The U. E. Loyalists of Norfolk County, Ontario

By Mrs. Sidney Farmer

On account of the history of Norfolk containing the names of as many noted U. E. Loyalists amongst its earliest settlers as does that of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the Rideau Valley, etc., a short description of that part of the country to which they came should not be out of place.

History of Norfolk County

We read that not a forest tree had been felled in Norfolk County by a permanent white settler before 1790!

Champlain visited the Bruce Peninsula in 1616. The first missionary seems to have been a Recollet Father — de La Roche de Daillon — who arrived in 1626. The surprise shown by the Indians clearly indicated that they never before had been visited by a Christian missionary. They received him kindly, and Father Daillon declared it was the most beautiful country he had ever seen. We owe most of our knowledge of it, as it was then, to his description of it.

He recorded that moose, deer, beaver, coons, wildcats, bustards, ducks, turkeys, geese, cranes and squirrels were abundant, the squirrels being much larger than those in France. As many as two hundred deer were seen feeding together. Walnuts, chestnuts, wild apples, gooseberries, plums and grapes also were found, of splendid quality.

In the early part of 1700 this region was called “the terrestrial Paradise of Canada” by visitors from elsewhere.

By the Treaty of Paris, Canada passed under British rule February 10th, 1763.

In 1788 that portion of Quebec, later set apart as Upper Canada, (now Ontario) was divided into four districts, the most westerly being the District of Hesse, the line dividing it from the District of Nassau, next east, running north from the extreme end of Long Point, ‘Norfolk therefore being in the District of Hesse.

About this time a large number of U. E. Loyalists arrived in Western Canada, and in 1791 Governor Simcoe and his colleagues organized what they called the New Province of Upper Canada, Norfolk County coming into existence in 1792.

Arrival of the Loyalists

Shortly after this, our brave Loyalist ancestors began their home-making in this fine county, and laid the foundations of many homesteads, and their log houses are now replaced by “handsome, slate-roofed brick residences, mammoth barns with stone basements, and hundreds of acres of smiling fields, waving with golden grain.” (Ryerson’s Loyalists of America.)

It is pleasing to note that quite a number of their descendants are still occupying the same land.

As to this land — in the Parliamentary Reports of the English House of Commons on Emigration, 1826, we find the following evidence taken before Wilmot Horton, the talented Under Secretary: —

The first witness, Lieut.-Col. Cockburn, said: “Upper Canada in the first instance was settled by a class of Upper Canadians — the United States Loyalists.”

The second witness, the Rev. Dr. Strachan, said: “Upper Canada was set apart, after the American Revolution, for the reception of the royalists who had adhered to the United Empire, and on that account were forced to leave, and they were provided for with implements and provisions, and land assigned them for nothing.”

The evidence of the latter was greatly qualified by that of a subsequent witness, John Rolph, Esq., who stated: “I take exception to Dr. Strachan’s evidence! It is not generally true that these people got land for nothing; they either paid for it in the shape of fees, received it as compensation for losses, or as a reward for real or supposed services.”

This is confirmed by Canadian historians.

It is not generally known that Turkey Point was designed by Governor Simcoe as the commercial governmental metropolis of Upper Canada.

It was an original government reservation for a town and a garrison.

Charlotteville

The town was called Charlotteville. An Act was passed providing that the Courts of Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the District of London should be held there, although there had been no building of any kind erected. We read of the Courts being held at the house of James Munro, and the following Justices of the Peace were sworn in on April 8th, 1800, before Joseph Ryerson, Sheriff, and Thomas W'elch, Clerk of the Peace :

1, Samuel Ryerse, Chairman; 2, William Spurgin; 3, Peter Teeple; 4, John Beemer; 5, Wynnant Williams, all of whom were U. E. Loyalists except John Beemer, who came earlier.

A Court House was built in 1804 at Charlotteville, which was destroyed by fire, and a new one was built in Vittoria in 1815. It also was burned down, and the location was finally placed in London.

The U. E. Loyalists had been accustomed to the exercise of an electoral privilege, and, joining with other settlers, they demanded a modification of the Quebec Act and the establishment of a local Legislature, which resulted in the division of Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada, in 1791, which provinces now are known as Ontario and Quebec.

Cost of Goods

As we are all suffering at the present moment (1917) from what we call “the high cost of living,” it is interesting to note what our ancestors were paying for supplies in 1807. There was only one store at Long Point, and prices quoted were as follows :

Broadcloth — $20 per yard. Cottons — $1 per yard. Brass buttons— 1 York shilling each. Pins — 50c per paper. Green tea — $2 per pound. Tobacco — $1 per pound. Nutmegs — 25c each. Board nails — 25c per pound. Shingle nails — 30c per pound. Window glass, 7 x 9 — 25c.

At Port Ryerse salt was $12 per bushel, and it is recorded that Moses Rice and David Brush went to Hamilton for it, and paid $75 for a barrel. It has been remarked that if our U. E. Loyalist ancestors were "worth their salt'' they must indeed have been an acquisition to their country.

We hear of this same Moses Rice as being the first constable sworn in for the District of Charlotteville and, also, as being the only prisoner ever confined in the old log jail. He was in for two hours for contempt of Court.

Building Anew

While in this log cabin era of their existence, their outfit generally consisted of a cow or two, a few sheep, a yoke of oxen, two or three pigs, chickens, and the indispensable iron kettle.

Very few were able to bring anything from their former homes, but some had a grandfather's chair or chest of drawers, or small carved table, while other necessary articles were hewed out with a pocket knife which in those days was a very strong knife made to serve many useful purposes. For instance, it was used to hollow out slabs in the form of shallow troughs for the roof of the log cabin, which were laid alternately, the convex form of one overlapping the concave form of the other, while places for doors and windows actually were whittled out!

Lumber had to be sawed out by the tedious process of the whipsaw. Those who could not afiford window glass used a sliding board or oiled paper. The spaces between the logs were filled with sticks and moss with clay plastered over.

Stones were gathered to form a hearth, and the chimneys were made of small sticks and clay.

Now, as to their supplies.

Surely God was with our little band in the wonderful provision of Nature that is recorded ! The cow was able to get a living in the forest, sheep on herbage, and pigs in the abundance of nuts. As tea was so expensive it was substituted by steeping barks and roots.

They dried their fruit, of which they had an abundance and variety, in the sun, and it is said to have been much more delicious than ours of the present day.

We read of one U. E. Loyalist — Andrew McCleish — possessing a cranberry patch of about sixty acres that supplied not only his immediate neighbours, but parties from a distance who filled their sacks by scooping the berries up with wooden shovels. Wild strawberries and raspberries were also remarkably abundant.

Of sugar and syrup there was plenty of a certain kind — the product of our beautiful maple tree. The Indians taught the white settler how to produce this very delicious, healthful and useful commodity.

We do not give these Indians the credit which is due them for much knowledge still in use at the present day.

Just one instance more — the use of herbs! Our grandmothers could go out and gather in their gardens herbs for all the usual maladies of children and adults, and cure them speedily, and they also taught them the use of certain weeds for snake-bites, which were very efficacious.

There are probably not many in this audience who know that when the British Medical Association met in Toronto, in 1906, they had printed in one of their handbooks a tabulated list of Indian remedies and their specified use in the treatment of various diseases.

As to soap, they could always have that on hand, both the soft and the hard, making it from wood ashes and grease.

Every article of bedding and wearing apparel was the result of their own hard work, and was made from one or the other of the two raw products of wool and flax.

As soon as they could bring a little virgin soil under cultivation, flax was sown.

Flax was spun on a small wheel after being broken up, hetcheled and carded, and the tow removed. This made tablecloths, towels, bags, sheets and ticking.

The tow was utilized by spinning it on the large wheel used for wool, to make the coarser cloth for bags.

As to wool weaving, there are few arts which require more patience and skill. The fleece is first sorted by experienced hands into several qualities, and scoured, and dyed, if necessary, after which follows the process of “willying” to free it from dust or other impurities, and then it goes through the “teazer,” and finally it is spun on the large wheel and is only yarn yet.

But from this yarn our ancestors seemed very skilled in making up materials of all kinds, and could even produce fine twilled goods.

Their caps were made from home-tanned coonskin, and were both durable and comfortable. Their footwear was made from the skins of wild and domestic animals.

Light was furnished by means of pine torches, or the “witch/’ a saucer of tallow containing a coil of twisted cotton rag.

Candles came later and were considered a great invention. There were no matches, and fire was often borrowed.

We read that if the fire in the big fireplace went “dead,” some member of the family had to wade through snow, perhaps a mile, to “borrow” fire.

We already have heard of the price of pins. Spikes from thorn trees were their substitute.

As to carriages, what was called a “crotch” seemed to do duty for a carriage, cart or waggon. It was a couple of logs fastened with a crotch, and had a nose curling up at the front end like a sled. Sometimes a seat was fastened on, but the feet had to be held up in awkward places.

No wonder it is difficult to find records of these people, which attests the fact that they were “workers and not writers,” as Dr. Ryerson remarks in his “Loyalists of America.”

Sabine says in his “Loyalists of the American Revolution,” that when he visited Canada in 1821 he was lost in amazement to observe that natives of Massachusetts, graduates of her ancient university, had, in this wilderness, already re-established the colonial system of Government, and made such progress in settling the country.

First School

So it is not surprising that our Norfolk pioneers greatly regretted the lack of schools for their children who received no education beyond what their parents were able to give them, while even where the parents were well educated they lacked the time to instruct them, as it was such a struggle for a bare existence.

The first school was a log structure built in 1826, near Vittoria.

Vittoria, by the way, was named after the Vittoria of Spain, where, about this time, a decisive battle was won by Wellington.

Biographical Sketches.

We now come to a few biographical sketches of the U. E. Loyalists of Norfolk.

The name of Ryerson stands out prominently in U. E. Loyalist history. The two brothers, Colonel Samuel Ryerson or Ryerse, and Colonel Joseph Ryerson, were early settlers in this district. A son of Colonel Joseph Ryerson, the Reverend Egerton Ryerson, is a prominent figure in Canadian history.

Colonel Samuel Ryerson and family fled first to New Brunswick after their persecution in New Jersey, and after being there about ten years he was asked by Governor Simcoe to start a settlement at Long Point. He came at once, in 1794, and built a log house on the lake shore and named the place Port Ryerse.

It was through his influence that the Long Point settlement was organized into a separate district. He helped to establish the first Episcopal Church in Norfolk in 1803. He was a Justice of the Peace, Commissioner for Administering Oaths, Chairman at the Sessions, Norfolk’s first Judge, and served as Justice in the Divisional Court of Requests for years. He built the first grist mill and “so seems to have been not only at the head of affairs in the beginning, but he remained a leader afterwards.” (Owen’s Pioneer Sketches.)

Colonel Joseph Ryerson was much younger than his brother, Colonel Samuel, and he entered the Army only in May, 1776, as a cadet, at the age of 15.

“When Colonel Ennis, the Inspector-General, saw him he exclaimed, ‘You are too young and small to go!’ Whereupon the lad replied: ‘Oh, Sir! I am growing older and stouter every day!’ At which the Inspector-General laughed heartily and said: ‘You shall go then/” (Loyalists of America, Dr. Ryerson.)

He, also, fled to New Brunswick, but came with his family to Long Point in 1799. He and Isaac Gilbert were Norfolk’s first churchwardens. He was Norfolk’s first sheriff, first treasurer, and was Justice of the Court of Requests.

He had six sons who were endowed with a passionate fondness for books, and it is said that their father called them “good-fornothing” boys because when he sent them out to work he would find them under shade trees, reading, and whenever he bought a new book he was compelled to hide it. At last he gave in to their wishes and allowed them to attend Judge Mitchell’s grammar school, “where no dilatory marks were ever recorded against them.”

Five became preachers. The fifth son was **Dr. Egerton Ryerson**, who was chief superintendent of education for Upper Canada for thirty-two years, from 1844 to 1876, and was the father of our public school system.

The eldest son, George, was at first a soldier and fought at Fort Erie as a Lieutenant in Captain Rapelje’s Company. He was wounded there and on recovering decided to be a preacher. He was the father of our esteemed past president, General George Sterling Ryerson.

The father and grandfather of Colonel Samuel and Colonel Joseph Ryerson held judicial appointments in New Jersey under King George II and King George III. (Mrs. Amelia Harris’s Memoirs.)

It seems almost certain that **Frederick Mabee** was the first settler as his death is recorded in 1794 and he had then lived there for a year or so. He was buried in a hollowed-out walnut log with a tight-fitting slab for a cover, made by the process already described.

Peter Secord, a noted hunter, was his cousin.

There is always a Smith in every locality and there is an amusing account of how **Abraham Smith** got away from New Jersey. He had been ordered to take the oath of allegiance, or to leave the State, and failing to get away in time, his wife concealed him in a box, in which he landed safely in Canada. He had six sons, all of whom settled on Government grants. He built the first frame barn in the township, which still is standing.

We next hear of **Solomon Austin** of Woodhouse, who was a private in the Rebellion under General John Graves Simcoe, who offered him his “Executive Log Mansion” at Newark — now Niagara — until he secured his location at Woodhouse. General Simcoe himself was a U. E. Loyalist.

The Austins came from Maryland and were very wealthy. The City of Baltimore was founded on their estate.

The history of the U. E. Loyalists of Norfolk apparently records but one woman obtaining a grant in her own name **— Rebecca Anderson**— which she secured on May 17, 1802, but afterwards transferred to

John McCall in exchange for his lot. She also inherited her father's homestead by will, and was said to possess "great business tact, ability and executive force."

A large part of Vittoria village is built on her land, and her niece, Mrs. David Clark, is still living on part of the Anderson homestead in Vittoria, which has been in continuous possession of the family for 105 years. (Pioneer Sketches, Owen.)

The McCall party arrived in June, 1796, and included the McCalls, Hendersons, Munroes, Fairchilds, and Prices.

Colonel Donald McCall was born in Scotland and at the age of twenty-one enlisted in the 42nd Highlanders, the celebrated "Black Watch," with which regiment he came to America and took part in the capture of Louisbourg and Quebec. "His commanding officer was one Colonel Wolfe, who one year later was raised to high rank in command of an army that was to win imperishable fame on the Plains of Abraham, and when this gallant General and his little army scrambled up that narrow and tortuous path, Donald McCall was one of them." (Simcoe Reformer.)

After his discharge from the army he settled in New Jersey, where he married Elsie Simpson, who, by the way, was the great-aunt of General Ulysses Simpson Grant, eighteenth President of the United States.

The Colonel had five sons and three daughters and lived very happily in a fine home until the rebellion of the colonies, when he fled to Louisbourg, Cape Breton, in 1783, after having been persecuted and all his property confiscated, and was there until 1796 when, on request of Governor Simcoe, he began pioneer life again in Norfolk County, Ontario, on Lot 18, 4th Concession of Charlotteville. His second son, Major Duncan McCall, was elected a Member of the first Parliament of Upper Canada, and his other sons, his grandsons and great grandsons have held municipal, military and parliamentary positions, and two of his descendants are still living on his original grant of land in Charlotteville. One of them, George McCall, has been Postmaster since 1867, and is now the oldest postmaster in Canada. He was also reeve for fifteen years, and warden for three terms. John McCall is the other, whose only son was among the first to enlist from Norfolk in 1914. He fell on a battlefield in France one year later.

Simpson McCall, a grandson of the original Donald, was Member of Parliament after Confederation for two terms and was noted for his remarkable memory, being able to recall early and late events accurately, when ninety years of age.

Alexander McCall, another descendant, is at present a Senator at Ottawa.

Of **Thomas Welch, or Walsh**, Clerk of the Peace, we already have heard. He was appointed Registrar of the County of Norfolk in 1796, and when the District of London was erected in 1798, he was appointed Registrar of the Surrogate Court, and, on his becoming Judge of the District and Surrogate Courts, the County Registry Office passed into the hands of his son, Francis L. Walsh, who had a remarkable record for the longest term of government service in Canada, and probably the longest in the British Dominions, namely, from 1808 to 1884, seventy-six years. This Francis L. Walsh built the first fireproof registry office in the province, at his own expense, and was the first to introduce the

system of keeping separate books for the different townships. One of his descendants is Mr. Justice Walsh of Calgary, whose only son is fighting in France.

We are told that **Lieutenant James Munro** built the first two-story house in Norfolk, which seems to have played a very important part in early history. Besides being the dwelling-place of this U. L. Loyalist, it served as the first hotel, the first store, goods for which were brought from New York by Duncan McCall, the second son of the original Donald McCall, and the headquarters for judicial and municipal matters. We already have heard of the Courts of Quarter Sessions having been held there, as it was the only house having necessary accommodation. It was built in 1796 and remained standing until about 1912, when it was taken down and rebuilt for an implement shed.

Splendid qualities are recorded of two McMichaels, Edward and James, though it is not known that they were related. They were prominent in the religious, social and political life of their time.

The wives of **Captain Edward McMichael** and **William Cope**, another U. E. Loyalist of most exemplary character, are the heroines of thrilling wolf stories.*

Mrs. Cope was carrying a pail of flour through the woods when she discovered a wolf following her. At first she thought of leaving the flour and running away, but, when she thought of her hungry children in the little cabin, she prayed for strength to go on, and for help to save the precious food; and when she fell exhausted at her own door, such is the power of God ! the wolf walked away without attacking her.

Mrs. McMichael's escape was on horseback, with a child in her arms.

Even more thrilling is the account of **Mathias Buchner'**s fight with a wolf in a cave. They were killing his sheep and, as he could follow their tracks in the snow, he resolved to enter their den. He prepared himself with a candle, musket and pitchfork. He placed the candle on the end of a pole and, shoving it in, crawled in himself.

He soon distinguished a pair of glassy eyes gleaming ferociously.

His life depended upon his first shot ! He aimed just below those glittering orbs, when, with a howl of pain, the animal sprang towards him and tore his coat off ; but he seized his pitchfork and succeeded in impaling him at the first thrust. A few more stabs and the wolf was silent forever. (Ontario Historical Society. Vol. 2.)

The name of **Ephraim Tisdale** is recorded in every book and sketch on U. E. Loyalist subjects. He was a prominent sea captain in Freetown, Massachusetts, and was particularly prominent in denouncing the rebels, as he called them. He finally had to flee in 1776, and set out in his own vessel for St. Augustine, Florida, but had to abandon it to avoid capture. He escaped safely to the shore and made an overland journey to New York of 1,500 miles, having to travel by a circuitous route. He succeeded in reaching New Brunswick, where he held both civil and military offices, and finally moved to Norfolk in 1808. He left eight sons and four daughters, all of whom were distinguished for their loyalty.

A descendant — Colonel David Tisdale — was Member for South Norfolk and held the portfolio of Minister of Militia in the Tupper Government.

Peter Teeple, **Silas Montross** and Samuel Ryerson were the three original commissioners for administering oaths. **Peter Teeple** was a captain in the New Jersey Volunteers. He arrived at Long Point in 1793. He was of very fine physique, six feet four inches in height, and was offered great inducements to accept a commission in His Majesty's Life Guards, and ever after regretted having declined it.

He was a noted jurist and left a very large library and complete register of the hundreds of civil marriages he performed.

Lucas Dedrick and **John Haviland** were noted for their wheatfields. The former's first yield was sixty bushels to the acre. It had to be fanned by the winds of Heaven, and the nearest mill was seventy miles away. John McCall's boat was procured and he and his crew conveyed the wheat to be ground to this mill. After many days they returned with their flour, and the best part of the story is that this flour was equally divided amongst them all.

Mr. Haviland's yield was fifty bushels of wheat and eighty bushels of corn to the acre. This U. E. Loyalist seems to have been one of the very few who were able to bring money with them. It is recorded that he loaned $16,000 to the County of Wentworth to build a Court House, and that he left $12,000 buried in the ground when he died. He came from New York State, where he owned 200 acres within nine miles of the City of New York which, to-day, covers this land and extends far beyond.

Daniel Hazen was the original surveyor for the county, assisted by Thomas Welch. His relatives are still very prominent in New Brunswick. He was an earnest Christian worker and every Sunday walked about twenty miles to church.

Another Daniel who was prominent in the religious life of the county was the **Reverend Daniel Freeman**, founder of the Methodist Church at Long Point, with a congregation of fifty in the heart of the forest.

James Mathews was a trustee of this original church.

Abraham Powell also was a zealous religious worker, and held offices in the public service. His descendants have been distinguished in municipal affairs.

His son, Israel, was Member of Parliament for Ottawa in 1848, and his grandson, Walker, was elected a Member in 1858. (Ontario Historical Society, Vol. 2.)

Daniel Millard was the first treasurer for the London District, while Lawrence Johnson's name often appears as one of the grand jurors.

Albert Berdan was the first constable sworn in for the District of Woodhouse, and the first court crier.

Noah Fairchild was the discoverer of bog ore, containing peroxide of iron, in Norfolk, which was afterwards used to great advantage.

We shall now group a few names as time does not permit special reference to each. Every one of these mentioned is worthy of note in one or more ways.

John Gustin, Titus Finch, Peter Russell, Samuel Ryerson, Squire Backhouse and Aaron Culver built mills which filled a great want for our hard-working pioneers, and it is recorded that **Squire Thomas Bowlby** during the McArthur raid was able to save one of these mills by waving a flag of truce and making signs of the Freemason fellowship of which General McArthur was a member, and who heeded the appeal and marched his men straight on.

Squire Bowlby was head of the Masonic Order at that time and we note that a squire in those days was judge and reeve combined, and granted licenses to keep hotels, while ministers could not perform marriages even for members of their own congregation without a permit from the squire who was a man of great importance. One of Squire Bowlby's descendants, Mr. Bradford Bowlby, still occupies part of the original grant of land.

War of 1812-14

We now come to the War of 1812-1814. Well, what do we find recorded? That the U. E. Loyalists of Norfolk County responded to a man, two hundred and sixty of them — fathers and sons fighting side by side.

They were in the midst of their harvest on which they depended for their existence, but they must again fight to maintain the British flag over their land, so, aided by a few hundred English soldiers and friendly Indians, they managed to hold their ground this time, but at what a cost ! (Loyalists of America, Dr. Ryerson.)

Let us read an extract from Colonel Talbot's letter to MajorGeneral SheafTe in December, 1812: "As there is no immediate danger of an attack in winter, I beg leave to recommend the propriety of allowing the detachment stationed in this neighbourhood to be dismissed, as the men are wretchedly provided with clothing and their families are suffering the utmost distress, being beginners in the woods, and dispersed through a great extent of country." (Colonel Cruickshank's Documentary History.)

Think of our heroes thus suffering further privations after all their toil and hardship for the sake of their flag !

General Brock called a meeting at the house of William Culver and secured one hundred and seventy-three men for service then, and the boat which carried them up the lake was owned by John McCall and had one cannon on board. James Mathews was engaged in the transportation of army supplies, and Edward Foster served in the Commissariat Department.

In the militia rolls of I Norfolk and II Norfolk, compiled by Colonel Talbot, we find almost all the names of which we have been speaking, with Lieut.-Col. Joseph Ryerson heading the list and Lieut. George Rolph the first officer placed on duty. Captain John Bostwick served the longest period. (Talbot Regime, Ermatinger.)

Captain Bostwick and his brother-in-law, Lieut. Ryerson, were detailed with despatches to Colonel Talbot at Port Talbot, and General Vincent at Burlington Heights, with the news of the capture of Detroit. They travelled two days and two nights without sleep.

Colonel Rapelje raised a company, himself, and won great distinction, especially at Lundy's Lane, and Captain Walter Anderson who also has a fine record succeeded to Colonel Rapelje's position later.

John and Peter Wyckoff served in this company, the former being killed at Fort Erie.

Captain William Hutchison and Captain Josiah Gilbert again nobly proved their loyalty, both having experienced severe fighting and thrilling escapes in the Revolution.

Titus Williams was second in command of one hundred volunteers who accompanied Brock to Detroit, where Hull surrendered with 2,500 men. He was also at Fort Erie where the Canadians were obliged to retire, but he surprised and took thirty Americans prisoners, including Captain King, on his way back.

It was at Amherstburg that General Brock first met that noble Chieftain, Tecumseh, of whose bravery and sagacity many instances are recorded. "When preparing to drive the enemy from Fort Detroit, General Brock enquired of Tecumseh v/hat kind of country he should have to pass through, and Tecumseh took a roll of elm bark, spread it on the ground, drew forth his scalping knife and etched upon the bark a plan of the country (partly Norfolk County) which was as fully intelligible as if a surveyor had prepared it." (Dr. Ryerson's Loyalists of America.)

After Titus Finch's Mills were destroyed by the Americans in May, 1814, Ephraim Tisdale, junior, with a few irregular volunteers, managed to save the district court house by heading off the enemy towards the lake.

This was not the McArthur Raid which took place in November, 1814, and proved very destructive to our already poverty-stricken heroes.

General McArthur had about one thousand troops when he invaded the Province. About four hundred to five hundred of the Norfolk Militia, under Major Salmon and Captain Daniel McCall (afterwards Lieut.-Colonel), took a position at Malcolm's Mills, but the American General had sent a detachment down the river and our militia being out-numbered and attacked from both front and rear, were quickly routed.

The Americans then began their return march, burning and pillaging as they went. Besides mills, they destroyed houses and barns.

Samuel Brown, a famous hunter and trapper, saved his home by deserting it, and it escaped plunder when General McArthur passed by; but Jonathan Williams was not so fortunate. His homestead, representing fourteen years of patient industry, was destroyed — house, barns and crops — leaving the unfortunate sufferers to begin all over again. (Pioneer Sketches, Owen.)

Thus closes a chapter in the history of our forefathers. To record justly their sacrifices and privations, their courage and steadfastness of purpose, would require a much longer paper than this and an abler pen.

Editor's Note: Mrs. Sidney Farmer, author of the foregoing paper, is the great-great grand-daughter of Colonel Donald McCall and of Captain Ehpraim Tisdale, and great grand-daughter of Jane Decew.