich, himself a native of Eastern France, produced in his vineyards four to five tons of Concord to the acre, and he was also of the opinion that Essex was superior as a wine district to the valleys of Moselle and Rhine, and that the wine made here was equal to any in Eastern France.

## LOCAL HISTORIC PLACES IN ESSEX COUNTY.

BY MISS MARGARET CLAIRE KILROY.

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*Read at the annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society, in Windsor, 1st June, 1904.*

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There is no other county in Ontario around which clusters more hallowed memories, associated with the ancient history of Western Canada, than the County of Essex. It is rich in incidents, and records of early discoveries, of ecclesiastical zeal and of martial valor. It is to commemorate the stirring scenes enacted on the south shore of the Detroit River, that we are gathered in this auditorium of the Windsor Library tonight.

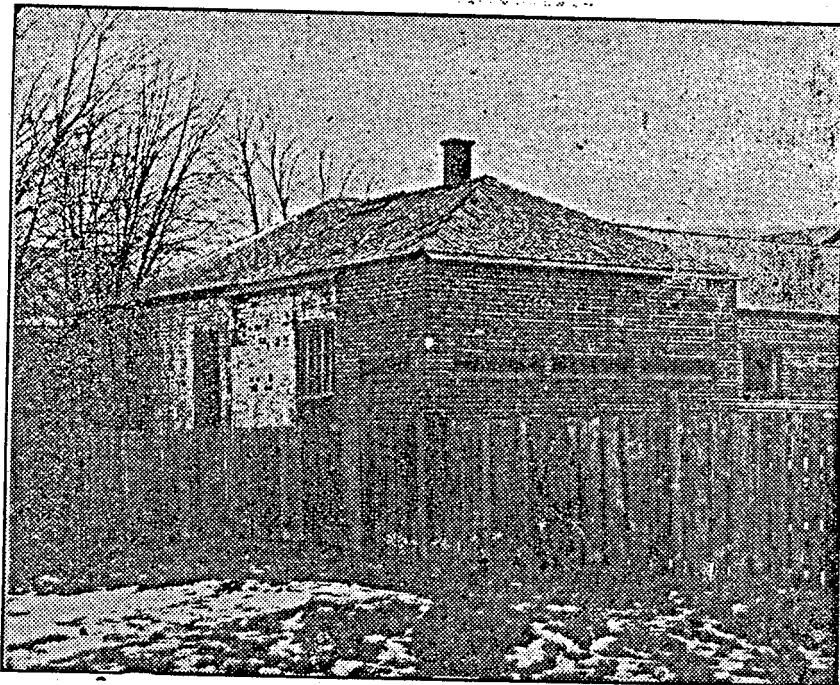
Bancroft writes of the first explorations in French America, that "Scarce a cape was turned, scarce a river entered, but a Jesuit led the way." This statement of the great American historian is borne out in the history of the County of Essex. It was a Jesuit, Father Armand de la Richardi, a native of Aquitaine, France, who, one hundred and seventy-six years ago (1728), came to the then remote post of Fort Pontchartain (Detroit) as a missionary to the Huron Indians. He was the first white man who planted the seeds of civilization and of Christianity on the south shore of the Detroit River, in the villages of the savages at Bois Blanc Island and at Huron Point (Sandwich). Father Richardi labored as a missionary, with apostolic zeal, for seven years before he succeeded in converting the whole tribe of the Wyandotte, or Huron Indians, of the south shore, six hundred of whom were baptised by him. He established a residence, known as the "Mission Farm," on Bois Blanc Island, but nowhere can I find evidence, either in tradition or in writing, that he built a church on the island. "The Mission Farm," as well as the village of the Hurons, near Lake Erie, was abandoned after suffering from an attack by the old-time enemy of the Hurons, the Iroquois Indians, led by a war chief named Nichols. Through the influence of Father Richardi the Hurons of the south shore were concentrated in one large village, at

Huron Point (La Pointe de Montreal). Here Father Richardi built a church "70 brasses long," dedicated it to the service of Almighty God under the patronage of our Lady of the Assumption, and thence he wrote to his superior at Quebec, and asked for assistance, as he was sixty years old, and found himself unable to learn the language of the savages who lived in the vicinity. (The village of the Ottawa Indians was located above the site of the present Walkerville.) Father Richardi's letter was written under the date of June 21st, 1741, and he permanently retired in 1753 from the mission of the Hurons of the Detroit to Quebec, where he died at the Hotel Dieu in 1758.

In 1744, after spending a year at Loretto, Quebec, in the study of the Huron language, Father Peter Potier, a Jesuit, a Belgian by birth, came to the Detroit River to assist Father Richardi as missionary to the Huron Indians of the south shore, with whom he labored for nearly forty years, or until his death, in 1781. His body rests beneath the nave of the present Church of the Assumption, at Sandwich.

There is no tradition which locates the site of the primitive structure used as a church by Father Richardi, but its successor, which was known far and wide as "The Church of the Hurons," was erected between the years of 1747 and 1750, by Father Potier, on land given the Jesuits by the Indians north-east of the present "Girardot wine-cellar." "The Jesuit Farm" was later known as "The Pratt Farm." Father Potier also built a mission house, and enclosed about four acres of land as a mission garden. The mission house is still standing and habitable. It was a notable landmark until recent years, when it was robbed of its ancient appearance, "stone foundations and tall, stone chimney plastered and whitened on the outside," as recorded in the Jesuit Relations.

The names of the men who assisted Father Potier more than one hundred and fifty years ago in his work of building church and house, are recorded as follows: "Pierre Meloche, of the Windmill, who supplied the lumber; Nicholas dit Niagara, Campau and Mini, who hauled it; Nicholas Francis Janis, the mason; Charles Parent, the carpenter; Jean Baptist Goyeau, the farmer; Jean Cecille and Charles Chauvin, the blacksmiths; Belleperche, Dumouchel, Reaume, DeLisle, Marentette, St. Louis Legros," etc., etc. Men bearing these honored names are with us to-night; they are the representatives of the early habitants of Es-



FORT BUILDING SHOWING PORT HOLES.

sex; they retain the creed, the customs, the language, and the land of their fathers, the hardy Frenchmen, who laid the foundation of our commonwealth.

In course of time a larger and more commodious edifice, which retained the name of "The Church of the Hurons," was substituted for the church erected in 1747. This log church building was in existence until 1851, when it was removed from its site on the north bank of the Coulee, between the present Church of the Assumption and the river road, just west of the avenue of maple trees, planted by the late Right Reverend Dr. Pisoneault, first Bishop of Sandwich.

In 1749, 1751, and 1754 settlers were sent to the shores of the Detroit River from France at the expense of the Government, and farms were granted to them on both sides of the river four arpents wide at the channel bank, and running back forty arpents deep. Farming implements and other advances were made to them by the Government until they were able to take care of themselves, which they were soon able to do.

In 1752 there were twenty families settled on the south shore. In this year Father Potier baptised Jean Dufour, the first white child born in the future County of Essex. In 1760 fifty families were settled on the river bank on farms, east of the Church of the Hurons. The names of these farmers were as follows: Campeau, Chene, Drouliard, Janisse, Goyeau, Meloche, Pelette, Baby, Parent, Villier dit St. Louis, Gaudet dit Marentette, Le Beau, Navarre, Robert, Trembley, Reneaud, Reaume, Cloutier, Chermont, Compare, La Feuillade, Bourdeau, Bouron, Bon Voulrier, Boesmier, Bergeron, Caron, De Noyers, Dupuis, De Rouin, Toupin dit DuSaux, Des Hetres, De Breuil, Du Bois, Jadot, Grenon, Le Grand, Thirait, La Coste, L'Anglois, Pagot, Pratt Rochelot dit L'Esperance.

In this year, A. D. 1760, the Bourbon lilies of chivalric France went down before the conquering banner of Great Britain. On the 19th of November the change of flags took place without clash of arms at Fort Pontchartrain (Detroit), on the north shore. The French commander, M. Bellestre, retired, and Major Robert Rogers took possession of the fort and all the adjacent country and both sides of the river, in the name of His Britannic Majesty, King George III.

The change of government from French to British rule on the shores of the Detroit, made little change in the daily

life of the habitant, but it brought a new life to the Mission of the Hurons, which was merged into the parish of the Assumption. The Right Rev. Bishop of Quebec gave Father Potier ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the settlers on the south shore, who were released from the parish of Ste. Anne's Church, Detroit, to become the first parishioners of the Church of the Assumption. The records of the parish of the Assumption at Sandwich are consecutive, from the date of July 16, 1761, until the present time, one hundred and forty-three years. They are the oldest and most complete file of church records in Ontario.

In 1761 Lieutenant-Governor Hamilton was commander at Detroit, and from thence he wrote to the Earl of Dartmouth. In this letter he mentioned that the French farmers were settled for eight miles on the south shore of the river, that the houses were of logs; most of them had orchards adjoining. He writes as follows: "The inhabitants may thank the bountiful hand of Providence for melons, peaches, plums, pears, apples, mulberries and grapes, besides several sorts of smaller fruits. Near the river the woods are full of blossoming shrubs, wild flowers, and aromatic herbs. Almost every farmer has a calash for summer and a cariole for winter. They use oxen for the plough. The farmer in a few hours, with gun or line, will furnish food for several families." Before each farm on the roadside a cross was erected by the settler, and blessed by the Jesuit missionary, as a symbol of faith and thanksgiving, that God permitted the habitant to plant Christianity in the New World. The settlement below the Huron village at Sandwich was known under the sobriquet of "Cote Misere," or Misery Settlement. It is now known as Petite Cote, the garden of the county. The pear trees were of great height and girth; the fruit was small, sweet, and luscious. The tree was said to be propagated by seed brought from France by the Jesuit Fathers, and for that reason the giant fruit trees were named the "Mission pear-trees."

"Many a thrifty Mission pear  
Yet o'erlooks the blue St. Clair,  
Like a veteran faithful warden;  
And their branches gnarled and olden  
Still each year their blossoms dance,  
Scent and bloom of Sunny France."

The victory of the British Army in New France was closely followed by the great Indian conspiracy, under Pontiac, which had for its object a general uprising of the

Indians, from the Bay of Gaspé to the country of the Illinois; a massacre of the garrison at the several forts—Mackinaw, Detroit, etc.—and thus to put an end forever to British supremacy in Canada.

The village of the Ottawa Indians was the rendezvous of Pontiac and the allied tribes of the Ottawa confederacy. It was situated on the south shore of the Detroit River, abreast of Belle Isle, one of the most beautiful places in Canada; rich in all the diversity of land and water. Here in the Indian village just above the present site of Walkerville, in the fateful summer of 1763, nearly three thousand warriors, under Pontiac, lay encamped; thence they watched the river and the distant shore, where, in the Old Fort, Major Gladwin and his little band of heroes, one hundred and twenty men all told, were besieged. Without a shadow of cowardice they faced impending death by massacre or by famine.

It is narrated in the Pontiac manuscript that on the day of the proposed attack on the fort at Detroit, Father Potier crossed the river, went to the camp of the allied savages, near the fort, and by the power he had over them withdrew the Hurons, the bravest of all the warriors, to their village at Montreal Point, and thus saved Detroit from the fate which befell her sister fort at Mackinaw. The old manuscript goes on to tell of this worthy priest as "Father Potier, the Jesuit missionary of the Hurons, was revered by both Frenchmen and Indians, as a saint upon earth."

A little way up stream from the site of the Ottawa village, is Peach Island, a tract of about one hundred acres of land. It was the home of Pontiac and his wives and his children. Peach Island was visited in 1721 by the eminent traveller, writer, and historian, Father Peter Francis Charlevoix, S. J., who wrote of it as "Isle Aux Pêche or Fishing Island." He wrote of Belle Isle, as "Isle Ste. Claire." The latter name was changed to Rattle Snake Island, and later to Hog Island. In 1845 it received and retained the descriptive name of "Belle Isle, or Beautiful Island." When George III. was King the present Belle Isle, a tract of 700 acres, was a Canadian common. During the siege of Detroit by Pontiac a family named Fisher was massacred on the island. In 1768 Lieutenant George McDougall, an officer in His Majesty's 60th Regiment, purchased the island from the Indians for the immediate consideration of five barrels of rum, three rolls of

tobacco, and three pounds of vermilion, and a belt of wampum, together with three barrels of rum and three pounds of paint, to be paid when possession was taken. The unique document of conveyance, signed by the chiefs, and bearing the totems of the Chippewa and Ottawa tribes, is a relic still in possession of the Campeau family, the heirs of Lieutenant McDougall, who sold the island to the City of Detroit, in 1870, for \$200,000. It was on the island, by Indian method, that white fish was first successfully cured for the eastern markets. In 1836, 3500 barrels of white fish, at \$8 per barrel, were shipped from the island.

It was from the end of Belle Isle that the so-called General Bierce and his so-called "Patriot" army, in 1838, on the steamer *Champlain*, crossed to the south shore, and marched westward to meet death and defeat in the Battle of Windsor. Above the village of the Ottawas was located the first windmill, erected on the south shore. It was the property of Pierre Meloche, the friend of Pontiac. Down stream, not far above the Church of Our Lady of Lake Ste. Claire, is located the Askin property, known as "Strabane." It was the early home of that brilliant unfortunate child of genius—soldier, traveller, writer, historian, and first novelist in Western Canada—Major John Richardson. I regret to say that copies of "Wacousta," "The Canadian Brothers," and others of his novels are not in general circulation in Essex. Major Richardson lived at Strabane, at Amherstburg, and at Sandwich; in the latter place, below St. John's Church, can be seen the brick house occupied by him when revising "The Canadian Brothers," some sixty years ago. I trust that our local Historical Society will erect in the City Library a tablet to keep green the memory of this gifted foster-son of Essex, whose remains rest in an unknown, perhaps unmarked grave, in a United States cemetery.

The present plant of the Asphalt Paving Block Company is built on the site of the Montreuil windmill, and near by is what was once the Jenkins Ship Yard, where, a century ago, the first vessels built on the south shore were constructed. Here also was built the ferry boat *Essex* and the railway transfer steamers, etc. Near this place, between the two windmills, William Hull, brigadier-general and commander of the Western Army of the United States, and his troop of 2,000 regular soldiers, on the night of July 12th, 1812, crossed the river, landed on the south shore, unfurled the stars and stripes, and marched along



the river-road to Sandwich; thence to be issued, on the 13th of July, his famous proclamation, addressed "To the inhabitants of Canada."

The modern sightseer travels over the same road to-day as re-echoed the war-like tramp of the doughty General Hull and his army, but he looks not on the quaint, old log houses of the habitants, Labadie and Maisonville; in their places stand out boldly the world-famous liquor plant and mammoth rack warehouses of "Hiram Walker & Sons, Limited." The pretty garden town of Walkerville has numerous thriving industries besides the distillery. It also has a magnificent new stone memorial church, dedicated to St. Mary, erected and endowed by the munificence of the Walker family.

One step from Walkerville and we are within the municipal boundaries of Windsor. The site of Windsor was recommended by Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, first Governor of Upper Canada, as suitable for a garrison should the post of Detroit be ceded to the United States. On April 28th, 1792, Governor Simcoe wrote as follows: "It therefore appears to me that if it be thought necessary that the Government should have a garrison on the Straits of Detroit it had better be placed directly opposite to the present town, to which the cannon and stores might be easily moved, where the barracks of the troops might be so constructed as to be adequate fortifications, and where, I understand, wharfs, if necessary, might be as conveniently erected as on the opposite shore, and where, it is probable, many of the inhabitants who prefer the British Government would easily enter, and by whose means a commercial intercourse would be kept up with the inhabitants in the District of the United States."

#### MOY HOUSE.

On the eastern confines of Windsor there stands a quaint, solidly built, large mansion, erected in the eighteenth century. It is known as "Moy House." The four-sided roof is a key to its history; for the nonce we are with Laut and Parker, sharing in the joys and the sorrows of "The Lords of the North" and "Pierre and His People," for one hundred years ago Moy House was an establishment of the Hudson Bay Company. It was built by Hon. Angus McIntosh, factor of the great fur company, on the shores of the Detroit. He also built two long, low

McIntosh, Angus,

24

1755-1833

brick buildings adjoining Moy. One of the latter buildings was used as a storehouse for ammunition; the other was used for Indian merchandise, or pelts for the market in England. At the water's edge there was a landing place, where the brigs *Caledonia* and *Wellington*, of Moy, loaded or discharged their cargoes. These brigs were built by members of the Jenkins and Hackett families, who came from the Orkney Islands as shipbuilders for the fur company.

There is a glamor of romance about the history of McIntosh, the factor. He was a young son of Angus McIntosh, of Moy Hall, near Inverness, Scotland, and his wife, the celebrated Lady of Moy, who not only harbored at the hall "Prince Charlie," but gave vent to her own Jacobite feelings, and those of the Clan McIntosh, by levying the fighting men of the ancient tribe to the number of three hundred, at whose head she rode with a man's bonnet on her head, a tartan riding-habit richly laced, and pistols at her saddle-bow. It was she who caused the famous "Rout of Moy." Her son, Angus, was a voluntary exile from the Old Land through his fealty to the ill-starred Stuart family. He was a merchant in Detroit at the time of the evacuation, 1796. He followed the British flag to the south shore, together with his wife, a French lady, Archange St. Martin and family. He entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company; built on the banks of the Detroit "Moy House," named after his ancestral home in Scotland. In 1812 he, with his sons, James, Angus, and Duncan, did noble service on the River St. Clair for King and country. In 1830 Angus McIntosh was called to Scotland to take possession of his estate and his birthright as the Laird of Moy, and the head of the Clan Chattan. It is told in story that when one of the old Lairds of Moy died, his remains were carried to his grave, followed by two thousand mourners, all clansmen.

The wife of Honorable Angus McIntosh was buried in the cemetery of the Church of the Assumption at Sandwich. Her grass-hidden tombstone can be found, bearing the date, 1827. It is the oldest monumental inscription in the cemetery.

Not far from Moy is another time-worn building, more than a century old, but still in an excellent state of preservation, with high pitched roof, dormer windows, low eaves, and vine-colored porch. It was the home of the Beaubien

family. There are many interesting stories associated with this ancient domicile.

About where the Grand Trunk Railway round-house is situated, there was once a wharf known as Vorhoeff's. Here the vessel, named the *Thames*, was set on fire during the rebellion.

McDougall Street, Windsor, is a street unique in Canada. It is a thoroughfare closely settled on each side for more than a mile by negroes. The houses were built by the runaway slaves, who, before the war, found an asylum in Canada.

Where the present City Hall is located on Sandwich Street East was the scene of bloodshed and the burning of the block-house during the rebellion of 1838.

The public square, in the centre of Windsor Avenue, was purchased in 1835 for military purposes. On it the Government built several low, long houses, which were used as barracks by the militia, who were called to arms to protect the border during the Fenian excitement of 1866.

On Pitt Street we pass over the ground which was once the Baby orchard, and the scene of the Battle of Windsor. Here brave Dr. Hume was done to death on that raw December morning in 1838, and his sword carried away by the so-called "General" Bierce, who bequeathed it as a war souvenir to a college in Ohio.

About where the present Canadian Express Office is situated on Sandwich Street, the guns were mounted and trained to carry shot and shell into the fort at Detroit on the 16th of August, 1812, whilst General Brock and his militia and Indian allies crossed the river from the old school-house at Sandwich to Spring Wells, and marched on the fort at Detroit, which capitulated by the order of General Hull.

On the eastern limits of Sandwich is the parish church of the Assumption, the successor of the old church of the Hurons, which stood upon the grassy site between the two roads. Within the Church of the Assumption, beneath the nave, are the graves of Father Potier, 1781; Father De-Faux, 1796, and Father Marchant, 1825. The pulpit is a fine example of wood carving. It is a relic from the Church of the Hurons, and was the work of the great sculptor Ferot, in 1792. The bell given to the Church of the Hurons by the British Government in 1784 can be heard from the turret of the neighboring College of the Assumption. It was of this bell Major McKenny wrote in his

"Trip of the Lakes," in 1826, "Sweetly over the water comes the sound of the bell from the Church of the Hurons at Sandwich."

The church farm of 350 acres was given to the Church of the Assumption by the Hurons. The road west of the church farm is known as the Huron line. It divided the village of the Hurons from the church farm. The lines of the early British survey—1790—were struck from the Huron line. The bearings were taken from the burnished cross on Ste. Anne's Church, Detroit.

The Huron village occupied about a mile square of land, lying between the Church of the Assumption and the River Au Gervais; the little coulee flowed into the Detroit River near the present garden of Mr. Cowan. The Hurons permanently retired from the reserve at the Huron Church to the reserve at the River Canard in 1799. On the site of the Indian village General Hull pitched his tents for 2,500 American soldiers. Here also General William Henry Harrison and his troop of 3,500 soldiers rested when *en route* for the River Thames.

The Baby house is near by. It was built after the conquest of Canada, by one Jacque Duperon Baby, a storekeeper of Indian merchandise at Fort Pontchartrain; and also in the Miami country in 1760, and Government interpreter of the Shawnee Indians, at 20 shillings sterling per day, during the American Revolution. His son James was also a Government interpreter and storekeeper in the Indian Department, and afterward member of the first Parliament of Canada, and Inspector-General. He died in 1833, and is buried in Assumption cemetery. The Baby house was the headquarters of General Hull. Thence he retreated to Detroit in August, 1812. The County Court House at Sandwich was built about fifty years ago by Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, who at that time was a master builder, and, more recently, Premier of Canada.

St. John's Church and cemetery have an interesting history, commencing early in the nineteenth century. Judge Woods, of Chatham, issued a valuable brochure on the church when the parish celebrated its century in 1903.

Preserved in the Canadian archives at Ottawa there is a voluminous correspondence written by distinguished men, and dated at Sandwich—Father Hubert, afterwards the Bishop of Quebec; Father Burke, the first Bishop of Halifax; Rev. Richard Pollard, founder of St. John's parish; General Brock, Colonel Proctor, General Hull, Gen-

eral Harrison, afterwards President of the United States, etc. It was at Sandwich Colonel Proctor brought General Winchester and nearly 500 officers and men prisoners of war, taken at the Battle of the River Rasin, fought on January 13th, 1813. It was from Sandwich General Winchester wrote to Colonel Proctor to testify to the polite attention, as well as humanity and kindness, with which Colonel Proctor caused General Winchester and the prisoners of war to be treated, who fell into the hands of the British. It was at Sandwich that Tecumseh and his 600 warriors lay in camp ready to co-operate with Colonel Proctor after the great naval battle of Lake Erie. The sentiments of the brave Tecumseh were fiercely opposed to the retreat of the British army to the River Thames. In impassioned language Tecumseh urged Colonel Proctor to meet General Harrison on the shore of the Detroit River. He said, "This land is ours, we should fight for it and leave our bones upon it."

"Park Farm," the home of the remnant of the Prince family, is near the town of Sandwich. The house was built by the late Colonel Prince, who, in his generation, was the most important man in Essex.

Knagg's Creek, or Lagoon Park, is an interesting piece of scenery below Sandwich. Leaving it behind us we travel on the modern car, through Petite Cote, famous for its vegetables, notable for its succulent radishes and fine orchards of cherries, apples and pears, with broad well-kept vineyards, can be seen on every side. At Turkey Creek we are opposite Fighting Island, familiar to us in the tales of the rebellion. At the bridge of the River Canard we recall the fact that it was here at the "Old Road" young Hancock lost his life and Dean was wounded, the first British blood shed in the War of 1812.

It was here that Colonel St. George, of Proctor's command, repulsed General Cass, of General Hull's command, on July 13th, 1812. Below this point of the River Canard is the oldest of the historic places in Essex—the graveyard of the Huron Indians of the south shore. It is two hundred years old, and it still is used as a cemetery by the representatives of the Huron nation. The monument of the late Mr. White (Chief Mondorn), is a conspicuous landmark in this quaint God's Acre.

Below the Indian reserve are the farms which were allotted to the Butler Rangers and the U. E. L. in 1790. We are now at Amherstburg, and it is time to say "Good-night."

## BATTLE OF FIGHTING ISLAND, FEBRUARY, 1838.

BY JOHN McCRAE.

This day, December 4th, 1888, the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Windsor (1838), leads the minds of those still surviving, back to the scenes of those stormy times.

Immediately after the defeat of Mackenzie and his followers in Upper Canada, and of Papineau in Lower Canada, upon their retreating to the frontier of the United States, where they found sympathy in abundance among our cousins, a large organization was formed for the invasion of Canada, mainly at Buffalo, Rochester, and Lockport, on the eastern, and at Detroit and Port Huron, on the western frontier. They were liberally supplied with arms, ammunition, food, and other necessaries for carrying the war into Canada. At first, these demonstrations seemed very formidable. Navy Island, a Canadian island in the Niagara River, was taken possession of by W. Lyon Mackenzie, where he formed a Provisional Government, of which he was President. He issued a proclamation offering three hundred acres of land to each volunteer who would join his forces, and \$100 in cash, and by way of burlesquing the rewards offered by Sir F. B. Head for him (Mackenzie) and others, £5,000 was offered for the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada. Similar demonstrations were made on the western frontier, under Generals McLeod, Theller, and Sutherland. Bois Blanc Island was taken possession of in January 1838, where, for a short time, they made their headquarters, and subsequently they took possession of Fighting Island, and in March following they sent an expedition to Point au Pelee Island, where a number of regulars (Captain Brown among them) were killed and wounded.

These demonstrations seemed exceedingly formidable at first, especially in December and January, and the inhabitants on all the frontier sent earnest appeals to the interior of the Provinces for aid and protection, which was responded to with alacrity from all quarters, and, strange to say, among the earliest volunteers were many who had been strong sympathizers with Mackenzie; but who, when the danger came from a foreign source, joined the ranks against it. Our volunteers did not take up *arms*—for there

were no arms in the country to take up—and at this time (December, 1837), there was not a regular soldier in Upper Canada.

Among the first to respond to the call from the frontier were the "Kent Volunteers," under Captain Bell, Lieutenants Baby and T. McCrae, and Ensign Cartier, who were organized at Chatham in the last days of December, and marched to the frontier on the 2nd or 3rd of January, 1838. Their uniform was a good blanket (furnished by the late James Read, Esq., from his store) strapped over their shoulders, and their arms—whatever they could get hold of—a few had shotguns, or rifles, but most of them had nothing—and this was the case with all the volunteers who marched to the frontier. They did not "fly to arms," there were no arms to fly to, but they undauntedly went forward *unarmed*, and they conquered their arms from the enemy, for which an opportunity soon offered.

Early in January General Theller, with a schooner (the Schooner *Ann*), loaded with arms and ammunition from Bois Blanc Island, attacked the old Town of Amherstburg. The militia and volunteers defended the town with such arms as they had. There was not a gun in the fort, and some *wise men* actually improvised a wooden cannon with iron hoops and bands. It did not affect the enemy in the least, but it came very near terminating the career of the inventors, for the first shot sent it and them flying in all directions—nobody killed. However, there was something better in store for the defenders than wooden guns. Towards morning the schooner missed stays (some said that a stray shot cut the halyards), and she went ashore and was boarded by the volunteers and militia, and captured. Generals Theller and Dodge, Colonels Brophy, Davis, and Anderson, were captured on deck, and twenty or twenty-five in the hold. Davis and Anderson were wounded, the latter died the next morning. Three or four hundred stand of arms and two cannon were also captured. These were soon distributed among the volunteers and militia. Our company, the Kent Volunteers, numbering nearly one hundred men, were fully equipped and defied the enemy.

Some time in February 1838, the sympathizers, or rebels as they were still termed, reorganized in Detroit, and took possession of Fighting Island, a Canadian island, about six or eight miles below Windsor, of which we received information on a Saturday afternoon, but being unable to effect a crossing that night, the ice not being sufficiently strong, we returned to our quarters and started

again at 3 o'clock in the morning. Arriving opposite the island we found Captain Glasco with a small cannon from Amherstburg (for at this time regular infantry and artillery had reached the frontier), who commenced firing grape-shot at the invaders with such effect that when we reached the island we found no enemy to contend with. They had "skedaddled" back to where they came from, leaving their guns, provisions—consisting of a number of barrels of pork and flour—and numerous other things scattered around, and one small cannon (a six-pounder, I think), mounted on the fence. Not wishing to come away without some trophy of the bloodless engagement, a few of us—T. Forsyth, J. B. Williams, Thomas Williams, Wm. Stirling, two brothers by the name of Symington, Joseph Bull, W. Saunders, J. P. Perrier, and the writer—obtained a sleigh and dragged the said six-pounder over the treacherous ice to the mainland, where we were met by the late Lieutenant Thomas McCrae and the late James Read, with a double sleigh, waiting for us. We soon had our prize mounted in front of our quarters at Windsor, and used it as a morning salute. In the following May, on our return to Chatham on board the *Sloop Frances*, we brought our prize, and sailing up the Thames on a beautiful morning, we terrified the inhabitants by firing salutes. Many people actually thought the rebels were coming.

Subsequently some men, not proficient in gunnery, got their arms blown off while attempting to fire a salute on the Queen's birthday, viz., Jos. Kendall and Dr. Wm. Fulford, for which naughty conduct she was dumped into the River Thames, where she lay for several years. She was afterwards, by some means, and for reasons unknown to the writer, raised from her watery grave, and honored with a position in the front yard of the residence of the late Thomas McCrae, Esq. (formerly Lieut. McCrae, of the Kent Volunteers), in Chatham North, and christened "The Rebel Pup."

The Battle of the Windmill at Prescott, in the following November, the Battle of Windsor, on the 4th of the following December—in both of which a large number were killed and wounded—and the Battle of the Short Hills, in the Niagara District, all resulting in favor of the Canadians, terminated the Rebellion of 1837-8-9, and must have convinced the people of the United States and the world that Canada was not in favor of annexation or independence in those days, any more, we may add, than she is to-day.



## JUSTICE IN THE EARLY DAYS OF HISTORIC SANDWICH.

(BY MISS JEAN BARR)

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*Read at the annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society  
at Windsor, June 1st, 1904.*

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The visitor spending a few hours of a summer day in the quiet town of Sandwich would scarcely believe that the shady streets and the quaint roadways running down to the river were once full of horror for the wayfarer. This is true enough however, as a perusal of the criminal records will reveal.

When the British soldiers evacuated Detroit, some citizens, who still chose to live under the Union Jack, betook themselves across the river and selected a tract of land west of the Huron mission church for the site of their new homes, and their families became the nucleus around which was gathered the village of Sandwich.

On a count of deserters from the American army, and the bad behavior of quarrelsome Indians, one of the first things the villagers were obliged to consider was the erection of a gaol and court house. The need was so pressing that the authorities in the Western District allowed the Sandwich men to bring an old block house all the way from Chatham, and convert it into their first gaol. This building, however, was destroyed by fire and the chairman of the board of justices at once applied to the Government for assistance to rebuild it, and in the meantime requested the commanding officer at Fort Malden to loan the sheriff one of the unemployed vessels in the river to be used as a gaol; a safe prison for anyone who was not a good swimmer. A portion of land was reserved in the heart of the village for municipal purposes, which accounts for the fact that all the different gaols have stood on much the same spot in Sandwich:

The first brick court house stood on the ground now occupied by the goal yard. It was a square red building sur-

rounded by a palisade of cedar posts, which served the double purpose of keeping the prisoners in and the enemy out.

The criminal history of Sandwich has been long and varied, and atrocities have been committed by law the recital of which fills one with surprise and horror. During the first year of this town's existence, punishment was dealt out with a liberal hand. Thieves were hanged; and not only did the guilty receive judgment but the innocent were terrorized and made miserable by the warnings of justice. In those days the law read, "Murderers shall be hung in some public thoroughfare and remain in full view of passersby until the flesh rot from their bones." This law was put into force and, actually, three of these gruesome warnings dangled from gibbets at one time in Sandwich. Bilboes were used to support the bodies.

The last hanging of this nature occurred when Sheriff Hands held office, and the victim was a young colored man who had been implicated in a murder in Chatham. At that time Bedford street ran but three blocks past the court house, then turned towards the river, and at that corner the gibbets stood on a slight elevation overlooking the road. This gibbeting made a great commotion in the neighborhood, and the exposed remains became so offensive as to excite the strongest opposition to the law. "The dreadful-smelling things must be cut down and buried," was the cry. But who was to do it? Such an action would be in defiance of law, and might bring unknown severity upon the heads of the people who interfered. There seem to have been few brave enough to attempt the gruesome work. Now, Sheriff Hands was a man of courage and decision, a conspicuous character who used to ride about mounted on a strikingly white horse. One dark night during the heat of the argument regarding the occupants of the bilboes, a white horse was seen in the immediate neighborhood of the gibbets, and next morning not a sight was to be seen of bilboes or bodies. No arrests were made, and the worthy sheriff refused to talk on the subject and took no action to discover the person or persons who defied the law.

Several years ago some laborers were engaged at work in Cook's gravel pit when they came upon a quantity of bones as well as old iron. The men, considering the find merely rubbish, tossed it all aside. When Mr. Fred Neal became acquainted with what was going on, he at once visited the gravel pit and succeeded in saving one skeleton

which had been clasped in the embrace of an iron bilboe. The different parts of the skeleton were afterwards lost, but the "hanging irons" were saved intact, placed in a box large enough to afford them space for their original shape, and kept by old Mr. Pentland, who, for many years, was the sexton of St. John's church.

The irons are now corroded with rust, but it is easy to see they were strong and well able to hold something much more animated than a human being with his neck already broken.

The frame consists of a bar of iron on which the body was placed, a ring of metal attached to the bar clasped the neck, another encircled the waist, while two others firmly held the ankles. Body and frame were then hung upon the gibbet, and the whole, blown about by the wind, swung creaking and groaning directly in the shadows of a deserted windmill in which owls had taken up their abode, making the place truly gruesome on a dark, windy night. No wonder the windmill was said to be haunted.

After the bilboes had been buried the hanging was done from an upstairs window in the gaol. In 1831 an execution took place which gives an instance of how the deed was done. On the day of the execution great excitement prevailed. Ferries and other boats carried loads of persons from Detroit and elsewhere to the scene. When the appointed time arrived, the young criminal stepped out upon a platform which extended from a second story window. A rope fastened to an extending beam above the window was adjusted around the neck of the condemned man, and this completed the gallows. The young man stood upon the platform and addressed the people below, warning them against his snare—drink. The moment he was finished a trap door on which he stood fell, leaving the poor wretch dangling and struggling in the air, for his neck was not broken, and hundreds of morbid spectators were obliged to turn away in horror and fright.

There have been later executions in Sandwich, but they, fortunately, have taken place in the gaol yard, where no spectators were allowed admittance.

JEAN W. BARR.

## THE LITERATURE OF THE ESSEX FRONTIER.

(BY REV. THOMAS NATTRESS.)

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*Read at a meeting of the Essex Historical Society, March  
14th, 1905.*

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The subject is one beset with conscious difficulty, for should it be desired to restrict the use of the word "literature" to the ordinary restricted application, then the Essex frontier would have little to boast of. Let it be understood, however, that in contemplating the literature of so limited an area, something more is desirable—and particularly from the point of view of an historical society. Then it will be permissible to give a larger place to the *sources* for compilation of historic and romantic fact.

A reasonably fair and inclusive division of the subject therefore would be: 1. Early Exploration; 2. Military Records; 3. The Records of Early Settlement; 4. Church Records and Documents; 5. Legend; 6. Historic Romance and History proper; 7. The Newspapers of the Western District; and 8. The Literary Men of the Historic Frontier.

For the most part only an outline of the subject by way of subdivision will be given. Thus, under the sub-head of EARLY EXPLORATION are included (1) the French Archives and the Archives of Britain; (2) French and English Letters of Missionaries, Governors, Independent Explorers and Fur Traders; (3) the Canadian Archives; (4) the Archives of Michigan; and (5) the Earlier written histories, as, for example, Smith's Canada.

Of MILITARY RECORDS there are (1) The Horse Guards, London, England; (2) The British Army Pension Office; (3) Richardson's War of 1812; (4) Baby on the Rebellion of 1837; and (5) Reid on the Fenian Invasion of 1866.

THE RECORDS OF EARLY SETTLEMENT are to be found in (1) the Registry Offices in Toronto and at Sandwich; (2) the Crown Lands Department of the Province; (3) the Records of the Courts and the Legislatures; (4) in such old works of travel as Shirreff's North America, (Edinburgh, 1835), and Priest's American Antiquities, (Albany, 1833);

and (5) "the Records of the Municipal Council of the Western District, the United Counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton; the United Counties of Essex and Lambton, and the County of Essex, [in so far as they relate to the County of Essex], From the date of the First Meeting of the said District Council, held at Sandwich in 1842, to the end of January Session of 1896," edited by the late Provincial Secretary, the Honorable W. D. Balfour, (Echo press.)

OF CHURCH RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS the oldest would be those of the Huron mission established on Bois Blanc island in (or shortly after) 1722 by Fathers Potier and de la Richardie, "the oldest church west of the Alleghanies." Then follow the records of the Church of Sandwich, its successor, and of St. Anne's Church, Detroit. These have been written up by Mr. C. M. Burton, and so made more readily accessible. Two excellent articles were published at different times in the *Catholic Record* and the *Catholic Home Magazine*, on "Sandwich, and the Missions of the Hurons of the Detroit," from the facile pen of Miss Margaret Claire Kilroy.

The history of the first hundred years of the Episcopal Church in Essex County was written up by Judge Woods, now of Chatham, on the occasion of the centenary of the St. John's church at Sandwich. And there are the church records at Amherstburg, covering a century, and embodying no small amount of civil and military fact and incident.

THE LEGENDARY LORE of the frontier is rich and has been most admirably crystallized by Marie Caroline Watson Hamlin in "Legends of the Detroit." A glance at the contents of this valuable work reveals much history too, as well as legend. One of the best bits of frontier literature is Hamlin's rendering of "The Warrior's Love, a Legend of Bois Blanc," the date of which is given as 1747. The greater part of the legendary lore recorded in the *Legends of le Detroit* pertain to the Canadian shore.

HISTORY AND HISTORIC ROMANCE have a fine exponent in Major Richardson, one time of Amherstburg, latterly of Sandwich, who wrote in the early forties of the last century. Richardson's *War of 1812*, a well written book, has the charm of having been written by an eye witness and actual participant in the most stirring events and times recorded. The work was republished a couple of years ago by Alexander Clark Casselman, with notes and a life of the author. Major John Richardson's historic romance, "Wacousta, or the Prophecy," is a graphic portrayal of Pon-

tian's conspiracy to take from the British the forts along the whole chain of great inland lakes. In my estimation no author of my acquaintance of all the writers of historic romance, old or new, has written more graphically, if indeed any has shown equal powers of description. A new edition of this delicious piece of literature, now so long out of print, is promised by the publishers who have given to present day readers Richardson's War of 1812. The plot of the story centres in the old fort at Detroit and is of intense local interest.

There is a sequel to "Wacousta," "The Canadian Brothers," the plot of which thickens about old Fort Malden. This book is now exceedingly rare, the only copy known hereabout being in the possession of Capt. William Caldwell of Amherstburg.

A history of Fort Amherstburg was prepared by Mr. C. C. James not very many months ago, drawn largely from the Archives of Michigan. A similar history of Fort Malden and the Old Fort Days was compiled some years ago by the author of this present paper. The late Thaddeus Smith, also, has added to the sum total of the record of historic fact by his pamphlet history of Pelee Island.

On the occasion of the visit of the Historical Society of Ontario to Windsor and Amherstburg in annual session last year, a very full paper was read on Place Names of Essex County, prepared by Arthur W. Marsh.

The mainspring of literary activity for a long time to come was removed from this part of the country when the military were withdrawn from Fort Malden. In 1842, on the 23rd of September, there was organized at Amherstburg a society called "The Western District Literary, Philosophical and Agricultural Association," with Major Lachlan president, and with the historic names of Welby, Gordon, Dougall, Peden, Cheyne, Mack, Paxton, Ironsides, Anderton, Baby, Grant and Grassett upon the list of executive officers. Major Lachlan's inaugural is a classic, and a fund of information upon the question of the historic institutes, art, literary and scientific societies of the world. But with the departure of the British military officer the flow of literature received severe check.

THE NEWSPAPERS claim a well merited place in a resume of the historic literature of the frontier, for in addition to the varied literary ability exhibited by the editor, its pages have, from time to time become the repository of papers of historic and literary interest and value. A

paper of permanent value on County Newspapers was contributed last year by John A. Mackay, associate editor of the *Windsor Record*. The newspaper which has shown the greatest activity in developing frontier history is the *Amherstburg Echo*, to the pages of which one turns for the desired information with unfailing satisfaction. In an occasional issue of some of the older publications, as in the Jan. 3rd, 1838, *Western Herald*, Henry E. Grant editor, one finds whole chapters of Canadian history presented in good literary style.

There is another source of historic fact and romantic suggestion that has received no mention. It is the *Topographical Survey* of France, of Great Britain, and of the United States. In the department of the War Office at Detroit are charts that would set a romance writer adreaming. One of these is A Survey of the River Detroit, issued from the Hydrographical Office of the Admiralty, London, in 1828, and based upon work done in 1815. Another is a chart copied in Paris showing what was, doubtless, the prospective location of fortifications at the north end of Bois Blanc and on the mainshore, north of the subsequent actual fortification, in 1796.

The Essex frontier has given to Canada and to the English speaking world a Robert Barr and a Dougall, the one of whom has written romance and fiction to please the multitude, and the other has established in the city of Montreal a newspaper the weekly issue of which has few equals as a medium of intelligence of the world's events, or as a moral force in the land. Yet this most romantic border awaits a successor to Major Richardson. From Pelee Island to the Saint Claire there is an abundance of material to engage the best efforts of a Dr. Drummond, and a Richardson, and awaiting the homecoming of our own Robert Barr. Miss Margaret Claire Kilroy has a sentence—the opening one, in her "Sandwich, The Origin of the Diocese of London, The Mission of the Hurons, of the Detroit," that very well sets forth the situation along the whole frontier. "There is a wealth of fascinating history, both civil and ecclesiastical, associated with the quaint, conservative county of Essex; dear, dull, old Sandwich."

THOMAS NATTRESS.

Amherstburg, Mch. 13th, '05.

THE LABADIE FAMILY  
IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, ONT.

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Notes read by A. Philippe E. Panet before the Essex Historical Society in the Windsor Public Library on March 16th, 1905.

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Those among you who attended the meeting of the Ontario Historical Society held in the City of Windsor last June, and with the members of that Society took part in the excursions to Sandwich and Amherstburg, have had occasion to hear of a great many things which had taken place in the County of Essex, and many points of historical interest have been shewn to them. Personally I considered myself very fortunate on that occasion and was proud of being a member of the Essex Historical Society. The meeting and excursions proved most interesting and instructive, and they certainly helped to show that our own society has a very broad field to work upon. Everything in this county is rich in material for historical researches.

The pioneers of Essex County and their descendants have so largely contributed to the progress of the place, that naturally we should look up the history of the numerous families whose ancestors were among the early ones to make this their homes. The President of our society, Mr. Cleary, has asked me to give some information concerning one of these families, a family which has since the year 1750 spread from here and branched out by emigration to Michigan, California, Missouri and other parts of the United States, but has yet in this County a great many representatives and connections. Mr. Cleary and Mr. Victor E. Marentette have kindly lent me some papers which were in their possession. I must say that without this help I could not have got along, and I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness and gratitude to these gentlemen for their valuable assistance. I have not, of course, myself consulted any church records, but have had the advantage of reading a great many authentic certificates of marriages, baptisms and burials, and took copies of them. Most are in the French language, and, on that account, I



will not give you in full the notes which I have made. These notes contain only what I have been able to gather from the different sources at my disposal and a few imperfect historical sketches about some members of this family ;

#### THE LABADIES OF THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

By reference to Monsignor Tanguay's valuable work entitled "Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Canadiennes," a copy of which is on the shelves of the Windsor Public Library, we find several families of the same name. But the family in the County of Essex is the one in whom we are particularly interested. In the work which I have just mentioned, I find that the Labadies in this County were first called Descomps, and are descendants of Pierre Descomps dit Labadie, who was born in the year 1702 in the Parish of St. Nicholas in the City of La Rochelle, France, and was buried in Detroit on the 10th of September, 1782. He was the son of Jean Baptiste Descomps, a resident of LaRochelle, and Marie Anne Manceau of the same place. Pierre on the 17th of November, 1727, married at Montreal Angélique DeLacelle (born in 1706), daughter of Jacques DeLacelle and Angélique Géboit of the Department of Loire-et-Oise, in the Diocese of Paris, France. Jacques DeLacelle appears to have been a wealthy merchant of Montreal. After his marriage Pierre Descomps Labadie seems to have gone back to France. And among his eight children, was born in 1744 Antoine Louis Descomps dit Labadie, who spent most of his life in the County of Essex. In this county he lived, prospered and died, leaving a large posterity. He was practically the head of the Labadies of this County, and for that reason I have more to tell you about him than about those who came after him.

Antoine's parents with their children emigrated from France to Canada about the year 1750. No doubt, they were attracted by the advantageous situation of Detroit and the charming scenery of its River. They must have foreseen for the place a bright and prosperous future, as they immediately settled in the neighborhood of Detroit and decided to make it their future home. They took up land, cultivated it and soon became very successful. The Labadie homestead was situated in the City of Detroit on the north west corner of what is now River and 24th street. It was built of logs. In the course of years it has been clapboarded, and additions have been made to it. The

house is still standing and well preserved. Two tenants lived in it in 1902 and I understand that it is yet inhabited.

On the 26th of February, 1759, Antoine Louis Descomps Labadie married in Detroit Angélique Campeau, daughter of Nico Campeau and Agathe Caffé of the Parish of St. Ann, Detroit. Following is a copy of their marriage certificate:

"Extrait du Régistre des Mariages de l'Eglise de Ste. Anne, Detroit, Michigan.

Ce jour d'hui vingt-six de Février de l'an de Notre Seigneur mil sept cent cinquante-neuf, après la publication d'un banc fait à la messe paroissiale le Dimanche vingt-cinq du courant entre Antoine-Louis Descomps fils majeur de Pierre Labbadie marchand et bourgeois de cette ville et d'Angélique Laselle ses père et mère en légitime mariage de cette paroisse d'une part; et Angélique Campeau fille de Nicolas Campeau, Niagara et Agathe Caffé ses père et mère en légitime mariage aussi de cette paroisse d'autre part; et leur ayant accordé pour de bonnes et légitimes raisons portées en notre Registre des dispenses, page quatorzième, la dispense des deux autres conformément aux pouvoirs que nous avons reçues de l'Illustrissime et Révérendissime Monseigneur l'Evêque de Québec, et ne s'étant trouvé aucun empêchement canonique en opposition, nous prêtre Recollet, aumonier des troupes du Roi en cette ville et y desservant la Paroisse de Ste. Anne, avons reçu publiquement leur consentement mutuel et leur avons donné la bénédiction nuptiale en présence des Sieurs Descomps Labbadie et Chene oncle de l'épouse dont le plus grand nombre ont signé avec nous. L'époux et l'épouse ont déclaré ne savoir signer de ce requis suivant l'ordonnance.

(signé) NICOLAS URVET.	P. DESCOMPS LABADIE
PIERRE FORVILLE	CLAUDE CAMPEAU
ROBERT REAUME	CHAUVIN CHÊNE
L. S. COSINE	THEOBALLE COURTOIS.
J. SIMPLE BOCQUET.	CHARLE COURTOIS
MIS. RECOLLET."	JEAN GAUTIER

Angélique Campeau was born in 1742, married at 17 years of age, died in the parish of l'Assomption and was buried on the 11th December, 1767. She left her husband with six young children; Marie Angélique, Catherine, Joseph, Jean Baptiste, Jacques Philippe, and Elizabeth. Following are copies of baptism certificates of all of them except Joseph:

Extracts from the Register of St. Ann's Church, Detroit.

L'an de Notre Seigneur mil sept cent soixante, le quatorze de février nous avons supplée les cérémonies de baptême à Marie Angélique, laquelle avait été baptisée à la maison par la Dame Vieu, sage-femme, à cause du danger de mort, née de ce matin, fille de Antoine Louis Descomps Labbadie demeurant à la Côte des ponsonatomis et de Angélique son épouse. Le parrain a été Claude Campeau oncle de l'enfant, la marraine Marie Angélique Laselle Descomps Labadie grand'mère de l'enfant, lesquels ont signé avec moi.

(signé) MARIE ANGELIQUE DELASELLE

DAME DE LABADIE

CLAUDE CAMPEAU  
F. SIMPLE BOCQUET  
Mis. Rec."

"L'an de Notre Seigneur mil sept cent soixante et un le vingt d'Octobre a été baptisée Catherine née d'aujourd'hui fille d'Antoine Louis Descomps Labadie et d'Angélique Campeau son épouse. Le parrain a été Augustin Gibault cousin de l'enfant lequel a signé avec nous. La marraine Cathérine Caffé femme de Claude Campeau, tante de l'enfant, laquelle a déclaré ne pouvoir signer de ce requis.

(signé) AUGUSTIN GIBAULT

F. SIMPLE BOCQUET  
Mis. Rec."

"L'an de Notre Seigneur mil sept cent soixante et trois le sept de février a été baptisé Jean Baptiste né de cette unit d'Antoine Louis Descomps Labadie demeurant chez son père à la côte du sud ouest et d'Angélique son père et mère en légitime mariage. Le parrain a été Jean Baptiste Reaume et la marraine Marie Anne Campeau tante de l'enfant, lesquels ont déclaré ne pouvoir signer, de ce requis.

(signé) F SIMPLE BOCQUET  
Mis. Rec."

"L'an de Notre Seigneur mil sept cent soixante et cinq, le vingt-deux de Septembre a été baptisé Jacques Philippe né d'aujourd'hui sur les deux hueres du relèvé, fils de Sieur

Antoine Louis Descomp Labbadie et de Marie Angélique Campeau ses père et mère en mariage légitime. Le parrain a été le Sieur Laselle fils cousin germain de l'enfant lequel a signé avec nous, la marraine Cécile Niagara Campeau tante maternelle de l'enfant, laquelle a ainsi que le père déclaré ne savoir signer de ce requis.

(signé) J. LASELLE Fils. F. SIMPLE BOCQUET.  
Mis. Rec."

"L'an de Notre Seigneur mil sept cent soixante et sept le vingt quatre de Novembre a été baptisé Elizabeth sous condition, l'ayant été à la maison par la Dame Labbadie grand'mère de l'enfant à cause du danger de mort, fille de Sieur Antoine Louis Descomps Labbadie demeurant sur la terre à la coste de la rivière Rouge et d'Angélique Campeau Niagara ses père et mère en légitime mariage. Le parrain a été le Sieur Jacques Sanes Martin lequel a signé avec nous. La marraine Elizabeth Descomps Barron laquel a déclaré ne savoir signer de ce requis. Le dit enfant est né aujourd'hui sur les deux heures du relèvé.

(Signé) F. SIMPLE BOCQUET  
Mis. Rec."

JACQUES S. MARTIN

Antoine was then living on the south shore of the Detroit River, where he had moved to immediately after his marriage with Angelique Campeau, and had settled permanently in the parish of l'Assomption in the county of Essex. He had begun farming on his own account, purchased land from the Indians and traded with them quite extensively in furs and other commodities. Monsignor Tanguay in a note contained in his dictionary, says that "Antoine had, through the uprightness which he had always shown in his dealings with the Ottawa Indians with whom he lived, acquired their esteem and affection." He appears indeed to have been of the strictest integrity, having a high sense of honor and a generous nature, and being kind, benevolent and always ready to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. He always lived on the very best and most intimate terms with these Indians. Their intercourse was so friendly that after his first wife's death, Antoine eventually fell in love with the daughter of one of the Sioux Chiefs, and it appears that he actually married this girl at Sandwich. Tanguay does not mention this marriage, but it seems to

have taken place, and to the great satisfaction of all the inhabitants. I have not seen any certificate relating to this marriage or its issue, but it is quite likely that the marriage took place, as Antoine was not the kind of a man to remain a widower for seventeen long years. I am told that there were seventeen children born of this second marriage. This event contributed to a large extent to the increase of Antoine's trade with the Indians. He kept up his same occupation and still devoted his time to agriculture and trade. I cannot tell when this second wife died, but it is a matter of record that on the 18th of October, 1784, he married at St. Ann, in the city of Detroit, Charlotte Barthe, widow of Lieutenant Louis Reaume of the British Army. Born in 1763, Charlotte Barthe was the daughter of Dr. Barthe of the City of Montreal, a gentleman who had formerly been a surgeon in the French Army. Of this marriage ten children were born. Charlotte Barthe survived her husband and died herself in Detroit on the 11th of February, 1849, at the age of 86. I have here a copy of her marriage certificate and also copies of the certificates of baptism of her ten children; Cecile, Antoine, Louis, Euphrosine, Héliodore, Félicité, Elizabeth, Marguerite, Pierre and Nicolas.

“ Extrait du Registre des Mariages de l'Eglise de Ste. Anne, Détroit, Michigan.

Ce dix-sept Octobre mil sept cent quatre-vingt-quatre après la publication de trois bancs de mariage entre le Sir. Louis Antoine Descomps dit Labadie veuf de la paroisse de l'Assomption d'une part-et De Charlotte Barthe veuve de Sr. Louis Reaume de cette paroisse d'autre part et ne s'étant découvert aucun empêchement au dit mariage, je sous-signé, prêtre, Vicaire-Général du Diocèse de Québec, ai reçu leur mutuel consentement de mariage et leur ai donné la bénédiction nuptiale en présence des Srs. Jean Barron, Sevan Descomps et Alexis Descomps, de Mrs. Barthe, Chapoton, Adhémar et plusieurs autres parents et amis. L'époux et l'épouse ont déclaré ne savoir signer.

(signé) B. CHAPOTON	C. HUBERT, Ptr. V. G.”
ADHÉMAR GAMACHE	CH. BARTHE
JOSEPH BARRON	FRANÇOIS DEQUINDRE
PIERRE DROUILLARD	N. LORRAINE

“ Extrait du Régistre des Baptêmes, Mariages et Sépultures de la paroisse de l'Assomption du Detroit (aujourd'hui Sandwich &c.) Le 17 Janvier 1785 par nous prêtre

sous-signé a été baptisée Cécile née d'hier du légitime mariage d'Antoine Descomps et de Charlotte Barthe. Le parrain a été Baptiste Chapoton, la marraine Cécile La Bute.

(signé) FRÉCHETTE, Pret. Mre."

"Le 8 Janvier 1791 par moi, prêtre sous-signé a été baptisée Eupharsie née d'hier, fille d'Antoine Descompte dit Labadie et de Marie Cahrls Barthe. Le parrain a été Jean Baptiste Descompte dit Labadie, la marraine Agathe Chêne, vve, Sterling.

(signé) DUFOUX, prêtre."

"Le 27 Septembre 1792 par moi, prêtre sous-signé, a été baptisée Héliodore, née d'hier, fille d'Antoine Descompte dit Labady et de Marie Charles Barthe. Le parrain a été Jean Baptiste Baby, la marraine Marie Joseph Chapoton.

(signé) J. BTE. BABY DUFOUX, prêtre."

"Le 4 Juillet 1794, par moi, prêtre sous-signé, a été baptisée Elizabeth née de ce jour, fille d'Antoine Descompte et de Marie Charles Barthe son épouse. Le parrain a été Nicolas Maisonville, la marraine Félicité Cécile.

(signé) MAISONVILLE DUFOUX, prêtre."

"Le 2 Août 1796 par moi, prêtre sous-signé, a été baptisée Elizabeth née d'hier, fille d'Antoine Descompte Labady et de Marie Charles Barthe son épouse. Le parrain a été Toussaint Lauranger et la marraine Marie Louise Drouillard.

(signé) DUFOUX, prêtre."

"Le 25 février 1798 par moi, prêtre sous-signé, a été baptisée Marguerite née cette nuit du légitime mariage d'Antoine Descompte e tde Charlotte Barthe. Le parrain a été Charles Bernier, la marraine Françoise Balard.

(signé) MARCHAND, prêtre."

"Le 5 Août 1787 par nous prêtre sous-signé, a été baptisé Antoine né ce matin du légitime mariage de Louis Antoine Labadie et de Marie Charles Barthe. Le parrain a été Alexis Séguin, la marraine Angélique Labadie.

(signé) DUFOUX, prêtre."

“ Le 18 Septembre 1788 par moi prêtre sous-signé, a été baptisé Louis né d’hier, fils légitime d’Antoine Labadie et de Marie Charles Barthe. Le parrain a été Bonaventure Reaume, la marraine Cathérine Labadie.

(signé) DUFoux, prêtre.”

“ Le 24 Août 1800, par moi prêtre sous-signé, a été baptisé Pierre né du vingt et un dernier après minuit du légitime mariage de Pierre Descompte dit Badichon et de Charlotte Barthe. Le parrain a été François Maisonville et la marraine Adelaide Askin sous-signé, le père présent.

(signé) ADELAIDE ASKIN                      FRANÇOIS MAISONVILLE.  
MARCHAND, ptre.”

“ Le 6 Décembre 1802, par nous sous-signé, a été baptisé Nicolas né d’hier du légitime mariage d’Antoine Descompte dit Labadie et de Charlotte Berth. Le parrain a été Henry Bertheleth, la marraine a été Eleonore Askin qui ont signé avec nous.

(signé) HENRY BERTHELET  
ELEONORE ASKIN                      F. GERTIEN, ptre.”

From the information contained in my notes, it appears that Antoine Louis Descompte dit Labadie raised a family of thirty-three children. Just imagine yourself at the head of such a large family. Think of all the necessities of life to be provided for; there was no less than one hundred meals for each and every day in the year. That alone would be enough to make a man bankrupt. But naturally you conclude that the father must have been pretty well blessed with this world’s goods. His last will and testament will show what he had at his disposal.

Of old Antoine’s children very few died unmarried. Marie Angélique married on the 20th November, 1776, Pierre Drouillard; Catherine became Mrs. Alexis Laderoute; Angélique, Mrs. Dragon; Thérèse, Mrs. Charles Bermin; Marie, Mrs. Nantais; Cécile, Mrs. Auguste Lagrave; Euphrosine, Mrs. P. Pétrimoult; Héliodore, Mrs. Piquette; Elizabeth, Mrs. L. Montreuil; Marguerite, Mrs. Swan; Louis married Victoire Berthiaume. To give you an idea of how these branches of the Labadie family multiplied, I may say that Louis’ widow, Victoire Berthiaume

who, after surviving her husband, died in Detroit at the age of 86 years 7 months and 10 days, and was buried in Sandwich where she was born and married, had 11 children. She left surviving her 10 children, 70 grand-children, 69 great-grand-children and 1 great-great-grand-child.

As I have mentioned before Antoine Louis Descomps and his family had acquired from the Indians large grants of land. Antoine, besides his occupation of agriculture and trade also carried on a milling business. He appears to have had two mills, a windmill and a horse gristmill. These two are mentioned in his last will. Among the lands farmed by the Labadies was a certain parcel, 3 arpents wide, fronting on the Detroit River and running south to the middle of the Grand Marais. This piece of land seems to have been part of what is now lots 97 and 98 by McNiff's survey in the first and second Concessions of the Township of Sandwich East, and this farm seems to have included the ground upon which now stands in the Town of Walkerville in the County of Essex the extensive distillery of Messrs. Hiram Walker & Sons, together with many other important manufacturing concerns.

A memorandum which was among Mr. Cleary's notes reads as follows: "Miss Mary Agnes Fitzgibbon, Sec'y of Women's Canadian Historical Society, has received from Mr. Chas. Mair, author of "Dreamland" and "Tecumseh," a deed signed by the renowned Pontiac. The document which is in French is signed by Pontiac, with his totem (a turtle), and has been translated. It conveys to Lieutenant Abbott of the Royal Artillery a piece of land near the Detroit River. The transfer was made in presence of George Grogan, Asst.-Superintendent of Indian Affairs, because of the esteem in which Lieut. Abbott was held by Pontiac and his nation. The deed is dated September 17th, 1765. Mr. Mair received the document some years previous from Charles F. Labadie of Windsor, and in Mr. Mair's opinion the land in question was the ground on which Walker's distillery now stands. It came into possession of the Labadie family by purchase, Lieutenant Abbott having sold it to Antoine Louis Labadie for \$100. New York currency.

In St.-Pierre's "Histoire des Canadiens du Comté d'Essex, Ontario," is a genealogy of the Labadie family, which (being translated) is as follows: "Pierre Descomps dit Labadie, native of LaRochelle, was born 1702. In 1727 he married Angélique de Lacelle, a daughter of a wealthy merchant of Montreal, and settled in Detroit a dozen years



afterwards. His posterity is numerous all over the north west. His son Antoine Louis dit Badichon lived among the Indians, and obtained large grants of land from them. Captain Charles Labadie, well known during the early part of this century was his grandson." It is not improbable that this Antoine Louis Labadie, who is mentioned by St.-Pierre, was the same person to whom Lieut. Abbott sold Pontiac's gift.

Mgr. Tanguay in a note to page 369, vol. 3, of his work previously mentioned, says that "Captain Charles Labadie had in his possession a curious collection of acts passed between his grandfather and several Ottawa Chiefs, among others the famous Chief Pontiac. One of these acts is as follows: "I, Pontiac, Chief of the Ottawa nation, with the consent of all the nation, in presence of George Crogan, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, in consideration of the good feeling which I entertain towards Antoine Louis Labadie &c." Pontiac's signature to this document consists of a mark resembling the figure 9. Most of the documents are in French and some are written on small sheets of paper, bearing the signatures of 8 to 10 chiefs, that is: cows, bears, deer, foxes, fishes &c."

I presume that some of the Labadie family must have now in their possession several of these curious documents, which are already becoming very precious. Any one among you who has never seen any Indian deed or contract, may form an idea of what these look like by examining a couple of Indian documents which are on the walls of the auditorium of the Windsor Public Library.

His mills must have been for Antoine Ls. Descomps Labadie a source of revenue, as they at that time were really very important. Every farmer for miles around brought to these mills his grain to have it ground. I do not know of any of these old relics of the past existing yet in this part of the country, they seem to have all disappeared; but in the Province of Quebec there are still a good many standing, and several are still in use after having been improved and modernised as much as possible. They are built on the same plan and principle as those which existed here, consisting of a stone tower-shape building about thirty feet high, with a foundation about twenty feet in diameter. The roof is conical and to it are attached long arms or wings fixed to an axle and fitted with small sails. By means of a pole extending from the roof to three feet from the ground one can move on the stone wall the whole roof

around to any direction in order to meet the point from which the wind may happen to be blowing. The sails of the wings soon catch the wind, move around their axle and set the inside machinery in motion. The aspect of these windmills, especially when they are working, form an animated part of the surrounding scenery. I have seen somewhere that these mills were in operation here until 1836. Mr. John Watson, now one of the oldest residents of Windsor, tells me that the Labadie windmill, afterwards known as the Lassaline mill, stood just about 250 feet west of Mr. Luc Montreuil's residence in the Town of Walkerville. He remembers it perfectly, and described it to me as similar to those which one can see yet in the Province of Quebec. Three or four years ago, I was one of the defendants in a law suit in the Province of Quebec in connection with some property upon which still stands one of the old windmills which had formerly belonged to the old seigneurs. Judgment was given against us, and my share of the costs was about \$175. I can say that I have a perfect recollection of this dear old mill.

After the death of Antoine Louis Descomps Labadie, the wishes expressed in his will were carried out, and his mill was sold to a Mr. Lassaline, after whom it was afterwards known as "the Lassaline Mill," and it stood as a landmark on the Labadie estate, I am told, until the year 1874.

Antoine Louis Descomps Labadie, like the rest of the family was a member of the Roman Catholic Church. He died in 1806 at the age of 62, after having the same year on the 26th. of May made his last will and testament. This will is quite a document, covers several pages of foolscap paper, was signed and sealed at Sandwich in the presence of three witnesses, William Park, John McGregor and William Gilkinson. The testator made his mark, as he appears not to have been able to write. The document handed to me by Mr. Francis Cleary must be a translation, or rather a copy of a translation. It is full of French expressions, and I conclude that the original will must have been written in French. It had not been my intention to read this document to you, but Mr. Cleary particularly requested me to do so. It is as follows:

"In the name of God. Amen. I, Antoine Descomps Labadie, residing in the Township of Sandwich, County of Essex, western district in the province of Upper Canada, being sound in memory and understanding and fearing to be surprised by death before I had settled my temporal

affairs, will, ordain and make my testament and last will revoking all others in the manner following :

1st. I recommend my soul to God and pray him through the merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ to receive it in his holy paradise.

2dly. I desire to be buried according to the usage of Our Mother the Holy Church in a manner conformable to my condition in life.

3rdly. I wish that my debts be paid, and my wrongs, should any be found, be satisfied. As for the property it has pleased the Divine Providence to grant me, I dispose of it as follows ,viz: I give and bequeath to Charlotte, my dear wife, a child's portion of our marriage in all my movables and immovable estate, as set forth and mentioned in our contract of marriage, and besides the enjoyment of the two arpents of land in front by the depth thereof to the middle of the Grand Marais (Large Marsh), on which land are situated my house and horse mill, for which I have also executed a deed to her previous to our marriage. I will that she should have and leave her the full and entire enjoyment of another arpent in front from the small river which passes at the end of the orchard and in depth also to the middle of the Grand Marais adjoining on the south west side to the two arpents hereabove mentioned, together with the house and barn, all that will be therein at the time of my decease, the cider press, and all other buildings situated or erected on the land I now occupy, with a passage sufficient to go and come freely around said house, barn and buildings.

In the event that my wife should marry again, then my will is that she should lose the enjoyment of the aforesaid three arpents of land, the house, horsemill and other buildings, from the day of the marriage that might take place. I furthermore give and bequeath to my said wife all household goods generally whatever, three yokes of oxen, two horses at her choice, a plough, a cart, a harrow, two pick-axes, a spade, twenty sheep, three cows, two dozen of fowls and twelve geese. I also give and bequeath to my said wife all the grain that I may have sown on the said land that I now occupy, as well as on the land I purchased from Baptiste Langlois at the time of his decease. I also give and bequeath to my wife the use or service of two slaves that she may select, as long as she continues to be my widow.

I give and bequeath to my three children begotten of my first marriage, that is Baptiste, Angelique, wife of Louis

Peltier, and Catherine, wife of Alexis Laderoute, to each of them one hundred pounds New York currency, or two hundred and fifty dollars, which shall be taken and raised on my estate, and paid to each of them one year after my decease, it being however well understood that if any of them should be indebted to me he shall pay or refund to my estate like any other person.

I give and bequeath one horse and one cow, or thirty pounds New York currency, to each of my natural children hereafter named, viz: Antoine, Pierre, Angelique wife of Dragon, Therese wife of Charles Bermin, Francois son of Mary Ann while living wife of Francois Mettez, and Marie wife of Nantais. I furthermore give and bequeath to them the land I have lying and being aux Petites Rivieres (Little Rivers), bounden on the south west by said Petites Rivieres, on the north east by Francois Lozon or his representatives as it now is and as designated in the deed and obtained from His Majesty for the said land, or the product thereof to be equally apportioned between my six children here above named, and as the said Francois son of Marianne Mettez is yet a minor I will and give full power and authority to Baptiste my son to ask and receive for and in behalf of said Francois the horse and the cow or the thirty pounds New York currency here above bequeathed to him, as well as his share or portion in the land of Petites Rivieres also bequeathed to him (or the product thereof), that my said son Baptiste will remit to the said Francois when he has reached the age of twenty-one years in the same kind he may have received them and without any interest willing and understanding the said Baptiste should have a like authority to demand and receive for the said Francois in like manner as the said Francois could and might do were he of age at the time that my testament shall have effect and be in force.

I will that the windmill with a piece of ground of eighteen feet on each side on the northeast, east, southwest in front and in depth from the River Detroit to the highway, together with all that may belong or appertain to said mill, be put at public vente and awarded to the highest bidder, and the proceeds thereof to be paid over to my estate as soon as it can be done subsequent to my decease.

I will that all my personal property not hereabove bequeathed, as well as my slaves, with the exception of the two left to my wife be portioned out or sold, and that the proceeds arising therefrom be equally divided between my said

wife and the nine children born out of my marriage with her.

I understand and my will is that the remainder of my lauded property not granted or bequeathed by my present testament, that is to say that part commencing at the line between Alexis Laderoute and myself in running to the three arpents the enjoyment or usufruct of which I have left to my wife, be apportioned and divided in ten shares or portions equally (like quantity of land), my wife shall have her election of one share, and I request and authorize by my present will and testament my executors to please allot one share or portion to each of my nine children born of the last marriage, desiring however that they should allot the three best shares to my three boys born also of my last marriage. The decease or second marriage of my wife happening, I will that the three arpents of land, the house, barn and buildings, the enjoyment or usufruct thereof she has, revert to my nine children born of my last marriage, and that the same be equally divided among them, and in the same case of the decease or remarriage of my said wife the two slaves the possession or usufruct of whom I have left her be disposed of, and that the proceeds arising from said sale be equally divided between my said nine last children.

And for the execution of my present testament I name and make choice of Jean Baptiste Baby Esq. of Sandwich, and Charles Askin also of Sandwich, and of Alexis Maisonville junr., merchant at Amherstburg, entreating them not to refuse serving.

In witness whereof I have signed, sealed, declared and published this my last will and testament at Sandwich this 26th. day of May, 1806.

In the presence of Messrs. William Park, John McGregor and William Gilkinson.

(signed)

WILLIAM PARK  
JOHN MCGREGOR  
WILLIAM GILKINSON

His

(signed) ANTOINE X DESCOMPTE (L.S.)

mark

dit LABADIE”

In the disposition of his property the testator says "to be equally divided between my wife (Charlotte Barthe) and the nine children born out of my marriage with her." This does not agree with the rest of my notes, as I have read the certificates of baptism of ten children issued of this marriage. I conclude that one child must have predeceased his father. No doubt, if the testator had known that one hundred years after his death his will would be read before the Essex Historical Society, he would have explained matters a little more.

You must have noticed that among the bequests contained in this will, slaves are mentioned. In those days slavery was still in existence, and a great many people had slaves, as some of you may have seen it mentioned in an article which appeared in the Windsor "Record" of the 17th. of December 1904. The historian of our newspaper said that Antoine Labadie owned two slaves. I do not know where he procured his information, but Labadie's last will shows that he gave two slaves to his wife and had several left for his other legatees. In 1793 an Act of Parliament had been passed by which the introduction of slaves into the Province had been interdicted, but this act nevertheless confirmed the right of property in slaves then in servitude. The British Act of Parliament abolishing slavery (3 & 4 William IV, chapter 73) was passed on the 28th. of August, 1833, and in the United States of America, President Lincoln on the 1st. of January, 1863, issued a proclamation to the same effect. The slaves who were owned in this country had been brought here by marauding bands of Indians, who had captured the negro slaves in their war depredations on sugar plantations, and a great many had been brought from Virginia, New York and Indiana, and afterwards sold in this vicinity, some for mere nominal sums. Following is a copy of an old parchment relating to the purchase of a slave by Labadie:

"Je certifie avoir vendu et livré au Sieur Labadie une esclave Paniese nommée Mannon pour et en considération de la quantité de quatre-vingt minots de Blé de froment qu'il doit me payer à mesure qu'il en aura d'ici au printemps prochain, donné sous ma main au Detroit ce dixième jour d'Octobre, 1775.

témoin

(signé) JAMES STERLING.

(signé) JOHN PORTEOUS"

After Labadie's death his widow kept up the business established by her husband, with the exception of the old windmill which had been sold. Her family scattered, but she was not left alone, one of her sons remaining with her. Louis Labadie, the eldest son of Antoine Louis Descomptes Labadie's third marriage, remained in the old home with his aged mother. He married Victoire Berthiaume, and was the father of eleven children. Three of his sons were the first settlers of Yuba County in California, and continued to live there farming and milling. Louis Labadie, junior, another son, in 1837 emigrated with his uncle Thomas C. Sheldon to Kalamazoo, Michigan. He was one of the pioneers of the place, and was always strongly identified with its growth and progress, after having himself cleared a considerable portion of the land upon which is now situated the City of Kalamazoo.

Antoine's eldest daughter Cecile, who had married Augustin Lagrave, had built a very substantial hotel in what is now the Town of Walkerville. During the war of 1812 she distinguished herself by her courage. The British had compelled all the male portion of the community to enter their service and follow the army in their return to Chatham. Mrs. Lagrave was left with her young children, the sole occupant of the hotel. Seeing the approach of the American forces across the River, and their landing opposite her house, she met them on the river bank with a flag of truce and demanded protection from the General in command. She was successful, the General willingly complying with her request. After her children had grown up, some left the parental home and emigrated to Michigan. Her eldest son Antoine Lagrave became a prominent citizen of St. Louis, Missouri. The others settled in California and other parts of the States of America.

Charles Frederick Labadie, son of Louis the elder, like his father, remained in the old homestead. He was born on the 13th. of October 1819, as appears by the following which is copy of the certificate of his baptism;

"Le treize Octobre 1819 par moi soussigné a été baptisé Charles Frédéric né du legitime mariage de Louis Labadie et de Victoire Berthiaume. Le parrain a été françois pétrimoulx marchand et la marraine Elizabeth Berthiaume. Par moi prêtre soussigné est certifié que présent extrait est conforme à l'original, donné à Sandwich Le 19 Octobre 1840.

(signed) Y. VEHN, Prêt."

Charles Frederick in 1874 was, through the influence of William G. Hall, appointed by the Government to the position of Deputy Inspector and Collector of Inland Revenue, an office which he filled to the great satisfaction of the Canadian Government. In 1845 he married Susan Janisse, daughter of Cyrille Janisse, one of the early settlers on the Detroit River. Of this marriage was born C. L. Labadie, formerly a member of the firm of Labadie & Parent who at one time carried on in Windsor a clothing business. Part of Charles Frederick's life had been occupied in commercial and agricultural pursuits. In 1837-38 we see him taking an active part in the defence of the frontier against the rebels. He was only a private in Colonel Prince's battalion, but his valorous conduct soon attracted his superior officers' attention. He was promoted to the rank of Captain, and for the rest of his life was always known as Captain Labadie. If I am not mistaken, he died on the 22nd. of January 1892. His wife had predeceased him in her fifty-third year. I presume that their remains were buried in the Catholic cemetery at Sandwich, as I found that on the 20th. of May 1872 Charles Frederick received a deed of a second class lot, St. Patrick's ward, St. Joseph street, and lots 11 and 12 in St. Charles ward in the cemetery of l'Assomption, Sandwich.

Another son of Louis Labadie senior, Gregoire L. Labadie, born at Sandwich on the 28th of September 1812 was educated in the County of Essex, and afterwards emigrated to Kalamazoo, devoting himself to farming. In 1836 he married a Miss Binette of Montreal, and raised a family of twelve children.

Nicolas D. Labadie, who was the youngest and last surviving of all the children of Antoine Louis Descompts Labadie, went to Texas. He became a doctor of medicine, and joined the American army as a surgeon in the war against Mexico for the independence of Texas. He died at Galveston in 1866. Nicolas had become widely known for his extended charities among the poor. In periods of epidemics his services and medicines were given without charge to those in want. His fine qualities and virtues made him greatly beloved by all who knew him.

The descendants and connections of the Labadie family in the County of Essex and the State of Michigan are very numerous, and it is a pleasure to note that a great many of them have been very successful in life, and have at the



same time served their native or their adopted country as good, industrious and useful citizens.

Before closing, I wish to show you a very interesting relic which I have here. It is the property of Mr. Daniel Labadie now living in the Township of Sandwich East in the County of Essex. This gentleman very kindly brought his precious souvenir to the meeting of our Society and I wish to thank him for doing so. Here is an old pocket sun dial made of silver and beautifully engraved, the whole enclosed in a leather case. The dial contains a compass by means of which one may locate the north. On the lower part of the instrument is engraved the name of the maker and the year, viz: "Roch Blondeau, Paris 1671." Pierre Descomptes dit Labadie was the owner of this instrument. I am very much pleased to be allowed to pass it among the audience for examination.

## FORT MALDEN.

BY MISS ADA PRINCE.

(Read at a meeting of the Essex Historical Society, Windsor, May 18th, 1909.)

In rolling, verdant country  
 Surrounding Malden's site,  
 Live happy, hopeful people  
 Who voice a long-sought right;  
 They're asking for the old grounds;  
 They're pleading one just claim,  
 In wanting old Fort Malden  
 To carry with its name—  
 The story of the glory  
 Which should not pass away,  
 But live in earthly beauty  
 Beyond our little day.

They're turning hist'ry's pages—  
 Retelling Malden's fame—  
 When sturdy, early settlers  
 Read safety in its name;  
 A tender hallowed message  
 Is wafted from the past—  
 A prayer that old Fort Malden  
 May carry to the last—  
 The story of the glory  
 Which should not pass away,  
 But live in earthly beauty,  
 Beyond our little day.

The glory of the forest, in beauty wild and grand;  
 A beauty far more lovely than ever man has planned;  
 The tangle of the wild-wood, the arching boughs o'erhead;  
 The shelter of the fledgelings, till brilliant wing they  
 spread.

To gather from the flowers the fragrance sweet and strong,  
 And bear it o'er the country in wealth of joyous song.

The glory of the chieftain, who dared to do the right;  
 His warning to the soldiers, to hold with all their might  
 The fortress which they builded upon the pleasant land;

“Two thousand yards from centre,” had been the King’s  
 command;  
 The chieftain gave a measure, not of the chain and rod;  
 To him it was the country where once his fathers trod.

The glory of the settlers, who brought across the sea,  
 The sweetness of the fair rose; the grace of fleur-de-lis;  
 The grey down of the thistle; the pretty shamrock’s green—  
 And blended each their emblem into the maple’s sheen,  
 Which waving o’er the fortress would to the settlers tell  
 The promise of the country where now their children dwell.

Flow gently, rippling river,  
 Caressing Malden’s shore;  
 Each swirling, laughing wavelet,  
 Sing softly, o’er and o’er,  
 And breaking on the fair beach,  
 In misty music rise,  
 To carry from Fort Malden  
 To smiling azure skies—  
 The story of the glory,  
 Which should not pass away,  
 But live in earthly beauty,  
 Beyond our little day.

Shine brightly, golden sunbeams,  
 Enhancing Malden’s green;  
 Dance lightly, silver moonbeams,  
 O’er all the lovely scene;  
 O’er graceful, ancient maples,  
 Oh, balmy breezes play,  
 And carry from Fort Malden  
 Through all the night and day—  
 The story of the glory  
 Which should not pass away,  
 But live in earthly beauty,  
 Beyond our little day.

## PLACE NAMES OF ESSEX COUNTY.

The following paper was read by A. W. Marsh, of the Amherstburg Echo, at a meeting of The Ontario Historical Society in the Windsor Public Library, June 2nd, 1904.

This paper has been revised by Mr. Marsh and brought down to date, (1913).

ESSEX COUNTY was so named by Governor Simcoe's proclamation July 16th, 1792, and was in accordance with the Lieutenant Governor's plan of reproducing English names in Upper Canada. The counties from Essex to Northumberland were named from English counties, and the townships in these counties were named after important places in the same English counties. In the first division of Upper Canada into districts, Essex, Kent and Lambton were called Hesse, but later, during 1792, it was changed to "Western" district, with Sandwich, now county town of Essex, as the capital.

## NAMES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

AMHERSTBURG—This place was first known as Fredericksburg. On July 22nd, 1784, John Hay, Lieutenant Governor of Detroit, wrote a letter to Governor Haldimand, saying: "Several have built and improved lands here—Capts. Bird and Caldwell are of the number at a place they have called Fredericksburg." They with others seem to have been encouraged, and whether their settlement was named after Sir Frederick Haldimand, or after Frederick, son of George III, history is silent. On May 15th, 1787, Lord Dorchester, who succeeded Lord Haldimand as Governor, wrote Major Close to lay out a township opposite Bois Blanc, to be called Georgetown. January 8th, 1793, the Executive Council resolved that a township to be called Malden be laid out at the mouth of the Detroit River. Thus we see Fredericksburg gave place to Georgetown, and this in turn to Malden. In 1796 a military post was established there, and on Feb. 9th, 1797, the name Fort Amherstburg first appears in an official document, while the settlement outside continued to be called Town of Malden. The name was undoubtedly after Lord Amherst.

ASSUMPTION—In 1728, Fr. Armand de La Richardie, S. J., arrived at Detroit for the purpose of founding a Huron Mission for spiritual care of Christian Hurons, in

that vicinity and Sandwich. To avoid a conflict of jurisdiction with the Recollects of Quebec, he selected the "Crescent Bay," on the south side of the Detroit River. The extensive grounds on which stand at the present day the Church and College Assumption, at Sandwich, form a small portion of the domain belonging to the Huron Mission of Detroit, under Fr. Fichardie and Peter Potier. The Mission was dedicated in honor of the Assumption, which is the parochial name of the church at the present day.

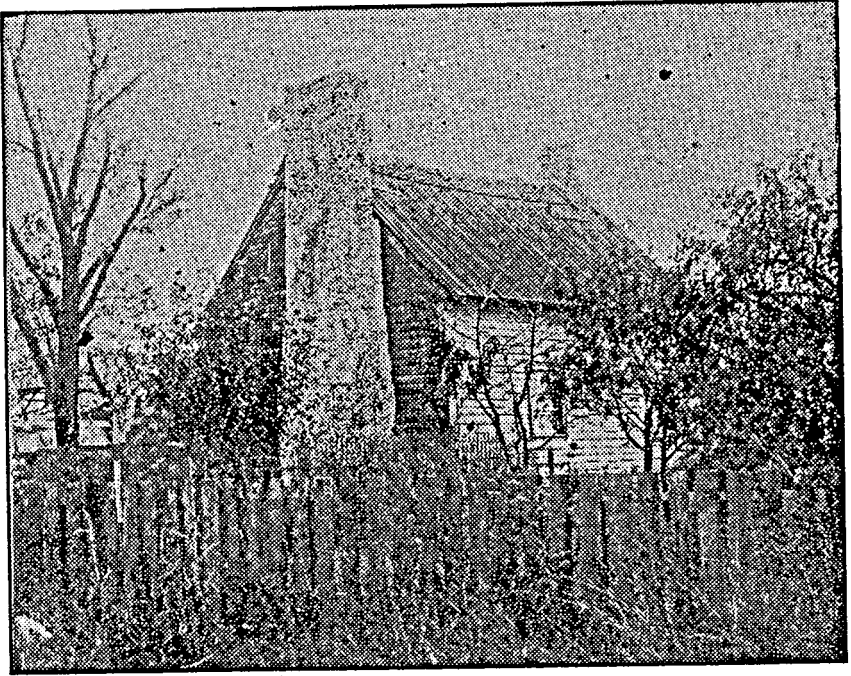
**ARNER**—Took its name from the Arner family, the earliest settlers in Gosfield South Township.

**AULD**—Station and postoffice on the M. C. R. about half-way between Amherstburg and McGregor. Named for John A. Auld, ex-M. P. P., who was instrumental in getting the government to open an office there.

**BELLE RIVER**—Or "pretty river" is of French origin and was settled early in the nineteenth century by French people.

**BOIS BLANC**—Meaning 'White Wood' was so named by the French voyageurs, on account of the dense growth of these trees, which covered its surface. The name was conferred previous to 1740, because in 1742, Fr. Richardie established a French Mission at that point, and it was then known as the Isle Aux Bois Blanc, or "White Wood Island." The Huron Indians who held sway there were very troublesome, and after a precarious existence of five years under Fr. Potier the mission was withdrawn in 1747. From 1814 to 1826, the Island was abandoned to the United States, because of a misunderstanding of the terms of the Treaty of Ghent. In 1826, the boundary line was more clearly defined, and it has since been Canadian territory.

**BLYTHESWOOD**—This village is near the centre of Mersea Township, the earliest settlers coming from Scotland and later from Quebec Province nearly half a century ago. The name Blytheswood was given the village by Donald Cameron, who was one of the earliest settlers, calling it after Blytheswood, a town on the Scottish border. Mr. Cameron built the first store and postoffice some 45 years ago, and was succeeded by John Hope, Sr. Mr. Cameron along with Mr. Thorburn, afterwards engaged in business in Windsor, under the firm name Cameron & Bartlet, later Bartlet, Macdonald & Gow.



WHAT IS LEFT OF THE ELLIOTT MANSION.

**BYRNEDALE**—In Tilbury North, was settled by the Byrne family, who are still numerous there.

**COTTAM**—Gosfield North was so named by Major Wagstaff, who was its first Postmaster. In his early days he lived in a small village called Cottam in Yorkshire, England, and desired to perpetuate the name.

**CANARD RIVER**—"Duck River," named because it was and continues to be a famous place for ducks. It received this appellation from the first French settlers, early in the nineteenth century. The postoffice was named after the river.

**CHALMERS**—A postoffice in Mersea Township. Mr. Chalmers was the first postmaster.

**CHEVALIER**—In Tilbury North, was named after the Chevalier family, its earliest settlers.

**COMET**—A postoffice in Malden has the honor of perpetuating the name of the Comet paper collars, once worn by nearly everyone who affected collars. Mr. Graveline was the first storekeeper at that point, and when it came to establishing a postoffice there, the fact that the "Comet" collar was one of his staples, led to the name.

**COMBER**—On the M. C. R. in Tilbury West Township, was first located about two miles east of the present village. The centre was the corner of the Middle Road and the Gracey sideroad, where in 1846 John Gracey opened a postoffice to which he gave the name Comber, after his native place in Ireland. In 1852 the postoffice was transferred to the corner of the Middle Road and what is now Comber Main Street. Here the postoffice was kept by Mr. Reichenbach, but in 1865, two years before confederation, the office was transferred to Duncan McAllister, who still holds the position of Post Master. The office became the nucleus of a village, but when in the early 1870's the C. S. R. R. was built nearly a mile north, Messrs. Ainslie located a mill on the railway and the village has grown northward, but its scattered appearance still gives evidence of its division into two "ends."

**EDGAR MILLS**—Is the product of evolution. It was first called Coal Kilns, from the fact that charcoal was made there. Then it became Kilroy, after a Mr. Kilroy, who in partnership with William Currie, ran a store there. In 1880 John Edgar started a saw and stave mill there, and

later established a store, having the postoffice installed therein, and the name was changed to Edgar Mills.

**ELMSTEAD**—Was so called when the C. P. R. was built 14 or 15 years ago. I have been unable to learn by whom or for what reason that particular name was given.

**ESSEX CENTRE**—Began with a postoffice, established the first of May, 1873, on the completion of the Canadian Southern Railway. The name was the result of a conference of several people at that point. Its location so near the centre of Essex county, and at the corner of four townships, suggested the name. When the village of Essex Centre was incorporated as a town, the "Centre" was considered provincial and it was decided to drop it.

**GORDON**—Is situated at what was formerly the terminus of the M. C. R. in Ontario, on the Detroit River. It was named after Louis Gordon, deceased, who owned all the land in that part of Anderdon township, fifty years ago.

**GESTO**—In Colchester North was settled by the Campbells in 1874. John Campbell, by right of seniority, was allowed the privilege of giving the place its name and called it after an old farm of that name in Scotland, the land of his birth.

**GOLDSMITH**—Is the name of a postoffice, and Methodist and Presbyterian churches, situated on the eighth concession east, in the Township of Mersea. The majority of the settlers came from Quebec, near Huntington, about 1860, or earlier, and settled there when the district was one vast forest; no roads or means of communication, often wading in water above the knees in getting in a few necessary articles. At that time, about the only way to obtain a little cash was to chop down fine elms, and burn them up, in order to get the ashes to manufacture into potash. About 1870, a grange lodge was organized, which necessitated considerable correspondence, and a petition was sent the government to open a postoffice. The prayer of the petition was granted and the late John Ogle gave it the name Goldsmith, after the author and poet.

**HARROW**—The hub of Colchester South Township, was called Munger's Corners up to 1860, because the first settlement there was made by the late John Munger. About that time, tradition informs us, some of the residents there appeared in a lawsuit at Sandwich, registering as coming from Munger's Corners. The late John O'Connor, then a rising barrister, asked leave to rename the place, and corre-



sponded with the government, with the result that the place was thereafter known as Harrow, in honor of the town in England.

**HILLMAN**—In Mersea, was so named after the Hillmans, its earliest settlers. The date of its birth is obscure.

**KINGSVILLE**—The prosperous town in Gosfield South, grew up on property which in the 1810's constituted the estates of Andrew Stewart on the west, and John Herrington on the east. Talbot, or as it is now called there, Division street, was the line fence between the estates. Mr Stewart offered to name the place after the first settler to build a house on his property, and Col. King taking his proposal in earnest, erected a log house; the place therefore received the name Kingville, after its first householder.

**KLONDYKE**—In Gosfield South, was the result of a joke. Seven years ago the school section north of Kingsville was considered too large, and the trustees decided to divide it, and to build two schoolhouses. When one had been completed, the carpenters and masons packed their tools and building material on a wagon, and started north for the other location. The Klondyke fever was at its height that season, and in reply to a question from the teacher said they were going to the Klondyke. The name stuck and is now known all over the western peninsula.

**LEAMINGTON**—Its origin is elusive. Some say it was so named because several of its early settlers came from Leamington, England, while others, who have lived there sixty years, claim that, though the name is undoubtedly of English origin, its application to the thriving town in the gas, oil and fruit belt was more chance than design.

**MARSHFIELD**—A station on the L. E. & D. R. R. in Colchester South, was so called by the late Hiram Walker, when he built his railroad through that section, on account of the marshy district surrounding it.

**MCGREGOR**—The thriving French village, on the M. C. R., was called Colchester Crossing from the time the C. S. R. R. was built until 1874, when by the endeavors of the late William McGregor, M. P. for North Essex, a postoffice was established at that point. It was named McGregor after him.

**NORTH MALDEN**—Postoffice on the Gravel Road, three miles from Amherstburg. Being in the northern part of the township, it was so named.

**MALDEN CENTER**—Another postoffice in the central part of Malden Township.

**NORTH RIDGE**—In Gosfield, was named by Major Billing, its first postmaster, and was so called because it is situated on a gravel ridge, and there being a similar ridge in the southern part of the township, it was appropriately called North Ridge.

**NEW CALIFORNIA**—In Gosfield South, was a nickname bestowed on the Grainger settlement some few years ago as the result of a wag's suggestion. Mr. Simon Wigle, of that place, made a trip to California and on his return told so many wonderful tales about the Golden State, the section in which he lived was renamed above. The name appears to have come to stay.

**NEW CANAAN**—In Colchester North, was settled by slave fugitives, who thought it Canaan's happy land, in comparison to the bondage under which they had suffered. It dates back to the 1860's.

**OXLEY**—On the shore of Lake Erie, in Colchester South Township, was first called Oxford, but was later changed to Oxley, to avoid confounding it with Oxford in Middlesex County.

**OLINDA**—In the early days, Gosfield postoffice was the centre of distribution of mail matter for Gosfield Township, the western portion of Mersea and for Colchester Township. It was situated about two miles east of where Kingsville now stands. In 1856 the Postmaster-General, at the request of settlers in these parts, decided to open postoffices that would be more convenient, and asked that names be sent for the proposed new offices. The late Michael Wigle is said to have found the name Olinda in some of his books and chose it. The place formerly was known as the Back Settlement or Furnace, as there was an extensive smelting business carried on there in those days, iron ore being found in paying quantities in the immediate vicinity. The first postmaster at Olinda was the late John C. Fox, who held the position for forty years.

**OJIBWA**—Is of recent origin, 1897 I believe, and the name was suggested by Mr. Sol White, of Windsor, because of the Ojibwa Indians which formerly held tribal territory here.

**PUCE**—or "Aux Puces," as the river is called, is French for "Flea" and is said to get its name from the fact that it was infested with abundance of fleas in early times. It has

borne that name for over 75 years. The post office was formerly called Patillo, after a family that settled there in 1836, but it was changed to Puce 10 or 12 years ago.

**PAQUETTE**—a station on the L. E. & D. R. R. in Colchester North is called after Cyril Paquette, on whose land the station is built.

**PELTON**—is of recent origin also, having been dubbed Pelton by the construction gang of the M. C. Ry., when building that portion of the road to Windsor. The boys in the neighbourhood were continually pelting the gang on their way to and from their work, hence the name.

**RUTHVEN**—received its name from Hugh Ruthven, who carried on a large mercantile as well as grist and saw-mill business at that point. The post office was established in 1860, with Mr. Ruthven as first postmaster.

**RUSCOMB**—A postoffice and station on the M. C. R. R. got its name from the River Ruscomb, but local history is silent as to why the river was so called. It is of French origin. Before the station was built M. C. R. trains used to stop and pick up passengers on the bank of the Ruscomb River, but when they erected the station, it was placed farther west, presumably to divide the distance about equally between Comber and South Woodslee. That is why the village is not on the river, from which it derives its name.

**SANDWICH**—from the fact that it was the capital of the Western District, namely Kent, Essex, and Lambton, was named after its namesake, a town in the County of Kent, England. The country round it was divided into three townships, according to direction from the County Town—Sandwich East, Sandwich South, and Sandwich West. Sandwich was founded about 1750 by the disbanded soldiers from a French regiment. It is said one of them bartered his 100 acres for a fitch of bacon.

**SOUTHWICK**—was established as a station on the M. C. R. near McGregor, four years ago, Mr. L'Hommedien, General Manager of the M. C. R. named it Southwick after the man on whose farm it is located.

**SPLITLOG**—Postoffice in Anderdon. The Splitlogs are the last of the Indian families in that neighborhood. Andrew Gibb was appointed postmaster, and as his wife was a Splitlog, the name was considered apt for a postoffice.

**STAPLES**—is a station and postoffice on the M. C. R. R. in Rochester township. The nucleus of the village was

formed when Mr. Staples, of Huron county, went there in 1874 and engaged in the timber business in that section, erecting a saw mill. The postoffice followed.

**STONE POINT**—In Tilbury North, takes its name from the topography of the section projecting into Lake St. Clair, at that place.

**TECUMSEH**—got its name from the celebrated Indian Chief. In the retreat before General Harrison's troops, in 1812, the Chief halted his braves for two or three days on the site where the village stands, and it was ever after called by his name, as was also the road along the line of retreat.

**TRUDELL**—was settled by the Trudell family, who are numerous there yet.

**TALBOT ROAD**—Col. Talbot landed at Port Talbot, Elgin county, May 21st, 1803, and taking an axe chopped down the first tree, thus inaugurating the Talbot Settlement. The townships of Sandwich, Maidstone, Gosfield and Mersea were afterwards included in Talbot settlement and the judicial seat was at the Town of Sandwich. The winding Talbot Road was the only highway of communication between the eastern and western settlements, in those days.

**WALKERVILLE**—was founded by the late Hiram Walker, who was head of the great Distillery interest which bears his name.

**WHEATLEY**—Richard Wheatley was one of the first settlers on the East border of Essex County, Mersea Township, locating on lot 218 S. T. R. in 1837. Wheatley died leaving a widow and one daughter. The daughter afterwards married William Buchanan and her husband had part of the original Wheatley farm subdivided into village lots in 1865, and the village plan was named Wheatley in honor of the original settler.

**WINDSOR**—The name of the City Windsor originated as follows: The Dougall farm was laid out in lots, sometime in the 30's and was named South Detroit, but the villagers did not like that name and they held a meeting, and the late James Dougall, who was one of the most influential of the villagers, suggested the name "Windsor", which was adopted after Windsor Castle.

**WINDFALL**—Mersea Township. Before many settlers had put in an appearance and while yet the country was a great forest, in the year 1860 a great windstorm swept

over a section of country in Tilbury West and part of Mersca Townships. It commenced a little south of Comber, and travelled in a south easterly direction, levelling everything in its wake, not a tree being left standing. The section of land thus devastated has ever since been spoken of as the "Windfall," and the postoffice was named accordingly.

WOODSLEE,—was located on the Middle road, on the townline between Maidstone and Rochester. It was named by John Murray, after a place in his native shire in Scotland. When the C. S. R. was built in ~~1810~~ it went through a mile south of Woodslee, and another village grew up, and this was called South Woodslee. 1873

#### THE TOWNSHIPS.

Sandwich, East, West and South are dealt with elsewhere in this paper.

ANDERDON,—

"The noble red man wandered on

"The river shore of Anderdon.

The tract of land forming this township was reserved by the Indians in 1790, when the Council of The Four Nations surrendered to the government the Huron District. In the year 1836, on account of the encroachments of the whites, the government induced the Indians to allow a portion of the reserve to be sold for their benefit. By an agreement with Sir Francis Bond Head in 1837, they resigned two-thirds of this reserve, and it was surveyed in 1839. At subsequent periods the size of the reserve was further reduced by sale. The name is English, Anderdon (Beech House, county of Hants,) England. The name however may have been derived from an officer stationed at Fort Malden. This township and Malden were deeded by the Indians in October, 1783, to Lieut. Jacob Schiefflin, Secretary of the British War Department, but the deed was not recognized by the British government.

GOSFIELD,—is named after the village of Gosfield in Essex, England. It was divided into Gosfield North and Gosfield South by Act of Parliament in 1887, at the request of a majority of the ratepayers, in order that the southern part of the township might have the privilege of voting on a bylaw to grant a bonus to the L. E. & D. R. R. scheme, the bylaw having been voted on by the whole township and defeated. Petitions for and against a division were circu-

lated, and later laid before the Ontario government, with the result that the prayer of those asking for a division of the township was granted, and by mutual consent of both deputations, Gosfield South became the Junior township.

**MALDEN**,—This township is named after Malden, in Essex county, England. It dates back to 1795. Colchester and Malden were called the "Connecting townships." The former takes its name from a city in Essex, England, on the river Colne. The township Colchester was divided into Colchester North and Colchester South in 1880, by Act of Parliament. In 1870, a large settlement came from Eastern Ontario and took up land along the Malden road, which was the only road in the north part of the township. They were wholly separated from the older part of the township whose population outnumbered them 10 to 1. They applied for separation which was granted.

**MERSEA**,—This township was called after Mersea, a finely wooded island of England in Essex. It was surveyed in 1792.

**MAIDSTONE**,—(1792) takes its name from Maidstone, the county town of Kent, England.

**PELEE ISLAND**—takes its name from the adjacent Point Pelee, which was called that by the French who paddled along the north shore of Lake Erie from Niagara ~~on their way to establish a fort at Detroit.~~ The French word Pelee means skinned, peeled or bare, and the name was given on account of the absence of trees at that point. In Rev. Charles Charlevoix' Journals published in Paris, 1744, the following appears in a letter dated June 8th, 1871: "The fourth day (from Niagara River), we were detained a good part of the day upon a point which runs three leagues north and south and is called Point Pelee. It is nevertheless well enough wooded on the west side, but the east side has a sandy soil, only small red cedars, of inconsiderable quantity. There are many bears in the country and last winter more than four hundred were killed on Point Pelee alone." (1871)

**ROCHESTER**,—was laid out in 1792. It is called after Rochester, an ancient Roman town in Kent, England.

**TILBURY**,—is named after Tilbury Fort in Essex, England. The township was divided by Special Act during the session of 1891, a portion of Tilbury West being cut off and named Tilbury North. The original township was surveyed in 1794.

## FORT MALDEN AND OLD FORT DAYS.

BY THOMAS NATTRESS, B. A.

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Probably the reason why so many of the details of Canadian history have been taken for granted by our history writers, or left untold, is the circumstances that the archives of Britain and France would need to be searched for fuller statement of fact. One of the events whose scant recording is to be deplored, is the founding of Fort Malden at the mouth of the Detroit River and head waters of Lake Erie. One sentence only have I found touching its earlier history prior to 1812, a sentence from the Illustrated Atlas of the Dominion issued in Toronto in 1881. It is this:—"for years after the treaty of peace had been signed at the close of the War of Independence, the British still held the military post at Detroit; but in 1796 it was turned over to the Americans, and the British selected the site of Amherstburg, which had been laid out as a town the previous year, on which to erect a fort, and to this they removed the guns and stores from Detroit during the year 1796." Mr. F. E. Elliott of the Point Farm, immediately below the town, is fully convinced however, from family reminiscences, that there were fortifications here already when his grandfather, the late Col. Matthew Elliott, came here in 1784. If the presence of old Indian forts in the adjoining townships be an indication, the probability is that he is right.

But though little is found on record of its founding, its subsequent history is common property. Established in the early days in anticipation of events, the events themselves, at two important points in our history, proved the utility of the step taken, for in 1812 and again in 1837-'38 there was war upon this frontier.

Amherstburg—the name then as now of the old fort town—was the western center of warlike demonstrations

in the contest of 1812, though the seat of war was the whole Detroit River, on both its banks. On the breaking out of the war Fort Malden was garrisoned by "200 of the 41st, 50 of the Newfoundland company, and 300 of the militia, with a detachment of Royal Artillery, being 600 men in all" (Kingsford). An old resident of the town is responsible for the statement that for many years subsequent to 1812 there were but ramparts here, and that the fort buildings were erected only in 1839-40. But the number of men doing service under Colonel Proctor in 1812 would seem to call for some further explanation as to the available accommodations. It is hardly to be supposed that regulars defending a strategic, fortified post would live out of doors in the fashion of their Indian allies.

Col. St. George was in command of Fort Malden when, on July 12, 1812, Gen. Hull crossed from Detroit to the Town of Sandwich at the head of 2500 regulars of the American army. A few days later an ineffectual attempt was made, under Col. Cass, to take the River Canard bridge, five or six miles above Amherstburg, Fort Malden, of course, being the objective point. To two brave Canadians (Hancock and Dean) are due the honors of the encounter, one of whom fell at his post. Manœuvring and skirmishing continued until the arrival of Col. Proctor at Fort Malden on August 5th. Immediately upon his arrival to relieve Col. St. George, he effected a \*counter-movement by sending a detachment across the river, intercepting the supplies in transport from Ohio for the American forces at Detroit, a stroke of good generalship that necessitated the return of Hull's large force from Sandwich to Detroit. Only 250 men were left on the Canadian side, in a quickly improvised fort that served only the purpose of occupancy for a few days.

Gen. Brock, at this time commander of the Canadian forces, arrived at Fort Malden on the night of August 13th, from York. Next morning he met the Indians in council. Tecumseh urged an immediate attack upon Detroit. Recognizing the wisdom of the old chief's advice, especially after reading Hull's despondent despatches to his government captured by Proctor's intercepting party,

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\*These two engagements were Brownstown (on August 6th, 1812), and Maguaga (on August 9th, 1812).



Brock at once took up the march. The small American force at Sandwich recrossed the river on his approach, and by the following day he had planted a battery opposite Fort Detroit. Then, having crossed his main army to a convenient point below the city, he advanced to the attack, a denouement averted by Hull's surrender of his post and all his troops and stores.

Kingsford (Vol. VIII, History of Canada, p. 197) gives a full account of the movement effected by Proctor by which he both cut off Gen. Hull's base of supplies and came into possession of the tell-tale letters above mentioned. Here is what he says: "The United States had no naval force on Lake Erie, and the Queen Charlotte war sloop of eighteen 24-pounder guns was at the disposal of the British. Hearing that a convoy of provisions with a force of 200 men was on the march, Proctor detached a strong party of the 41st, with some Indians under Tecumseh, who placed themselves in ambush near the village of Brownstown, at the mouth of a small stream, some 18 miles south of Detroit. Hull, in expectation of the arrival of the convoy, had dispatched Major Van Horne to bring it in with safety. The detachment was also charged with the despatches of Hull and the letters of the garrison to their friends in the older states. The ambush placed to receive Van Horne on the 5th of August proved a complete surprise. By the unexpected fire of this party 20 were killed, including 5 officers, and 9 were wounded. The detachment was driven back and put to flight, and pursued for 7 miles. The important correspondence that fell into the hands of the British had great weight in the decision of Brock to act aggressively. Consequently upon the affair, Proctor established a post at Brownstown (now called Flat Rock), by which communication with Detroit was interrupted." From the same source we have the further information that a day or two later General Hull "made an effort to reopen his communications to the south, detaching a force of 705 men under Colonel Miller \* \* \* About 14 miles below Detroit they came upon a British force under Major Muir of the 41st \* \* \* Muir finding himself greatly outnumbered felt constrained to retreat to his boats \* \* \* The skirmish had the effect of preventing any further advance, for the detachment returned the following day to Detroit."

Held in check at every move by the superior prowess of the British; alarmed by the fall of Fort Michillimackinac, which gave rise to grave fears of an Indian attack from the northwest; having lost 5 officers at Brownstown and 4 others in the fort at Detroit, a shot from an 18-pound gun on the Canadian side of the river penetrated to the mess room and cutting them down at one fell swoop; cut off from his source of supplies; his by this time wholesome respect for the British increased by the report that had reached him of the reinforcement enroute from Niagara; and thwarted by Colonel Cass, who commanded the Ohio militia, in his desire to retreat from Detroit and take up a strong position on the Maumee River; it is little wonder that General Hull surrendered absolutely to General Brock so soon as the latter began to close in on him from both sides of the river and from the river itself. British regulars, Canadian militia, and the intrepid Tecumseh's Indian allies of the British; the Queen Charlotte and the Hunter and their own captured batteaux upon the river; and the guns in Sandwich accurately trained on the fort, —no doubt this all seemed a sufficiently formidable array. And yet the American people affect to despise the very name of Hull. The capitulation was humiliating enough, indeed, for it "included the entire territory of Michigan with the fort of Detroit, the Adams war brig, 2,500 troops embracing the 4th United States regiment with their colors, a company of artillery, some cavalry, a large quantity of stores with 33 pieces of cannon and the military chest; and no prize was greater than the 2,500 stand of arms included, for these supplied a want under which Canada was laboring." —(Kingston) *Kingford?*

After the taking of Fort Detroit, General Brock, being commander-in-chief of the Canadian forces, hurried back to the Niagara frontier, where the army of the center (as it was called in the triple-attack plan adopted by the invaders) was now the most active body of the enemy. Here in the battle of Queenston Heights he fell. Mr. Charles G. D. Roberts records in his history of Canada that during the funeral of the slain leader "the minute guns of Fort George were answered gun for gun from the American batteries of Fort Niagara, while the American flag hung at half mast—a chivalrous tribute to an illustrious foe."

"Proctor assumed command at Detroit, and in a series of engagements, in which the Essex militia took part, achieved some important results at various points on the

Raisin and the Maumee, finally repulsed by Harrison in his attack upon Fort Meigs and subsequently met with an almost crushing defeat on August 2nd, 1813, at Fort Stephenson, where Fremont now stands, and immediately retreated to Fort Malden to recruit his shattered army. The British fleet also lay off the fort, blockaded by Commodore Perry, whose vessels controlled Lake Erie. Provisions running short in the British camp, it was decided that Commodore Barclay should give the American fleet battle, and on the 10th of September he stood out and bore down upon the enemy. The engagement was a most obstinate one, lasting over three hours, and resulted in the killing of one-third of the British force and capture of the entire fleet." (Illustrated Atlas of the Dominion of Canada, 1881.)

It is said that the officers from the fort watched the progress of the engagement from the Lake Erie shore in Colchester, climbing the trees to get a better range with their glasses. Doubtless this is true. The knowledge so gained, taken together with facts already related and other facts to be related, would go far to account for what has been studiously represented as the very precipitate action of Col. Proctor in blowing up Forts Malden and Detroit and retreating into the interior. Tecumseh's wrath so freely and forcibly expressed at the colonel's expense upon that occasion may after all have lent undue color to the ignominy of the retreat.

General Harrison followed up the advantage gained over the Canadian forces at Fort Stephenson and Fort Meigs on the Maumee, as was to be expected he would, bringing his forces across the river and landing at Bar Point, from flat boats. Thence he threw a detachment across Marsh Creek and, with colors flying and to the strains of martial music, led his men along the two sides of the creek in the direction of Fort Malden. On the Renolds farm, now owned by Mr. Edward Honor and Mr. Perry B. Leighton, just outside the limits of the town, he encountered the pickets from the garrison, and six men fell in the skirmish. It would appear that the American forces camped upon this ground as though to await developments. On Mr. Honor's farm there are \*earthworks

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\*This information was given by Mr. Edward Honor who received it from the late Pirish Barron. Mr. Barron's farm was near Bar Point in Malden Township. He saw Harrison's soldiers land.

to be seen, as plainly traceable as though they were of yesterday. These were thrown up by General Harrison. A description of them will not be without interest. Beginning at the line which now divides the two farms named, and on the elevation which bounds the marsh on east side, and extending sixty yards S. by E. to where the embankment begins to fall away, is a double line of breastworks, formed by scooping out the earth from the face of the bank a few feet from its foot, and throwing this earth uphill. By this means ample protection would be afforded a double line of riflemen, one above the other, lying prone and ready to receive the enemy from the west. From the point where the bank of the marsh begins to recede and to fall away the earthworks extend due east some thirty yards, affording protection against an enemy from the north (or south), as well as a means of communication between the part extending sixty yards due south from the east end of the second part. A very pretty piece of rapid temporary work. A second skirmish followed in the neighborhood of where Mr. Wigle's flouring mill now stands, probably on the rising ground. Then followed the disastrous retreat in which Proctor was determined and Tecumseh the unwilling participant, and which terminated in the \*\*battle of the Long Woods.

Thus have we, by the aid of readily accessible records and the memories of men living, traced the history of old Fort Malden from its earliest days up to the day it was blown up and completely abandoned, towards the close of the second year of the war of 1812-14. Only the earth works remained, destined to become the scene of further military operations in the oncoming War of the Rebellion of 1837-'38.

An incident well worthy of being reproduced is recorded in the Dominion Atlas (1881) that shows the substantial and dependable spirit of Canadians. "During the autumn of 1813, while the British lay at Amherstburg, the men of Colchester and Gosfield applied to Proctor for permission to go home and harvest their crops. This was denied them, whereupon they left the camp in a body, carrying their arms and accoutrements to their homes. Proctor sent peremptory orders for them to return at once, which they answered by saying they would return when their crops were harvested and not before. He thereupon sent a messenger to say that he would send the Indians to

bring either them or their scalps into the British camp; to which they returned answer that in such event they would teach both the Indians and the British some more interesting game than they had yet learned from the Americans, if he dared molest them. After this they were left to their own way, and when their harvests were secured they all returned to the camp in a body as they had promised. During the furlough they formed reliefs and works by squads, first on the farm of one then on another, till all was completed, keeping guard against any possible scalping expedition of the treacherous allies of the British. The men carried their arms to the field with them, and the little children were trained as videttes to watch each road and path and forest trail."

There is but little on record of the now dismantled fort up to the breaking out of the war of 1837-'38. The British were in undisputed possession of the Canadian frontier during the interval, and the country immediately round about began to be settled up and cleared of timber. In addition to the mainland, Bois Blanc Island abreast of the town of Amherstburg was (as it is today) Canadian territory, and was about to become the scene of considerable military manoeuvring. There is much of romance about the early history of the island, as there is indeed about the latter history too; but it is not with romance we are presently concerned. It was not till the second year of the war of 1837-'38 that activities began here again. At that date there was no garrison at the fort. But the citizens and the farmers of the adjoining townships had not forgotten some of the actual training of the field, and others the memory and inspiration, of the war of 1812. They now mustered in defense of their country to the number of some two thousand strong. It was on Bois Blanc the enemy first sought a footing, thinking to approach the town under cover of the magnificent woods that then clothed the island. Ah me! What goings and comings had not that pretty, sheltered stretch of water been the pathway of that laves the foot of all these pretty islands from Elliott's Point across to Gibraltar, Grosse Isle, Hickory, Sugar Island and Bois Blanc. By this way escaping slaves have won across to freedom's country in the dead of night! What contraband goods have come and gone this way! Here went the checking party in 1812, Tecumseh of their number, and came back victorious! Hither came the invading enemy in 1838—and fled precipitate! Bravo!

Canadian volunteers; the enemy never finds you off your guard!

Had it not been for the American war schooner that patrolled the channel between Bois Blanc and Amherstburg, cannonading the town, the tragi-comedy of 1838 might have turned out more seriously for us than it did. The party that crossed over to the island on the 8th of January of that year to repel the invaders might possibly have themselves been repelled. But when the guns on the American schooner began their booming up the river our men recrossed in safety and awaited their opportunity. Having no cannon to reply to the loud barking of the enemy's dogs of war they must, perforce, rely upon their rifles and muskets and fowling pieces. But, presto! the helmsmen of the schooner Anne are dropped at their post as fast as they are replaced. Her halliards are shot away. The sails flounder and fall to encumber the deck, riddled like a sieve with bullet holes. She drifts, aimless—and fetches up on the sandy beach. The insurgents are now completely discouraged; and again, as in 1812, a handsome prize falls to the lot of our militia in the shape of 200 stands of small arms, a considerable quantity of ammunition and three field pieces. One of these latter ornaments the grass plot in front of the present Town Hall in Amherstburg.

1812  
Mr. Read, in his \*History of the Rebellion, says the insurgent leader Sutherland, an American Scotchman turned adventurer, had but sixty men on Bois Blanc, whilst the schooner Anne was manned by eighteen. The expectation was that the Canadians would lose no time in joining the insurgents, to right their wrongs, real or supposed. Upon this fellow had been conferred by Van Rensselaer, who was in command of the "army of the centre" in the invasion of 1812, and who was among the wounded at Queenston Heights, the general of the army of invasion, the rank of Brigadier-General.

From his headquarters on Bois Blanc Island Sutherland issued a proclamation breathing sentiments of devotion to Canada and her political interests. Here is his manifesto:

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\*I have quoted freely here and elsewhere, both because the narrative is succinct and full, and in order to direct attention to authorities and possible sources of information.

PROCLAMATION TO THE CITIZENS OF UPPER CANADA.

"You are called upon by the voices of your bleeding country to join patriot forces and free your lands from tyranny. Hordes of worthless parasites of the British crown are quartered upon you to devour your substance, to outrage your rights, to let loose upon your defenseless wives and daughters a brutal soldiery. Rally then around the standard of liberty and a victory and a glorious future of independence will be yours." (Read.)

We have seen what answer he got; the kind of victory that was won, and the temper of law-abiding, peace-loving citizens, who issue from happy homes to defend their country's honor by force of arms when there is need, but who, in other circumstances, prefer to set their wrongs right by constitutional means.

There still continued some low rumblings of war, though this principal attempt on Fort Malden had proven futile. Gen. Hardy, Sutherland's rival, now in command, proposed to take the Province from Sugar Island as his headquarters, whither Sutherland's men had retreated from Bois Blanc. "He found, however, that he had neither men, arms nor ammunition sufficient to cope with the Royal Canadian Militia, which stood ready to receive him in the Canadian shore. In this helpless condition he was forced to apply to the American authorities for friendly assistance to extricate him from his position. The Governor of Michigan † went in a steamer to Sugar Island, took over the arms, and Gen. Hardy and his forces evacuated the island."

An expedition led by a refugee named McLeod was dislodged from Fighting Island in Detroit River on the 24th February, '38. It was an artillery engagement. Major Townsend with a detachment of the 32nd regiment from Fort Malden arrived upon the scene in the night, and was joined towards morning by the Kent volunteers from Windsor under Baby. But these were not engaged. At daybreak Captain Glasgow of the artillery corps swept the enemy from their island lodgement from across the

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\*Governor Tom Mason.

water, and with only three guns. Subsequently the defeated insurgents were disarmed and dispersed by the American authorities.

On these two occasions during this war our American neighbors did us the good office of relieving our enemies of their arms in their last extremity, and did themselves a good turn by dispersing a body of malcontents whose presence now within their borders boded the country no good.

"In March, 1838, American sympathizers made another attempt to take Canada, this time by way of Pelee Island. About four hundred men mustered on the island with this object. They were not permitted to reach the main shore. British troops, consisting of five companies of regulars, with about two hundred militia and Indians, under command of General Maitland, made a descent upon the island, defeated the self-styled patriots killing about sixty of them and making prisoners of nine, General Sutherland being one of the prisoners, and left the balance of the rebel force to their fate." (Read.) There is a difference of opinion as to where and exactly when this notorious character, Sutherland, was taken prisoner. The other account, and the one which I believe to be authentic, was related to me by different parties long resident in Amherstburg and hereabout, and confirmed by Alexander Callam, Esq., a gentleman now over ninety years of age, the oldest resident of them all. He relates that Col. Prince took the two rebel general prisoners on the ice as he returned from the routing of the rebels on Pelee Island; that they were not on the island, but heard of the gathering of the insurgents there, and were crossing over on foot from their forlorn headquarters on Sugar Island. Mr. Callam had himself crossed the ice on the same day, but from the direction of Monroe in Lower Michigan, and saw the two men at Amherstburg in Col. Prince's charge, who

claimed the honor of their capture personally.

Still another attempt was made to invade Canada, this time by an attack upon Windsor, and again the regulars from Fort Malden and the Essex militia gave a good account of themselves. A detachment of Royal Artillery under Col. Broderick came to the assistance of the militia already on the ground and drove the invaders back across the river. Col. Prince says in his report of this attack

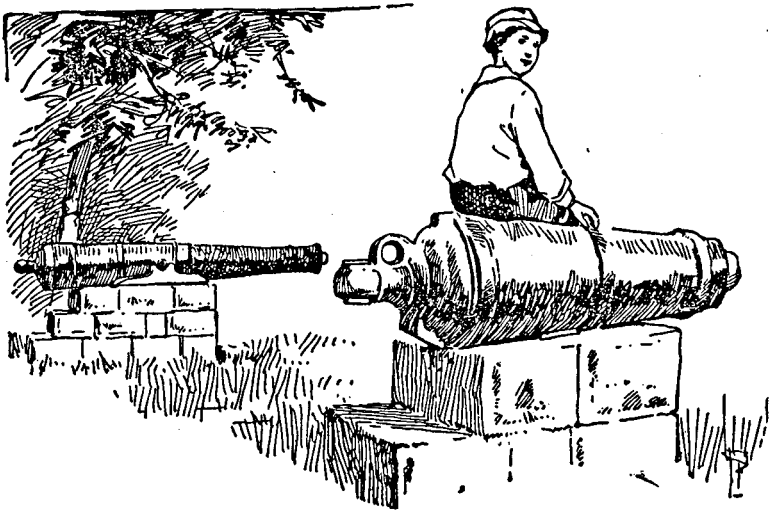


upon Windsor:—"Of the brigands and pirates twenty-one were killed, besides four who were brought in just at the close and immediately after the engagement,—all of whom I ordered to be shot on the spot; and it was done accordingly." It was the execution of these four men that afterward brought such a storm about the ears of Col. Prince on the floor of the House of Commons.

But, as Mr. Read has it, "Col. Prince's justice had a salutary and deterrent effect, there were no more raids after Windsor." Were it permissible to put into print some facts in the case as related to him by an old member of the 34th regiment and vouched for by him, every Britisher would applaud Col. Prince for the summary justice meted out to the four fiends, on the same principle that punitive expeditions are sent out by the British Government to-day and approved by all.

Col. Rankin, of subsequent local fame, then but a youth of twenty-two, an officer of militia under Col. Prince, captured the colors of the insurgents at the battle of Windsor, and was complimented in the parliamentary debate which condemned Prince with so much vigor.

Explanatory of the movements of the enemy and of the Canadian and British forces, it may be said that the months of January and February, 1838, were as warm as summer, the rigors of winter not being realized till March. This I am told by Militiaman Girardin, who still lives in Amherstburg, and who says he answered the first call to arms in his shirt-sleeves, so mild was the weather, but afterward crossed to Peleé Island in March, under General Maitland's command, in a sleigh. He tells me too that the larger number of volunteers who crossed over to Pelee Island to rout the invaders became separated from the rest of the forces and, crossing the island without encountering the fleeing enemy, were obliged to content themselves with carrying off the abandoned supplies; whilst the regular soldiers kept to the ice around the west side of the island and came suddenly upon a detachment of the invaders ensconced behind a windrow. It was here that execution was done. Among the rest who fell were five men to whose grateful memory the monument was erected that stands in the English Church graveyard in the town of Amherstburg. Four of them belonged here, and one was from St. Thomas.



SOME OLD FORT MALDEN GUNS

The same informant, whose father served in the war of 1812, relates (and his statement is substantiated by others) that the schooner Anne was brought into port and used as a guardhouse during the continuance of the war, and was broken up for firewood when the war was over. Her figure-head was for a long time in possession of the late A. H. Wagner, Esq., postmaster of Windsor, and was probably burned in the Windsor fire of Oct. 12th, 1871. The second "schooner" mentioned by some writers of the history of the period, was only a flat scow bearing supplies, and was also seized. Mr. Girardin is of opinion that not only one but both the cannons in front of the Town Hall in Amherstburg are off the Anne. The third, he says, is buried under the dock at the foot of Murray street, where was the old town hall and market square, it having incurred the displeasure of the populace one summer holiday by blowing out the eyes of one citizen and destroying the thumb of another in its frantic efforts to "go off." George Gott, Esq. ex-Collector of Customs at this port, who was himself a member of the 34th regiment, stationed here in 1838, confirms this statement, but he says that, although one of the cannons in possession of the town, the long one, is off the American schooner, the other is a gun from the fort. He himself effected the exchange at the time when the cannons were being removed from the fort to be broken up. One of the three captured cannons was found when taken to be loaded to the muzzle with bits of chain and all sorts of missiles; and the grateful people who had watched the vessel's movements from the river bank recall the fact that they had witnessed repeated unsuccessful attempts to fire it. (See Baby, "Souvenirs of the Past.") The prisoners taken with the schooner were sent to London. Afterward three of them—the so-called "General" Theller, Captain Brophy and Col. Dodge, a lawyer of Toledo,—were transferred to the citadel at Quebec. Theller and Dodge escaped subsequently to the American side.

During the Rebellion, Fort Malden was garrisoned by a detachment of the 24th Battalion, another of the 32nd, the 34th Regiment under Col. Erie, a battery of artillery, and as many of the Essex militia as the exigencies of the situation from time to time demanded. \*The latter were, when embodied with the garrison, in essential particulars

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\*Sergeant Sullivan, who belonged to the 43rd, was the informant.

considered on the same footing with the regular troops. (Vide Lieut.-Gov. Gore to James Baby, 28th Dec. 1807; Canadian Archives.) The 43rd Light Infantry were here immediately after the rebellion, Col. Booth in command; Sergt.-Major Furlong, second in command. Next came a detachment of the 89th Regiment, which had been stationed at Montreal after returning from the West Indies in '44. Last of all came three companies of the Royal Canadians. These were transferred in 1851, after which date no regular garrison was stationed at the fort.

Forty and odd years ago there were 108 British army pensioners at Amherstburg. \*\*But two or three of these are left. Sergt. Sullivan, already named, is authority for the statement that the resident pensioners were enrolled to do necessary duty after the removal of the Royal Canadian Rifles. Twelve men a day were on guard, chosen from the alphabetic roll. Each twelve served a month, and were relieved by other twelve. For this service each man was paid one-half dollar a day in addition to his pension. On the Queen's birthday a review was held so long as a guard was maintained, and on this occasion each man received a sovereign.

The Royal Canadians, the last detachment that garrisoned the fort, was made up of men of 14 years' service in the British army—good conduct men. Soldiers might volunteer from any regiment in Canada, at home or abroad.

The 34th Regiment had been stationed at Halifax previous to the breaking out of the rebellion in 1837, at which time orders were issued to proceed to Quebec, by ship to St. John's, thence overland. Mr. Gott, who has been already named as a member of the 34th, has a very distinct recollection of the movements of the regiment. Between St. John's and Quebec there was considerable counter-marching. At Quebec, the regiment was ordered to march to Toronto, doing duty as they went. At Toronto the order was issued to march immediately to Amherstburg. From Port Stanley to Fort Malden the distance was covered by boat, and the long and weary march was ended, but not the work. The bastions at the fort were rebuilt and the

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\*\*One of these is Mrs. Bridget Horan, who nursed the wounded British soldiers at the Crimea, along with Florence Nightingale.

fortifications got in good repair. Nor was there any too much time to get the fort in readiness, for the regiment did not reach Amherstburg till the early part of '38, and that was the rebellion year in this part of the country. A letter dated at Amherstburg, August 7th, 1807, from Lieut.-Col. Grant to Military Secretary James Green, gives a description of the fort that might almost be taken as coming from the pen of the commanding officer in 1838: "There are four bastions, one at each angle, but one is un-serviceable and excluded from the works. The picketing is entirely decayed and fallen down." (Canadian Archives, series C, vol. 973, p. 106.)

The defense of the fort in 1838 consisted of ten 24-pounders, six 6-pounders, three brass field pieces, six mortar guns and a number of rocket tubes, besides the full complement of small arms. There is at the present time plainly visible the well defined outline of a mortarbed in the only remaining trench, the one on the north side of the works. Another of the mortar batteries was immediately in rear of where the last of the old flagstaff still stands on the rear of the southwest bastion. The two front bastions are well preserved, the angles being as sharp as the day they were built. On the east side of the fort there was a double defense formed by two rows of pointed pickets, one on the moat outside the trench and the other on the inner side of the trench. The sally-port crossed this east trench alongside the east bastion. This sally-port crossed this east trench alongside the east bastion. This is doubtless the bastion that was spoken of in 1807 as un-serviceable and excluded from the works. It was of different form from the others in 1838. But the trenches on the east side have been filled in, and the bastions levelled in the construction of a roadway.

In 1838 the buildings, etc., in connection with the Fort were all located along the river front from where the Post Office now is, northward. This was the government woodyard; and from this point, from south to north in the order named, were the commissary department (a part of the old brick building is still standing), the dock yards and government stores, the hospital and the officers' quarters. Part of the foundation of the old King's wharf is still traceable. The root-house also which belonged to the officers' quarters is still a substantial building. It stands on the old McLeod homestead. The space

between the officers' quarters and the southwest bastion of the Fort was protected by a row of pickets, as was also the space between the two front bastions not otherwise protected by trench or moat.

A map of the Town of Amherstburg drafted by R. J. Pilkington and bearing date 3rd June, 1831, indicates that the military reserve or garrison common embraced all the territory between Richmond street, the then northerly boundary of the town and the \*Gordon Farm on the north side, and between the Bell Farm on the east and the Detroit River westward. The part of this territory of which most use was made prior to the advent of the pensioners was west of the Sandwich road and south from the fort to Richmond street. The territory east of the Sandwich road was afterwards apportioned to the pensioners. The government built the houses on the apportioned grounds, charging the pensioners £40 apiece for them, deducting the money in small amounts from the pension till the total was made up. Besides the land grant and the regular pension and the perquisites already named in another part of this record, each pensioner was given a government cheque for £10 on coming here, to enable him to make a start in his new home. The ex-Collector of Customs at this port was then in business in the town, and says that he has cashed a goodly number of these cheques.

A part of the defense not yet specified was the block-houses on Boic Blanc Island. There were three of them, known as the north, center and south block-house, or No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3. The south block-house still stands as in the old days. The one at the north end was burned some twenty-six years ago. The center one stands on the west side of the island and is embodied in the Col. Atkinson summer residence. About opposite to it, on the east side of the island, and abreast of Richmond street, there was a Picket Barracks, long afterwards used as a dwelling, but not now standing. One of the numerous lake captains residing in Amherstburg still recalls the incidents of a happy boyhood spent in and around the old Barracks after it had degenerated into the commonplace civilian's house.

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\*Many of the old farms hereabouts, like these two, are still called by the names of their first owners.

