

THE · STORY · OF LAURA · SECORD

AND
CANADIAN
REMINIS-
CENCES ·
By
EMMA ·
A · CURRIE ·



LAURA INGERSOLL SECORD
AND CANADIAN REMINISCENCES



Laure Scott

THE STORY OF
LAURA SECORD

AND

CANADIAN REMINISCENCES

BY

EMMA A. CURRIE

WITH PORTRAITS AND ENGRAVINGS

ST. CATHARINES

1913

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By
JESSIE F. CURRIE.



THIS BOOK
IS DEDICATED TO THE BELOVED MEMORY OF
Mrs. Curzon,
WHOSE HIGHEST AIM WAS TO INSPIRE
CANADIAN WOMEN TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN
THE HISTORY OF THEIR COUNTRY.

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MRS. EMMA A. CURRIE

INTRODUCTION.

WHEN attention was drawn to Laura Ingersoll Secord, in 1860, it was a great surprise that she had so long been unappreciated and known to so few. Living among many of her husband's relatives for over a quarter of a century, hearing constant allusion to those times, it seemed almost impossible that such heroism should have remained untold and her name unmentioned. After reading the newspaper account, inquiry was made of an aged friend whose whole life was spent in St. Davids, as to its truthfulness. Quickly came the reply, "It is all true." No details were given, but the answer was sufficient confirmation. The excitement of the American Civil War and removal from St. Davids caused the circumstances to be almost forgotten, but now and then allusions would come recalling them. When the Woman's Literary Club was formed in St. Catharines, in 1892, it was my part to prepare one of the papers for the opening meeting. The historic subject of Laura Secord was selected, and during the preparation of the paper I found that her ancestors and my own came from the same place, Great Barrington, Mass. Previous to this it had been a custom to spend a week or two during the summer season in making sketches in water-colors of historic places and buildings, of which there are so many in this locality. Some had been previously made in Niagara and vicinity. I concluded to make sketches in connection with Mrs. Secord's history, and to gather what information it was possible to gain from her relatives, and those who had seen and known her. Strange to say, no one seemed to know anything of her early life or later years. At historic gatherings I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Curzon, and was greatly impressed by her appearance. Not long before her death some correspondence took place between us. Suffering at that time from ill health, an offer was made to place what memoranda had been collected in her hands, to be used as she saw best. It was my last letter to her, for her death took place soon after. Feeling that what had been collected might be of use, a commencement was made to put them together. A letter was written to the Postmaster of Great Barrington, asking for the address of any of the Ingersoll descendants still remaining there. This letter was placed in the hands of the late Charles J. Taylor, Esq., Historian of Great

Barrington, and brought a reply from him. Without his friendly aid these reminiscences would have been impossible. Mr. Taylor's truthful work deserves the highest appreciation. As the birth-place of Laura Ingersoll Secord it is inseparably connected with Canadian history. Of this gentleman's kindness to a total stranger, whom he had never seen—the time he has given, the researches he has made in helping through many difficulties—I cannot speak in too grateful terms.

Colonel Dunn and Mrs. Dunn, of Toronto, have also been efficient helpers, in furnishing documents, history, letters and memoranda relating to the Secord family, and to Laura Secord also. The granddaughters of Mrs. Secord, Miss Louisa Smith and Mrs. Cockburn, have also furnished valuable information. When it was necessary, J. Hamilton Ingersoll, Esq., of St. Catharines, has written many letters.

Miss Woodruff, of Chicago, has furnished much valuable information in regard to her grandfather and grandmother, Mr. and Mrs. David Secord, also valuable autographs; Mr. Henry Woodruff, of St. Davids, Mrs. Thorn, of Princeton, and Mrs. Saxon, of St. Catharines, important letters; Mrs. Norton, of Westfield, Mass., and Mrs. Hitchcock, of Amherst, Mass., have assisted in information regarding the Ingersolls.

My old friend, Mr. Kirby, author of "Chien d'Or," has contributed an article upon the Whitmore family, with whom he is connected by marriage, and which is a valuable addition to the history of the early settlement of Upper Canada.

Miss Janet Carnochan has also given much information in regard to the local history of Niagara.

To Miss Bothwell, of Lockport, and many others who have done much to help me, my grateful thanks are given.

The portrait of Mrs. Secord, which is the frontispiece of this work, is from a plate furnished by the late Rev. Canon Bull, of Niagara Falls South. The late Mr. Joel Lyons, of Chippewa, had a likeness of Mrs. Secord, taken in what year is not known, and from this the plate was made.

The likeness of Mrs. Secord which is in "Lossing's Pictorial Field Book of the War of 1812," and this are the only ones known to have been made. The autograph of Laura Secord accompanies the likeness. It is the only autograph known to be in existence. In a footnote, page 621, Mr. Lossing says that Mrs. Secord wrote to him on February 18th, 1861. In 1867 he speaks of her as being ninety-two years of age, and her mental faculties in full play, her eyesight so perfect that she could read without spectacles. Mrs. Gregory, her niece, who saw her in her last illness, and but three days before her death, bears testimony to the wonderful preservation of her mind.

To Mrs. Grover, of Toronto, who has allowed selections to be made from her "Recollections," my warmest thanks are given.

The first edition of "Laura Ingersoll Secord and Canadian Reminiscences" has revived the memory of an heroic woman, bringing to light letters and documents which otherwise might have passed into oblivion, and recalling the memory of others living in those troubled times. No doubt the day will come when the fragments will be brought together, and their place assigned them by the writers of Canadian history. Sir George Ross deserves the gratitude of Canadian women for placing in the Parliament Buildings of Ontario the portrait of Laura Ingersoll Secord, and procuring the grant from the Dominion Government which made the Memorial on Queenston Heights possible.

Descendants and friends have aided to the recollections gathered around her name. The letters and documents are copies of the originals. It is hoped this second publication will bring additional remembrances. With great difficulty the facts of Mrs. Secord's life have been collected. By most Canadians the Ingersoll family were classed with the U. E. Loyalists. That distinction they never claimed.

This is not a connected story. It is the gathered fragments of a well-spent life ever rising to the duty which occasion demanded. The fragments of Laura Ingersoll Secord's life, her own letters, those of her relatives and friends, the recollections of her grand-children, many years of whose life were spent under the roof of their grand-parents, the following facts have been gathered and are now presented to the public.

Mrs. Secord possessed courage which arose above danger and defeat, gifted with mental and physical resources, and love for her husband and children, and thought no toil too great that would minister to their comfort and promote their prosperity. Among families whose descendants are so numerous as the Ingersolls and Secords possibly more may be discovered, with relics bearing the impress when they were made and used. The difficulties under which the early settlers existed, the estrangement of families caused by the Revolution of 1776, the distances that separated them, the lack of materials for correspondence, the high rate of postage, all had their influence. The last and greatest was the poverty brought upon all by the War of 1812. The letters of that period are pitiful. That there are so few is no surprise. Many sent by private hands never reached their destination, and if received were passed from family to family and finally lost. The way in which these letters reached me may prove useful to bring others. During the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo pamphlets and information of various kinds were sent by the Dominion and Provincial Governments along with Canadian exhibits. Among other publications was "Women of

Canada." When the Exhibition closed the pamphlets and newspapers were sent to the rural districts for distribution. Myra Hitchcock's descendants lived in Lebanon, N. Y. A daughter of hers, Mrs. Blair, was then living. A relative happening in the post office was handed a parcel with the remark, "Give this to your grandmother, as she wants everything about Canada." Among them was a newspaper account of the unveiling of the Laura Secord monument at Lundy's Lane, and mention of "Laura Ingersoll Secord and Canadian Reminiscences." Mrs. Wells of Chicago, and another relative, Mrs. Blair of Buffalo, sent for the book. Soon after, Mrs. Wells visited New Lebanon and procured the autograph letters and traditions of Laura Secord which reach far back into the last century. These letters were carefully copied. They touch many points in our history and are strong evidences of the mistakes,—to call them by no harsher name,—that were preparing for our people the troublesome times of 1837. Mrs. Blair at eighty years of age said that during her long life she had only been absent from the farm for two weeks. She went in a wagon and never wished to go again. When some of her relatives visited Europe, Egypt and the Holy Land it was a matter of great surprise to her.

(Letter of Mrs. Thomas Ingersoll to Mrs. Hitchcock.)

GREAT BARRINGTON, MASS., November 27, 1818.

Dear Mira,—I have received two letters from you since I have been in Barrington, one by way of Canada, the other directed to your uncle John. The one you sent to Canada has been sent to me by Charles. I have had great pleasure in receiving such affectionate letters from you. It gives me great pleasure to know that you and your children are all well, and that you have good farms and the blessings of preaching and good society in your town. You must not blame me for not calling on you when I came here from Canada. We were obliged to come through Utica, which left you to the South of us. I meant to call on you and visit you. We started from Utica to go down to the Cherry Valley turnpike towards your town, and I was taken sick and obliged to give up seeing you. You cannot tell how bad I felt for it was one of the great objects of my journey to see you and Mr. Hitchcock and the children. You must give my love to them all. Brother John was so good to go to Canada for me. As he writes much faster than I do I have requested him to write for me and fill in the sheet. You cannot tell how gratifying it is for me to have assurances, as your letters contain of love and affection for me. Do come here and see me this winter. I want to see you and say a good deal, especially

about your good father's death and all family matters which cannot be contained in a letter. I expect your brother Charles and his wife to come after next May. When we return to Canada we shall visit you at your house. I intend to write him to call on you when he comes down.

Your Affectionate Mother,

SARAH INGERSOLL.

(Letter of John Whiting to Mira Hitchcock.)

GREAT BARRINGTON, MASS., December 6, 1818.

My Dear Mira,—Your good mother has skipped over this page and I have concluded to fill it up, especially as she has requested me. Mira, you are decidedly the best girl in the whole world, because you write such good long letters. I started for Canada the 8th day of July last, my wife's brother from North Carolina and Cousin Thomas Hopkins went with me. We had a grand time of it. Noticed that great curiosity of nature, Niagara Falls, then visited my good kind Laura and her husband and family, then went around the head of the lake and found your good mother and little Samuel alone, in a log house (though a good one). Your brother Charles went with me. We arrived there just as sister and little Samuel had retired to rest, but I broke into the house with little ceremony, flung away the curtains that hung around the bed, had her around the neck before she had time to say "Who is there," and I leave you to judge of our feelings after so long a separation, and which was entirely unexpected on her part. The next day your sister Charlotte (she is a fine girl) and her husband (who appeared to be a very clever fellow) came here and spent the day with us. The next day sister started with me for Queenston, leaving Samuel in the family of a friend. Thomas was gone to Oxford to build a new house at the old farm where your father used to live, your brother Charles having bought it. When your mother goes back to Canada she is going there to live. We stayed a few days at brother Charles' and at the Secord's, and on the last Monday of July your sister started with my brother-in-law and Mr. Thomas Hopkins—went up the lake another way to Great Barrington. We intended to return by your house but sister was taken sick owing to great fatigue and we were prevented. You cannot imagine how much we were disappointed, for it was one great object of the journey to call upon you. We saw Dr. Luke Dewey (your cousin) as we drove through Lennox, in Madison County, he living there and I told him where you lived and he promised to call on you. I

presume he is the person you mentioned in your letter as having inquired for you. Mr. George Stanley of Great Barrington is to live at Lennox with him. You know Dr. Dewey married his daughter. Cousin Mira, you must come here and visit us this winter. Write me as soon as you receive this and tell me if you will come, and when. Also tell me what place to inquire for your house when travelling from Canada, for I found difficulty in finding precisely where you live. I have no more room or I would write more.

Yours affly,

JOHN WHITING.

N. B.—Your dear uncle Charles has gone to a better land as we humbly trust. Your sister Nancy and her husband moved to Detroit more than two years ago, in July, 1816. They called at Queenston and visited her mother, Laura, Charles, and all the friends and then proceeded to Detroit.

*Mrs. Julius Hitchcock,
Lobanon, Madison County, New York.*

[The Post Office at Great Barrington had no stamp at that time. It is written.]

(Letter of James Secord to Mrs. Hitchcock.)

QUEENSTON, December 20, 1829.

Dear Mira,—We have received two letters from you lately, and am truly happy to hear of your health and happiness, although we have not answered your letters heretofore, it has not been from want of affection, but from not knowing where to direct a letter to you. That obstacle is now removed and I will endeavor in future to be a better correspondent. I do assure you that you are alive in our remembrance and age, and the troubles of the world increases the love of our relations, and friends are still more endearing. Rest satisfied, therefore, my dear Mira, that we all love you and yours.

With respect to our own family, and as you will be anxious to know how many there are and so forth, I will briefly give you a sketch. Well, in the first place we have six daughters and one son,—Mary, Charlotte, Hannah, Laura, and Charles. Mary is married and is now a widow. She has an estate in Ireland, and a pension from the British Government of about \$400 a year. She goes next year to Ireland in the months of June or July. Charlotte goes with her and is unmarried. Harriet is married to a lawyer by the name of Smith and lives in St. Catharines and has two daughters. Poor dear Appy is no more. She died rejoicing in her Re-

deemer and left a glorious example for elder people. Laura and Hannah are at home, and good children they are. Charles has been bred to the law and will commence to practice next spring. He is at present at York, and is writing in the House of Parliament. I forgot to tell you that Mary Trimble has two daughters, Elizabeth and Mary. With respect to our worldly affairs I am sorry to say we are not very prosperous. We make out to live and have clothing and food, but riches, my dear woman, it seems to me, is not for James Secord, therefore, you have a true account of my squad. At this moment all the little family is around the table on which I am writing, and Harriet and little Louisa are singing a song. Elizabeth and Mary, Hannah and Laura are drawing. Mary Timble and Charlotte sewing and preparing for their voyage to Ireland. Among the number I cannot forget the loss of our good useful black girl Fanny, who died about a month ago. Your sister Laura never had health better. She bears her age most remarkably considering her former delicate state of body. We are, however, Mira, getting old and grey heads, and now and then a tremor of the body. The Almighty is looking for us. May He grant us the pardon for our sins and enable us all to meet death cheerfully and with Christian resignation. My dear Mira it is hardly necessary to tell you that we love you all.

Your loving brother,

J. SECORD, Senr.

M. Hitchcock,

Lebanon, County of Madison.

[As this has no postmark it was probably sent by private hands.]

In the endeavor to find where the acquaintance commenced between Laura Ingersoll and James Secord, her future husband, the following interesting facts were given by the Misses Augusta and Louisa Smith, of Guelph. Mr. Secord was most gentlemanly in manner and his whole life shows that he was both tactful and courageous. This is the testimony of all who dealt with him. Mr. Secord and another gentleman called upon Major Ingersoll of Guelph, on some business matters. Mr. Ingersoll, it will be remembered, was a magistrate. Mr. Secord must have made an impression upon Laura and the rest of the family. After the gentleman left, Mrs. Ingersoll expressed her regret that there were so few opportunities to meet people of education and refinement, and that probably they would never see these gentlemen again. The Ingersoll family had evidently made a similar impression on Mr. Secord, for he soon after called, and the acquaintance thus begun ended

in their marriage. There is no existing record of their marriage. That Mr. Ingersoll, as magistrate, performed the ceremony is most probable. As late as 1810 Queenston was the nearest place where licenses could be procured. It is not, however, asserted that they were married by him, and it is hoped some one more fortunate will be able to settle this point.

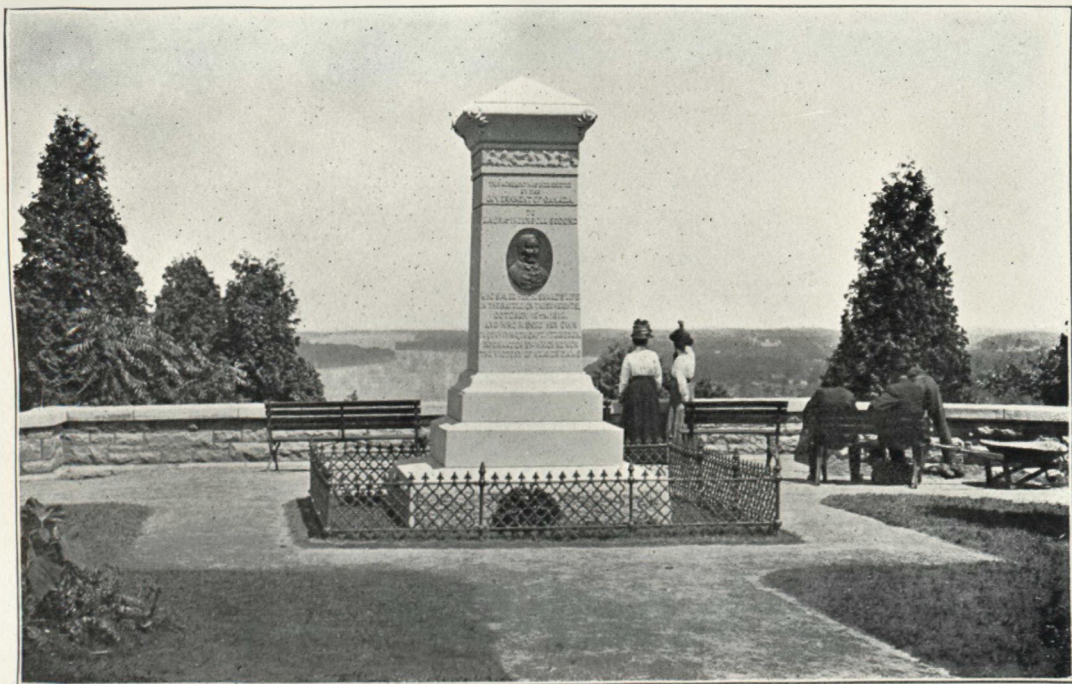
Compared with Europe the evolution of this continent has been rapid; slightly over four hundred years. The endeavor is to place before the descendants of those who founded the Dominion something of the homes and inner life of the mothers, sisters and wives of those who shared the toils,—their lives and works forgotten. In reading the names of old families there are but few who did not have three and sometimes four mothers successively in large families. They passed away, even their burial places unknown. The archivist, the archeologist and historic societies are gathering up the relics of the past of the men and women who gave their lives in the struggle for existence.

Mrs. Carnochan and the Historical Society of Niagara have done much for this locality. It is hoped that posterity will recognize the valuable work done, and continue in coming years the work commenced by them. The women of Canada have received little appreciation of their work in the past and present.

Pamphlet No. 17 of the Niagara Historical Society gives much information as to how the U. E. Loyalists and settlers maintained themselves during those early days. They lived on half rations. Those who were mechanics turned knowledge and hands to useful purposes. The Cartwrights at Napanee, and the Secords in the Niagara District were most useful in this respect. The blacksmith and the carpenter were essential to every settlement.

The Revolution of 1776 destroyed the labors of the past. In Canada the work of former days was to be recommenced by the U. E. Loyalists, the settlers and their descendants. Nearly thirty years of peace had followed the Revolution. The War of 1812 saw their labors imperiled, and years of disheartening toil for their portion. Canada is only now learning (and the world also) the vastness and richness of her possessions. These stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Arctic seas to the St. Lawrence, and the Great Lakes as her southern boundaries. Through these years of toil and peril, the races that people this Dominion have presented a united and successful front to invasion and rebellion.

When the promised historian comes, the prosperity of this country should be his inspiration, and stimulate all to follow the example of the pioneers and make themselves worthy of the heritage their forefathers left them.



MONUMENT TO LAURA INGERSOLL SECORD. AT QUEENSTON. ERECTED 1912

Family tradition helps to establish a fact. The fact remains, the difference in its relation arising from the standpoint of the narrator. Mrs. Wells, a descendant of Mrs. Hitchcock, gives this version of a family tradition. Major Ingersoll's family, when coming to Canada for settlement, after reaching Oswego embarked on a sailing vessel for Burlington Bay. From there the Indian trail led to Oxford County. As they neared the western shore of Lake Ontario the vessel was becalmed for several days, and provisions became scarce. Mrs. Ingersoll had a child two and a half years old. When near what is now Grimsby a violent storm arose. Afraid to stay on their frail vessel they went ashore for safety and put up a tent for protection. While there the kindly sailors went in quest of food for themselves and starving children. When they had gone some distance through the woods they perceived a light. Proceeding to it they found a hunter's camp. After hearing their pitiful story the hunters told them that at quite a distance was a settler's house and offered to go with them to get food, and especially milk for the children. They did so, thus relieving their immediate wants. When the storm abated they re-embarked, proceeded to Burlington Bay, then by the trail to Oxford. This child was Samuel Ingersoll who lived at St. Mary's.

The following is an extract from a very interesting letter written by H. Holland of Westfield, Mass., and received by the writer April 23rd, 1903: "I shall send in another envelope a photograph of the old Ingersoll house, or hotel, that stood on a road that formerly (1664) ran from Northampton, Mass., to Windsor, Conn. The house burned down about 1890. The photo is not a very good one, but was taken more than thirty years ago, long before the days of photo-engraving. The house had become quite dilapidated, being rented to foreigners and poor people. You will notice there is no shrubbery to be seen around the house. The house stood back from the street four or five rods. There are a few large elms on the side of the street but do not show in the photo." There were three sisters living in Westfield at the time this letter was written whose maiden name was Ingersoll. In Great Barrington the building occupied by Major Ingersoll as his place of business is still standing, and the home built by him is the Free Library. The house in which Laura Ingersoll was born is now the Public Library of Great Barrington. One will soon be constructed to cost \$50,000. The old building will not be destroyed but removed. The mantle-piece has been offered to the Niagara Historical Society. Will not some generous friend furnish the means where the birth-place of Ontario's heroine can be used to conserve her memory?

EMMA A. CURRIE.

BIOGRAPHY OF MRS. CURRIE.

EMMMA A. CURRIE, *nee* Harvey, was born in Niagara, 19th Nov., 1829. Her father was Ursen Harvey and her mother Caroline Hamlin, both of East Bloomfield, New York, and both descended from Revolutionary ancestors. Mr. Harvey came to Niagara in 1828, where he remained till December, 1834, when he removed to St. Davids. Mrs. Currie remembered incidents in her school life in Niagara at the age of five, in a private school, and of later years in a public school in St. Davids, and afterwards in a private school till the age of twelve, when she went to an academy in East Bloomfield for two years and afterwards to a Young Ladies' Seminary where was given a sound education. Mr. Wm. Kirby, when a young man, was an inmate of her father's house for some time and gave her lessons in languages and other subjects and no doubt intensified her love for history. Her earliest friend in St. Davids was Miss Margaret Woodruff, who afterwards married Samuel Zimmerman, Emma Harvey being one of the bridesmaids on that occasion. Miss Harvey was married to the Hon. J. G. Currie on 26th Oct., 1865, and in every way was an able helpmeet, and for forty-eight years lived in St. Catharines. She had in early years manifested artistic taste and many sketches from nature made in the Niagara Peninsula attest her skill, while in needle work she was past mistress. She lived a useful life and took an interest in many societies for the betterment of the world, was a strong advocate of the W. C. T. U. movement, was the founder of the Women's Literary Club of St. Catharines which has existed for over twenty years and owes much to her enthusiasm, and the club met at her house much of the time. She was also one of the organizers of the Orphan's Home and a generous contributor and was also a worker in the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Currie was also an advocate for the right of women to vote but took no active part in the movement. But it is her literary work that has made the name of Mrs. Currie so well known. Her "Story of Laura Secord and Canadian Reminiscences" show her literary ability and patient research. Her first book, "Laura Secord" was dedicated to Mrs. Curzon who first brought the name of the heroine before the public. The work has long been out of print and many demands were made for its republication while Mrs. Currie was engaged writing another book and

she determined to unite the two in one volume; this work has employed many of her declining years. She was particularly fortunate in having much historical material brought to her which had never before been published. The childish friendship with Mr. Kirby was renewed in after years and he was heard to say she was the prettiest and the cleverest little girl he had ever known. To the last she retained the most beautiful complexion, the fair smooth skin of a child and delicate pink cheeks.

For seventeen years, from an accident, she was debarred from going abroad except in an invalid's chair, but her days were not idle. In that frail form was enshrined an indomitable will which enabled her to accomplish much in the way of research. Under Mr. Currie's regime as Registrar of the County of Lincoln, Mrs. Currie was appointed Deputy, which position she held for years.

Her generosity was shown by the fact that she gave all the profits of her "Story of Laura Secord" to assist in the erection of the monument at Queenston Heights, and indeed it was in a great measure by her solicitation and in acknowledgment of her patriotic work that the money was granted by the Dominion Government for its erection.

Mrs. Currie died July 27, 1913, and it is a matter of regret that she did not live to see the publication of the present volume, the result of laborious days and patient research in examining records. Her many friends will miss her cheerful voice and inspiring influence which even the lapse of over eighty years—(and years not free from care) did not diminish. The funeral was private and it was requested that no flowers be sent, all this showing her unostentatious disposition. Mrs. Currie has left an example to be followed by the women of the present generation, an example of industry, of patience, of generosity, of helpfulness, of patriotism. Of her it may be truly said that "she hath done what she could."

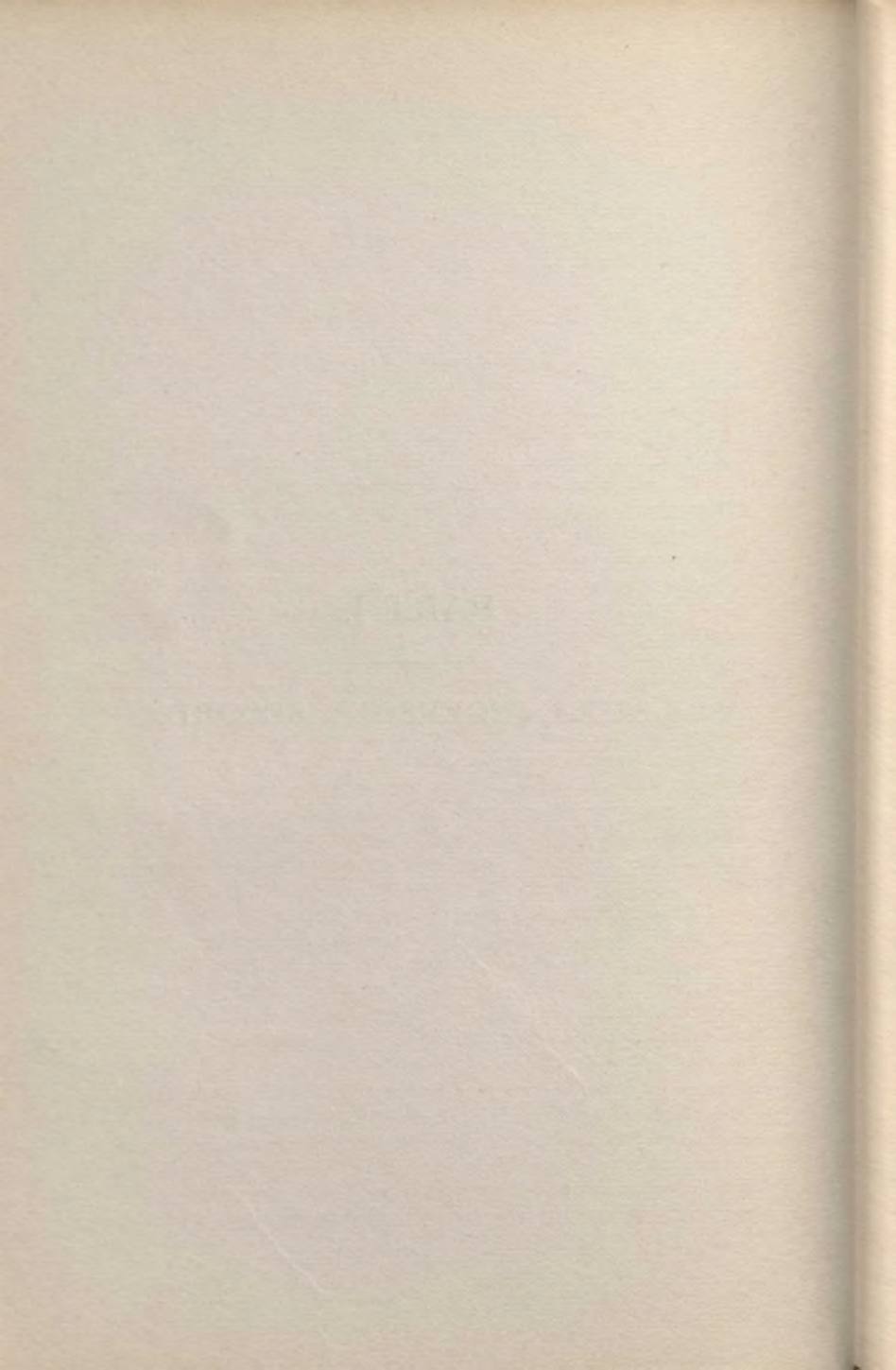
JANET CARNOCHAN.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, Sept. 20th, 1913.

PART I.



LAURA INGERSOLL SECORD.



CHAPTER I.

THE FIRST SETTLERS.

THE women of Canada can justly claim that the first Loyalist refugees to seek shelter under the protecting flag at Fort Niagara were women. Dr. Canniff, in his "Settlement of Upper Canada," gives the fact that "in 1776 there arrived at Fort Niagara in a starving and otherwise destitute condition five women and thirty-one children, whom the circumstances of the rebellion had driven away." Tradition places their arrival in the month of November. They had come from the banks of the Hudson and the valley of the Mohawk, guided by friendly Indians, to this ark of refuge. Their names were Mrs. Nelles, Mrs. Secord, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Buck and Mrs. Bonar. Of these women but little is known, their names alone being rescued from the oblivion of the past. Of Mrs. Secord we know that her husband and two of her sons were in Butler's Rangers, fighting for that flag which had sheltered and protected their ancestors so many years before. Among the Rangers are found the names of Captain Nelles and Captain Young. Whether they were the husbands of Mrs. Secord's companions is not known. Of Mrs. Secord it is said her children were in a wagon. They had escaped with their lives, bringing nothing with them. Her youngest son and child, James Secord, was at that time three years old. They were given tents, clothing and food. As the days and months passed away the numbers increased from the Carolinas, Virginia and the New England colonies. There came a destitute host, along the length of the St. Lawrence, to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The population increased in the towns and cities so rapidly that it caused a scarcity in the necessaries of life. In Halifax the population rose in a few months from 1,400 to 4,000. And so everywhere, producing suffering and privation. There was not a settlement on this side of the Niagara River when the Revolution commenced. When it closed, in 1783, there was a population of 10,000. In 1792 there were four hundred houses in Niagara. From the frontier at Fort Niagara to Detroit, along the river and lake shore, there was a thin fringe of civilization. Many of the refugees waited in New York, hoping when peace came, to return to their former homes. When New York was evacuated, November 25,

1783, there arose a wail of despair. Those that could went to England, some to the Bahama Islands. Many that went to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia came to Upper Canada when they heard of the fertile soil and milder climate. Twelve thousand left New York at that time. As fast as possible they were given lands, implements and seeds. Grist-mills were erected to aid them. Fort Niagara was the centre of the hopes, the ambitions, and the activities of that period. Here, brought at great expense from the old land, were kept those vast supplies of various kinds, which were distributed to the remotest settlements—the munitions of war for themselves and other garrisons, rations and supplies for their Indian allies. The canoes of the Indians, laden with furs from the Upper Lakes, and the bateaux from the Lower Province with their freight, all made this their stopping-place. Councils of war prepared for attack and defence, as the occasion required. Looking now on its crumbling walls, its deserted buildings, its empty fortress, the dismal chambers where the garrison slept within its walls, it is hard to realize its importance one hundred and forty years ago. But it was then the door to the west and to the south, and he who commanded those was entrusted by his sovereign with a possession which required wisdom and strength to keep.

Such were the conditions when those women arrived. As their friends and relatives followed they settled on the western bank of the river, and with willing hands and brave hearts they turned the wilderness into golden fields and fruitful orchards. What they did in the thirty years of peace proves the intelligence and the industry with which they worked. The founders of the Dominion have left a record which their descendants should hold up to future generations as worthy of everlasting remembrance.

CHAPTER II.

THE SECORD FAMILY.

THE ancestor of the Secord family, Amboise Secord, came with his five children from LaRochelle, in France, to New York in 1681. He, along with other French emigrants, founded the town of New Rochelle, in Westchester County, of the same state, about 1689. The name is spelled in various ways. In the original it is Seacard, and pronounced *se-kar*. Most of the Huguenots sympathized with England during the Revolutionary War. The Secords were very numerous, and more of that name are found among the U. E. Loyalists and first settlers of Canada than of any other. Great Britain had assisted the Huguenots during their persecution in France, had sheltered them in England, had helped them emigrate to America, and they proved their gratitude by loyal service and great sacrifices during the war. Many gave up everything, even life, in the days that tried men's souls. They were a strong, hardy people, generous and hospitable, long-lived also—one of their descendants died in New Rochelle in the year 1845, aged 105 years. In Canadian annals we find that Peter Secord, living on the Talbot Road, died in 1818 in his 103rd year. He was one of the first settlers. The last year of his life he killed four wolves and walked twenty miles to make the necessary affidavit to obtain the bounty.

They were hard-working and thrifty, silk-weaving being their principal occupation, and none of the early settlers had titles of nobility. [The Documentary History of New York State, in the edition of 1850, Vol. III, and relating to Westchester County, contains much information regarding the Secords and their descendants.] The Documentary History of the State of New York shows that "in the year 1689 they had dedicated 100 acres of land to the use of the French Church. In 1709 all the members of the Church, with the exception of two, agreed to conform themselves to the liturgy and rites of the Church of England, as established by law, and put themselves under the protection of the same." Among the names are fourteen spelled Sycar, as belonging to the Church, and among the petitioners are nine Secords, hardly any two of the nine spelling the name in the same manner.

Sycar, Secord, Sicard, Seacord, Se Cord, Seicard are the different forms. [From Canadian Archives: "Amable and Pierre De Sicard, stating their services and praying for an allowance."]

The original French Church was founded at New Rochelle as early as 1692. In 1709, from the difficulty of obtaining ministers, and being considered Dissenters, all but two persons conformed to the Church of England, and were obliged to erect a new edifice in 1710. The two who would not conform retained possession of the old church and the one hundred acres of land which had been reserved for a French Church. Others joined them, but the congregation was not large, being always too poor to hire a minister, and receiving no help from the Established Church Fund, they naturally fell under the care of the French Church in New York City, and were known as its Annex in New Rochelle. [New Rochelle is now a part of Greater New York City. In the old times we find that many of the church members, with their families, walked to New York to attend church, when there was no service at New Rochelle.] Services were performed here occasionally by the minister from New York. Toward the Revolution it fell into decay, and at that time ceased to be used as a church. The edifice was torn down, and the Episcopal Church, through the courts, obtained possession of the lands, although they were granted for a French Church erected, or to be erected. After the war, what remained of the congregation were merged in a Presbyterian church, which still exists.

Solomon Secord was baptized in the Annex, showing that his parents, descendants of the Badeaus ancestry, still clung to the original French faith. The records are in the church in New York City, and were kept in duplicate in the church at New Rochelle. The compiler says they agree exactly. In Appendix I, of the Secord family, will be found much valuable genealogical information. James Secord, of New Rochelle, a lieutenant in Butler's Rangers, was born April 24, 1732; he was probably of the fourth generation. His wife was Madelaine Badeau, a descendant of Elias Badeau, who fled from St. George's, Saintonge, France, to Bristol, England, and from there came to America. They had eight children, five sons and three daughters, most of them destined to take an important part in the history of Canada. Lieutenant James Secord died at Niagara, July 13, 1784. Tradition says he was buried in the private burying-ground of Colonel Butler. Of the date of his wife's death and place of burial nothing is known. James, their fifth son and youngest child, was three years old when they arrived at Fort Niagara. This son was the future husband of Laura Ingersoll.

Major David Secord, the third son, had shown his patriotism and courage from early youth. His father and eldest brother belonged to



HOMESTEAD OF MAJOR DAVID SECORD, 1894

Butlers Ranger's, and we find him in his sixteenth year serving with them during the Revolutionary War till its completion. He was present at Wyoming as sergeant in the Rangers. This expedition of Colonel Butler was to bring away the families of the Loyalist refugees to Fort Niagara. At that time Sergeant Secord, at the risk of his own life, saved the lives of three American prisoners who had abused and killed the wife of Oneida Joseph, an Indian chief, who afterwards settled on the Mohawk Reservation at Brantford, and lived to a great age.

Many of the Rangers settled in the Niagara District, drawing lands as compensation for their services and the homes they had lost by confiscation. Mr. Secord had six hundred acres of land between Queenston and St. Davids. His relatives and himself received large grants in the district also, and in other parts of Canada. He entered largely into business of various kinds. He was surveyor, farmer, miller, besides erecting numerous buildings for mechanics in the village. His first mill was built in 1786. Appendix V will give some idea of the variety of his occupations and possessions. He had been in many battles during the Revolution, and thirty years of peace again found him ready to face the enemy. In the battle of Queenston Heights he bore a conspicuous part. In the third and last engagement, in the afternoon, when the invaders were being driven back, Major Secord called to those who were rushing down the bank of the river to come back and their lives would be spared. Among those who surrendered he found his wife's father and brother. Another brother of Mrs. Secord, Mr. Thomas Page, came over before the war and settled in Pelham; he was a Quaker. David, eldest son of Major Secord, was taken prisoner, and after some time exchanged. He reached home the day of the battle of Lundy's Lane. It was late in the afternoon when he arrived. While taking his supper the firing was heard, and, tired as he was, he said, "I must go to father!" and started on foot for the battle-field, five miles away. Father and son met, grasping each other's hand in a brief welcome, and they fought side by side until young Secord was again taken prisoner, and afterwards sent to Greenbush, N. Y. Major Secord was wounded but once in the eight battles in which he was engaged during the Revolutionary War, and it was a superstition among the Indians that he bore a charmed life. After the war was over he had for the second time to recommence the busy life which in past years had made him so prominent and prosperous. For eight years he was a member of Parliament, doing good service for his constituency and country. He deprecated the selfishness of the Family Compact, who by their ill-timed measures were driving a loyal people to rebellion. He supported the reforms which form the basis of our present government. He was too

well known to be branded as disloyal, and too sensible to go to the extreme lengths to which Mackenzie was driven. Before the rebellion came he had shown his courage in another form. Robert Gourlay had been one of the earliest Reformers, and one of the first to suffer for his principles. When unjustly deprived of his property he had appealed in vain for justice. Suffering in body and mind, sick and penniless, he stayed in Mr. Secord's house until he could return to Scotland. He was not the man to forget a kindness, and Mr. Secord's daughter told the writer that the first silk dresses she and her sister had were given, with other remembrances, by Mr. Gourlay when he returned to Canada. Mr. Secord was generous and hospitable to a fault; his house was ever open to His Majesty's troops. In addition to military services, he was Commissioner of Highways and Bridges, giving his services for the latter without pay.

Major Secord was three times married. First to a Miss Millard, who died about a year after her marriage, leaving one daughter. His second wife was Catharine Smith, daughter of Elias Smith, by whom he had eight sons and one daughter. His third wife was the widow Dunn, whose maiden name was Polly Page, sister of the Thomas Page, of Pelham, previously mentioned. She had two sons, Lorenzo and Luther, by her first marriage. It is in connection with Mr. Secord's marriages, and illustrating the times, that the following circumstances are given. When there was no resident clergyman who was legally entitled to perform the marriage service, the resident magistrate, or the commanding officer at a military station, was empowered to do so. The second and third marriages were thus made. An Act was passed by which those who had been married in this manner, by appearing before the Clerk of the Peace, and making affidavit as to who performed the ceremony, the time and place, and giving the date of the birth of children, received a certificate which settled all doubts as to the legality of such marriages. Major Secord made those affidavits, which were registered on the 8th of February, 1832. Rev. Mr. Addison, of St. Mark's, Niagara, records that some were re-married by him. The marriage register kept by him is instructive and of great value, for the magistrates seldom kept a record, and if they made any they have been lost.

Major Secord's sister, Magdalen Secord, married the Hon. Richard Cartwright, and was the ancestress of that family which has been, and still continues to be, so prominent in the history of the Dominion. Another sister married Dr. Lawrence, of Savannah, Georgia. The youngest brother, James, married Laura Ingersoll, who fills the most important place in these reminiscences. Major Secord's family was



POLLY PAGE (MRS. DAVID SECORD)
(Loaned by Miss N. Woodruff)

large; the names will be found in Appendix II. His son George was a member of Parliament for many years.

From the Scarboro records the following are selected:

"Isaac Secor came to Canada at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War; came first to Kingston, then moved west, building the first stone mill at Napanee. The Secords of Scarboro were loyal, like those who settled in the Niagara District.

"The first post-office in the township was on Lot 19, Concession D; the first Postmaster, Peter Secor, who held the position from its establishment, in 1830, to 1838. A footnote says, Mr. Secor's sympathy with Mackenzie was what led to this change."

Miss Janet Carnochan, of Niagara, has furnished the following, which is evidence of the industry of the Secords, and of the success which had attended their efforts not seven years from the arrival of the first refugees at Niagara:

"On the 25th of August, 1782, Col. Butler took the first census of the settlement of Niagara. Among the names are Peter Secord—7 persons, 4 horses, 6 cattle, 14 hogs, 30 acres cleared land, 80 bu. wheat, 60 bu. Indian corn, 6 bu. oats, 100 bu. potatoes.

"Jno. Secord—5 persons, 6 horses, 10 cattle, 3 hogs, 27 acres cleared, 50 bu. wheat, 50 corn, 70 potatoes.

"James Secord—6 persons, 3 horses, 3 cattle, 11 sheep, 3 hogs, 20 acres cleared land, 7 bu. wheat, 100 corn, 30 potatoes.

"In 1783, among the names are Tho's Secord, 40 acres cleared.

"Peter Secord, 25; Jno., 50; Jno. Secord, jr., 10 acres cleared.

"Authority, Ernest Cruikshank, from Military Papers."

The following appears in the Dominion Archives:

"Companies mustered in November and December, 1783.

"B. 105, P. 399. Among the names are Silas Secord, Sergeant; age 28, his wife 23,

"James Secord, age 53, his wife 49, 2 sons and 3 daughters.

"Peter Secord, aged 62, wife 40, 3 sons and 2 daughters. Page 395, Bo. 105."

Miss Carnochan furnishes this also:

"In a narrative of the captivity and sufferings of Benjamin Gilbert and his family, in the possession of Peter A. Porter, of Niagara Falls, N. Y., and kindly loaned to me, are found some interesting references to the Secord family, which show them to have been a family of means and ready to help those in trouble.

"The Gilbert family were carried off from Pennsylvania by Indians, 25th of April, 1780, and after many hardships several of them reached Fort Niagara and Butlersburg (now Niagara), on the side of the river

opposite to Fort Niagara. Abner Gilbert was with Elizabeth Gilbert. They went to the house of John Secord, an Englishman, who was styled brother of the Chief, having lived with him some time before. Elizabeth was left here, and in July, 1781, tried to free Abner, who now found his sister Elizabeth, and stayed two weeks with her in the house of John Secord, and drew clothing from the King's stores. Elizabeth was very comfortable here. She, with John Secord's wife and Capt. Freyes' wife, went to see the child of Elizabeth Peart (wife of Benjamin Peart Gilbert, the oldest son of the Gilberts), over a year old, a captive with the Indians. Capt. Freyes' wife purchased the child for thirteen dollars. Elizabeth Gilbert lived more than a year in John Secord's family, and became greatly attached to them, calling the mistress of the house 'mamma.' John Secord took her one day to Fort Niagara, where she met six of her relatives. Col. Butler and John Secord procured her release from the Indians (who claimed her) by presents. She then stayed two weeks at Butlersburg with the Secord family, and eventually they reached their home."

The author of "Old Trails on the Niagara Frontier," F. H. Severance, has lately given a full account of the captivity of the Gilbert family. He also relates the following incident of the War of 1812:

"Mr. John Lay, a merchant of Buffalo, was taken prisoner the night that village was burned, December 13, 1813. The prisoners were marched from Fort Erie to Newark (now Niagara). Many Indians were there. Like the white men, they were celebrating their victory with strong potations. Mr. Lay knew a Mrs. Secord who was living in Niagara. He asked to be sent there, and under an escort was sent to her house. The house was surrounded, but Mrs. Secord concealed him in safety until the arrival of his partner from Buffalo under a flag of truce, when he was removed and sent a prisoner to Montreal."

APPENDIX I.

Lieutenant James Secord, of New Rochelle, N. Y., was born April 24, 1732, and baptized in the Episcopal Church, May 28th. He was probably of the fourth generation. He married Madelaine Badeau, a descendant of Elias Badeau, who fled from St. George's, Saintonge, in France, to Bristol, in England, and from there came to America.

CHILDREN OF JAMES AND MADELAINE SECORD.

Born.	Names.	Married.	Died.
March 9, 1755,	Solomon,	Margaret Bowman,	January 22, 1799
Aug. 20, 1757,	Stephen,	Ann or Hannah De Forest,	March 31, 1808
Aug. 2, 1759,	David,	1st. Miss Millard, 2nd. Catharine Smith, 3rd. Widow Dunn, <i>nee</i> Polly Page.	Aug. 9, 1844
Feb. 21, 1762,	John,	went away, never heard from.	
May 4, 1764,	Magdalen,	Richard Cartwright,	January 25, 1827
July 21, 1766,	Esther,	Unmarried,	February 4, 1802
May 15, 1770,	Mary,	Dr. Lawrence, Savan- nah, Georgia.	
July 7, 1773,	James,	Laura Ingersoll,	February 22, 1841

Magdalen and Madelaine are names often found among the female descendants, and Badeau among the males of this branch of the Secord family.

Favorite family names are a perplexity to the biographer and historian. It has been asserted that there were sixteen of the same christian name among the Secords. James and David were favorites, and "who is who" is often puzzling.

James Secord

APPENDIX II.

CHILDREN OF MAJOR DAVID SECORD.

Miss Millard, first wife, left one daughter, married to Mr. Cummings.

Catharine Smith, second wife, left David, James, Stephen, John, Solomon, George, Robert, Philip, Phœbe.

Mrs. Dunn, third wife, left Riall, Elijah, Mary, Elizabeth.

David Secord
 Mary Secord

APPENDIX III.

The following is condensed from an article in the *Napanee Beaver* of May 19, 1899:

Richard Cartwright, born in London, England, October 20, 1720.

His wife, Joanna, born March 9, 1726.

They are buried in St. Paul churchyard, Kingston, Canada. They were residents of Albany, N. Y., Loyalists, and came to Canada about 1790. Their son, Hon. Richard Cartwright, was born at Albany, February 2, 1759, and married Magdalen Secord, born at New Rochelle, May 4, 1764. [Private papers show that Mrs. Cartwright possessed in an eminent degree the kind and generous heart of her ancestors.]

James,	May 3, 1786,	unmarried, died October 11, 1811.
Richard,	Dec. 24, 1787,	unmarried, died at Charleston, S. C., May 4, 1811.
Hannah,	Dec. 1792,	married Captain Alex. Dobbs, Royal Navy; died January 4, 1839.
Thos. Robinson	Jan. 19, 1799,	married Miss Fisher, died June 26, 1826.

Stephen Henry, Jan. 24, 1801,	died aged 13.
John Solomon,	married Sarah Hayter, Macaulay, died
Twins,	January 15, 1845.
and	
Robert David, Sept. 4, 1804,	married Harriett Dobbs, died 1843.

CHILDREN OF REV. ROBERT DAVID CARTWRIGHT
AND HARRIETT DOBBS.

Two sons who died young.

A daughter, Mary Jane, and

Rev. Conway Cartwright, Protestant Chaplain of Kingston Penitentiary, Canada.

Sir Richard John Cartwright, born December 4, 1835; married, August, 1859, Miss Frances Law.

The Hon. Richard Cartwright, son of the Loyalist, was in partnership at Niagara with the (afterwards) Hon. Robert Hamilton. He settled in Kingston about 1790. Was a merchant and forwarder and an extensive mill-owner, one of the earliest magistrates, and was appointed by Governor Simcoe a member of the First Legislative Council of Upper Canada, which office he held at the time of his death. He was also a prominent officer in the Militia, Chairman of the Land Commissioners for this section of the Province (Napanee). He had grants of six thousand acres of land, of which a considerable portion was in the vicinity of Napanee. The land, with water privileges, was on both sides of the river. The town of Napanee was built on land which once was his. He obtained the first Government flour mill erected there in 1785. He was a member of the Church of England, and was interested in educational matters.

Of the late Sir Richard Cartwright, Minister of Trade and Commerce, it is sufficient to say his career is well known to the present generation.

APPENDIX IV.

Dec. 1778.

To the Honorable Frederick Haldimand, Esq., Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Province of Canada and the Frontiers thereof in America, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

The petition of Mary De Forest humbly sheweth:

That your Excellency's petitioner, with seven children, have suffered much and are greatly distressed by being plundered of all their effects, and her husband imprisoned, by the Rebels in Albany, in the year 1777, occasioned by his Loyalty and Attachment to the Interests of Great Britain.

LAURA INGERSOLL SECORD

And as your Excellency's petitioner, with her children in these distressed circumstances, will become naked for want of clothing and in want of other necessaries requisite in a family, as she has received no other assistance than provisions.

Your Petitioner Humbly Requesteth that your Excellency will take her suffering condition into your most serious consideration, hoping your clemency will grant them some relief, and your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

MARY DE FOREST.

Endorsed.—The Humble Petition of Mary De Forest to the Honorable Frederick Haldimand, Esq., &c., &c.

Pray for relief of her and seven children.

This Mary De Forest is the mother of Hannah (or Anna), wife of Stephen Secord.

FAMILY OF STEPHEN SECORD AND HANNAH (OR ANNA) DE FOREST.

Name.	Born.	Married.	Died.
Mary,	Feb. 20, 1785,	Richard Robinson,	Dec. 30, 1865
James,	April 19, 1787,	unmarried,	Jan. 3, 1852
David,	July 19, 1790,	Ann Carscallen,	July 27, 1846
Elizabeth,	Mar. 7, 1793,	unmarried,	Aug. 22, 1814 (at Napanee)
Esther Magdalen,	June 1, 1795,	George Keefer,	Sept. 7, 1871
William Edwin,	Mar. 26, 1797,	Frances Holden,	Jan. 5, 1881
Richard Henry,	May 12, 1799,	Catharine Elizabeth Stull.	July 7, 1866
Stephen Alexander,	May 15, 1801,	unmarried,	Feb. 27, 1884
Julia Ann,	May 8, 1803,	William Stull,	Jan. 13, 1868
Samuel Robison,	Dec. 18, 1805,	Elizabeth Weaver,	Aug. 15, 1875

Hannah De Forest, wife of Stephen, born July, 1767, died October 10, 1841.

Hannah Secord was buried at the Warner burying-ground, near St. Davids.

Stephen Secord
Anna Secord

APPENDIX V.

When St. Davids was burned, July 19, 1814, these were the losses of Major David Secord:

One three-story frame house, which had seven fire-places and three chimneys. It was a hotel, 22 x 80 feet, with stables and out-houses.

One stone dwelling, two stories, 24 x 30.

One stone dwelling, two stories, 24 x 60.

One grist-mill, stone and timber, 22 x 40, with appurtenances.

Blacksmith shop and tools.

New frame barn, 34 x 44, with two fanning mills, and other property.

Two log buildings, 22 x 20.

One thousand pounds candles, made by contract for British troops, two shillings per pound.

Seven horses, four cows, 20 fat hogs—from 150 to 200 pounds each.

One new wagon and a large yoke of oxen. The wagon was loaded with furniture.

Store of merchant goods, £500.

Fifty tons of wheat, which at that time was £8 per ton.

Two hundred sheep and other property.

Household furniture and family clothing.

In 1817 flour was \$10.00 per barrel.

APPENDIX VI.

Copy.—Return of the names and rank of officers of the 1st Regt. Lincoln Militia, who have not received commissions, with the dates of their several appointments, up to the 22nd of October, 1812.

DATES OF APPOINTMENTS.

Rank and Name.	Ensigncy.	Lieutenancy.	Captaincy.	Remarks.
1st Capt.				
Jacob A. Ball	.....	.....	July 2, 1812	Captaincy
2nd Capt.				not issued
Geo. A. Ball	May 6, 1806	Jan. 3, 1809	ditto	ditto
3rd Capt.				
John D. Servos	.....	.....	ditto	ditto
1st Lieut.				
William Towers	.....	Jan. 4, 1806	.....	Issued & taken
2nd Lieut.				by the army
John Clark	.....	June 26, 1812	.....	Lieutenancy
				not issued

LAURA INGERSOLL SECORD

Rank and Name.	Ensigney.	Lieutenancy.	Captainey.	Remarks.
3rd Lieut. Henry Pawling	May 14, 1806	July 2, 1812	.....	Lieutenancy not issued
4th Lieut. Simon Stephenson	May 15, 1812	ditto	.....	ditto
5th Lieut. Elijah Secord	May 23, 1812	ditto	.....	ditto
6th Lieut. Anselm Foster	Jan, 5, 1809	ditto	.....	Lieutenancy not issued
7th Lieut. Adam Brown	ditto	ditto	.....	ditto
8th Lieut. William Smith	May 6, 1812	Oct. 25, 1812	.....	ditto
9th Lieut. George Hainer	ditto	ditto	.....	ditto
1st Ensign Court. T. Secord	July 2, 1812	.....	.....	Ensigney not issued
2nd Ensign James Secord	ditto	.....	.....	ditto
3rd Ensign Joseph Clement	ditto	.....	.....	ditto
4th Ensign Peter Warner	Oct. 25, 1812	.....	.....	ditto
5th Ensign John Robertson	ditto	.....	.....	ditto
(Sgd) W. CLAUS, <i>Lt.-Col.</i>		(Sgd) ANSELM FOSTER, Lt., <i>Act. Adj't. 1st Regiment Lincoln Militia.</i>		

In B. 105, p. 399, appear the names of Silas Secord, Sergeant, age 28, his wife 23.

James Secord, age 53, his wife 49, 2 sons and 3 daughters.

Peter Secord, age 62, wife 40, 3 sons and 2 daughters. Page 395, B. 105.

APPENDIX VII.

SCHOOL AGREEMENT.

Article of Agreement made the first day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred thirty and one. Between Richard H. Secord, of Grantham, of the District of Niagara, of the one part, and the undersigned inhabitants, of the other part.

Witnesseth, that for the conditions hereinafter mentioned, he, the said Richard H. Secord, doth agree to and with the said subscribers for and during the term of three months, commencing on Monday the fourteenth instant. He, the said Richard H. Secord, shall teach a common day school in the said Township of Grantham, and shall faithfully use his best endeavors to teach and instruct such pupils as may, in behalf of the subscribers, be put under his care and tuition, the following branches of education, viz., Spelling, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, and to understand them as far as the space of time and their respective capacities will admit. Secondly, he doth engage to maintain good order and exercise impartial discipline in said School, to suppress and discountenance all immoral habits and practices among his pupils, and to use all reasonable diligence to improve their education. Thirdly, for the purpose of teaching he doth agree to attend at the School House eleven days in every two weeks, from nine o'clock a. m. until four o'clock p. m. for the aforesaid term.

Lastly, if any charge should be brought against the said Teacher relative to his conduct in the performance of the duties of his school, on his being examined before the Trustees, and if found culpable of a misdemeanor, they are at liberty to discharge him on paying him for whatever space of time he may have taught.

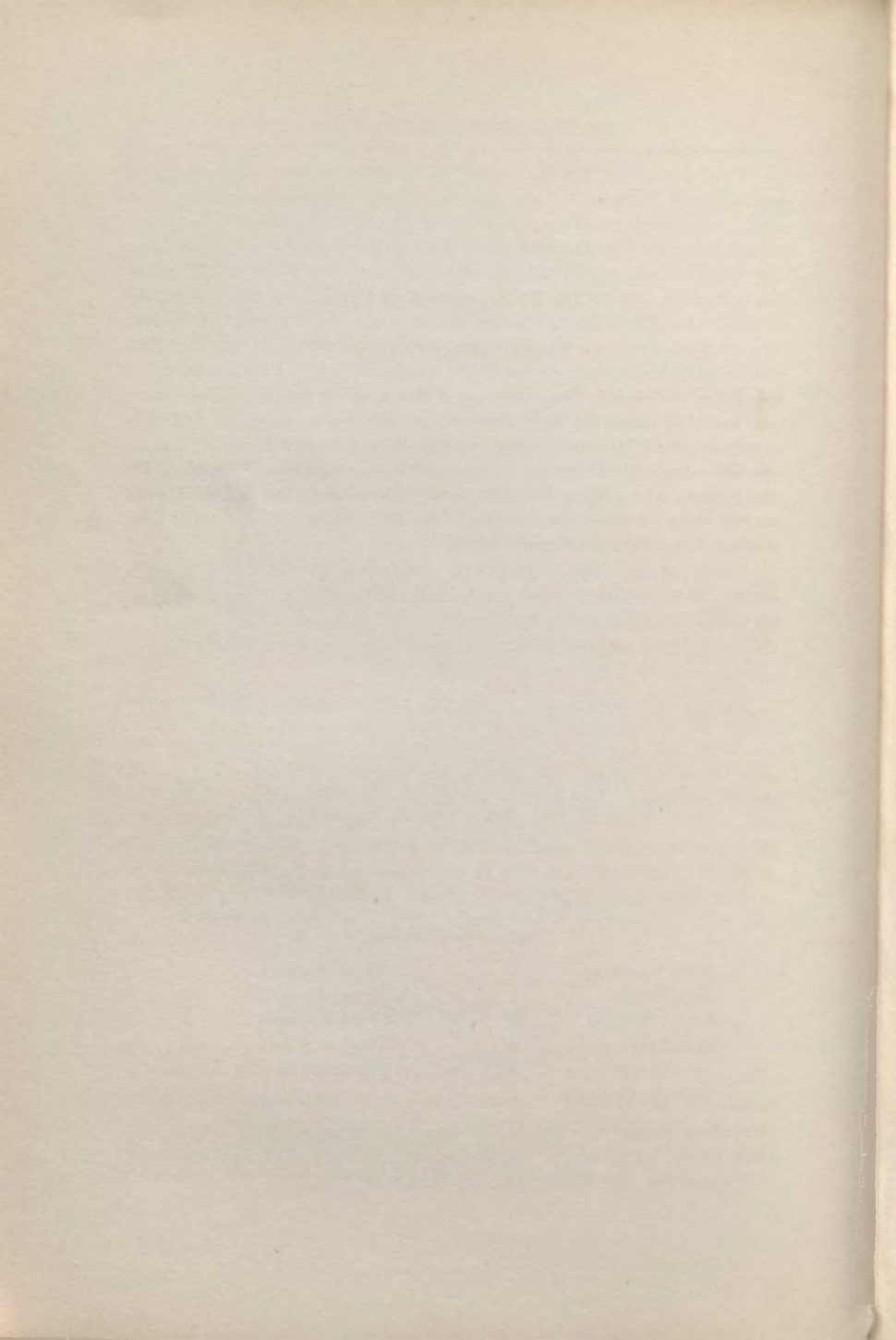
For and in consideration of the due performance of the above conditions to us, the subscribers, on the part of the said Richard H. Secord, we do Promise and Agree to pay him, the said Richard H. Secord, the sum of eight shillings and nine pence currency per quarter for each pupil subscribed. And further, we do engage to furnish him in a school house with suitable writing desks, benches, &c., also each subscriber shall furnish an equal proportion of firewood (according to the number of pupils subscribed) delivered at the school house whenever it may be needful for the benefit of the said school.

Subscribers' Names.

John Vanevery	2	James Turney	1
John Bessey	2	Henry C. Ball	2
Nancy Wilson	1	Charles Mundy	2
David Grass	2	Thomas Wood	2
John Grass	2	Elizabeth Ball	1
William Price	1		

The agreement is a remarkable specimen of penmanship. There are five varieties of writing in the document, delicate as though engraved.

Loaned by Miss Martha Secord, Stamford, Ont.



CHAPTER III.

THE INGERSOLL FAMILY.

RICHARD INGERSOLL was born in Bedfordshire, England, in 1600, and came to Salem, Massachusetts, in 1629. His descendants have been traced through four generations. John, a brother of Richard, born in 1615, came to Salem the same year, but not at the same time. He was in Hartford, Connecticut, for a short period, where he married in 1651. He removed to Northampton, Massachusetts, where his second marriage took place in 1657, and thence to Westfield, Massachusetts, where he married for the third time in 1667. This became his home, for he died there, September 3, 1684. Westfield appears to be the central point from which started so many of the families whose names were famous in the New England colonies, and whose descendants in these later times continue keeping in every State of the Union the honored names of their ancestors. Westfield is now a thriving city of over 25,000 inhabitants.

John Ingersoll built a house which, with many additions and improvements, was standing in 1884. It has since been destroyed by fire. It was repurchased by Chandler Lambert Ingersoll, of Brooklyn, of the eighth generation, in 1857, for a summer residence. The gravestones in the burying-ground were recarved by his order, but the tomb of the original settler could not be found. On the grave of Thomas Ingersoll, a magistrate in Westfield, who died in 1748, is the following inscription:

“This stone stands out to tell
Where his dust lies;
That day will show
The parts they acted here below.”

This house was called the seat of the ancient aristocracy. In its early days it was used as a fort, where the people resorted for safety at night during the Indian troubles. Many traditions were connected with it. Among them, “that Greylock, a famous Indian chief, who had killed ninety-nine persons, had skulked around the place for a long time to kill Mrs. Ingersoll, and had nearly succeeded but for the timely

arrival of her husband, who fired his gun while Greylock was trying to scalp her, at which he fled and was never seen afterwards."

Through the history of the United States the name of Ingersoll constantly occurs in all the conditions and avocations of life,—the settler with his axe, the mechanic and inventor, the merchant, teacher, the singing-master, magistrate, judge, diplomat, historian, the soldier, the patriot, the exile. The record of nine generations and over eight hundred names have been followed. The families connected with them by marriage are also from that New England stock which bore their part in the colonial days and in the formation of the American Republic. They were a long-lived race, and in looking over the genealogical records, there are found many men and women who lived over ninety years. Thomas and David are frequent names among the Ingersoll descendants, and the name is sometimes spelled *Ingersolæ*.

Their names, connected with many others, are found in all matters pertaining to church, educational and municipal affairs. Wherever they lived—and you will find them all through the colonies—they were useful citizens, doing their share in promoting the prosperity of the place they had made their home.

The town of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, was settled by families from Westfield in 1724. To form the settlement one hundred and fifteen persons united together, and, choosing a committee to represent them, went through the usual formalities in regard to the acquiring, laying out and settling the land. Two tracts of land, each to contain nine square miles, were purchased, to be laid out on the Housatonic River. These were divided into four townships. On April 25, 1724, Konkapot and twenty other Indians, in consideration of the payment secured to them of four hundred and sixty pounds in money, three barrels of cider and thirty quarts of rum, executed a deed to the committee of the lands above mentioned. Among these first settlers were Moses and Thomas Ingersoll. Other Ingersolls followed. Peter Ingersoll built a house in 1766, which is still standing. A David Ingersoll was among the early magistrates, and some extracts from his records as Justice of the Peace may be found instructive. The stocks and the whipping-post were a common form of punishment.

Aug. 14, 1754. }

The King, }

Ag't Eliner Ward } for stealing sundry goods from Mr. John Brown. She confest she stole 3 caps and $\frac{1}{2}$ M. pins. Ordered to pay 32 shillings and ye goods; being 3 fold damages and cost, and to be whipt 20 stripes. All were performed.

At a court before Justices Dwight and Ingersoll, October 5, 1754.

Samuel Taylor, Junior, and Ebenezer Crowfoot, of Pontoosack, complained of for making and spreading a false alarm and digging up and scalping an Indian which was buried. They confessed themselves to be guilty. Taylor ordered to pay a fine of 20 shillings, or be whipped 30 stripes. Neglected to pay s'd fine and was whipped. Crowfoot to pay fine of 13 shillings, 4 pence, to be whipped 20 stripes. Omitted paying and was whipped. Both to pay £6 7s 6d, committed until performed. In addition they were bound for their good behaviour in the sum of £5 each.

Oct. 7, 1754.

The French at this time were offering a bounty for English scalps, and this false alarm and the effort to obtain a bounty for an Indian scalp obtained in this manner brought upon them deserved punishment.

In those days a few had negro slaves. They were hired out to work, and "Sophia Green" was sold by the same David Ingersoll for £20.

A Thomas Ingersoll of the fifth generation, born in Westfield in 1749, removed to Great Barrington in 1774. He married Elizabeth Dewey, daughter of Israel Dewey. The Dewey family came from Westfield also, and there had been intermarriages between the families previous to this. The troubled years of the Revolution had already commenced. The colonies were in a ferment, and the time that was to see the formation of another form of government on this continent soon arrived. From 1726 to 1775 there had been many added to the Ingersoll name. As soldiers during the Indian and French wars, they had taken their share of danger, and when the Revolutionary War took place they were on the Continental side. One David Ingersoll, a lawyer and a magistrate, remained a Loyalist. Sabine says: "During the troubles which had preceded the shedding of blood he was seized by a mob, carried to Connecticut and imprisoned. In a second outbreak of the people's displeasure his house was assailed. He was driven from his home and his enclosures laid waste." He mortgaged his property and went to England. He married there, and left children at his death in 1796. The front door of his house bore the marks of the hatchets and swords used at that time. It was afterwards used as a young ladies' boarding school. In those days it was not possible to be neutral. Men were drafted and compelled to go in person, to find a substitute, or pay a fine of £10. It is the old story, no freedom of speech or thought, everywhere suspicion surrounds, and selfishness and lawlessness reign. The lengthy wars of those times bereft the people of everything. To those who fell on the battle-field, or perished from the hardships of war, must be added those who were driven from their homes, leaving behind

them all their earthly possessions—glad to escape with their lives. War always leaves hard times. Continental money had sunk to its lowest depreciation, when it took a punch bowl filled with bills to buy a meal, and \$72 in paper was worth only one of silver. The majority of the people were without resources. Work was not to be had. Rebellion was again the cry in New England, culminating in Shay's Rebellion, 1786 and 1787. Captain Ingersoll gave the new government his assistance in putting it down, and for this he was made Major Ingersoll.

It was shortly afterwards that Thomas Ingersoll made arrangements to move to Canada. He was a man of enterprise, respected by his fellow-citizens, for he had held various town offices. He was a lieutenant of militia from 1777 to 1781, when he became captain, and after the war a major for four years, and at various times performed military service. He never claimed to be a Loyalist. A letter written by his son, James Ingersoll, for many years Registrar of Oxford, which appeared in the Woodstock *Sentinel-Review*, January 31, 1879, and re-printed June 17, 1899, by request, gives many details of his father's removal to Upper Canada. Major Ingersoll saw the proclamation of Governor Simcoe, offering tracts of land to settlers on easy terms. The forests and rivers of Canada with the fertile soil were glowingly depicted. Ingersoll made up his mind to settle under the old flag and commence the pioneer life of his ancestors of one hundred and fifty years before. He had met the famous Indian chief, Joseph Brant, in New York, who promised him, if he would come to Canada, to show him the best lands for settlement. Brant had already selected for the Six Nations the present Mohawk Reservation. He advised him to select lands on River La Tranche, now called the Thames. Brant, true to his promise, sent six of his best young men to show Major Ingersoll the lands most desirable for the settler. The parties who were willing to join Mr. Ingersoll in this venture selected him as their agent in the application for a township. Government was then held at Newark. The Order-in-Council was passed March 23, 1793. There were no roads in those days, only the Indian trail from Ancaster to Detroit. The place selected had been the summer camping-ground of the Indians for many years. Work was commenced at once by Mr. Ingersoll and his associates, Mr. Ingersoll with his own hands felling an elm tree for the log house that was to be his future home. [On the site of this log house a brick store on Thames Street, occupied by Mr. Poole, was afterwards erected.—Letter of James Ingersoll, January 31, 1879.]

The conditions of the grant were that there were to be forty settlers, each to have two hundred acres or more upon the payment of 6d sterling per acre. The balance of the sixty-six thousand acres was to be held in

trust by Mr. Ingersoll for the benefit of himself and his associates by paying the same price, 6d sterling. Arrangements had been made to bring in one thousand settlers from New York State, when representations were made to the Home Government that such settlers would be injurious to the country and deprive others from settling. The order was rescinded, and his grant cancelled, as well as those of his associates. Between eighty and ninety families had already settled. Col. Talbot suffered the same treatment, a man of whose loyalty there could be no possible question. Having influential friends in England, he returned home, and by his representations and their help Col. Talbot's rights and lands were restored. He advised Mr. Ingersoll to do the same, but he had not the time to spare, neither the money nor friends there to aid. Discouraged, he left the settlement in 1805, removing to Etobicoke. We find that during the few years that he was in Oxford County he was appointed Justice of the Peace, and as such performed the marriage ceremony. The first Registrar of Oxford, Mr. Thomas Hornor, was married by him in 1801. [Vol. 15, G, Dominion Archives, is found the entry dated September 15, 1805, "Thomas Ingersoll, Captain of the Militia of Oxford District."—From Mrs. Curzon, "Life of Laura Secord," second edition.] His last home was on the River Credit, where he died in 1812, leaving a large family, whose descendants are found through the length and breadth of the Dominion. [The River Credit is so called because the fur traders met the Indians on its banks and delivered goods to them on credit. The Indian never broke an engagement to pay. If by any accident he could not bring the number of beaver skins promised, his friends or relations made up the promised number.] His eldest son Charles, at the time of his father's death, was employed as a clerk in the house of Messrs. Racey and McCormick, merchants in Queenston. When the War of 1812 commenced, he, along with the late Hon. William Hamilton Merritt, raised a troop of dragoons, called the Provincial Light Dragoons. Mr. Merritt was captain, and Charles Ingersoll lieutenant. They served until the end of the war, and received grants of land for their services. Charles was at the battles of Queenston and Lundy's Lane. While taking despatches to General Proctor, he was present at the battle of the River Raisin, and came near losing his life at that time. After the war was over he commenced business with Mr. McKenna, at the Twelve Mile Creek, and was also a business partner of Mr. Merritt. He married Anna Maria Merritt in 1816, a sister of his friend and companion in arms. In 1817 he repurchased his father's Oxford farm at sheriff's sale. The log house where James Ingersoll was born in 1801 was still standing, but in a ruinous condition. James Ingersoll was the first white child

born in Ingersoll. The brothers went earnestly to work. First a saw-mill, then a grist-mill, a store, a potashery and distillery were built. Charles Ingersoll brought his family there in 1821. Soon after he became a magistrate, postmaster and a Commissioner in the Court of Request. He was also appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the Second Oxford Militia, twice was returned member of Parliament, and died in 1832 of cholera. His eldest son died at the same time. Ingersoll was named by him in memory of his father.

James Ingersoll received the appointment of Registrar on the death of Mr. Hornor, holding that office from 1834 until his death, August 9, 1886, aged 85 years.

APPENDIX VIII.

Elizabeth Dewey, born Jan. 28, 1758, married Feb. 28, 1775, died Feb. 20, 1784.

CHILDREN OF THOMAS INGERSOLL AND ELIZABETH DEWEY INGERSOLL.

1. Laura (Mrs. Secord), born December, 1775, married James Secord, died October 17, 1868.

2. Elizabeth Franks (Mrs. Pickett), born October 17, 1779, married Rev. Daniel Pickett, January 15, 1806, died August 15, 1811. [There were "refugees" from Canada in Great Barrington during the Revolutionary War. Among them there was a Jacob Vanderheyden and a family by the name of Franks, who came from Quebec in 1775. Of this family there was a Miss Elizabeth Franks, a young lady and a belle, who made her home in the family of Col. Elijah Dwight. She married and resided in Vermont.]

3. Myra (Mrs. Hitchcock), born 1781, married in Canada to Mr. Hitchcock, died in Lebanon, Madison County, N. Y., in 1847.

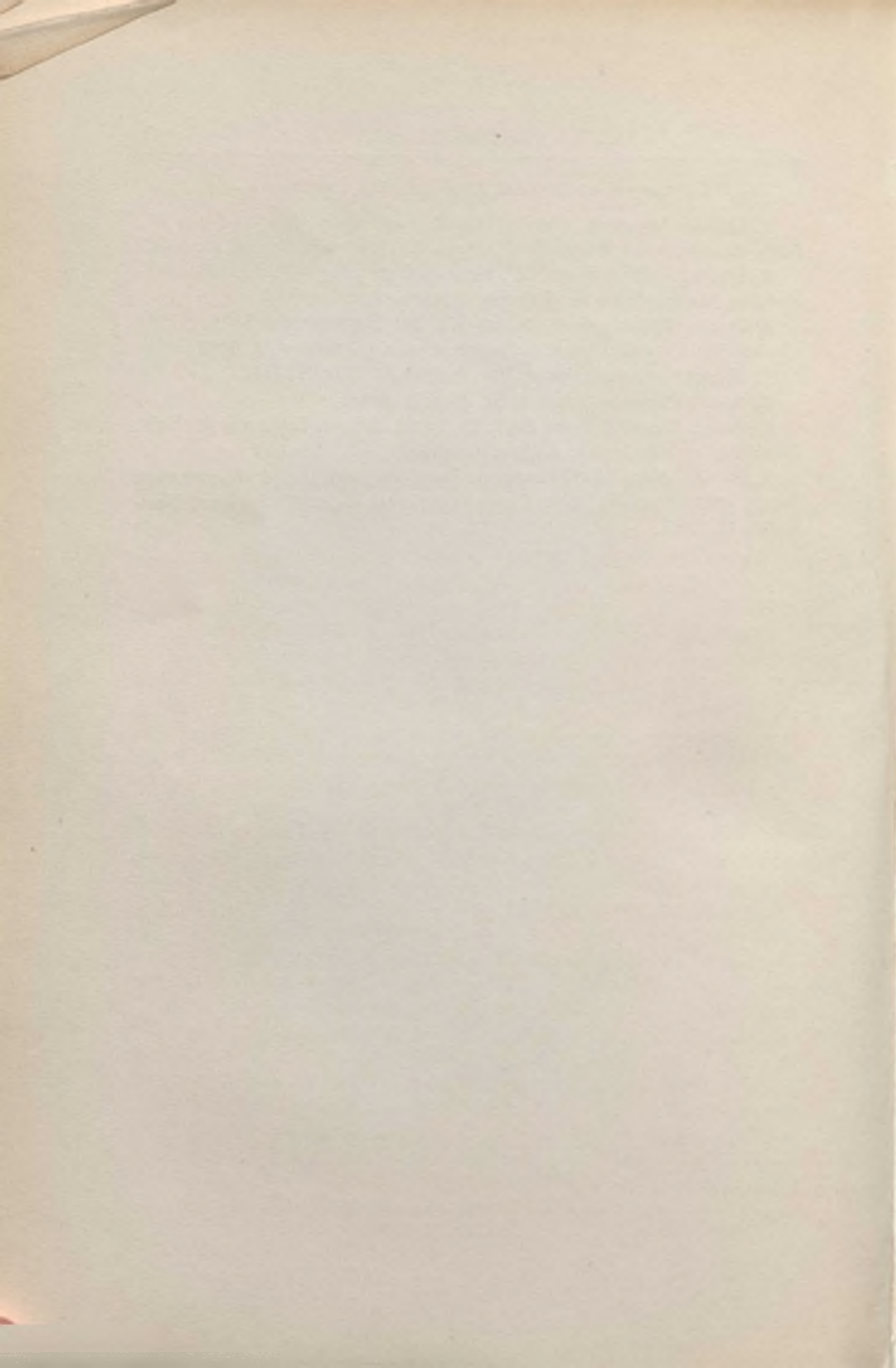
4. Abigail (Mrs. Woodworth), born September, 1783, married Guy Woodworth, September 9, 1804, died February 27, 1821.

Thomas Ingersoll's second wife was Mrs. Mercy Smith, a widow. Married Capt. Thomas Ingersoll May 26, 1785; buried May 18, 1789. There were no children by this marriage.

Sarah Whiting, born April 26, 1762. Married, 1st, John Backus; 2nd, Thomas Ingersoll, Sept. 20, 1789; died at Ingersoll, Ont., August 8, 1832.

CHILDREN OF SARAH AND THOMAS INGERSOLL.

1. Charles Ingersoll, born at Great Barrington, Mass., Sept. 27, 1791; married Anna Maria Merritt, Sept. 5, 1816; died August 18, 1832.
2. Charlotte (Mrs. Marigold), born at Great Barrington, 1793; married Mr. Marigold, died at London, Ontario.
3. Appy (Mrs. Carroll), born at Great Barrington, April, 1794; married Mr. Carroll, died at Lakeside, Ontario, January 12, 1872.
4. Thomas Ingersoll, born 1796, died at St. Mary's, 1847.
5. Samuel Ingersoll, died at St. Mary's, 1861.
6. James Ingersoll, born Sept. 10, 1801; married Catharine McNab, 1848; died at Woodstock, August 9, 1886.
7. Sarah (Mrs. Mittlebergher), born January 10, 1807; married Henry Mittlebergher, of St. Catharines; died at St. Catharines, November 17, 1826.





HOME OF LAURA INGERSOLL, GREAT BARRINGTON, MASS.
Built 1772. Presented by Chas. J. Taylor, Esq.

CHAPTER IV.

LAURA INGERSOLL SECORD.

MR. SABINE, the biographer of the U. E. Loyalists, says: "Men who, like these, separate themselves from their friends and kindred, who are driven from their homes, who became out-laws, wanderers and exiles, such men leave few memorials behind, their papers are scattered and lost, and their names pass from human recollection."

If this is true of men, in narrating the lives of women who have performed heroic deeds the narrator encounters still greater difficulties. The scanty records of their youth tell us little of the influences that developed and formed their character; and the exciting period in which they lived, crowded with remarkable events, prevented the just appreciation of their services. Even at this late day there is a littleness which would like to ignore the importance and dignity of the work. But if the past is discouraging, there is hope that in the years to come the searchlight of history will be turned on woman's work, so that what she has done, and what she can do, will receive due recognition and be valued as it deserves.

Thomas Ingersoll, the father of Laura Ingersoll Secord, removed from Westfield, Massachusetts, to Great Barrington, in the same state, in 1774. He married February 28, 1775, Elizabeth, daughter of Israel Dewey. Land was purchased, a home built, and Mr. Ingersoll commenced business. This house, built in 1782, is still standing. It is on the east side of Main Street. The lot is large, being five-eighths of an acre. It was larger in Major Ingersoll's time, containing between four and five acres, and running back to the Housatonic River. A street has been taken off the southerly side. The house is broad and low, and has been renovated and somewhat remodelled in later years. The glass panes in the windows were formerly 6 x 8 inches. The property is now owned by the town, and is called the Great Barrington Free Library and Reading Room. A house in the background, at the extreme right, was formerly the shop of Major Ingersoll, and is on a side street.

Elizabeth Dewey was born January 28, 1758, and was but seventeen years of age at the time of her marriage; she died February 20, 1784.

leaving four daughters. Laura, the eldest, was only eight years old at the time of her mother's death. Elizabeth Franks, the second daughter, married Mr. Pickett, and died in Canada. Myra, the third daughter, was married in Canada to Mr. Hitchcock, and after a few years returned to the United States. Abigail, the youngest, at the time of her mother's death was adopted by her aunt, Mrs. Nash, and afterwards married Guy Woodworth, of Vermont.

Mr. Ingersoll married, May 26, 1785, Mrs. Mercy Smith, the widow of Josiah Smith. There were no children by this marriage. She was buried May 18, 1789. Both the marriage and burial are recorded by the Rev. Gideon Bostwick, who was the first Episcopal clergyman in Great Barrington. [Previous to the Revolution the Documentary Records of the Colonies furnish abundant materials for the historian. During that time they were imperfectly kept, and sometimes ceased altogether. Fortunately, the church registrations kept by the Rev. Gideon Bostwick, of Great Barrington, the first Episcopal minister settled there, are continuous. He was one of the applicants for land with Mr. Ingersoll, but died before the arrangements were consummated. Two of his sons came to Canada. One was Sheriff of Norfolk, and another, Colonel Bostwick, lived at Port Stanley.] Little is known of the second Mrs. Ingersoll, but there are letters wherein she signs herself "Your affectionate step-mother, Mercy Ingersoll"; another where Mr. Ingersoll's name is mentioned, and signed in the same manner. Thomas Ingersoll married, September 20, 1789, Sally Backus, widow of John Backus. Mrs. Backus was the daughter of Gamaliel Whiting, and sister of General John Whiting. The Whitings came from Westfield, and there had been marriages between the Ingersolls and Whitings. The old homestead of the Whitings was purchased by the town of Great Barrington for a town hall, and a monument to the soldiers who fell in the late Civil War stands upon the hearth-stone, which has never been removed. Mrs. Backus had one daughter by her first husband, called Nancy, who married a Mr. McKinstry, a name prominent in American annals. Mrs. McKinstry died in Cairo, Egypt. Of the girlhood of Laura Ingersoll scarcely a memory remains; of her sisters, also, few records are left. This much can be safely said, that Laura and Elizabeth were old enough to receive impressions that could never be effaced. War leaves memories that do not pass away. Great Barrington was on the highway where soldiers were passing to and from the war. Prisoners were also sent there. Among them, sick and dispirited, came General Burgoyne, after his surrender at Saratoga. With him were Baron Riedesel, the Hessian commander, and many English officers. Her father's experiences had been many. He had taken the Continental

side, along with the numerous Ingersolls whose home was in Great Barrington.

The days of the Revolution had passed away; the reaction which follows war took place. A depreciated currency; lack of business and work—for the soldier does not readily go back to the toil and monotony of the farm—insurrection in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, were taxing the capacity of the builders of the new nation to the utmost. Thomas Ingersoll, who had risen from the ranks to be major, suffered, with many of his friends, from these discouragements, and they were willing to make new homes on the fertile Canadian lands.

It is at the sale of her father's property in Great Barrington, preparatory to bringing his family to Canada, that Laura Ingersoll's name first appears in history. [See Appendix X.] On January 11, 1793, she, with Mr. Ives, witnessed the sale. Two years later, on April 21, 1795, she is again a witness with Heber Chase, at the relinquishment by her stepmother, Sally Backus Ingersoll, of her rights in her husband's property. These records are valuable, as showing their preparations to come to Canada. They lived in Oxford County, where is now the town of Ingersoll. James Ingersoll was five years old when his father removed to the County of York. Four of the children by the third marriage were born in Great Barrington, and three in Canada. At the final sale of the property in Great Barrington Laura Ingersoll must have been in her twentieth year. It is more than probable that she came with her father before the other members of the family.

Of Laura Ingersoll's early life in Canada, the date of her arrival, and her marriage to Mr. Secord, nothing can be found. Probably the marriage took place soon after her arrival here. Her granddaughter, Miss L. Louisa Smith, of Guelph, says she lived at St. Davids a short time after her marriage, and there are records showing James Secord was living at Queenston in 1802. Everything shows that James Secord shared in the prosperity of that time. He was a successful merchant, and they kept two colored servants.

The Secords were a numerous race, and were U. E. Loyalists, not settlers. Being among the earliest arrivals they received lands in the Niagara District, and were among the most prominent and prosperous people. An old ledger, dating from 1806 through 1807, 1808 and part of 1809, shows that they were living in Queenston at that time. Mr. James Secord's name frequently occurs, and the entries show that they were for articles of household use and what women wear. As they are read over, paper and quills are of frequent mention. The articles of dress are expensive. There are slippers and fine hose. The dress of that period for common use was a petticoat and short gown, the skirt

of stuff goods, the short gown of calico and expensive, being worth from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per yard. All other goods were high in price. Mr. Secord was a merchant also, and it can easily be seen that there was an exchange of goods.

We can little imagine the dismay of the people as the war-cloud dimmed and overspread the sky. Nearly thirty years of peace had changed the wilderness to fertile fields and orchards. The log cabin had given place to ample stone and brick houses, many of which still remain as testimony to the industry and prosperity of the settler. Niagara was the social and military center; Queenston was the head of navigation, where the merchandise from Montreal was transhipped to the remotest settlements. Her own relatives and her husband's were among the most influential of the people. A Miss Secord, of Niagara, was called the belle of Canada. The name of a Miss Ingersoll is given among the belles in the period from 1792 to 1800, and we have often asked ourselves, was it Laura Ingersoll? Perhaps some future searchers among the records of those times will be able to give the answer. Of the causes of the war it is needless to write. On that memorable morning of October 13, 1812, when the invaders crossed the Niagara River, General Brock rose very early. His colored servant, as he assisted him to put on his sword, said, "You are very early, sir." "Yes, but the Yankees are earlier," was the reply. With a small staff he hurried to Queenston to direct and inspire his followers. The attack, and his death in the early morn, are a part of Canadian history. Laura Secord's husband was one of those who bore the remains of the dead warrior from the field to the house where they remained until the afternoon, when they were removed to Niagara. The next attack was followed by the death of Colonel Macdonnell. At the close of the third and last attack in the afternoon, word was conveyed to Mrs. Secord that her husband was wounded and lying on the hillside. She hurried to the spot. What follows is best told by her grandson, the late James B. Secord:

"Just as she reached the spot three American soldiers came up, and two of them raised their muskets to club him to death. My grandmother rushed in between them, telling them to kill her and spare her husband. One of them spoke very roughly and told her to get out of the way, and, shoving her to one side, was about to accomplish his murderous intention. Captain Wool, coming up at that moment, sternly inquired how they dared attempt such a thing, called them cowards, sent them to Lewiston under guard, where afterwards they were tried by court-martial and sentenced to several months' imprisonment for their breach of discipline. Captain Wool ordered a party of his men to

take Mr. Secord to his own house in Queenston, and did not even make him a prisoner on parole. After his promotion, and when he had risen to the rank of colonel, he several times visited my grandfather, and their friendship continued until my grandfather's death."

It is pleasant, amid the cruelties of war, to record the kindness of a brave and honorable foe.

At the time when the great exploit of Laura Secord was performed, Niagara and Queenston were in possession of the American forces. Few of the inhabitants remained in Queenston. The order of General Dearborn (American commander), "that every man of the serviceable military age should be considered and treated as a prisoner of war," had deprived the homes of helpers and protectors. From Niagara to Fort Erie scouting parties had gone in every direction. Within two days nearly two hundred persons were arrested and sent as prisoners to the United States. Among them were the Rev. Mr. Addison, the first rector of St. Mark's, Niagara, six of the leading merchants, lawyers and others. Jacob Ball was taken from his bed at night. Men working in the fields, many too old and many too young for service, and men helpless from wounds, were sent away. General Vincent had evacuated Fort George and retreated to Burlington Heights, at the head of Lake Ontario. When evacuating Fort George the guns were spiked and the ammunition destroyed. The military records of the fort, as well as FitzGibbon's private papers, were destroyed at that time. Previous to this a depot of provisions and ammunition had been formed near the Beaver Dams. By General Vincent's orders these were deposited in a stone house occupied by Mr. DeCew.

Colonel Bishopp had retreated from Chippewa and Fort Erie, placing DeHaren at the Ten Mile Creek, where there was a junction of three roads, and his own command at Jordan. These positions materially interfered with the enemy, compelling them to live on their own resources. Lieutenant FitzGibbon was well known throughout the country as a man of valor and discretion, remarkably self-reliant and resourceful, and an adept in military strategy. He was well known also as the faithful companion and friend of the lamented General Brock. Soliciting the privilege of raising a volunteer company of fifty men, to be used as scouts, the permission was granted, and on the 13th of June, within three days, the number was made up. [The jackets worn by FitzGibbon's scouts were red on one side and grey on the other, and reversible. They used cow-bells to signal instead of bugles. FitzGibbon himself could give an Irish yell or an Indian war-hoop. They were constantly on the alert.—"Veteran of 1812."] He was obliged to decline the

services of many who desired to be under his command. To these, two days later, there was added a party of Caughnawaga Indians, under Captain Ducharme, of nearly one hundred and sixty men. FitzGibbon's headquarters were at the stone house, formerly mentioned, of Captain DeCew (after whom the falls are named), and who was at that time a prisoner in the United States. [The story of Captain DeCew's escape is given in the "History of Thorold Township."] DeHaren was at the Ten Mile Creek with some Indians and men from New Brunswick. Throughout the peninsula there were only about sixteen hundred troops. They were in rags, many without shoes and often in want of food, yet they were ever ready to face the enemy.

From the time the volunteers came under FitzGibbon's command their work commenced, ever on the alert by day, and never sleeping twice in the same place. On the 20th they had a skirmish with the Americans at Niagara Falls. The next day they were at Chippewa and Point Abino, then to Lundy's Lane, where FitzGibbon had a narrow escape. Ducharme and his Indians were equally busy. They had been near Fort George more than once, killing men and making prisoners. Annoyed beyond measure at their audacity, the American commander determined by a vigorous blow to dislodge FitzGibbon and overawe the inhabitants. At a council of war in Niagara, on the 18th of June, Colonel Børstler of Maryland, a man distinguished for gallant services, was selected, himself being present. [*Vide* James B. Secord.] Under his command were placed six hundred and thirty men, a company of light artillery, two field-pieces, mounted infantry, and a troop of dragoons.

At Mrs. Secord's house, in Queenston, some of the American officers were billeted. On the 23rd of June Børstler dined with them. They talked freely of their plans, and of the importance of securing the Beaver Dams as a base of operations, whereby a large force could be concentrated to advance on Burlington Heights. The capture of FitzGibbon was to be the commencement of the enterprise. "That position once captured," said Colonel Børstler, "Upper Canada is ours." He spoke truly, and military men of the present day acknowledge it was worth the venture.

Laura Secord was a quiet but eager listener. When Børstler returned to Niagara to assume the command, and the other officers left her house to perform their allotted part, she consulted with her husband on the best course to pursue. For Mr. Secord to go was impossible, and there was no one else to send. The decision was soon made, for she was a woman of action and of few words. Said her niece, Mrs. Gregory:

"On that ever-to-be-remembered morning, Aunt left her home before daylight (the cow and milk-pail are a fable), and came to St.

Davids. [On June 24th the sun rises at 4.36. She reached St. Davids as the sun was rising.] She rested at Grandma's, [Mrs. Stephen Secord] for a few minutes and then left, Aunt Elizabeth Secord accompanying her as far as St. Catharines—then called Shipman's Corners—after which she proceeded on her way alone. [Mrs. Shipman came from New Jersey, a distance of over five hundred miles, on horseback, with her children. The first name of St. Catharines, Shipman's Corners, was in memory of her family. It was where the Imperial Bank now stands.] I never heard Mrs. Neville's name in connection with the affair until I read it in a sketch copied from the *Methodist Magazine*. I remember well of sitting, in childish astonishment and terror, listening to Aunt and Grandma talking over the affair, and of hearing her relate the fears she entertained of meeting and being taken prisoner by the American Indians before she had reached the British lines, and given the information she was periling freedom and life itself to give. She did not seem to think she had done more than a sacred duty."

From Niagara to the Beaver Dams by way of Queenston is between seventeen and eighteen miles; from Queenston to Beaver Dams between twelve and thirteen.

The Beaver Dams before the settlement of Upper Canada was a place where those ingenious and clever animals, the beavers, had constructed dams and made this their resort. The place was surrounded by beech woods. These were long visited by the curious, and those wishing to see the engineering skill of the industrious animal that is conspicuous on our national arms. In Bœrstler's plan of attack the artillery was to take the main road; the other detachments, marching by different roads, were to meet and join in the attack upon FitzGibbon, while a portion were to attack DeHaren and hold him in check at the Ten Mile Creek, thus preventing his assisting FitzGibbon. [In the "Veteran of 1812" is a map used by Colonel Bœrstler at the court which exonerated him from blame for the disaster.] It was this portion of the plan, never carried out, that caused Mrs. Secord so much difficulty, and extended the distance for her to travel. The fear of being intercepted at the Ten Mile Creek kept her from taking the direct road.

Such was the situation on the evening of the 23rd of June. The advance guard of the enemy had reached Queenston. Silence had been enjoined, no lights or fires allowed, patrols thrown out, and pickets placed to prevent information of the movement being given. [The first sentry was at her own gate.—*Vide* Mrs. Dunn.] With a hurried farewell to her husband and children, Mrs. Secord took her fate in her hands, and went forth with the inspiration which comes when duty calls. It was before the early light of the summer morn.

and long before the last of Bœrstler's troops had halted at Queenston, when she started on her way. Her brother, Charles Ingersoll, was lying dangerously ill at St. Davids, and this excuse satisfied the sentinel for her early trip. He was at the house of her sister-in-law, the widow of Stephen Secord, at the southeast end of the village. She was there but a few minutes, but in that brief time resisted all persuasions to change her purpose, and induced her niece, Elizabeth Secord, to go with her. [Elizabeth Secord died at Napanee the following year.] This she did as far as Shipman's Corners, where her feet became so sore she was unable to proceed farther. From that point Mrs. Secord's journey was performed alone. It had been a very rainy season, the streams were swollen, and where the rude bridge had been swept away, on her hands and knees she crept over on a fallen tree. To avoid danger she had to recross the stream more than once, and to travel beyond the ordinary route. As she neared the vicinity of FitzGibbon, in coming up a steep bank, she came upon the Indians who were encamped there. They sprang to their feet upon her appearance, with piercing cries demanding to know "What white woman wanted?" Though terrified, her presence of mind did not forsake her, but to the last years of her life she never could speak of that time without emotion. They were Caughnawagas, and did not understand English. With difficulty the Chief, who partially understood English, at last comprehended that she had a message of importance for FitzGibbon, and must see him. It was seven o'clock in the morning when she came upon the Indian encampment. After what seemed a long detention, she was at last conducted to FitzGibbon, and told him of the coming attack. There was no waste of words on either side; FitzGibbon recognized the danger, and his arrangements were promptly made.

Ducharme asked permission to post his men at a ravine in the beech woods, which only the day before had fixed his attention as a good place for an ambuscade. FitzGibbon gave the desired permission, and he with his twenty-five Caughnawagas and sixteen Mohawks started on a run for the desired spot. Lieutenant Jarvis, who saw the exhausted condition of Mrs. Secord, brought her a drink of water, and FitzGibbon, as soon as the disposition of his men was made, sent her to Mr. Turney's as a place of safety, where, as she graphically expressed it, "I slept right off." Very soon after the Indian scouts came rushing in, with loud cries announcing Bœrstler's approach. Thanks to Mrs. Secord, every preparation had been made, and FitzGibbon rode two miles down the road to see the advancing lines of the enemy. [The Beaver Dam is at least three miles from DeCew's house, and the falls are only a short distance beyond the house, which is of stone, and was selected by Gen-



PLACE WHERE THE INDIANS ENCAMPED

eral Vincent. Thither the ammunition and other supplies were removed for safety, as the house could not be taken without artillery. If FitzGibbon rode two miles after his arrangements were made, and saw Bœrstler approaching, it must then have been nine o'clock, for Bœrstler says the action commenced at ten. Bœrstler never reached the Beaver Dams nor DeCew's house, only the neighborhood of both.] Soon after nine Bœrstler appeared, and the action commenced at ten. The weather was intensely hot, and as he neared the ravine the Indians kept up an incessant firing from the woods. The artillery made ineffectual efforts to drive them out. Their repeated attempts to march forward were baffled, and Bœrstler changed his direction, to everywhere meet an invisible enemy. He was wounded twice, his horse was killed, his men were falling on every side, his officers disabled, and no advantage gained. He retreated to a hollow, where for a while he was partially sheltered. Then the Indians pressed forward with exulting shouts. Bœrstler had conducted himself bravely, but he knew that aid for FitzGibbon would soon arrive; he was no longer on the offensive, but the defensive. FitzGibbon saw his advantage, and brought up his troops which he had held in reserve. Bœrstler rallied his men once more, placed his wounded in wagons, and with his artillery commenced to retreat. [Bœrstler sent to General Dearborn for reinforcements, and three hundred men were sent under Colonel Christie. They reached Queenston, but hearing of Bœrstler's surrender, returned to Fort George. The force that was to have made an attack upon DeHaren and hold him there did not reach the Ten Mile Creek.] Captain Hall, of the Provincial Cavalry, arrived at this time, and three Kelly brothers who had been working in a hay-field at some distance, and had heard the firing, seized their muskets and hurried to the beech woods, picking up eight or ten more of the militia on the way. The Americans were at the last in David Miller's apple orchard, and there Bœrstler surrendered. [Note 36, page 192, Mrs. Curzon.]

Bœrstler was surrounded, and FitzGibbon thought if he could be detained for a little while the capture would be effected without further blood being shed. Captain Hall was instructed to personate DeHaren, and was sent forward with a flag of truce. A soldier of the 49th was to personate Colonel Bishopp. Bœrstler was unnerved by defeat and the pain of his wounds. It was represented to him in the strongest language possible how difficult it would be to hold the Indians in check. Some frightful examples of recent date were recalled to his memory, and while they were being told, FitzGibbon's troops were marched and remarched across the field. ["We frightened the enemy," says Judge Jarvis, "with our Indians and from sounding the bugle in different

positions, to make them suppose we were numerous and had them surrounded." Børstler asked time to decide. This was refused, and five minutes only were given. FitzGibbon was more than anxious to have the surrender accomplished before the arrival of superior officers, DeHaren with reinforcements being immediately expected. The terms of the capitulation had scarcely been accepted before DeHaren arrived, and it took considerable strategy on FitzGibbon's part to finish the work that thus far he had so successfully carried out. [The capitulation was signed by DeHaren, but everything was prearranged by FitzGibbon.] The late Judge Jarvis (then lieutenant) said in after years, "When the Yankees did surrender we wondered what FitzGibbon was going to do with them." Børstler said the action lasted three hours and ten minutes. The surrender took place at 4 p. m. FitzGibbon's ruse proved successful, and the articles of capitulation were signed. Thirty Americans had been killed and sixty wounded. Ducharme had fifteen Indians killed and twenty-five wounded. In addition, there were surrendered the colors of the 14th United States Infantry, two cannons, two baggage wagons, and five hundred stand of arms, as substantial tokens of the victory. No massacre stained its laurels.

To Ducharme and his Indian allies belongs the glory of the fight; to FitzGibbon the tact, skill and humanity which made the victory so great. Many years after, in constructing the new Welland Canal, the burial-place of the dead was discovered. The remains were carefully gathered, and a stone obelisk marks the spot where our Indian friends and the invading foe sleep their long sleep together.

The effect of the victory at Beaver Dams, combined with the previous successful night attack by Colonel Harvey at Stony Creek, on June 5th, when the enemy were driven back to Niagara, and two of their generals, Winder and Chandler, captured, had a most inspiring effect throughout the country. [Lieutenants Ingersoll and McKenna took them to Quebec.] The enemy thereafter was compelled to keep within their entrenchments, and though there was frequent skirmishing, few gains were made by the Americans. The farmers who were left, and the volunteers who could be spared, returned to their homes to gather, as well as their limited numbers permitted, the harvest and fruits of the year, though much remained unreaped and ungathered for want of hands.

Laura Secord returned from the house of Mr. Turney to her home, happy in the knowledge that her sacred duty had been performed. No words of pride or triumph crossed her lips. The grandson who has been previously quoted, says: "She was a modest and unassuming woman,



FITZGIBBON'S HEADQUARTERS, 1893

and did not attach the importance to her exploit that it merited." Neither at that time would it have been wise to have given it publicity. Queenston, as most other places on the frontier, was one day in possession of the invading troops, perhaps the next in that of their defenders. Darker days were yet in store for Canada, deeds of relentless cruelty, followed by swift and remorseless retribution. The foe was driven back to his own land, but before he left Niagara was laid in ashes. On December 10, 1813, in the midst of a snow storm, and at only an hour's notice, the terrible order was given. On July 19, 1814, St. Davids, where the first days of her married life were passed, met the same fate as Niagara. She saw the homes of her kindred, the labors of thirty years, swept away, while their owners were prisoners or serving on the various battle-fields. These years of warfare tested her discretion and courage to the utmost.

Mrs. Curzon gives the following, which is quite characteristic of her quickness of speech when moved:

"Three Americans called at her house in Queenston to ask for water. One of them said, 'When we come for good to this country we'll divide the land, and I'll take this here for my share.' Mrs. Secord was so nettled by the thought expressed that, although the men were civil and respectful, she replied sharply, 'You scoundrel, all you'll ever get here will be six feet of earth.' When they were gone her heart reproached her for her heat, because the men had not molested her property. Two days after two of the men returned. They said to Mrs. Secord, 'You were right about the six feet of earth, missus.' The third man had been killed."

Mr. H. C. Mewburn, of Stamford, heard Mrs. Secord tell the same story.

Her granddaughter, Miss Smith, already quoted, relates that she saved a number of gold doubloons in a copper kettle which was hanging over the fire. Miss Smith still possesses the tea-kettle, which is more than one hundred years old.

Another incident, related by her granddaughter, Mrs. Cockburn, probably occurred about this time.

Mr. Secord had received quite a large sum of money, which by some means must have become known. One night soon after, when she was alone with her young children, and only a colored boy called Bob and a colored girl called Fan in the house, a man appeared asking admittance, saying he was pursued. My grandmother refused to admit him at that time of night. Then he said he could and would come in. Changing her voice to an Irish brogue, she threatened to set the dog upon him. The colored boy was told to growl like a dog, which it seems he could

do to perfection. The man went away, but soon returned, when my grandmother presented an old horse-pistol, telling him she would shoot if he did not leave. He went off declaring he would yet get in. Grandmother afterwards heard that a desperate character had been seen about the village at the time the money was received.

When the war ended and the welcome days of peace came, and the prisoners returned to their homes, her eldest daughter was married to Dr. Trumbull, assistant surgeon of the 17th Regiment. The engagement took place during the war, and the marriage followed, April 18, 1816. Her brother, Charles Ingersoll, was married the same year to Sarah Maria, sister of the late Hon. W. H. Merritt, his companion in arms. Both of these marriages are recorded in the parish register of St. Mark's Church, Niagara. Having gone to Jamaica, in the West Indies, Dr. Trumbull died there. Mrs. Trumbull, with her two daughters, visited her mother before she went to Ireland, which she made her home. Mary Trumbull, the eldest, never married. Elizabeth Trumbull, the second daughter, married Mr. Davis, President of the Bank of Ireland in Belfast.

Four of Mrs. Secord's daughters were married while she lived in Queenston. Of two of these marriages the date has not been found. One daughter, Charlotte, never married, and died at Guelph. Appollonia died at the early age of eighteen, and was probably buried at St. Davids, in the burying-ground given by Major Secord. Harriet Secord married David William Smith, a lawyer, November 23, 1824. This marriage, by license, was performed at Queenston by Rev. Mr. Turney, Chaplain of the forces; it is also entered in the St. Mark's Parish Register. Mr. Smith practised law at St. Catharines, and, dying there, was buried at Fort Erie; Mrs. Smith died at Guelph. Hannah Cartwright married a Mr. Williams, from England. After his death she married a Mr. Carthew, who was also an Englishman. Their home was in Guelph, and they are buried there. Mrs. Secord's only son, Charles Badeau, married Margaret, daughter of W. Robins, of New York, who had been in the English service, but the number of his regiment is not known. This son Charles lived for many years in the house where General Brock was taken for a few hours before the removal to Fort George. He was Registrar of the Surrogate Court at Niagara, dying there in 1872, leaving two sons and one daughter. Occasionally we come upon traces of Laura Secord's life in Queenston. We find—

On July 14, 1817, Thomas Dickson, of Queenston, merchant, conveyed the Thorburn Homestead property to James Secord, merchant, for £25.



HOME OF LAURA INGERSOLL SECORD. AT QUEENSTON, 1894

On December 4, 1817, James Secord and his wife Laura conveyed the same land to Samuel Street, for \$625.

Mr. James Secord received a pension for his services at Queenston, and an appointment in the Customs Department at Chippewa. The year of his removal from Queenston has not been obtained. An incident of Mrs. Secord's life in Chippewa is related by her granddaughter, Mrs. Cockburn:

"My grandmother was a woman of strong personality and character, and her word carried great weight with it, as the following incident will show. Upon one occasion a negro in whom she was interested was very ill with the smallpox. Of course there was no isolated hospitals in those days, the patient having to be treated at home, precautions being taken to prevent contagion from spreading. Grandma heard that the doctor intended smothering the poor negro, and accordingly challenged him as to those reports. He admitted the charge, saying at the same time, 'He is only a nigger and not much account anyway.' 'As sure as you do,' my grandmother answered, 'I will have you indicted for murder.' This seemed to set him thinking, and putting forth renewed efforts he pulled the poor fellow through, who, in after years, testified his gratitude in many ways for the saving of his life. She was a great favorite with the young people, who, on returning from school for their holidays would say, after a brief time in the house, 'Now, we must go and see Mrs. Secord.' "

Mrs. Secord's home in Queenston was well back from the street and on rising ground. It was a frame building. A niece of her husband's says that both sides of the path were thickly set with roses. The hand of the renovator has done its work. Fortunately a sketch of the place in water-colors was taken the year previous to its renovation. The house in Chippewa, fronting the river, where her last years were spent, has also been renovated; but the front of the house, the small glass in the front windows, and the porch still remain. The large stone house built by DeCew in 1810 is in good preservation, and can stand the storms of many a year to come. It is over a century since it was built. The walls are very thick; the casings of the windows in the hall, the wainscotting, and the stairs also are of solid walnut. The frieze and casing of the windows in what was the drawing-room show that it was a handsome as well as a convenient house.

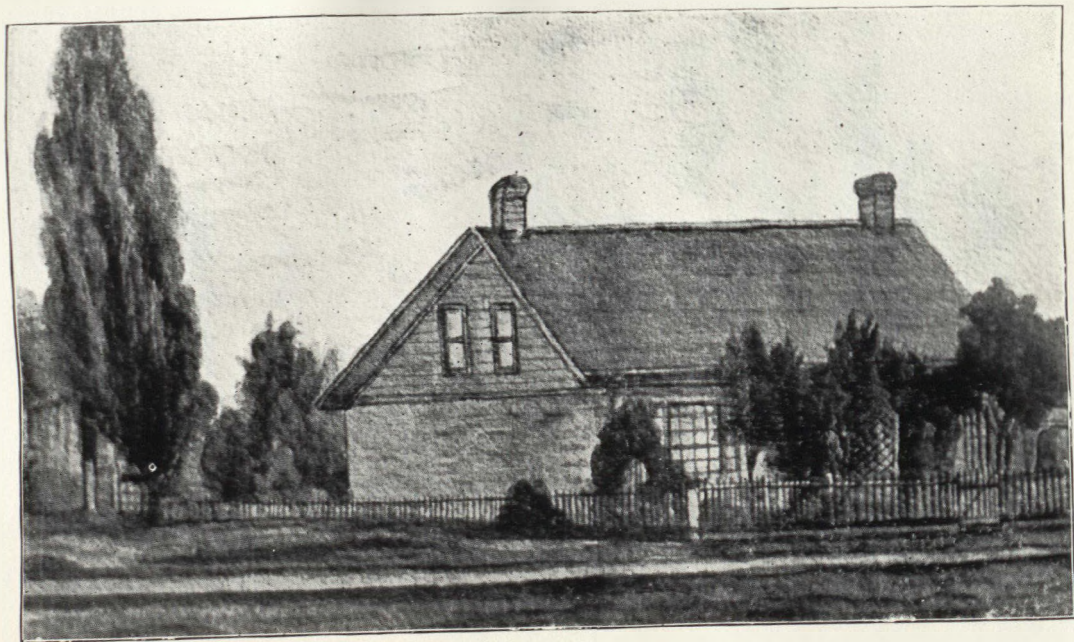
Mr. and Mrs. Secord were living in Chippewa when the rebellion of 1837 took place; it must have recalled the scenes of Laura's earlier days. Here were the headquarters of Colonel (afterwards Sir) Allan McNab, and from this same place went Captain Drew to cut out and burn the steamer *Caroline*. It was the beacon light at the mouth of the

Chippewa Creek—only a short distance from her home—that guided him to and from the night's adventure.

When the great gathering took place at Queenston Heights, July 30, 1840, to take measures for the reconstruction of Brock's monument, destroyed by Benjamin Lett, April 17, 1840, Mr. Secord spent the night with his brother, Major David Secord, at St. Davids. Mr. James Secord, Major Secord and Mr. William Kirby (the author of "Chien d'Or," who was then a young man living at St. Davids), went to and returned from Queenston together. The War of 1812 was the principal topic of their conversation, yet, strange to say, neither her husband nor his brother made the slightest allusion to Mrs. Secord's heroic deed. Mr. Secord died at Chippewa, February, 22, 1841, and was buried at Lundy's Lane. With his life the pension ceased. Mrs. Secord never received any recompense from the Canadian Government. Twenty-seven years of widowhood were to follow—a long struggle with limited means, and many bereavements to herself and daughters, borne on her part with uncomplaining patience, grateful for help, and but seldom asking for it. How grateful she was, and how kindness touched her heart, is well told in this incident: A nephew of her husband's had to the last years of his life been exceedingly kind. With tears she used to put her old arms about his neck and say, "You have been more than son or brother to me."

In 1860 the Prince of Wales visited Canada, and spent several days at Niagara Falls, occupying the residence of the late Samuel Zimmerman, which had been specially refurnished for himself and suite. On Sunday he attended church at Chippewa. During his stay at Niagara Falls a petition was presented for his approval, and Mrs. Secord's name being the only woman's name upon the petition, the Prince made inquiry as to its being there. When he was told of her meritorious action, he continued his inquiry in regard to her circumstances, and sent her a check for £100 sterling. This was the first and only remuneration she ever received for her services, and is gladly mentioned as one of the kindly acts of the eldest son of our beloved Queen Victoria. The first time her brave act had been recognized as worthy of notice was in the *Anglo-American Magazine*, Vol. III. In the November number of 1853, was a report of the action at Beaver Dams, one of a series of articles upon the War of 1812. Mrs. Secord's narrative was given and the certificate of FitzGibbon which established the fact, and elicited her grateful thanks. Even then some doubted, and as time passed along some denied its truth.

Her life commenced with the Revolution, her father and kindred fighting for the Republic, while her future husband and his mother



CHIPPEWA HOME OF MRS. SECORD. AND WHERE SHE DIED. 1804

were among the first fugitives to find safety in Canada. The son of the refugee and the daughter of the settler were united by marriage, and participating in the War of 1812, gave invaluable services to their country. Together they saw the beginning and end of the rebellion. The year 1866 brought the Fenian Raid, and her brave heart must have beat with quickened throb, and the old eyes gleamed with their youthful fire, as she saw among the volunteers many of the old names of her kindred hastening through Chippewa to Fort Erie.

The great age attained by Mrs. Secord had been years of loneliness and bereavement. Of the large family of brothers, sisters and step-sisters but four survived her. Among those of her husband's relatives who had been her companions in the trials of more than three-quarters of a century, there were none remaining.

On October 17, 1868, at the age of ninety-three,

"Life dropped the distaff from the hands serene,
And loving neighbors smoothed the careful shroud,
While death and winter closed the autumn scene."

Her granddaughter, Miss L. Louisa Smith, says: "I feel a nation's gratitude should have appreciated the noble act of Laura Secord, and have raised a monument to her memory on the spot selected by her husband as their last resting-place."

Mr. and Mrs. Secord are buried in the burying-ground at Lundy's Lane. The battle-field was then as now the burying-place. The headstone of Laura Secord is three feet high and eighteen inches wide, and has the following inscription:

HERE RESTS
LAURA,
BELOVED WIFE OF JAMES SECORD,
DIED OCTOBER 17TH, 1868.

IN MEMORY OF
JAMES SECORD, SEN.,
COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS,
Who departed this life on the 22nd of February, 1841,
In the 68th year of his age.
Universally and deservedly lamented as a sincere Friend, a
kind and indulgent Parent, and an affectionate Husband.

"Laura Secord was of fair complexion, with kind, brown eyes, a sweet and loving smile hovering about the mouth. This did not denote weakness. She was five feet four inches tall and slight of form." [Mrs. Cockburn.]

A simple wooden paling surrounds the graves. [Given by Mrs. Dunn.]

Laura Secord

APPENDIX IX.

CHILDREN OF JAMES SECORD AND LAURA INGERSOLL.

Name.	Married.	Died.
Mary,	Wm. Trumbull, Asst. Surgeon of 37th Regiment, April 18, 1816.	In Ireland
Charlotte.	Unmarried.	
Harriet,	David William Smith, barrister, at Queenston, by license, November 23, 1824.	
Hannah Cartwright,	Hawley Williams, first; Edward Cartthew, second.	1879
Laura,	Dr. William Clark, first; Captain Poore, second.	
Charles Badaeu,	Miss Robins.	In 1872, aged 63 years.
Appollonia,	Unmarried.	At Queenston, aged 18.

There are thirteen grandchildren living in the present year, 1900.

James B. Secord, Jr., married Miss Flint; died in 1899, at Niagara; no children.

*In your Account for Schooling
Billy Galley is 1 1/2 - 8 Sally Barber,*

Loaned by Charles J. Taylor, Esq.



STATE OF LAURA SECORD'S GRAVE, 1900

APPENDIX X.

Thomas Ingersoll } Certain real estate. Deed dated Jan. 11th, 1793.
 to }
 Samuel Whiting } Acknowledged the same day before

THOMAS IVES,
 Justice of the Peace.

“In the presence of
 LAURA INGERSOLL,
 THOMAS IVES.”

Book 33, pages 106, 107.

Thomas Ingersoll } Certain mountain lands. His $\frac{1}{4}$ part which he
 to }
 John Whiting } owned jointly with Thomas Ives and John Burghart.
 Deed dated April 20th, 1795. Acknowledged April 21st, 1795.
 before

MOSES HOPKINS,
 Justice of the Peace.

“In presence of
 JARED INGERSOLL,
 HEBER CHASE.”

April 28, 1795, Mrs. Ingersoll makes a release (on same deed) of all her rights in the property, conveyed as wife of Thomas Ingersoll, “my present husband,” and signs her name

SALLY INGERSOLL. [Seal]

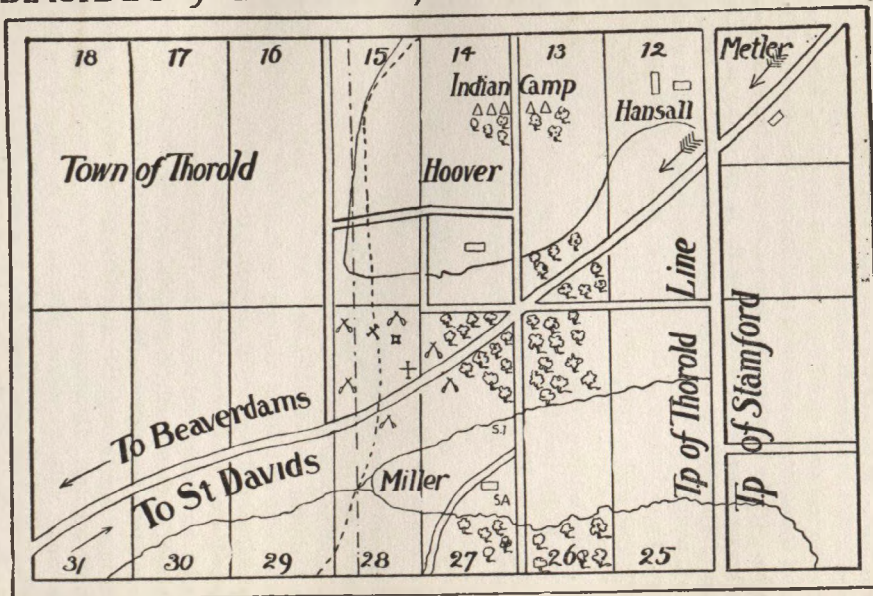
In the presence of
 HEBER CHASE,
 LAURA INGERSOLL.

LETTER OF MAJOR THOMAS INGERSOLL.

Sir Great Barrington Sept 14 1795
 Soon as you left town Mr. Hoopes,
 sett out for hudson and has not
 returned if he should not return
 to Day. I rather I am not to see
 with him I shall not come to
 Lenox this week thus I ~~am~~
 for you to let town to your client
 As I am in no part but your
 Honour will be sure you to let,
~~to~~ but Sir if you should turn
 the vote the writs My Honour
 would Abidge Me to Little that
 I let before I left town to your
 Satisfaction I am your to serve

Thos. Ingersoll

DIAGRAM of BATTLE of BEAVERDAMS JUNE 24TH 1813



Explanations. Road taken by Boerstler. This road no longer open across lots 12, 13, 17, 18. Battleground.
 Guns in action Obelisk. Welland RR New Canal. si, sa. Places of surrender of Infantry and Artillery.

DIAGRAM OF BATTLE OF BEAVER DAMS—JUNE 24, 1813.

It is well to remember that three Indian trails converging on Niagara were still used. A part of the road over which Bœrstler passed has been closed, and other roads opened in its place. The old and new canals, with a network of railways from all directions, have changed the face of the country, and caused the disappearance of most of the old landmarks. Of the beech woods, then so extensive, but little remains, and the beaver dams will soon be among the things of the past. In the "History of Thorold" there are views of the place taken in 1897. The reader will notice in the accompanying diagram the position of several buildings. From the barn on the Metler lot Mrs. Philip Metler watched the engagement from its beginning until the close. Mrs. Metler also said Bœrstler passed a little after nine o'clock. The Hoover house, being so close to the battle-ground, was forsaken by its inmates for a safer place. The Kellys were in David Miller's apple orchard. The diagram is kindly given by Mr. A. W. Reavely, an old resident who has studied the locality, and is familiar with its history and traditions.

STATEMENTS OF MRS. SECORD AND CAPTAIN FITZGIBBON.

Mrs. Secord's own statement:

"I shall commence at the battle of Queenston, where I was at the time the cannon-balls were flying around me in every direction. I left the place during the engagement. After the battle I returned to Queenston, and then found that my husband had been wounded, my house plundered and property destroyed. It was while the Americans had possession of the frontier that I learned the plans of the American commander, and determined to put the British troops under FitzGibbon in possession of them, and, if possible, save the British troops from capture and total destruction. In doing so I found I should have great difficulty in getting through the American guards, which were out two miles in the country. Determined to persevere, however, I left early in the morning, walked nineteen miles in the month of June to a field belonging to Mr. DeCamp in the neighborhood of the Beaver Dam. By this time daylight had left me. Here I found all the Indians encamped. By moonlight the scene was terrifying, and to those accustomed to such scenes might be considered grand. Upon advancing to the Indians they all ran and said, with some yells, 'Woman!' which made me tremble. I cannot express the awful feeling it gave me, but I did not lose my presence of mind. I was determined to persevere. I went up

to one of the chiefs, made him understand that I had great news for FitzGibbon, and that he must let me pass to his camp, or that he and his party would all be taken. The chief at first objected to let me pass, but finally consented, with some hesitation, to go with me and accompany me to FitzGibbon's station, which was at Beaver Dam, where I had an interview with him. I then told him what I had come for and what I had heard—that the Americans intended to make an attack upon the troops under his command, and would, from their superior numbers, capture them all. Benefiting by this information, Captain FitzGibbon formed his plans accordingly, and captured about five hundred American infantry and fifty mounted dragoons, and a field-piece or two was taken from the enemy. I returned home the next day exhausted and fatigued. I am now advanced in years, and when I look back I wonder how I could have gone through so much fatigue with the fortitude to accomplish it."—Taken from the *Anglo-American Magazine*, Vol. III, November, 1853, No. 5.

The following is copied from "A Veteran of 1812," by Mary Agnes FitzGibbon, granddaughter of Lieutenant-Colonel James FitzGibbon. [Lieutenant-Colonel FitzGibbon, born November 11, 1780, died at Windsor, December 10, 1863, aged 83.]

"I do hereby certify that Mrs. Secord, wife of James Secord, of Chippewa, Esq., did, in the month of June, 1813, walk from her house near the village of St. Davids, to DeCou's house in Thorold, by a circuitous route of about twenty miles, partly through the woods, to acquaint me that the enemy intended to attempt, by surprise, to capture a detachment of the 49th Regiment, then under my command, she having obtained such knowledge from good authority, as the event proved. Mrs. Secord was a person of slight and delicate frame, and made the effort in weather excessively warm, and I dreaded at the time she must suffer in health in consequence of fatigue and anxiety, she having been exposed to danger from the enemy through whose lines of communication she had to pass. The attempt was made on my attachment by the enemy, and his detachment, consisting of upwards of five hundred men and a field-piece and fifty dragoons, were captured in consequence. I write this certificate in a moment of much hurry and from memory, and it is therefore thus brief.

“(Sgd.) JAMES FITZGIBBON,

“Formerly Lieutenant 49th Regiment.”

Mrs. Secord possessed the original, December, 1863.

LETTERS OF LAURA SECORD.

CHIPPEWA, July 2nd, 1841.

MY DEAR SISTER,—

You must think that I have forgotten you, far from that. My grief has been such that I could not write. I was so disappointed in my anticipations. What a change. My dear James and myself thought to pay you a visit. My pleasure was changed to sorrow and grief. God sees fit to take My Dear Husband. You can not think what grief we are in. Such a loss is great—you—my dear Sister, know his worth. One of the best of Fathers and Husbands. I never knew any one so much lamented as he is by every one that knew him. He suffered very much in his sickness—but died very easy. He took the sacrament in the morning and died at eight o'clock in the evening. My dear Sister, how I wish to see you. I fear I never shall. If God so decrees I hope to meet in a better world. I often think that if I could be with you what a consolation it would be to me. This world has no pleasure for me. I only hope I may soon meet my Dear Husband in Heaven never to part.

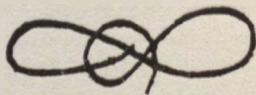
Before I could finish I have new grief—I have heard my youngest daughter's child lays at the point of death. I fear she is no more. My Dear Sister, my grief is so great I do not know what to say or do.

I hope, my dear sister, you will come and see me once more, and your daughters. Our sisters would be so happy to once more see you. Do come and let us once more meet in this world. If God so decrees that we are not to meet here I hope to meet in Heaven never to part.

Give my love to your family and tell them that I love them and wish to see them.

I remain your loving sister till death,

LAURA SECORD.



CHIPPEWA, August 1st, 1843.

MY DEAR SISTER,—

I received your letter last week. I was very unhappy to hear of your ill-health. What is this world to us if we do not enjoy our health—nothing. I know that by experience. I hope, my dear Sister, to hear that you are well when I hear from you again. I was in hopes that I should have paid you a visit this summer. I fear I will not, as many things prevent.

My dear Sister, I am very much agitated this moment, at the sudden Death of Mrs. ——. What is life; all is vanity. I fear that she was not prepared to meet her God. She thought so little of a future state. Her belief was that all would be saved at the last day, let them be bad or good, that Death is the punishment. She was a kind-hearted woman, always kind to the poor. I hope she is at rest is my most sincere wish.

I received a letter from our brother James; he says the Brothers and Sisters are all well. Thomas has moved from Oxford about Fifteen miles and has bought Mills. I hope that he may do well. Our Brothers and Sisters all wish very much to see you.

I could wish we could once more meet in this world together, it would be a happy meeting. My dear Sister, how often I wish I could be near you to tell you my griefs. I feel so lonely; all will soon be in the grave. I only hope that I may be prepared to meet my God, is all I ask.

You know I would like to hear from my family. Harriet is with me, and her family. We are well, which is the greatest blessing in this life. My love to you and all your family. Tell them that I love them and would wish to see them.

I remain your affectionate sister,

LAURA SECORD.



Postage, 18½ cents.

Mrs. Julius Hitchcock,
Lebanon Post Office,
Madison County,
New York State.

CHIPPEWA, June 17th, 1844.

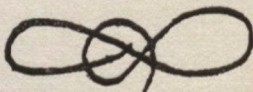
MY DEAR SISTER,

I was glad, my dear Mira, to hear from you and should have answered it immediately. I was waiting to hear from my son, while he was waiting to hear from headquarters to know how to proceed. He finds that it will be attended with a great deal of trouble and expense, and when got you know not where to take it up, as the lands are

mostly sold to the Canada Company. I have given up the idea of trying to do anything about mine. If you would still wish to go on with trying you will have to send a power of attorney. I was very much pleased to hear that your health is better. I much wish to see you once more. I fear I never shall without you should take the trouble to come and see us. We should be happy to see you, the family always talking about you. You wrote that your family are all married. I hope that they may be a pleasure and a blessing to you. I feel so unhappy, my dear sister, that I know not what to write, to think we are the only ones of our family on earth. We must soon expect our summons. My only hope is to be prepared. How often I do wish to be with you and think what pleasure it would be to us. I have always thought I should have the happiness of paying you a visit. I now despair, it is a great grief to me, indeed. I hope, my dear sister, that you will come and see us. Your friends at Oxford wish it very much. I wish you could come and we would go and see them together. What a happy meeting it would be. I think it would almost be heaven on earth. Do not let me dwell too long on such anticipations. It is too much for a poor unworthy person like me. My family are all well and send love to you and all your family. You will accept mine.

I remain your affectionate sister,

LAURA SECORD.



Postage 18½ cents.

Mrs. Julius Hitchcock,
Lebanon Post Office,
Madison County,
State of New York.

RECOLLECTIONS OF MISS SMITH, OF GUELPH, GRANDDAUGHTER
OF LAURA SECORD.

My grandmother was ever sensible and courageous. Her great fortitude and courage were exhibited under all circumstances. Mr. Secord was a customs-house official at Chippewa. During the summer months there was a daily steamer from Chippewa to Buffalo. At all seasons of the year there was traffic between the two countries. Mr.

Secord had been notified that a party of smugglers would be in a certain direction at night. My grandmother at once said, "There are only two of you and there will be great danger. I will represent the third person." She dressed herself in an overcoat and cap of my grandfather's, his boots also, and went to the boat with them. She stood by when the seizure was made, which was very valuable. When there was an alarm of burglars at the house she would say, "Now, James, you stand back with the light and let me go forward—they will not injure a woman as they would a man."

She was an excellent nurse. On two occasions—one of three months and another of six weeks,—she never undressed at night, but sat beside the bed in an armchair. She was a remarkably fine needle-woman, for it was an accomplishment and one of the fine arts of those early days. I remember seeing her sit working on a little white dress one time when I was ill. It was put together with open work stitches. In their prosperous days she was called extravagant. When her daughters attended the balls at Niagara or elsewhere she took great pride in having their satin boots or slippers to match their dress. These she made with her own hands. She also made their long gloves, as there was nothing of the kind to be had nearer than Montreal. She was hospitable and every one had a welcome. A relative told me of her gifts as a cook; that she had the happy faculty of making everything "tastey" from limited materials.

People wondered how she could leave her home and children and go into danger she knew not what. The few letters she has left tell of her strong religious principles, her strong affections, and the "sacred duty" foremost in her mind of doing good. Last, but not least, was her strong faith in God. My dear sister and myself often referred to the beautiful prayer she would make upon our departure after making her a visit. These are some instances of her private life. Her motto was, "It is ever the darkest hour just before the daylight."

[In Miss Smith's family there was one brother and the two sisters—Louisa and Augusta. Miss Louisa died in 1908. The brother died in 1904, in Minnesota. The deaths of many of the grandchildren are rapidly taking place. Mrs. Secord was remarkably reticent in regard to herself—never boastful. All her grandchildren with whom communication has been made speak spontaneously of this characteristic.]

DEATH OF JAMES SECORD, HUSBAND OF LAURA INGERSOLL SECORD.

The *Commercial Herald* of Toronto, in a March issue, 1841, contains the following notice.

“At Chippewa, on the 22nd instant, James Secord, Senior Collector of Her Majesty’s Customs, long known as an old and much respected inhabitant of the Niagara District, universally and deservedly regretted, both in public and in private life. Mr. Secord came into this country at a very early age and has always sustained the character of a good and loyal subject of his country, which was evidenced in the eagerness with which he flew to the British Standard in the late war with the United States of America. He was severely wounded in the memorable battle of Queenston, the 13th of October, under Sir Isaac Brock. Mr. Secord was wounded in the final attack in the afternoon, when General Sheaffe was victorious. The story of the rescue of Mr. Secord is given in another place by his son. Mr. Secord died on the 22nd of February, 1841.”

PASSAGE FROM THE FUNERAL SERMON OF JAMES SECORD,
BY THE REV. MR. LEEMING.

And here I think you will agree with me when I say of our departed friend that no one has passed through life and descended to the grave with an unblemished reputation. That he was a conscientious and upright man, amiable in all the relations of life, a kind husband, an indulgent parent, a sincere friend and an obliging neighbor. And in the discharge of the duties of his public trust as the Collector of Customs at this place I have repeatedly heard him spoken of in terms of high commendation. Of a considerate and benevolent disposition he performed those duties with such moderation as to gain the good will of the community with whom he had to do, with credit to himself and with greater advantage to the Government than a more severe and exacting course has been known to produce. Nor should we omit to notice, whilst paying this last tribute of respect to the memory of a departed friend and respectable man the deed of praise which was due to him for his loyal and patriotic principles. Those principles which under all circumstances he maintained steadily to the last, had been evinced in an honorable defence of his country’s dearest rights throughout the last American war. For those rights he fought, and to his dying day I believe suffered from the wounds which he received whilst engaged in maintaining a cause which reflected honor upon himself and his fellow soldiers in arms and loss and disgrace upon an unnatural foe.

PROBATE OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF LAURA SECORD.

SURROGATE COURT
OF THE
COUNTY OF WELLAND. } In Her Majesty's Surrogate Court of the County
of Welland:

Be it known that on the Fifteenth day of January, A. D. 1869, the Last Will and Testament of Laura Secord late of the Village of Chippawa, in the County of Welland, Widow, who died on or about the Seventeenth day of October, A. D. 1868, at Chippawa, aforesaid, and who at the time of her death had a fixed place of abode at the Village of Chippawa, in the said County of Welland, was proved and Registered in the said Surrogate Court, a true copy of which said Last Will and Testament is hereunto annexed, and that the Administration of all and singular the personal estate and effects, rights and credits of the said deceased and any way concerning her Will was granted by the aforesaid Court, to Charlotte Secord, of the Village of Chippawa, aforesaid, Spinster, the sole Executrix named in the said Will, she having been first sworn well and faithfully to Administer the same by paying the just debts of the deceased, and the legacies contained in her Will so far as she is thereunto bound by law, and to exhibit a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the said Estate and effects, rights and credits, and to render a just and true account of her Executorship whenever required by law to do so.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the said Court at Welland, in the County of Welland, the Fifteenth day of January, in the year of Our Lord. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Nine, and in the Thirty-Second year of Her Majesty's Reign.

(Signed) D. D'EVIRARDO,

Registrar of the said County.

Probate of the Last Will and Testament of Laura Secord, late of the Village of Chippawa, in the County of Welland, in the Province of Ontario and Dominion of Canada, Widow, deceased:

In the Name of God, Amen.

I, Laura Secord, of Chippawa, in the County of Welland, Relict of James Secord, late of the same place, Esquire, deceased, being of sound mind and memory: Do make this my last Will and Testament, in manner following:

First: I give and devise unto my two Daughters, Charlotte Secord, and Harriet Smith, Widow of David Smith, late of St. Catharines, Esquire, deceased, as Tenants in Common, all and singular my whole Message and Tenements situate lying and being in the Village of

Chippawa, in the County of Welland, whereon I now reside, to have and to hold to my said two Daughters, Charlotte Secord and Harriet Smith, as Tenants in Common, their heirs and assigns forever.

Secondly: All the rest, residue, and remainder of all my estate and effects, real and personal, whatsoever and wheresoever, not hereinbefore disposed of, after payment of my debts and personal expenses, I do give, devise and bequeath unto my two daughters aforesaid, share and share alike.

Lastly: I do hereby constitute and appoint my said Daughter, Charlotte Secord, sole Executrix of this, my Last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills by me made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Twenty-sixth day of November, in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-seven.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered, by the Testatrix as for her Last Will and Testament in presence of (Signed) ANNE HEPBURN, WM. M. CHRISTIE.	}	(Signed) LAURA SECORD. [L.S.]
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SURROGATE COURT,)
COUNTY OF WELLAND,)
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.) I hereby certify that the foregoing Document
written on this page is a true copy of the original Last Will and Testa-
ment of Laura Secord, deceased, as produced for Probate in this office
and registered the fifteenth day of January, A. D. 1869.

(Sgd) D. D'EVIRARDO,

Registrar of the said Court.

SURROGATE COURT,) Probate of the Last Will and Testament of
COUNTY OF WELLAND.) Laura Secord, late of Chippawa, Widow.
Decceased. No. 3632.

I certify that the within Probate is duly entered and registered in
the Registrar Office for the County of Welland, in Book A, for the
Village of Chippawa, at three o'clock P. M., of the 23rd of January.
A. D. 1869, Number 23.

(Signed) D. D'EVIRARDO,

Registrar.

TRIBUTES TO THE MEMORY OF LAURA SECORD.

Mrs. Chamberlain, of Ottawa, whose first husband was Colonel FitzGibbon, writes: "I heard quite often from Colonel FitzGibbon about Mrs. Secord. In my eyes she was more of a heroine than is generally known. Like Lady Godiva, her journey was performed not without clothing, but next to nothing, being only a flannel petticoat and what old people called a bed-gown, or short dress worn over the petticoat."

Mrs. Harriet Smith, who was the mother of Miss Smith, says: "I remember seeing my mother leave the house on that fateful morning, but neither I or my sisters knew on what errand she was bent. A flowered print gown, I think it was brown with orange flowers, at least a yellow tint, is connected with that particular morning."

Lady Edgar, in her first book, "Ten Years of Peace and War," in telling Mrs. Secord's story says: "As to Laura Secord's reward, it has come to her in the fame that rests on her name wherever the story of 1812 is told. The heroine lived until 1868, and sleeps now in that old cemetery at Drummondville, where lie so many of our brave soldiers."

Mrs. Herbert says: "It gave General Herbert the greatest pleasure to visit Niagara and its ever memorable surroundings, especially the field of Lundy's Lane. I trust the spot where Laura Secord rests will be marked by a monument worthy of the brave and noble spirit we all must honor."

Mrs. Curzon says: "FitzGibbon's prompt action, his success and promotion are matters of history. To Mrs. Secord he was ever grateful and never failed to show it on occasions. Promotion came to him but there was no reward to Laura Secord, whose self-devotion to her King and country led to it, nor did she ever look for reward save that achieved by the success of her errand."

