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The Canadian Pioneer Denison Family
. of .
County York, England
. and .
County York, Ontario



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HISTORY . GENEALOGY

and

BIOGRAPHY



(Copyright)

RICHARD LONTON DENISON

191 Dawlish Avenue
Toronto 12, Canada

It was the year 1815. The civilized world was at war with Napoleon Bonaparte, the little Corsican corporal who had risen to become Emperor of France and Mighty Conqueror of Europe. He had been defeated and banished to the island of Elba---but he had escaped, returned and been re-instated in France, and now again threatened the peace and security of the world! The British Army had been despatched to Belgium. Unlike modern wars, the fair ladies of the officers were permitted to follow, as civilians, their husbands and lovers across the channel. The British Army was commanded by many members of the peerage and landed aristocracy of England. As a result, the streets of the ancient city of Brussels flowed with the fairest titled ladies of England, and were as gay as the Great Ball which the Duchess of Richmond gave upon the evening of June 15, 1815 in a great hall in Brussels. At the Ball appeared beautiful titled ladies of England in their hoop-skirts gay with embroidery, their powdered hair-dos, their court-plaster beauty-spots, their gay laughter, not to mention the romantic love that shone from their sparkling eyes. The tall hanging candelabra of hundreds of candles cast light on the large polished floor, on the oak-panelling of the walls, and flickered in rhythm to the stirring music of the string quartette. Soft eyes looked love to eyes that spake again. All went merry as a marriage bell. But-- while the treble of the string quartette poured forth catchy melodies, and the cry from all lips was "On with the dance, let joy be unconfined", the deep diapason of War broke in, shattering the gaiety. There was mounting in hot haste, gathering tears; there were tremblings of distress, and cheeks all pale which but an hour ago blushed at the praise of their own loveliness.

The Ball is important to this book, because it was attended by Elizabeth Kinsey Dowson, ancestress of the Busholme Branch of the Denison Family. In his book, *Vanity Fair*, Thackeray has fully concerned himself with the Ball and the history of that period. Lord Byron once wrote a poem "Waterloo" as part of Canto III of his *Childe Harold Pilgrimage*. I loved this poem for itself as a boy, and still do. Here it is. Read it aloud. Listen to the moving music of its lines.

WATERLOO

There was a sound of revelry by night,
 And Belgium's capital had gathered then
 Her Beauty and her Chivalry, and bright
 The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men;
 A thousand hearts beat happily; and when
 Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
 Soft eyes looked love to eyes which spake again,
 And all went merry as a marriage bell;
 But hark! hark! a deep sound strikes like a rising knell!

Did ye not hear it?--No; 'twas but the wind,
 Or the car rattling o'er the stony street;
 On with the dance! let joy be unconfined;
 No sleep till morn, when Youth and Pleasure meet
 To chase the glowing hours with flying feet--
 But hark! --that heavy sound breaks in once more,
 As if the clouds its echoes would repeat;
 And nearer, clearer, deadlier than before!
 Arm! Arm! it is -- it is -- the cannon's opening roar!

Ah! then and there was hurrying to and fro,
 And gathering tears, and tremblings of distress,
 And cheeks all pale, which but an hour ago
 Blushed at the praise of their own loveliness;
 And there were sudden partings, such as press
 The life from out young hearts, and choking sighs
 Which ne'er might be repeated; who could guess

If ever more should meet those mutual eyes,
Since upon night so sweet such awful morn could rise!

And there was mounting in hot haste: the steed,
The mastering squadron, and the clattering car,
Went pouring forward with impetuous speed,
And swiftly forming in the ranks of war;
And the deep thunder peal on peal afar;
And near, the beat of the alarming drum
Roused up the soldier ere the morning star;
While thronged the citizens with terror dumb,
Or whispering with white lips--"The foe, they come! they come!"

And Ardennes waves above them her green leaves,
Dewy with nature's tear-drops as they pass,
Grieving, if aught inanimate o'er grieves,
Over the unreturning brave,--alas!
Ere evening to be trodden like the grass
Which now beneath them, but above shall grow
In its next verdure, when this fiery mass
Of living valour, rolling on the foe
And burning with high hope shall moulder cold and low.

Last noon beheld them full of lusty life,
Last eve in Beauty's circle proudly gay,
The midnight brought the signal sound of strife,
The morn the marshalling of arms,--the day,
Battle's magnificently stern array!
The thunder-clouds close o'er it, which when rent
The earth is covered thick with other clay,
Which her own clay shall cover, heaped and pent,
Rider and horse,--friend, foe,--in one red burial blent!

THE LOVE AFFAIR OF SIR PEREGRINE AND LADY MAITLAND

At the time of the Ball, Major Dawson was a lieutenant under the Duke of Richmond. Among his friends was another lieutenant, Lieut. Peregrine Maitland. At the ball, Maitland danced with the lovely Lady Sarah Lennox, daughter of the Duke of Richmond, and they fell in love. They realized that to obtain the Duke's permission to marry would be impossible, so great was the difference of rank between a mere lieutenant, albeit of gentle birth, and the daughter of a Duke of the Blood Royal. After Waterloo, they eloped and were married. The Duke was furious, but as happens usually in such cases he was reconciled to the marriage, and when he was appointed later Governor General of Canada, he secured the appointment of Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada for his son-in-law who was also knighted, and became Sir Peregrine Maitland. The Maitlands had three dogs, Tiny, Tay and Flos, and up around Penetanguishene are three townships named after the dogs, Tiny, Tay and Flos. The Duke, while visiting friends near Richmond, Carleton County, was bitten by a pet fox which had rabies. He contracted the disease, and was found afterwards wandering through the woods, the sight and sound of water throwing him into violent seizures, until he died. Sir Peregrine and Lady Maitland were ancestors of Lady Alexander, wife of the former Governor General of Canada.

THIRTEEN LITTLE ENGLISH SQUARES DEFEAT THE FINEST SOLDIERY OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON

When the Great Ball at Brussels was broken up, The Duke of Wellington retired to the Duke of Richmond's study. A map of the countryside was produced, and Wellington decided to stop the enemy at Quatre Bras, which he successfully accomplished; he then fell back to Mont St. Jean. There his army spent Saturday night in the rain. Major Dawson was out in the rain on Mont St. Jean that night with them.

The Battle of Waterloo was fought the following day, Sunday, June 18, 1815. The battlefield was the vast undulating plain leading up to Mont St. Jean. Mont St. Jean was not very high—just a height of ground with a gradual sloping of the land up to it; but it gave the English a measure of shelter from the enemy's view. At nine o'clock the French army moved in five columns; the artillery between, the bands in front, drums rattling, bagles sounding, a mighty, powerful, joyous army; a sea of bayonets and helmets. By 10:30 o'clock the whole army took up position, and was drawn up in six lines. The first cannon was fired at 25 minutes to twelve. The battle commenced furiously. At four o'clock in the afternoon, the situation of the English Army was serious. Their losses had been terrible. Picton had been killed. Three thousand combatants had been massacred. The Scotch Greys no longer existed. Ponsonby's heavy dragoons were cut to pieces, and he had fallen pierced by seven lance wounds. Gordon and March were dead. The fifth and sixth divisions were destroyed. The English Army, however, was strongly situated on the plateau of Mont St. Jean. Along the centre of the crest of this plateau ran a deep ditch or sunken road, which was invisible to the enemy at even a short distance. This trench or ditch connected two Belgian villages, and was known as the hollow road of Ohain. At certain places along the route between hills it became a ravine. A little after four o'clock, the English line fell back, all at once, from the plateau into the hollow. "Wellington is retreating," Napoleon shouted, as he half raised himself in his stirrups, and with the flash of victory in his eyes, he concluded to complete Wellington's supposed retreat by an overthrow, and he gave orders for his magnificent body of Cuirassiers to charge the plateau of Mont St. Jean. Napoleon had made a fatal error. He had failed to acquaint himself with the geography of the terrain over which he fought.

There were 3000 gigantic men mounted on colossal horses, forming 26 squadrons. The whole of this cavalry, with raised swords, with standards flying, charged across the valley in which so many men had fallen, and in the face of fierce cannonading and tremendous canister fire, traversed the battlefield like a flash, ascending the frightfully muddy incline of Mont St. Jean. Behind the crest of the plateau, in a hollow, in the shadow of a masked battery, thirteen English squares were waiting with their muskets, calm, dumb and motionless, for what was coming. (We can see Major Dawson as a lieutenant in one of these English squares.) Then appeared above the crest a long line of raised arms, brandishing sabres; a sea of helmets; a stern bounding of horses; the clang of cuirasses, bagles and standards, and three thousand deep-toned voices shouting "Long live the Emperor." On reaching the top of the crest, all at once, horrible to relate, the Cuirassiers noticed between them and the English, an awful trench. It was the sunken road of Ohain. It was a horrible moment; the ravine was there a grave, yawning, unexpected, almost precipitous, beneath the horses' feet, with a depth of 12 feet or more between its two sides. There was no possible means of escaping. The ranks behind thrust the ranks in front into this terrible abyss. The horses reared, fell back, slipped with all four feet in the air. Men and horses rolled into the trench pell-mell, crushing each other; and when this grave was full of living men and horses, the rest passed over. This commenced the loss of the battle. Sixty guns and the thirteen English squares, thundered shot and shell at the Cuirassiers at point blank range. The Cuirassiers did not have a moment for reflection, and rushed at the English squares at full gallop, with hanging bridles, sabres in their mouths, and pistols in their hands; their horses reared, leaped over the bayonets, and landed in the centre of four living walls. The aspect of the combat was appalling. Both armies were near exhaustion. At five o'clock, Wellington looked at his watch, and was heard to exclaim, "Blücher or night." At this moment a distant line of bayonets glistened on the horizon; it was Blücher. The appearance of a third army, with eighty-six cannon thundering at once; a new battle rushed at nightfall on the weakened French regiments. The whole English army resumed the offensive and pushed forward. The whole French army suddenly gave way on all sides in utter rout and confusion; friends killing each other, in order to escape; soldiers unharness horses from caissons and escape on them; wagons overturned block the road; men crush each other and trample over the dead and the living. A multitude of 40,000 men wild with terror. No comrades, no officers, no generals recognized. All indescribable rout and confusion. Amid this fearful convulsion, deserted by the balance of the army, the heroes of twenty victories, the Grenadiers of the Old Guard, with their tall bearskins, entered the battlefield, shouting as they marched to absolute death and destruction, "Long Live the Emperor". Napoleon's star rose at Austerlitz; it set at Waterloo.

Note: The foregoing description of the Battle of Waterloo is from a piece of piano music called "Napoleon's Last Charge" by E.F. Paull. It is something the writer has always liked to read. My first acquaintance with it and with the piece of music that goes with it, was in 1918. My grandmother, Helen Jane Farquhar Denison, was staying with us at our home in Grimsby, Ontario. I purchased a copy in Hamilton. My grandmother played it for me many times. I was eight, and my brother was three, and she used to "baby-sit" with us. Invariably I would get her to play the piano. Our piano was a fine but ancient Heintzman instrument. To be exact, there was a number inside it which showed that it was the 562nd instrument made by Heintzman, Toronto. It was solid rosewood, and heavy as lead. My grandmother would play for me by the hour. She played beautifully with no mistakes, every note exact, every nuance perfect. Sometimes she would play something that brought back to her memories, and she would stop with a tear in her eye. The First Great War had been fought and won. She had lost both her sons in it and two of her grandsons. She had paid a heavy price for the Victory.

Note: It is always difficult to reconstruct the story of the past: there are always conflicting reports. I am informed that Major Dawson was not present at the Great Ball. He was on duty with the army in the vicinity of Quatre Bras, where the next day Wellington fought and defeated Ney. Mrs. Dawson, however, says the report, was definitely present at the Ball. This was quite plucky of her, because two months later she gave birth to her son, Charles Frederick Dawson. I am also uncertain that Dawson was a member of those English squares. However, if he was not, he was with a regiment (the 35th) behind, somewhat in the position with respect to the English army, that the Grenadiers of the Old Guard bore to the French army.

Note: Napoleon must have been quite stupid. He lets Ney go on ahead, and let the English know he is coming. This gives them time to send despatch riders to Blücher. Why did not Ney creep up on Brussels instead of rousing the whole city with his cannon-fire? He could have made a Pearl Harbour of Brussels. The English soldiers were all asleep, and their officers were at a stylish Ball. The citizens of Brussels were none too friendly to the English either. It is also said that Napoleon could hardly stay awake during the worst fighting at Waterloo.

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MAJOR JEREMIAH WILKES DAWSON

Major Dawson was born at Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England, Feb. 6, 1792. He became a Lieutenant in the West Stafford Local Militia under Sir John Wrothby, Lt.-Col., who recommended him for a commission in the Regular Army. (Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2, War Office Record, 31/385) (The following largely from W.O. 25-787). He became an Ensign in the 35th Regiment "without purchase" Oct. 7, 1813, and embarked for Holland and Flanders Dec. 20, 1813. He was there till Feb. 6, 1816. He served with the 2nd Battalion of the 35th Regiment under Lord Lyndeck in Holland and at the Surrender of Antwerp in 1814. He was in action at the Battle of Quatre Bras, June 16, 1815. He was present at the Battle of Waterloo, and may possibly have been in action. In August 1815, he appears at Bruges, Flanders. He leaves the continent Feb. 6, 1816, and appears with his regiment under the Duke of Richmond in June in Southern Ireland. When in command of a Detachment of the 35th Regiment in an attack of a numerous banditti in the woods of Killoughran, County Wexford, Ireland, June 24, 1816, he apprehended three principal leaders, after having five of the men under his command wounded. For this, he received the approbation of General Doyle, dated Clonmel, Tipperary, June 27, 1816, and the thanks of the inhabitants of Enniscorthy and vicinity, and of the Grand Jury of County Wexford, 1816, for his conduct on the occasion. On June 24, 1816, while in action, he suffered contusion of his right shoulder by a spent shot in the woods of Killoughran, County Wexford. He was the recipient of thanks of the Commissioners of Excise and Taxes in Ireland for his very gallant and highly meritorious conduct on the 26th of November, 1816, while acting under a Revenue Officer at Newtown Barry, County Wexford, to which they added Ten Pounds Sterling for his own use, and Treble Bounty for the men. While at Enniscorthy, Wexford, May 24, 1817, his daughter, Mary Anne, was born. Later, she became the wife of Colonel George Taylor Denison the Second of Rushmore. Due to his wound in his right shoulder, he and family returned to England, July 1817, and took up residence in Walke at Hobbinstone, Milford Haven, in Pembrokeshire. On Dec. 15, 1821, he appears with his wife and children at Brunstone Hill, St. Kitts. St. Kitts is

the Island of St. Christopher, in the British West Indies---one of the Leeward Islands. He remains there till Sept. 24, 1823. He arrives in Canada May 12, 1827, and appears at Kingston, Upper Canada, and at Quebec, having revisited England, and having received "by exchange and without purchase" a lieutenancy in the 3rd Foot, dated Oct. 2, 1823, a lieutenancy in the 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Mar. 25, 1824, "without paying the difference", and a lieutenancy in the 15th Foot, Apr. 9, 1825, "by transfer". He also had become Quartermaster, in the 15th Foot, Aug. 3, 1826. He served in Canada from May 12, 1827 to Dec. 31, 1829. He remained in the army in Canada, and retired on half-pay through ill health, July 1839 (Army List, 1839). About 1833, the Dowsens took up residence at the Old Fort, at Toronto. About 1838, they moved to Bond Head, Ontario.

Major Dowson served 7 years, 200 days abroad on full pay, 8 years 76 days at home on full pay, and the remaining time on half pay.

Major Dowson married Oct. 23, 1811, Elisabeth Kinsey, at Wombourne Church, Wolverhampton. The ceremony was performed by the Curate. They had the following children.

1. Alfred Kinsey Dowson, born July 26, 1812, baptised at Wolverhampton.
2. Elisabeth Dowson, born Dec. 2, 1813, baptised Harwich, and later Wolverhampton.
3. Charles Frederick Dowson, born Aug. 16, 1815, baptised at Bruges, Flanders and at Hobberstone, Milford-Haven.
4. Mary Anne Dowson, born May 24, 1817 at Vinegar Hill, Enniscorthy, Wexford, Ireland, baptised at Hobberstone, Milford-Haven, Pembrokeshire, Wales.
5. Andrew George Dowson, born Oct. 22, 1822, baptised at Brunstone Hill or Barnstone Hill, St. Kitts, Leeward Islands, British West Indies.
6. Julius Dowson, born July 20, 1825, baptised at Hobberstone, Milford-Haven.
7. Marcella, born July 24, 1827, baptised at Kingston, Upper Canada and at Quebec.
8. Adelaide, born Sept. 12, 1830, baptised at Quebec.
9. Thomas Dowson, born 1833, probably at the Old Fort, York, Upper Canada.

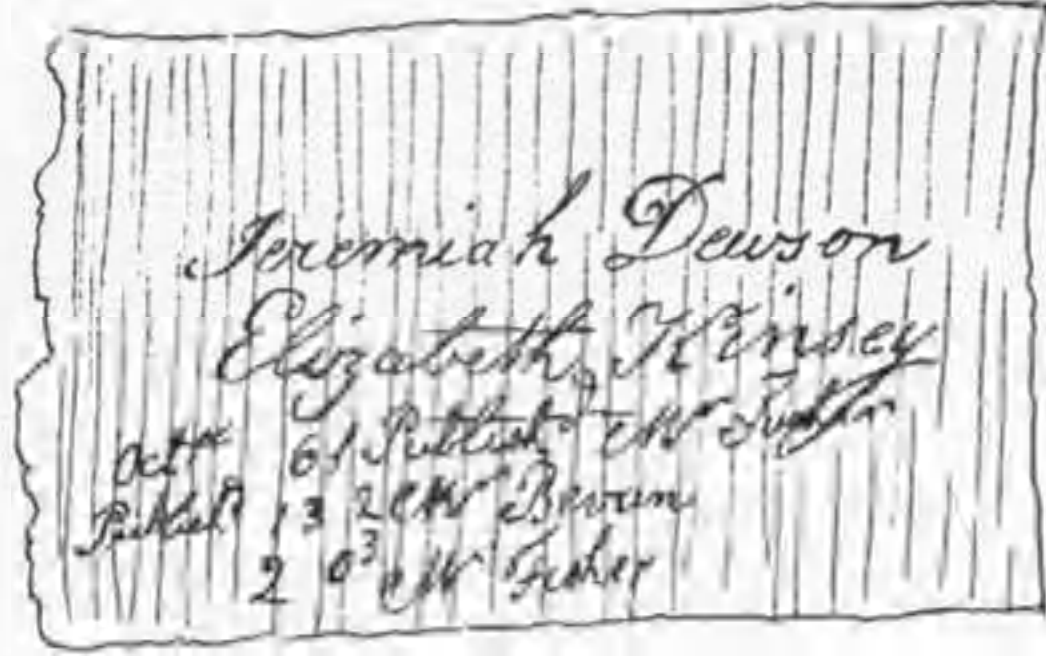
Of the above children, it is with Mary Anne that this record is chiefly concerned. Andrew George Dowson is said to have fought for the South in the American Civil War. Julius was a bachelor. Marcella married Rev. Joseph Gibson, first Rector of St. Anne's Church, Toronto. Her only son was drowned in the River Humber. Adelaide married John Wilson and had a numerous family. Thomas Dowson was manager of the old St. Lawrence Bank at Bradford. The St. Lawrence Bank was taken over by the Standard Bank, and that in turn by our present Canadian Bank of Commerce. Thomas married Mary Lynd, who is affectionately referred to by her nieces as "Aunt Mary". Mrs. K. Moulton Clark of 5 Binscarth Road, Toronto is a niece of Mary Lynd Dowson, being a descendant of the Lynds.

I caused a search to be made into the Baptismal Registers of the Collegiate Church of St. Peter, Wolverhampton. This is what I found. They also inform me that the place the old records spell Hebburstone is to-day spelled Hubberstone.

Date of Baptism

Apr. 5, 1774, Joseph, son of Benjamin and Sarah Dowson.
 Oct. 15, 1775, Mary, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Dowson.
 Mar. 31, 1777, Benjamin, son of " " "
 Feb. 14, 1779, John, son of " " "
 Jan. 3, 1781, Thomas, son of " " "
 Dec. 2, 1789, John, son of " " "
 Aug. 27, 1786, Mary, daughter of Richard and Lydia Dowson.
 Apr. 24, 1791, Imelia, daughter of John and Margaret Dowson.
 Oct. 20, 1793, Maria, daughter of " " "
 July 15, 1798, Ann, daughter of Benjamin and Ann Dowson.
 Dec. 30, 1798, Sarah, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Dowson.
 Jan. 28, 1799, Margaret, daughter of John and Margaret Dowson.
 Apr. 9, 1801, Caroline, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Dowson.
 Apr. 9, 1801, Sarah, daughter of Benjamin and Ann Dowson.
 Apr. 9, 1801, Marcella, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah Dowson, (born Nov. 9, 1792)
 Oct. 11, 1802, Benjamin, son of Benjamin and Ann Dowson.

JUST A SCRAP OF OLD PAPER



Just a scrap of old paper, the above slip was the original one used by the clergy to publish the banns of marriage of Jeremiah Dawson and Elizabeth Kinsey. This is as near an accurate facsimile as I can make.

Rev. W.S. Bethway, B.L., B.Sc., Rural Dean of Trysull, and Rector of the Parish of Wombourn, at Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England, sent me the above slip of paper. He says: "This slip of paper I found by chance. It is the original bit of paper used in 1811 for the publication of the banns by the officiating minister. Unfortunately, I have been unable to trace any entries of the Kinsey or Dawson families in the Wombourn registers."

He enclosed also a copy of the marriage entry from the Parish Register. It is worded thus:
 "No. 442.

Jeremiah Dawson of this parish and Elizabeth Kinsey of the same, married in this Church by banns this twenty-third day of October in the year One Thousand Eight hundred and eleven by me

JAMES BEVING, Curate.

The marriage was solemnised between us.

JEREMIAH DAWSON

ELIZABETH KINSEY

In the presence of

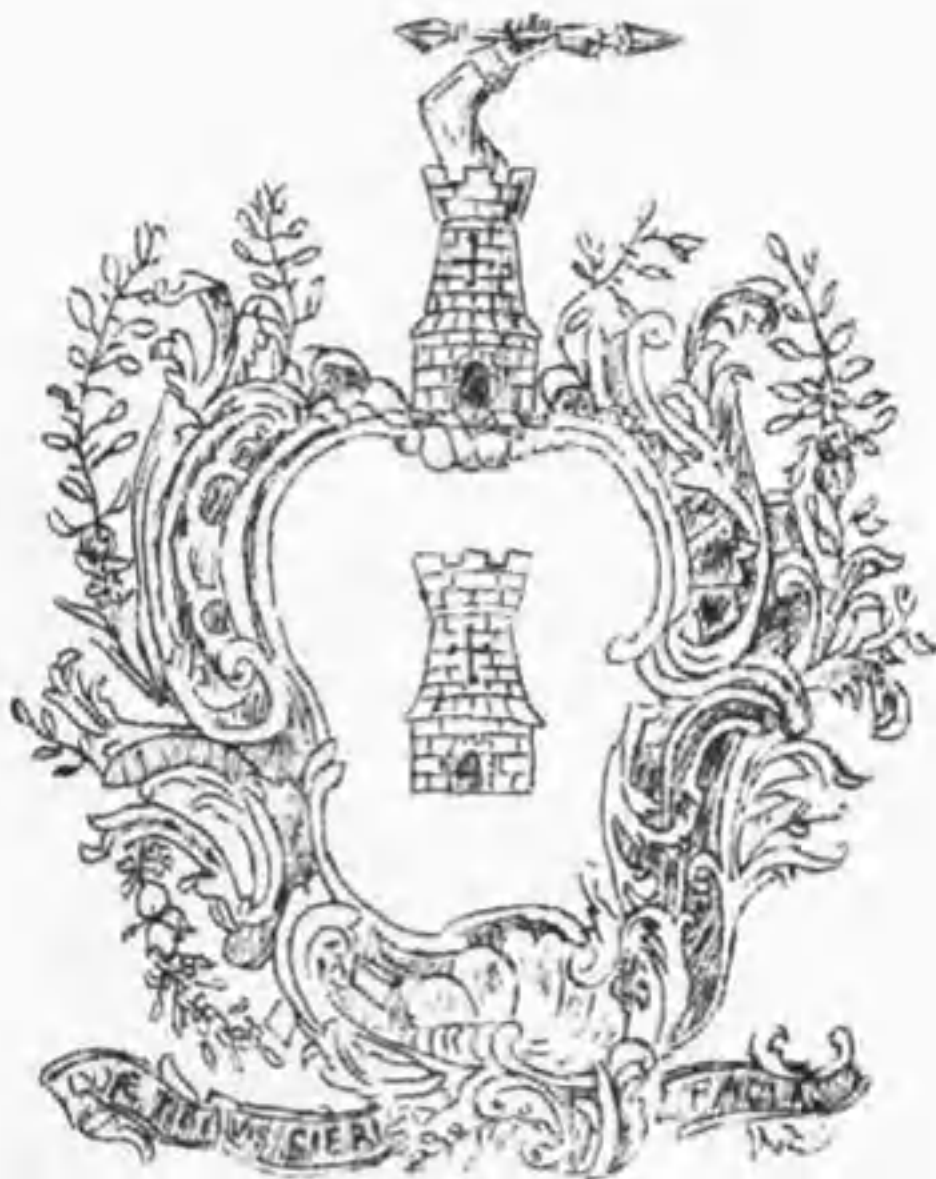
MARY EAGLES

JOSIAH SADLER "



JEREMIAH WILKES DENSON

This is what he looked like when he had his portrait
printed in miniature on ivory in Brussels while he
was serving in the Waterloo Campaign under the Duke
of Wellington.



Major Dewson's wife was Elizabeth Kinsey. Above is the Armorial Coat of the Kinsey family, described thus: Argent, a tower gules. Crest—Out of the top of a tower gules, an arm embowed, vested vert, hand proper, holding a spear in fesse. Motto: Quae tibi fieri, facias. The above design, probably Chippendale, contains much gold ornamentation. The leaves are green, the flowers white, and the apples red. The Dewsons were not, as far as I know, entitled to armorial bearings.

The motto: 'Quae tibi vis fieri, facias' means literally 'What you want to be done for your advantage, that you must do' or 'The Lord helps those, who help themselves (but Lord help those who get caught). (Vis is the verb, not the noun; and tibi is an example of the dative of advantage.)

Feb. 13, 1803, Benjamin Adams Dawson, son of Joseph and Sarah Dawson.
 Feb. 13, 1803, Jeremiah, son of Benjamin and Sarah Dawson (born Feb. 6, 1792).

From the above, it would appear that for some reason or other they did not baptise our Jeremiah Wilkes Dawson till 1803. Could so fine and strong a soldier in later life have been a sickly baby, that could not be baptised till he was eleven? What was the reason? His sister, Marcella, is born Nov. 9, of the same year as himself, unless the dates are incorrect, which might very well be possible. It is difficult to read records so old and faded!

DEWSON'S LETTERS CONCERNING LAND AND MILITARY SERVICE

From the Dominion and Provincial (Ontario) Archives:

Envelope:

Wood-cut postmark "Bond Head, U.C., Apr. 13, 1843. To The Honourable A.N. Merin, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Kingston. J.W. Dawson, Bond Head, 13 Apr. 1843, respecting scrip he is entitled to for military services.

Letter:

Bond Head, District Simcoe,
 13th April, 1843.

Sir:

I had the honour to apply to you on the 3rd of December 1842, relative to £151.12.0 due to me in lieu of a grant of Land, for which I requested to be allowed to receive the same in Scrip, which in reply you were pleased to inform me that my letter would be laid before His Excellency the Governor General and Council. The delay, I presume, was due to the lamented illness of His Excellency. Living at so great a distance from the seat of Government, I have given a power of attorney to Mr. Bell, Land Agent, to pass the proper receipts when the scrip may be delivered. I should not be so urgent, but having to pay for some land, I am fearful I shall lose the same without immediate payment.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Your Most Obed^t Servant,

J.W. Dawson, late Lieut. 15th Reg^t

The letter referred to above, was worded as follows:

Bond Head, Co. Simcoe,
 3rd December, 1842.

Sir:

Having in consequence of my retirement from Her Majesty's 15th Reg^t become entitled, "under the authority of an order-in-council of the 12th of March, 1840" to a remission in lieu of Lands of £180.0.0 currency, -- out of which, I paid for two small lots in the Township of King and West Gwillimbury on the 7th April following, £ 28.8.0 leaving a balance in my favour of £151.12.0 Cy., may I, therefore, request you will be kind enough to grant me scrip to that amount, and forwarded to me by post. I trust the mode of application is correct.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Your Most Obedient Humble Servant,

J.W. Dawson, late Lieut. & Q^u M^t 15th Reg^t

A letter to Major-General Sir George Arthur, K.C.H., is worded by Dawson in his own handwriting also as follows:

Toronto, 8th April 1840.

The Memorial of Lieut. and Qr. Master Dawson, Half Pay, 15th Regiment of Foot. Sheweth--

That your Memorialist has resided upon a farm in the County of Simcoe for the period of three years, with upwards of One Hundred Acres of improvements---That your Memorialist has been allowed by the regulations a remission of £180.0.0 Cy. in the purchase of Public Lands, and having purchased Lot 3 in the 1st Concession of West Gwillimbury, and the south part of 3 in the 11th Concession of King.

Your Memorialist therefore prays Your Excellency and Gentlemen will be pleased to sanction his getting the usual Patent Deeds.

J.W. Dawson,

Lieut. & Q. M^t H.P. 15th Foot.

On the reverse side of this is written:

To His Excellency Major-General Sir George
Arthur K. C. B. and the Honorable the Executive
Council in S. S.

The Memorial of [redacted] and [redacted]
Lieutenant Major 15th Regiment of Foot,
New South Wales

That your [redacted] has re-
sided upon a farm in the County of
Simons for the period of three years
with upwards of one hundred acres of
improvements - that your Memorialists
have been allowed by the Legislature a re-
-imbursement of £180-0-0 by the purchase
of Public Land - and having purchased
Lot 3 in 1st Township of West Phillip Bay - and
South part of 3 in the 11th Township of New-
your Memorialists therefore pray
your Excellency and Gentlemen will be
pleased to sanction his getting the usual
[redacted] deeds

J. H. Dawson

Lieut & Major 15th Foot

[redacted]

5th April 1840-

Miss H.M. Denison of Brampton has added some interesting facts about the Dawsens and Denisons. She says:

Of course you know that Major Dawson was at the Famous Ball given in Brussels by the Duchess of Richmond and Lennox on the evening of June 15th, 1815. There was another ball given in Brussels after the Armistice in 1919, at which my brother, the late Colonel Walter W. Denison, was present.

You will also have heard that Jeremiah Dawson had a miniature of himself painted on ivory in Brussels. Many years later, the well-known Toronto artist, Bérthou, used this ivory miniature as a guide in painting for the family three portraits of Dawson. (They were large ones in oils. One hangs at Rusholme; one is owned by Mrs. A. Woodburn Langmuir; one by Mrs. Walter W. Denison; and one by Mr. Denison Brock of London, England.)

The little Anglican Church attended by the Dawsens in the Township of West Gwillimbury is the one on the north side of the highway running between Bradford and Bond Head, which has now been closed for a good number of years, but which was re-shingled recently by someone interested in its preservation.

Mrs. Kenneth Holmes of Bond Head says that she and her brother, Mr. Elwell MacKay, were born on Lot No. 1, North half of the 4th Concession of West Gwillimbury. The MacKays bought their farm from the Dawsens many years ago. The farm is about two and a half miles south of Bond Head on the east side of Highway No. 27.

FAMILY MEMENTOS

Mrs Benjamin A. Bowman, daughter of the late General Septimus Denison, has the following family mementos among many others:

1. A commission of Jeremiah Wilkes Dawson bearing the original signature of His Majesty King George III.
2. A commission of Septimus Julius Augustus Denison bearing the original signature of Queen Victoria.
3. The French Valentine which Aunt Emily (Emily Jane Winn Denison, wife of Col. R.B. Denison) once traded to her grandfather (Col. G.T. Denison the Second) for a Bible.
4. The pencil sketch of Esther Borden Lippincott.
5. The family coat-of-arms with the Cross of St. Michael and St. George depicted as hanging from a blue ribbon from behind the shield and appearing below the motto-wreath. (In heraldry, a man is entitled to display a decoration of the importance of a C.M.G., in a painting of his personal coat-of-arms.)

The writer possesses the Lippincott Family Bible. It is the one they carried with them when they came to Canada as United Empire Loyalists. It is the King James Version. It was printed at Oxford, by Thomas Baskell, Printer to the University, 1755 (Price Six Shillings Unbound). It is bound in leather, and the fly-leaves contain entries of births marriages and deaths in the handwriting of Captain Lippincott and others.



Caused All The Trouble

Crown Lands Office,
Toronto, 30 April, 1840.

I see no objection to the prayer of the petitioner being complied with, he having resided for several years in the County and being now resident upon a farm in the Home District, which he purchased for Four Hundred Pounds.

R.W.Sullivan.

In Council 2nd May 1840,

Recommended: R.W.Sullivan.

DEWSON'S APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS AND
COMMISSIONS IN CANADA ETC.

The following are from the Dominion Archives, Ottawa, from their "C" Series, the numbers refer to pages therein:

DEWSON, Jeremiah Wilkes, Lieut. and Quartermaster, 15th Regiment:

To Lt.-Col. Craig. Solicits his influence with Lord Aylmer for appointment as Town Major, Kingston Jan. 28, 1832 C 842, p.10

To Lt.-Col. Glegg, solicits his influence with Lord Aylmer re Town Major appointment, Feb. 6, 1832 C 842, pp.8, 12.

To Lt.-Col. Glegg, Will retire on half-pay, if appointed Fort Adjutant at Coteau-du-Lac Camp, St. Helen's. Sept. 9, 1832 C 842 p.38

Dewson as candidate for appointment in Royal Canadian Regiment recommended by Sir R.D. Jackson, Jan. 23, 1841. C 769, pp. 41, 43.

Many other references are given, but these seemed the most important to me.

DEWSON IN THE REBELLION OF 1837 IN BOND HEAD AND YORK

Cel. George Taylor Denison the Third in his book "Soldiering in Canada", page 25, says:

My maternal grandfather, the late Major Dewson, who had served in the Waterloo campaign in the 35th Regiment of foot under the Duke of Richmond, and who had only sold out of the army about a year before, had settled on a farm near Bond Head, about forty miles north of Toronto. The news of the Rebellion spread through the country, and the farmers, without waiting for orders or appeals for help, immediately sent word in every direction for all able-bodied men with any arms they could get, to gather at the village of Bradford, where, in a day or two, over six hundred loyal men mustered to uphold the constitution. They elected, Major Dewson, my grandfather, to command them, and as soon as they were organized and had arranged for food, etc., they commenced the march down Yonge Street to Toronto. They had arrived within some miles of Gallows Hill, when they met a number of fugitive rebels flying from that place. They captured some prisoners and, tying them together with plough lines, they brought them on to Toronto and surrendered them to Sir Francis Head, the Governor, who gave the misguided men a stern lecture and released them, and told them to go to their homes and be loyal in the future.

After the Rebellion, George Cumett was appointed to make a survey of Southern Ontario, and submit a report to the Honourable John Macaulay at Government House as to who had remained loyal and who had not, and was still to be distrusted. To make this survey, he took with him a detachment of 15 of Captain Denison's Dragoons, and four special constables. Colonel George Taylor Denison the Second, then a young lawyer, newly called to the bar, was anxious to become one of the party. He was particularly interested as it afforded him another opportunity of visiting Bond Head, Ontario. The attraction in Bond Head, was the lovely Miss Mary Anne Dewson, to whom he had become engaged some five years earlier. He had promised to marry her as soon as he was called to the bar. This had just happened, and he wished to inform her of it, and arrange for their wedding, which occurred in St. James' Cathedral about

a month later. George Denison and Cumett lodged at Major Dawson's home in Bond Head during the itinerary. Cumett made his report in the form of a letter dated at Toronto Nov. 24, 1838. It is too long to give here, but here are some interesting excerpts from it:

Arthur Armstrong: The person who is authorized to raise an independent company at Lloydtown. He is a resident of, and has a farm in the township of King. He is an Irishman, and a loyal man. As His Excellency is probably acquainted with Armstrong, it may not be necessary to describe him further.

From Lloydtown we proceeded to the village of Bond Head in West Gwillimbury, a distance of 9 miles, where we remained during the night. (They stayed at Major Dawson's house.) Should His Excellency think proper to appoint a Magistrate here, I would respectfully recommend the name of Joel Flesher Robinson, an Englishman, a merchant, a loyal and sensible man, of considerable property about Bond Head, and also in the neighbouring Village of Bradford. I might also mention the name of Major Jeremiah Wilkes Dawson, who has a farm and resides in the neighbourhood.

Major Dawson and Mr. Robinson informed me that a man named Stevenson had come in there the day previous in some alarm, and complained that the rebels were holding meetings twice a week at a School House on the Penetanguishene Road.

.....

Colonel George Taylor Denison the Second and Mary Anne Dawson were married at St. James' Cathedral, Toronto, Dec. 11, 1838. The Denisons had been a military family, and this marriage to a daughter of so fine a soldier as Major Dawson seems, according to the unchanging laws of heredity, to have re-inforced this propensity for prowess in things military in all the sons of this marriage. Mary Anne Dawson has therefore been termed "the mother of soldiers". Of her seven sons, six of them bore arms for their sovereign, a record hitherto, unequalled in Canada. In writing the biographical sketches of her sons in his book "Canadian Biography" George Maclean Rose, Toronto, Feb. 1886, has this to say about these Denisons. I have taken the liberty of changing the wording somewhat. Rose says:

To those who think of the law of heredity, there is probably in Canada no more noticeable instance of its continuity. (Than the Canadian Pioneer Denison Rusholme Branch in particular.) "The child is father of the man", as Wordsworth says, but the child is the son of its father as well, and the leanings and temperament stored up in a family seem, with occasional lapses and variations, to be as surely transmitted from father to son, as the lineaments of form and face. This law of heredity is, perhaps, more undeviating in families of military disposition than in any others. The organizing faculties, the instinct of obedience and of command, and the toughness and endurance inseparably associated with the military character, are not less likely to be transmitted than more irregular and impressionable qualities. Genius, it is said, is not hereditary; and, limiting this term strictly to the creative mind, in the ideal world of poetry and art, the saying is a correct one. But, in the wider acceptation of the term, it applies to special ability in other spheres of mental activity, and, in this sense, its appearance may reasonably be looked for in a family distinguished for generations by a particular taste. That it is possessed by these Denisons, will not be denied by any Canadian who is proud of his country's advancement, and of the intellectual achievements of her sons. The late momentous rebellion in the North-west has dispelled the indifference with which many Canadians looked upon their citizen-soldiers; and it is now seen how much the Dominion owes to men who, in the face of apathy, and even ridicule, kept alive, often at their own expense, that volunteer organization which saved the Dominion in its hour of peril.

.....

Note: From W. A. Stewart, Librarian, The Royal Canadian Military Institute:
"The commanding officer of the main portion of the Simcoe Militia was Jeremiah Wilkes Dawson. He was gazetted a Major of an Incorporated Regiment, and afterwards held the rank of Colonel in the Simcoe Militia. He died in West Gwillimbury Township Aug. 29, 1852."



MARY ANNE (DEWSON) DENISON
THE MOTHER OF SOLDIERS

Mr. Notman and Mr. Fraser would both be very angry with the writer if they knew that he had done this to their lovely photograph of Mary Anne. However both these famous photographers of Toronto and Montreal are now long since departed.

This was her signature
BEFORE she married.

M. A. Dewson

This was her signature
AFTER she married.

M. A. Denison

Notice how slight the change.

He was educated at Upper Canada College, studied law, and was called to the bar around 1839. Although a lawyer by profession, the energies of his life were devoted to the volunteer service. In 1837 he served at the Battle of Gallow's Hill, and the winter march to Scotland Village. In the Siege of Navy Island he took a prominent part, and was one of the officers who obtained the information which led to the capture of the steamer Caroline. In 1838 he became a lieutenant in the Governor-General's Body Guard, and in 1846 obtained the command of it. In 1855 he took an active part in organizing the militia under the new law passed that year, which was the foundation of the present military system of Canada. He brought a squadron of cavalry into the new force, and shortly afterwards organized the Toronto Field Battery, and in 1860, at the request of Sir Edmund Head, he organized the Queen's Own Rifles, and was appointed the commandant of the Volunteer Force of the 5th and 10th military districts. He was promoted to the rank of full colonel in Oct. 1860, and from that time he was the senior officer in the Province of Ontario. He may fairly be considered the founder of the volunteer force in Toronto, having organized the cavalry, infantry and rifles. He was for many years an alderman for St. Patrick's ward in Toronto, was vice-president of the York Pioneers, and for many years a member of the Synod of the Church of England.

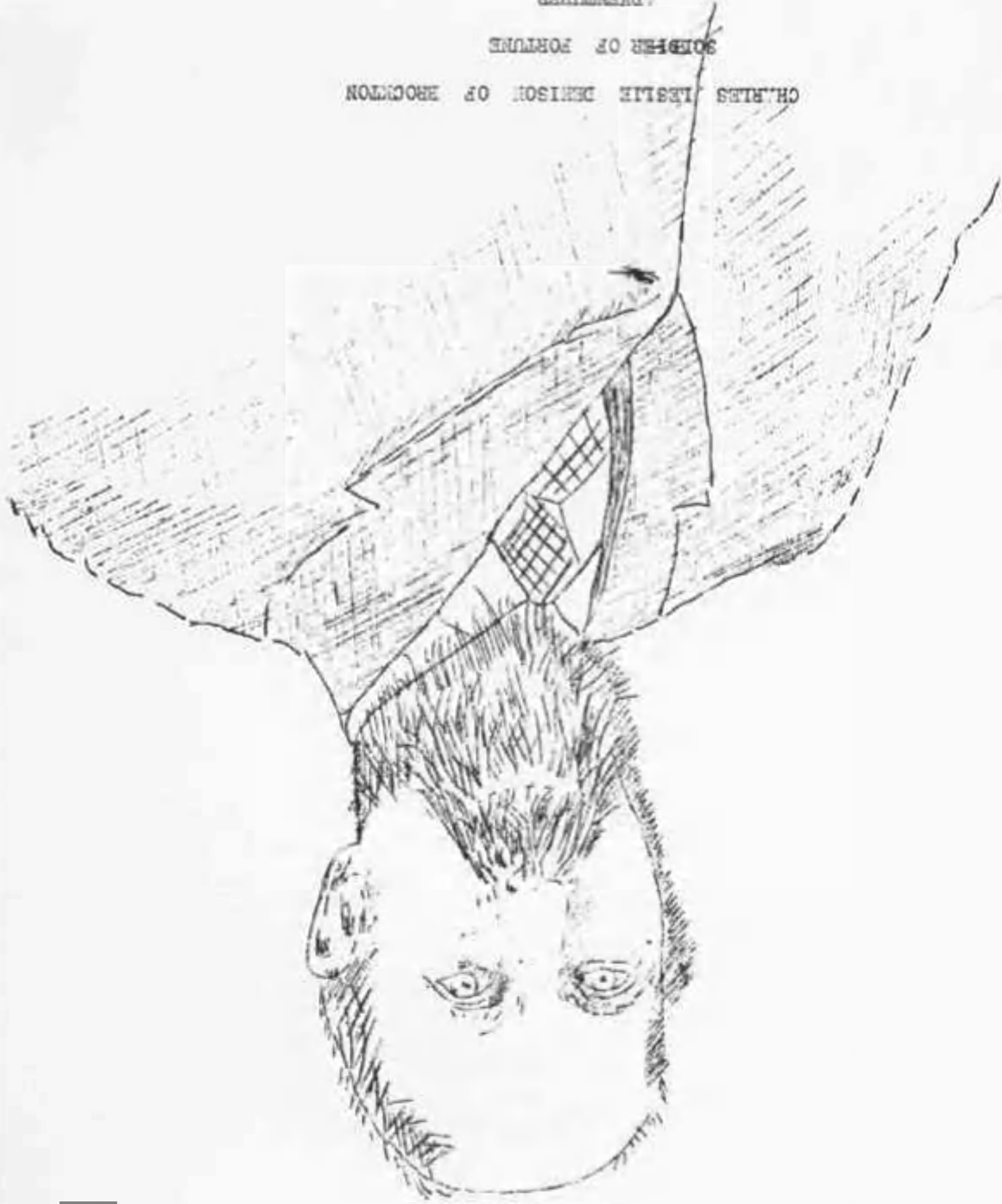
.....
Mar 4, 1853

The above date was an unhappy one for the Denisons. It was the date of an historic tragedy in the family circle. There were two brothers---John Denison, fourteen, and Charles Leslie Denison, just twelve. They were fast chums. Both were attending Upper Canada College. One of them had been given a rifle for Christmas. All budding soldiers must know how to handle a rifle. This day they brought home from school with them several chums, got the rifle, and to amuse the chums were fooling with it. It was the old story: "I did not know it was loaded". They had a lively time outside playing at cowboys and Indians or whatever game of a similar nature boys in those days used to play. They would take a bead on each other and pull the trigger 'click'. All went well. Nothing happened---until Charles pointed it at his brother John. The beastly thing went off, fatally wounding John. Charles was heart-broken at this terrible thing that had happened. The family had a difficult time with him, as he would not return to school. His older brother, Col. George T. Denison the Second, then a man of affairs and lawyer of thirty-seven, did much to get Charles to go back to school. The first day back at school on calling the roll, one of the masters remarked to Charles, "Have you been on any hunting expeditions lately?" That did it; Charles rushed from the room in tears and ran home. He refused to return to school. His father and his older brother, both called George, were furious. The older George told the younger to go down to that school and thoroughly thrash that master. So George the Second went down to the school, and craved an audience with the master in question in the school office. When they were both in the office, he locked the door, put the key in his pocket, and explained that he had been sent to thrash him. He gave him a tremendous beating-up with his fists, unlocked the door, and threw the master out into the middle of the hall to the great amusement of all the pupils who had gathered upon hearing the fracas. The master had two black eyes, a bloody nose and a torn shirt. George did not have a mark on him. His hair was scarcely ruffled. He said, "There you are, boys. Take him away." Whereupon he made a gesture of wiping off his hands, and marched out, proud that the family honour had been well upheld. George was charged with assault, and found guilty, but the pupils at Upper Canada College came forward and paid his fine for him, "because he had done a good job". The master was subsequently dismissed. Charles in later life was appointed supernumerary cornet in the C.G.B.C., Oct. 18, 1858, cornet, June 19, 1861, licut., Dec. 6, 1861, retired Aug. 25, 1865. He fought in the American Civil War, once being marooned behind enemy lines. He rode his horse all night till it dropped dead. He then traded his fine cavalry boots to a negro for a mule. The coloured gentleman said in his slow southern drawl, after the bargain had been sealed, "That mule shore an slow, yuh shore made a bad bargain." Charles replied, "Oh, that's all

ADVERTISER

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

CHARLES LESLIE DENISON OF BROOKTON





CHARLES LESLIE DENISON'S RESIDENCE IN BROCKTON

Above is Charles Leslie Denison's residence in the Village of Brockton, which is now part of the City of Toronto. This is as it is to-day. It stands on Dufferin Street, opposite the Rectory of St. Ann's Church. From its front door may be seen the rear of St. Ann's Anglican Church.

Charles Leslie Denison fought for the South in the American Civil War. It seems that he was in the South when the war broke out. As he was a foreigner, a Canadian, the Confederate Army suspected him as a Northern Spy. It is also said that they gave him the opportunity either of joining up or being shot as a spy. He preferred to join the Confederate Army. He was attached to General Green's Cavalry, in which he rose to the rank of Major.

The above house was brick, later painted over. There was a winding staircase inside.

right, John, your feet are too d--- big for these shoes." The negro replied, "Sure enough, Boss, but I can get twenty bucks easy for dem shoes, and the ole mule she ain't worth mo' 'n ten." On the old mule, Charles Leslie Denison got back to his own troops without being captured.

.....

MARY ANNE DENISON'S FAMOUS SONS

Colonel George Taylor Denison the Third of Heydon Villa

The most famous member of our Canadian Pioneer Denison Family was undoubtedly Colonel George Taylor Denison the Third, usually described as "of Heydon Villa". Although he has been dead a goodly number of years now, I find that in Toronto his memory is still green to-day. Many times I have been asked if I were related to "the Toronto Denisons". I have made it a point to find out which particular Denison the questioner had in mind. In almost every case, I found that it was Colonel G.T. the Third. From this fact, I would suggest that his name is symbolic of the whole family and synonymous with it.

His outstanding military turn of mind was noticeable from early boyhood. At fifteen he was a cornet in the Dragoons; at seventeen, a lieutenant; at twenty, a major; at twenty-seven a lieutenant-colonel. He wrote of himself that he was "the youngest cornet, lieutenant, captain, major, and lieutenant-colonel in Canadian Cavalry". None has come forward to refute this. For the forty-three years between 1854 and 1898, he was continuously in the service of the Queen.

When it came to things military, he was always ahead of his time. The earliest instance of this, was a pamphlet published in 1861, in which he predicted the Fenian Raid which did not occur till five years later. In many cases his own country was the last to learn the wisdom of his ideas, often after they had experienced the enemy using against them the very methods that he had so earnestly advocated that his own country use against the enemy, but all to no avail. He was a prolific author. One of his books he wrote in a contest with all the known writers on military affairs in every country of the world. The grand prize was a thousand roubles offered by the Czar of Russia for the world's best book on Cavalry. Colonel George Denison won it. This book, "Modern Cavalry" published in 1870, became the textbook of all the leading military schools of the world.

For more than forty years, he was Police Magistrate of Toronto. He always walked from his home, Heydon Villa, to the City Hall every working-day morning. He never ever accepted "a lift" to the City Hall, or proceeded there by other means than his own legs. Incidentally, he was never late once---a grand record.

He was a staunch advocate of Imperial Unity, and was intensely loyal to the British Throne and all things for which it stood.

He loved his home in Toronto, the home of his ancestors, and in his writings refers with affection to "the great trees under which he played as a boy! Like himself, most of those trees are gone now.

He was called to the bar in 1861. He was an alderman for St. Patrick's Ward, Toronto, on the City Council, from 1865 to 1867.

He served at the Fenian Raid, 1866, commanding outposts under Major-General Sir Garnet Wolseley (after whom he named one of his sons). In 1872, he contested Algoma in the Federal Elections but was defeated. In 1865, he served at the North West Rebellion.

Among his literary works are included the following: "Manual of Outpost Duties", Toronto, 1866; "History of the Fenian Raid", Toronto, 1866; "Modern Cavalry" London, England, 1868, translated into German, Munich, 1869, translated into Russian, St. Petersburg, 1872, translated into Hungarian, Budapest, 1880. His "History of Cavalry" was also translated into these three languages, and possibly others. Besides the Czar's prize, Lord Dufferin presented him with a bronze medal 'honoris causa'. He visited St. Petersburg, and was presented to the Czar and Czarina. He also wrote "Soldiering in Canada", and "Recollections of a Police Magistrate". He was president of the English literature section of the Royal Society of Canada.

In all his years on the bench, no word of scandal ever tended to shake public confidence in the court. Fearless and impartial, he was never affected by improper influences. He was Magistrate from 1877 to 1921.

COLONEL
GEORGE TAYLOR DENISON
THE THIRD OF
HEYDON AVENUE



Winner of the Czar's Prize

His crowning achievement was his winning of the Czar's prize of one thousand roubles for the best work on military operations on horseback in all ages and lands. The competition was open to officers of all nationalities and the Colonel resolved to enter the lists. The work was to be done in two and one half years and to be written in the Russian language. The way in which the Colonel set about this gigantic task was characteristic of his indomitable energy. He was able to read only French and English, so he engaged a translator in New York, sent an agent to London for all books referring to cavalry and set to work.

For two years he worked eight hours a day on his cherished theme, in addition to managing his own law business at that time a substantial one. Often during this period he would hear the town clock chime six a.m., and by that time have already put in two hours' hard work. In those two years he waded through 700 volumes, mostly in foreign tongues, and finally spent the last two months in St. Petersburg. When the manuscript was translated into Russian by some seventeen copyists, he was one of three out of 23 competitors who sent in completed books. He eventually captured first prize, a triumph which was crowned by a special presentation to the Czar.

.....
A local character once said: "If I'm innocent, I want to go before the Colonel; but if they've got the 'goods' on me, give me a jury every time."

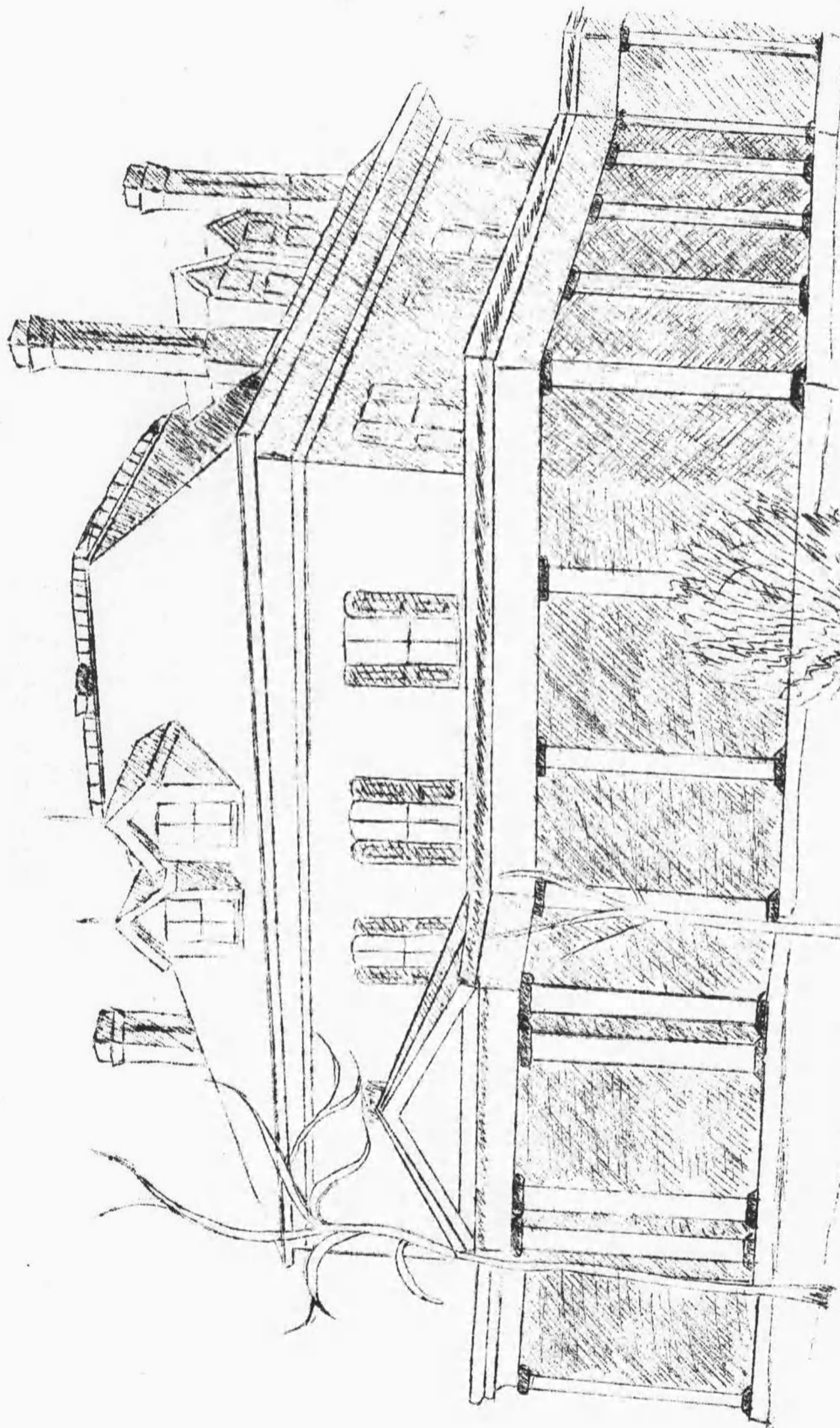
.....
A newspaper clipping says of Col. Denison: He wrote as he talked with a capital "I". But it was the pleasing and informative egotism, void of boasting and exaggeration which captivates instead of offends. God, it seemed, had given him a long life to prove his forecasts by the course of events.

.....
A newspaper clipping says: Col. Denison and his brother walked from Paris to Chalons and thence to Brussels in 1868 in order to see more of the country where Napoleon won some of his most brilliant actions in that wonderful campaign of 1814. Col. Denison says: We put a few things on our backs and started off. We arrived at Chalons sur Marne the third evening about 6 p.m., having marched 105 miles in 3 days. Later on the clipping says: On one occasion my father made a bet with my Uncle Richard that I could walk six miles in an hour in perfectly fair heel and toe walk. I did.

.....
Mr. E.J. Lea of Canadian Ornamental Iron Works, Ltd., Toronto, once told me of how he had been , as a young boy, arraigned before Col. Denison on a charge of having unlawfully ridden his bicycle on the plank walk on the east side of Bathurst Street, near Dupont Street. The Colonel asked him why he had done this. Lea explained that the road had so many ruts in it that he was afraid of breaking his bicycle. The Colonel leaned over and said in a fatherly way, "Aren't you a wee bit afraid of breaking the law?" Lea got off with a small fine.

.....
I understand that there is a poker-hand consisting of three ten spots which is called "Colonel Denison", after the Colonel's favourite sentence without a verb "Thirty Days".

.....
Col. Denison crossed the Atlantic fourteen times in the cause of Imperial Unity.



HEYDON VILLA

Augustus Bridle, well-known Toronto author and newspaperman once wrote a book of biography called "Sons of Canada". In it appeared a fine word portrait of Colonel George Taylor Denison the Third. I feel quite sure it is the finest word-portrait ever written about the Colonel; I also believe that no list of the best authors and newspapermen of Toronto would be complete without the name of Augustus Bridle, and that if the list were arranged in order of merit, his name would be a lot nearer the top than if arranged in alphabetical order. I am fortunate to have Mr. Bridle's permission and also the permission of J.M.Dent & Sons, Ltd., to reproduce this word-portrait here.

AUGUSTUS BRIDLE'S PORTRAIT OF COLONEL GEORGE TAYLOR DENISON THE THIRD

Forty years now the most eminent authority in America on cavalry tactics has gone afoot two and a half miles almost every morning down to the Toronto City Hall. Sharp at 9.15 he sets out, legs wide like a cavalryman, chin up, eyes as clear as icicles, stick on the grand swing. Scrunching along on the hard snow one morning in 1916, derby hat, frock overcoat, and the fresh pink of the morning on his face, he was waylaid by a recruiting sergeant.

"You're a fine straight-up chap, my man," said the sergeant. "Why don't you enlist? Come with us."

The Colonel laughed like a bird. As he walked with the recruiting officer down to the City Hall, he told the man the simple soldiering outline of his career, up to the age of seventy-seven. His great-grandfather, Captain John Denison of H.M. 2nd York Regiment, bearing arms in Canada, began the Denison line in this country in 1792. His grandfather, Colonel Denison, was a volunteer in the border war of 1812, and the rebellion of 1837. His father, Colonel Denison, originated the Garrison of Toronto. And the present Colonel George Denison is the youngest man of seventy-seven in the British Empire.

Five minutes of ten by the clock in the tower, the Colonel strides through the line of bluecoats, chucks down hat, stick and overcoat in his ante-room, brushes back a wisp of hair, and bursts like a fine winter dawn into a high, somewhat gloomy chamber. Some time before he arrives the police court is crowded. Clerks, policemen, lawyers, prisoners in the dock, eight or ten reporters on the side sharpening pencils, and outside the dock a restless crowd on the gallery all waiting for Toronto's morning opera to begin.

"Take off your hat," snaps a burly policeman door-keeper to an unoffending citizen who has it half off already.

"Silence" bawls the big grandiose Chief Inspector who has been as long on the police as Denison has been on the bench.

The Colonel is on stage, seated high on his throne of summary justice administered by common sense, looking over a huge book at actors and audience. The newspapermen are ready for the first word. Denison has always been good copy. Any moment he may shout out an epigram that starts human nature as a fresh breeze stirs the leaves of a jungle.

"John Jones, stand up!"

It is the voice of a Colonel commanding.

If Jones were a regiment he could not come to attention sooner. Whatever he may be---wife-beater, common drunk and disorderly, burglar, footpad, or bank-absconder---you infer from the tone of the Colonel that he will be either hanged or sent to the penitentiary for life.

"John Jones, you are charged that you did on the blank day of blank at the City of Toronto assault and beat---etc., etc., contrary to the statute in that case made and provided. What do you say---guilty or not guilty?"

"Not guilty, your honour."

Counsel for the defence at once begins to jockey. The Colonel knows what is coming. John Jones might be strung out for half an hour. Denison gets rid of him in less than two minutes. The late B.B. Osler, the most eminent jury judge ever known in Canada, used to twit Denison with disposing of sixty cases in sixty minutes. The Colonel comes as near to that schedule as he may.

Before most of these lawyers were born Denison was handing out drumhead decisions on crime in Toronto. Human nature has changed very little in that time. There is only

more of it. The man that got drunk on good whiskey and beat his hoop-skirted wife in 1877 is not much different from the man who gets crazy on "doped" whiskey and abuses the woman who wants a vote and a divorce in 1916. Statutes have been prinked up and elaborated since 1877; but the essential principles of law as it relates to human nature are the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. Lawyers have multiplied and subdivided into all manner of expert sub-species in modern times; but the pettifogger and the master of chicanery are always with us.

"I will allow no lawyer to influence my decisions in law," says the Colonel over and over, in as many ways as a juggler ties a knot. He practised law himself between the first year of the American Civil War and 1877. But in the first five years of his legal career, he rose from captain to lieutenant-colonel in the Governor-General's Body Guard. A publisher once sent Denison a treatise on criminal law suggesting, somewhat sarcastically perhaps, that it might be a good book for the Colonel to read.

"I never read law," replied the Colonel.

His police court, one of the most remarkable in the world, is proof of it. Denison knows his police court law. Of all laws he best interprets those of human nature which usually have very little to do with statutes. He dispenses common-sense justice to as many people as possible in two hours. The legal hair-splitter, the casuist, the herring-trailer, the bulldozer, and above all the lawyer who smirks to himself that he will get Denison to discharge his client in spite of evidence--all these have short shrift with the Colonel. In giving decisions he seems to act on the advice of Lord Mansfield to a colonial governor: "Judge according to common-sense and give no reasons. Your judgments will probably be right; but your reasons, if you give them, are almost sure to be wrong."

"Language or fighting?" is the key question to many a case that lets the Colonel brush away all technicalities like cobwebs. He reads the face of the stranger in the dock as though he had known him half a lifetime. The old offender he knows by his first name---knew him years ago; the same old story--- a drop too much.

"Well, go home and stop drinking. But remember I've got my eye on you. Call the next case."

The Colonel might have made a bad judge. He is the best of magistrates. The next case the policeman may have been at fault. He must be corrected. The military morals of the police must be kept up. Almost before the Colonel has made this point clear the next case is called. By the time the reporters have the names down.

"Dollar and costs or thirty days," shouts the Colonel. "Call the next case."

It is the formula of a man who has never known to be moved by connivance or collusion, never bent or prejudiced from his splendid path of wholesome bigotry based upon common sense, never learned in the law and never ignorant of human nature, never too close to a tragedy not to lighten it with plain good humour and sympathy. Forty years he has been operating this summary mill of human justice. He has seen the number of cases in his court multiply itself by ten; the one original court become four courts--- one in the morning to try out common drunks, one in the afternoon presided over by his chief assistant, the children's court instituted by himself, and his own memorable court between the hours of ten and twelve noon every legal day. But there is no court like Denison's; the newspapermen know it. Had he ever taken Coke and Blackstock to bed with him he might have been an eminent judge. But the police court would have lost a great magistrate and the newspapermen years of good copy.

Forty or fifty cases between ten and twelve leave the Colonel as fresh as when he came down in the morning. On the curb he is met by a citizen who calls him George. With his sword-like stick he executes an imaginary sketch map on the pavement to show what the Allies have done or left undone at the Dardanelles. Watching him you would not realize that he has a son at Suvla Bay. In ten minutes he may be in an editor's office. The police court reporter struggling with his crime copy to make it read as human as it sounded in the Colonel's court hears that trombone voice down the corridor. Ten minutes with the editor on what is the future of the Empire, or the matter with the army, and he drops into the associate editor's office to belt out a sermon in a pair of epigrams. Off he goes to the National Club for lunch, every day at the same table, identical set of cronies---but a fresh batch of stories.

In the seventy-seventh year of this man's cavalry plank in Canada the glory and the song of Empire rise to a grand height. To him the never-setting imperial sun is more than a symbol; and the thin red line on the map as significant as the thin red

line of the hard-won battle. The bugle is his instrument of culture; the cavalry horse his symbol of Empire. The outward trail of the prairie petering off into the foot-hills and the Rockies is to him not a mere wagon road to mill and to market, but a road leading to the heart of the Empire---which for the time being may be the boot-tracks of Colonel Denison.

The Colonel abominates subterfuge. He glories in the open road. In cavalry matters a strategist, in most other things he comes at you with the headlong sincerity of a sporan and a bayonet. In the teeth of such a healthy gale of opinion you never dream of spinning cobwebs. There are few ifs and not many buts. The thing is plain as a pikestaff. You wonder you had not seen it long ago.

We understand that Colonel Denison was present at the birth of most of the societies in this country that have anything to do with the Empire. He has made stimulating speeches almost anywhere in Canada, and has always left people with a bigger practical desire for citizenship. There is never any gloom on his face; never an impending disaster in his voice. He speaks better than any other soldier in Canada ---and much better than the average member of Parliament. He exudes common sense, and does it with a fine ecstatic noise. At any moment in a speech you might fancy a hot-foot despatch rider rushing onto the platform and the Colonel in the midst of a fervent patriotic peroration---"Boots, saddle, to horse and away!"

The war literature he wrote in the sixties occupied more space in printer's ink than all the cases he ever won or lost in his sixteen years at law. In 1861 he wrote an article asking, "Canada, is she prepared for war?"---and, of course, answered it. What war---what did it matter? Here was a vast new country for which both regulars and volunteers had fought since the days of Champlain, imagining, so far as the governments and politicians were concerned, that there might someday be a nation instead of a crown colony north of parallel 49 without even the simulation of a standing army, without the beginnings of a navy.

These were questions only indirectly connected with the Colonel's tactical treatises on the art of war and his two works, "Modern Cavalry" and the "History of Cavalry". The first of these was published in London in 1868. By 1881 it had been translated into German, Russian and Hungarian. For aught we know, some of the Kaiser's Uhans have studied that book. The History of Cavalry was a prize work done for a competition started by the Czar of Russia, who gave first prize to Colonel Denison and invited him to spend two months in St. Petersburg, where the Colonel was presented at Court. Altogether an audacious episode. How did he know that some day the Cossacks would not be thundering into British India with copies of his cavalry works in their saddle-bags? Yet if the Colonel had taken the trouble to write a book of Russian impressions---which he might easily have done--- he would no doubt have pointed out that he could see very well where the real menace to the British Empire was arising; not on the Neva---but along the Rhine. What an ironic calamity it would have been if the German Kaiser had offered the prize won by Colonel Denison and the Colonel had spent two months at Berlin, presented to the Emperor at Potsdam, and making a friend of Bernhardi!

Another bright little book of the Colonel's is "Soldiering in Canada". A newspaperman who read it some years ago remarked to a teacher in Upper Canada College, of which the Colonel is one of the governors, that it contained an alarming percentage of first personal pronouns.

"Yes, but it isn't offensive," said the teacher. "It's too Denisonian for that. Why, I remember hearing him say that he was the very first to point out to Joseph Chamberlain the principle of the Imperial solivercin which became the Chamberlain slogan."

That was as near as the Colonel ever permitted himself to be corralled by any political party. An undoubted Tory by nature, a democrat in speech and action, no party has ever claimed the undivided allegiance of this believer in himself. He remains a critic of all parties---even a third party; and what he thinks about the French-Canadian Nationalists is quite irreducible to common English.

Once upon a time he headed the Canada First party. If any of his critics fancied he would shriek for an independent Canada they were sadly mistaken. Canada First to the Colonel means Canada first in the Empire.

Presented to two British monarchs and to the Czar of Russia, the Colonel has never been knighted. He might have been Sir George long ago. He preferred to remain

Colonel Denison. Nothing proves the man's aristocracy better. We have many knights in Canada. If the King's condescension keeps up no citizen, no matter how unoffending or democratic by nature, will escape the danger of knighthood. Colonel Denison declines the honour. He knows that the moment we begin to call him Sir George his real distinction is gone. We may have a regiment of Sir Georges. We can have but one Colonel Denison.

Augustus Bridle

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Note: It is said that Colonel Frederick Charles Denison, brother of George, was once offered an hereditary baronetcy I think it was. Colonel Fred declined. He was made a Companion of St. Michael and St. George instead. Both these Denisons seemed to be ahead of their time in their attitude toward titles in Canada. Most people will now agree that a title, hereditary or otherwise, has no real place in the Canadian scene. A title could add nothing to the illustrious name of a Churchill, a Pastour, a Dickens or an Edison. A title could do little for a man who had 'nothing on the ball at all'. A title does not fit in with the social set-up of Canada which we cherish, where any man may rise to any height that his ability and industry may raise him. Here a man is taken for what he is. If he really has something, people will recognize it and cheer him---if he hasn't---well, he might as well keep quiet!

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Lieut-Colonel Frederick Charles Denison, C.M.G., M.P.

He was educated at Upper Canada College, Toronto, and Royal Military College, Kingston. He served in the administrative battalion at Niagara for some months in 1865, as lieutenant, and Aug. 20, same year, became cornet in the Governor-General's Body Guard, in which capacity he served during the Fenian Raid, 1866, on the Niagara frontier. A lieutenant as of Dec. 6, 1867, he was orderly officer to Major-General Sir Garnet Wolsley in the Red River Expedition, 1870, being mentioned in despatches. He became captain, 1872, major, 1876, and lieut-colonel, 1884.

The Canadian Voyageurs

On Aug. 24, 1884, Wolsley telegraphed the Governor-General to organize and send to Egypt a force of Canadian Voyageurs, to aid him in the campaign in the Soudan and relieve General Gordon. Wolsley mentioned in his telegram that he would be particularly pleased if Col. Frederick Charles Denison should be given the command of these voyageurs, because of his knowledge of river navigation acquired during the Red River campaign. Colonel Denison accepted the Governor-General's offer of this command. Sept. 15, 1884, the voyageurs sailed from Quebec. Their valuable service was acknowledged by everyone. Col. Denison accompanied General Earle's column, and fought in the Battle of Kirbekan. He was mentioned in despatches, and referred to by name on the floor of the British House of Commons by the Marquis of Huntingdon. For his service in this campaign he was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. Attacked by enteric fever, he had to remain a long time in hospital in Cairo, missing the Northwest campaign in Canada with his regiment, the Governor-General's Body Guard, of which he was second commanding officer. He received the British Egyptian War Medal, the Khedive's Star, and the C.M.G., from Queen Victoria.

By profession he was a lawyer, having been called to the bar in 1870. He represented St. Stephen's ward on the Toronto City Council, 1878--1884, and sat in the House of Commons in Ottawa, 1887--1896. Although a conservative, he was of independent views, and refused, for example, the customary pass on the railway, for fear it might bias his opinions on railway matters.

He wrote the "Historical Record of the Governor-General's Body Guard". He was a fellow of the Royal Historical Society of England.

He lived at old Rusholme, which he inherited from his father, Col. George Taylor Denison the Second.

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Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Charles Donison, C.M.G., M.P.,
Commander of the Canadian Voyageurs on the Nile.



Colonel Clarence Alfred Kinscy Denison,

Of the Governor-General's Body Guard,

Soldier and Banker.

88d



Henry Denison of Winnipeg.

Henry Tyrwhitt Denison

Henry Tyrwhitt Denison was the one of Mary Anne Dowson's sons who was non-military. Like John who varied the family tradition by going into the navy, he also varied the tradition by not taking up arms at all. He settled at Winnipeg and was engaged in business and farming. His late daughter, Linda Riley, was a particularly good friend of the writer. She married a former soldier, Captain Fred Riley, who is now living at Saanichton, B.C.

Colonel Clarence Alfred Kinsey Denison

He was educated at Upper Canada College, Toronto, and first bore arms when still a scholar in the U.C.C. Company of the Queen's Own Rifles, seeing service at the Fenian Raid of 1866, and taking an active part on the Niagara frontier. He also saw service at the North West Rebellion of 1885.

He joined the Governor General's Body Guard, enlisting as a trooper, and in the course of fifty years service rising to the rank of Lieut-Colonel and the command of the regiment in 1901. It was in that year that he was accorded the distinction of commanding the guard of honour for the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George V and Queen Mary) on their visit to Toronto. In the march past of the troops following the review by their Royal Highnesses, Denison led his regiment.

For more than 45 years he was Chief Accountant of the Standard Bank of Canada, retiring just before its merger with The Canadian Bank of Commerce.

He was a member of the congregation of St. James Cathedral and a delegate to the Synod. He was also a member of St. Paul's Church, Bloor Street East, Toronto. He was a life member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, and of the St. George's Society, and a member of the Toronto Golf Club.

As a young man he was a famed athlete and one of the best amateur boxers in Canada. He was also a steeple-chase rider of some distinction. In life, he lived at 55 Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto.

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Admiral John Denison D.S.O.

Admiral John Denison was the first member of the family who varied the tradition for soldiering by joining the Royal Navy. The year of the Fenian Raid, 1866, at the youthful age of thirteen, he left Upper Canada College, Toronto, and set forth alone, crossed the Atlantic, and entered the services of the Royal Navy as a cadet aboard H.M.S. Britannia.

The Admiralty Library has very kindly supplied me with the following record of his naval service.

Admiralty Library Record

John Denison entered the Royal Navy as a Naval Cadet, April 1867. He was promoted Sub-Lieutenant Dec. 18, 1873; Lieutenant, Apr. 16, 1878; Commander Dec. 31, 1891; Captain, May 13, 1896; Rear-Admiral, Sept. 18, 1906; Vice-Admiral, Feb. 1911, and full Admiral, Dec. 7, 1913.

As Lieutenant, he served successively in H.M. ships BELLEROPHON, flagship of the North America Station; BRITON on the Cape Station; SHLJON, Coast Guard ship at Greenock; IRON DUKE, flagship of the Channel Squadron and FIREBRAND, gunboat (in command) on the China Station.

After his promotion to the rank of Commander he was appointed, 1891, to the battleship ANSON in the Channel Squadron where he served until 1893 when appointed commander of the Royal Yacht the VICTORIA and ALBERT.

His next sea-going appointment was in 1899 to command the cruiser HELPOME on the East Indies Station; transferring the following year to the cruiser NIOBE in the Channel Squadron.

After one year in command of the new battleship MONTEAGU on the Mediterranean Station, 1893-'4, Captain Denison was appointed Captain Superintendent, Pembroke Dockyard, and while holding this appointment, served as Naval A.D.C. to H.M. King Edward VII.



JOHN DENISON, ADMIRAL, ROYAL NAVY

Doughty Veteran of the Seven Seas.

Affectionately Known as "Gentleman John".

In January 1908, he hoisted his flag as Rear-Admiral in H.M.S. NIOBE, in command of the Devonport division of the Home Fleet, which appointment he held for the usual term of one year. In 1913 he retired from the Active List, but on the outbreak of war in 1914 returned to service in the rank of Captain R.N.R., with the Auxiliary Patrol, being advanced to Commodore in 1916. He continued on this duty throughout the war, and was awarded the D.S.O. in 1917. He died March 9, 1939.

From Admiralty Library

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Records from Other Sources

He sailed the South Sea Islands. In 1875, he witnessed Commodore Goodenough's death in action down there.

In command of H.M.S. FIREBRAND, he sailed Chinese waters, with winters spent at Tientsin, China. He later named an island in Muskeke "Firebrand Island" after this ship. The island is still owned by his family.

As commander of H.M.S. ANSON he aided in the raising and recovery of H.M.S. HOME off the coast of Ferrol, Spain.

While Captain of the Royal Yacht, the VICTORIA and ALBERT, he served as A.D.C. to the Duke of Connaught when the latter used the Royal Yacht in attending the coronation of the Czar of Russia, and in attending the festivities at Stockholm on the Duke's good-will visit to the King of Sweden.

He commanded the NIOBE to Gibraltar in the escort of the Prince of Wales' visit to Australia, meeting the Prince on his return at Cape Verde Islands, and voyaging with him to Quebec and on his return to England from Halifax.

He was President of the Devonport War College.

While captain of the NIOBE, he escorted Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany in 1901 from the Nore to Flushing. The Kaiser liked him so well that he presented him with the Imperial Portrait, autographed "Wilhelm of Germany". For thirteen years the portrait hung on the wall of Admiral John Denison's study. When the First Great War broke out, some junior officers recognized the portrait of England's enemy, and quietly put it away in the attic, where it ever after remained.

Admiral Denison was justice of the Peace for County Hampshire, and lived at Alverstoke-Gosport, where he called his home, "Rusholme" after his boyhood home "Rusholme" in Toronto.

The Writer's Reminiscences

I first met Admiral Denison, when he called upon us in Grimsby in Oct. 1928. He had been driven over from Toronto by Cousin Gordon Denison, whom I also met for the first time upon that occasion. At that time Admiral Denison held the rank of full admiral.

The Admiral was the greatest, yet most unassuming, world personage, I have ever met. He always answered my letters, and helped me much with my collection of data for this family history. I can well imagine people dubbing him "Gentleman John", as they quite frequently did.

When newspaper reporters came to call on him at Alexandra Palace Apartments, University Avenue, Toronto, where he often stayed with his brother, General Septimus Denison, they remarked in their newspaper articles, which they subsequently wrote, how he had taken each of their arms and walked with them to the door. They greatly appreciated this friendly gesture. It was certainly not that of a man whose success had made him aloof.

On one memorable occasion, I had the pleasure of an audience with both him and his brother Septimus at Alexandra Palace Apartments. I was treated more like a nephew than a fairly distant relative.

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John Denison, son of Charles Leslie Denison, as a small boy remembers Admiral John Denison visiting at his home. He remembers that every time he shook hands 'good bye' with the Admiral, he always discovered that he had half a dollar in his hand afterwards, and that in all cases it had been so softly done, that he was unaware of the coin until the handshake was over.

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Newspaper Comments About
Admiral Denison

Interview of Pearl McCarthy with Admiral Denison, Aug. 25, 1936

Excerpts: The sleigh flashed over the ice of Toronto Bay, for the horses liked the grip they got on the ice with their sharp "corks". A boy in the sleigh liked the rest of it, but the fun did not prevent other notions from entering his head, since a friend of his had entered the navy, and that idea fascinated him. That was before Confederation. There were great times galloping around the city, and Bloor Street was such a good sandy bridle path.

Admiral Denison returned to Toronto yesterday for a visit, 83 years old in charm, decades old in sea knowledge, young in physique and sprightly in mind. He is of medium stature and wears his beard somewhat like the late King. The man who has commanded in dire warfare is very gentle.

What he thinks now of the Navy was told when he asked, "Have you a young brother? If you have, tell him to enter the navy. You haven't? Ah, what a pity not to have a young brother to tell to enter the navy."

"I cannot imagine there being any man who likes to kill," the fighter said. But he believes it is only by having a strong navy that Britain can maintain peace. "Pacifists have persuaded the people that naval reductions are wise. They do not realize that Mussolini would not try to bluff us, if our navy were adequate."

It would have to be a good fight which would interest the Admiral. He is proof against the minor annoyances, refusing them anything but smiling composure.

Quotation from Montreal, 1936: "Remember Spain stayed out of the great war, so there is no particular reason why other nations should become embroiled on account of the trouble in Spain."

He states he does not expect the Spanish Civil War to bring on a general conflict in Europe.

To an interviewer, Admiral Denison recalled that when he left in 1866, Toronto's population was only 35,000. "When I joined the navy, amongst the crew on the lower deck of a frigate, only ten or fifteen men out of, say, two or three hundred could read and write. Now every man on board a man-of-war can do this, and the majority are highly educated. Only once did he ever see a sailor get "the cat"—a flogging.

On being asked about Canada maintaining a naval squadron, he answered, "I think it would be better for Canada to make a contribution, and have the Admiralty make use of it as they saw fit."

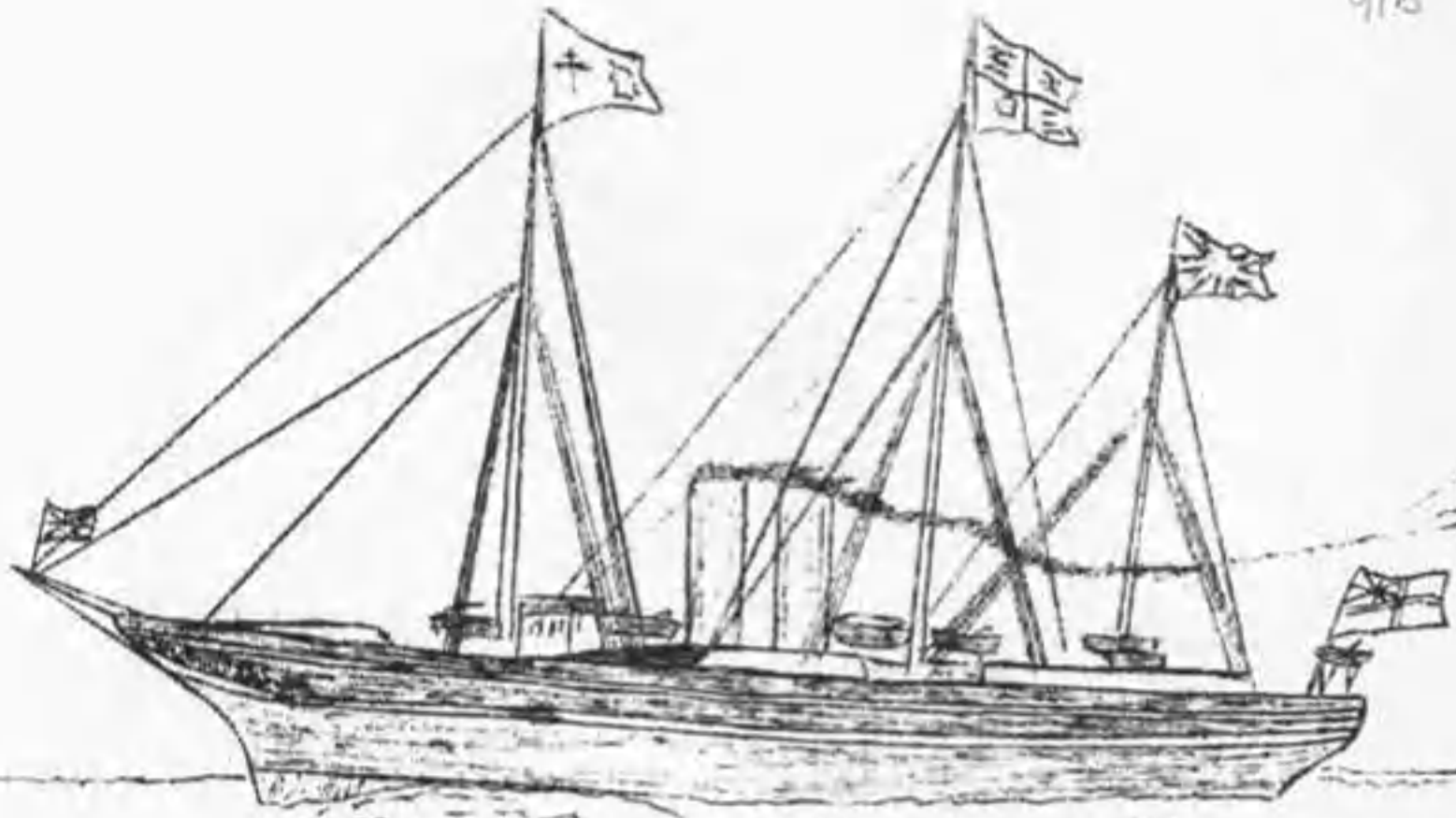
Extracts from Letters Written to the
Writer by Admiral John Denison

July 17, 1937. The Coronation Procession was a fine sight in London. We saw in Pall Mall from my club, and I must say the whole "show", especially the Military Escorts, was very fine. We had an American friend with us, and she seemed quite impressed.

Dec. 14, 1930. (I had asked about a Mrs. Fitzgibbon, who had painted a copy of the family coat-of-arms.) The Mrs. Fitzgibbon you mention was clever at painting wild flowers, and published a book on them.

Sept. 6, 1936, from Heyden Island, Lake Muskoka, Ontario, Glen Echo P.O.: I am staying up here with my niece, Mrs. M.M. Kirkpatrick and her husband. They have a lovely island, and it is very pleasant to be in the backwoods again.

Oct. 16, 1929. As for your questions about the College of Herald's, I may tell you that you cannot get much out of them without paying high fees; do not go to them unless you are prepared to do that. They are very nice people, but they have to make their living out of fees. I went to the Herald's Office on hearing that our Coat-of-Arms was not properly registered, and I found that such was the case, though they admitted that our people had been there more than 100 years before. I wanted the Arms



THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT

As you know, the Victoria and Albert was Queen Victoria's private yacht, in which she and the Royal House sailed for pleasure and upon official occasions. Admiral John Denison received the signal honour of being appointed captain of this yacht. To-day the Empire is ruled by another good Queen, and this yacht is no longer in use. The flags, left to right, are the Union Jack, the Admiral's flag, the Royal Standard, the Union Jack, and the White Ensign.

LAND of HOPE and Glory

Thy fame is ancient as the days, As Ocean large and wide;
 A pride that dares, and hoods not praise, A stern and silent pride.

Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of the Free,
 How can we extol thee, who are born of thee?

Arthur C. Benson.

properly registered, but if I had done it in my own name, it would have included only the descendants of my father, so I got my uncle, Charles Leslie Denison, to send in the application (I paid all the fees)and that brought in all the descendants of my Grandfather, George Taylor Denison (the First). Charles Denison was a half-brother of your Great-Grandfather, R.L. Denison of Dovercourt. Our Coat-of-Arms had to be differenced, so by the advice of the Garter King of Arms I had the bend sable embattled, and the design on the sleeve of the crest. You will see that the Ossington family arms are differenced the same way. It simply shows a different Branch of the family.

I hope you will stick to the Bank and have a successful career. Your Bank is one of the finest in the World. My brother, Clarence, was (Chief) Accountant in the Standard Bank.

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Once thieves broke into Admiral Denison's summer home in Muskoka and stole many articles and bedding. He said he would have gladly given these things to them, were they in need, but that he could hardly forgive them for stealing his telescope, which had been presented to him in the Navy, and which he wanted to keep as a memento. In the last letter he wrote to me, just before the outbreak of the Second Great War, he remarked that he was so sorry that he was now too old to take up arms again in the service of his Sovereign. He died before war began.

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Major-General Septimus Julius Augustus Denison, C.M.G.

Mary Anne Dawson's seventh son, Septimus Denison, was educated at Upper Canada College, Toronto, and the Royal Military College, Kingston. He entered the 4th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment, also known as the King's Own Staffordshire Militia. While stationed at London, Ontario, he met and knew my great Uncle, Captain Alfred Booker, who was my Mother's guardian after her own mother had died when my Mother was eighteen. (Captain Booker was son of Colonel Alfred Booker of the Fenian Raid, 1866. The pedigree goes back to Nottingham and the days of the Domesday Book.) It was largely due to this friendship between Septimus Denison and my great uncle, that my great uncle favoured my mother's marriage to my father, and so I owe to Septimus, to some extent at least, my own and my brother's entrance into this world. It was in August 1888, that Septimus had joined the Royal Canadian Regiment at London, Ontario.

Septimus Denison served as A.D.C. to the Governor-General, the Earl of Aberdeen.

When the South African War broke out, he volunteered his services in any capacity, and proceeded to South Africa, where he became A.D.C. to Field Marshal Earl Roberts. He served all through the campaign, getting eventually enteric fever. He was mentioned in despatches twice, decorated for bravery in the sight of the enemy (medal with four clasps), and raised to the rank of Lieut-Colonel.

In 1901, when King George V and Queen Mary, then the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, toured Canada, he served as their A.D.C. In that year also, he was awarded the decoration of the Cross of St. Michael and St. George.

At the end of the First Great War, he retired with the rank of Brigadier. In 1932, he was raised to the rank of Major-General.

In 1927, he published an autobiography entitled "Memoirs", which gives a very clear insight into his life and thought.

He was an excellent horseman, a lover of hunting and fishing, and an enthusiastic camper. He had a summer home in Muskoka, which he called Agiochook, an Indian word meaning "Place of the Spirit of the Pines".

He was an exceptionally strong wrestler, and an incident was related in an earlier volume of his prowess in this respect.

Once Mistaken for Royalty

While touring with Their Royal Highnesses, an incident occurred at Mitchener, Ontario. He noted an old friend in the crowd, and asked him to come up onto the platform. Apparently the old friend had had a "run-in" with the town council, and it had been out in all the papers, how the council had refused this friend admission to the platform in retaliation. It was now reported that this friend had got ahead of the council by being recognized by Prince Algic of Teck and asked onto the platform. So Septimus had been mistaken for royalty, as it was he who asked him onto the dais.

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GENERAL SEPTIMUS JULIUS AUGUSTUS DENISON, C.M.G.,
SOLDIER, AUTHOR AND PATRIOT.

Admiral Denison used to twit his brother Septimus that Soldiers were not gentlemen, that it was only naval men that were gentlemen. The Admiral wanted me to make this statement to his brother Septimus. I cannot remember having the audacity to do so. I remember being amused at the suggestion anyway.

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Captain Egerton Denison

Another brother who ought not to be forgotten here was Captain Egerton Denison. A Captain of the South Staffordshire Militia, he joined the Canadian Voyageurs on the Nile, and was appointed to the staff of Lord Walsley. He did work for a time on the Gold Coast, Africa, but the place did not agree with him. He returned home an invalid, and died aboard S.S. Vancouver in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, never reaching home alive. An oil portrait of him hangs on the wall at Rusholme. The medal he won was painted onto the portrait long after the original painting of the portrait.

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In his book, "Memoirs", Septimus Denison tells of how he had always enjoyed quoting some of the colourful lines of Shakespeare, and how he was quite embarrassed once at Upper Canada College, when he entered the library declaiming in stentorian tones "All Hell shall stir for this". This reminds me of my good friend and relative, Charlie Wright (Lieut-Commander Charles Edmund Wright, R.C.N.V.R., mentioned in despatches, etc., Second Great War). Charlie and I had the pleasure of serving together for some years on the staff of the Dominion Bank, Fairbank, Ontario. I remember Charlie used to like to "let off steam" by quoting loudly and with great vehemence passages from Shakespeare. Two of his favourites I remember. "The Devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon. Whence dost thou that goose-look?" Note the colours, cream and black. What a combination! The other quotation was: "For sooth, thou art like an ill-roasted egg --- all on one side!" What symmetry! I have searched Shakespeare, but have so far been unable to find the counterpart of these quotations. However, I am quite sure that Charles comes honestly by his supreme delight in quoting Shakespeare---from his great uncle, Septimus!

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Septimus Denison's book "Memoirs" is like the Bible. You could go on all day quoting passages from it, and never run out of interesting selections. Here is one.

"At the time of my grandfather's death, about five years before my birth, he left, what was considered at that time, a goodly fortune; but, as he had eight children survive him, as my father had nine and as in Canada, properties are usually divided equally, it is not difficult to understand that, if I had any ability at all, it would be a greater asset to help me in my career than my inheritance of a sixty-second part of my grandfather's estate.

My father died when I was thirteen years of age and while not deriving a fortune from him I at least derived one great benefit, which was of infinite pleasure to me throughout my forty years' soldiering and that was this:- My father having been as his father before him, a cavalry officer, insisted that by the time each of his sons had reached the age of six years they should be as familiar with, and fearless of, a horse, as a boy of 20 would be of a dog, and be able to ride at ten with as much confidence, though perhaps less strength, as he could at twenty. This was the means of making me, I am conceited enough to say, at least a fair horseman."

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THE FAMILY CHARIOT

In the old days at Rusholme the family maintained a fine-looking coach, drawn by four well-matched greys. It was the kind with some sort of gondola in which the passengers sat by twos opposite each other. High in front sat the coachman in livery; high at the rear sat the footman, also in livery. The coach had the family arms painted in bright colours on either door, and the livery of the attendants was navy blue and gold trimmings with silver buttons. Each button bore the family crest. I have some duplicates of these buttons which were given me by the late Jocelyn Brock. Her father, Admiral Denison, had had these duplicates made in England. They were exactly like the original buttons---tiny ones for the sleeve, and larger ones for the

coat. The coach, horses, and attendants in uniform, made a picture of the most interesting variety! However, considerable ill-feeling was excited amongst certain young hoodlums who roamed Toronto streets and skated on Toronto Bay. Two stories have come down to us!— The Jefferson Davis Story, and the Skating Story.

The Jefferson Davis Visiting Rusholme
Story.

During the American Civil War, Northerners sang of hanging Jeff Davis, the President of the Southern Confederacy, on a sour apple tree. But after four years of confinement, even his enemies felt sorry for him.

Jefferson Davis and his wife once visited Rusholme, as guests of Col. George T. Denison the Second. One day when Col. George and two of his sons were driving Jefferson Davis along King Street in the above mentioned picturesque carriage, certain young ruffians began singing "We'll hang Jeff Davis on a sour apple tree." The two Denison boys being irritated by this, immediately jumped out, and chased the rowdies down York Street. Had they caught them, they would have severely chastised them.

The Skating Story

While driving in the carriage in the winter time down near Toronto Bay, certain skaters started calling out names at the carriage. This also irritated the Denison boys. They did nothing at the time, as they realized that it would be impossible to catch these skaters without skates. So they drove home, got their skates, put them on, and also got two good horse-whips. They then returned to the Toronto Bay. Of course, the skates could not be seen by the skaters, while the Denison boys were in the carriage. As the Denisons had hoped, the skaters came forth again with their untoward remarks. The Denison boys jumped out. They were both good skaters. They chased these rowdies about the ice, laying on the whip with all the might they could essay. Needless to say, no further importunances were forthcoming on any future occasions.

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A story is told that a Miss Minnie Featherstonhaugh who lived on Grove Avenue used, in the summertime, to visit of an afternoon at the summer-place of some of the Denisons, which was situated near what is now Dovercourt Road and Davenport Road. Both sides of Dovercourt Road at that time were heavily forested. At nightfall on one occasion she set out alone to return to her home on Grove Avenue from this place near Davenport and Dovercourt. She had not gone far when she was badly frightened by two black bears which came out of the woods on the west side of Dovercourt Road and disappeared into the woods on the east side. She hurried back to the Denison's house, with the result that two of the Denisons came out with her armed with guns. The bears appeared again, and were quickly killed by bullets from these guns.

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The following story is told of Inglemount, Grimsby, Ontario, the writer's birthplace. It was a tradition in the family that they never turned away unaided anyone who called at their home asking for assistance. It was evening and a beggar or tramp called at the back-door asking for food. Mrs. Denison invited him into the summer-kitchen, and at a table there he was supplied with an excellent meal. Instead of leaving as expected after his repast, he took off his shoes, and stated that he intended to remain for the night, perhaps believing that she was there alone. Col. R.L. Denison the Second returned from shopping in the village, stabled his horse, and came in the back-door, much to the beggar's surprise. When he discovered the tramp's unseemly conduct in not leaving after his meal, Col. R.L. decided to teach him a lesson. He got down a large loaf of fresh white bread (They baked their own bread in those days.) and got down also his cavalry sword which hung on the wall in the front hall. "Now, fellow," he said, "you are going to eat this whole loaf, with only water to wash it down." The beggar proceeded to eat. It was 'tough' going. Whenever the beggar slowed up in his eating, Col. R.L. menaced him with the sword. When not a crumb of the loaf remained, the beggar was let go, and cautioned not to appear about those parts again, lest a worse thing befall him.

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FRANCIS HAPIER DENISON the STRONGER-INVENTOR

For some years prior to his death, I had the good fortune to correspond quite regularly with dear old Napier Denison, as fine a Christian as one would want to find anywhere. He was of great assistance to me in gathering information for this book.

Napier Denison was born at old Bellevue, April 19, 1866, being the last member of the family to be born there. He was the son of Col. Robert Brittain Denison. He left Toronto Observatory in 1898, and was sent to Victoria, B.C., to start weather-forecasting, and work with E. Baynes Reed there. He installed the seismograph there in 1898; in 1901 he read a paper at the Glasgow B.A.A.S., lecturing on Horizontal Pendulum Movements, and at Cambridge, England, met Sir George Darwin, the great tidal man, who encouraged him in his special studies. Upon return to B.C., he continued publishing scientific papers and giving public lectures, and arousing the public support of a petition for a special observatory. In 1911 he was allowed to present a paper at the International Seismological Congress at Manchester, England. He was granted by Ottawa a sum of money to erect a Gonzales Observatory, and prepared the plans personally. It was completed in 1914, and he was appointed Superintendent of it. He continued publishing original papers at California and Washington, D.C., and inventing scientific instruments right up to the time of his death. His last invention which he was working on at the time of his death was a scientific dust-remover for hospital naps. He held the Canadian Patent on this dated 1943. In his old age he had along with his wife taken refuge in Mount St. Mary Hospital, Victoria, where he and his wife were well treated by the friendly nursing sisters. He noted that they went over the floors with some sort of cedar mop. Subsequently they had great difficulty in getting the dust out of the mop. Usually they shook it out of the window, which he felt was not a healthful thing to do. So he was working on a dust-removing machine. All they had then to do, was to place the mop-head in the machine, turn an electric switch, count ten, and remove the mop so clean that one might imagine it was a new one.

I once asked Napier how he got the name Napier. He said his father was a great admirer of Lord Napier of Magdalia, and bestowed this name on his son, in honour of his friend, Lord Napier.

In April 1933, a disturbance of considerable proportions was recorded on the seismograph at the Dominion Meteorological Observatory on Gonzales Heights, Victoria, B.C. So well defined was the recording that Napier Denison, the director, caused an investigation to be made, and it was discovered that a visitor had sat on the concrete mounting-block of the instrument and displaced several billions of atoms.

This is not a science treated with levity but an actual story recounted by Napier Denison in the form of popular science to illustrate to numbers of people who visit the observatory annually just how sensitive the instrument is, in addition to revealing a little known scientific fact to the layman.

His story reveals that concrete is not a solid but a living mass of atoms. This was the type of story that Napier Denison used to illustrate his lectures to the many people who came to his observatory with only a cursory interest, and left with a profound respect for the institution and the director, Napier himself. Napier Denison was a scientist and inventor who devoted his life to the furtherance of scientific development in aid of mankind.

For thirty-three years Napier Denison devoted his attention to a meteorological study of the Pacific area. His observatory is situated in Victoria on an ideal rock foundation picked out by himself. From it he was able to record and study thousands of earthquakes around the Pacific seismic zone, and others originating in many parts of the world.

Mr. Denison studied the climatic conditions of this vast area, issued daily weather forecasts, and collected weather data from more than 200 stations under his supervision in B.C., and the Yukon. He prepared charts of climatic changes for more than thirty years. From these he made a composite chart of weather showing that it moves in cycles across the continent.

Mr. Denison believed that earthquakes occur in the same cycles as the tilting of the earth. The tilting or horizontal motion causes a strain on certain parts and this is adjusted by an earthquake.

F. Napier Denison

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FRANCIS NAPIER DENISON THE ASTRONOMER-INVENTOR

The Electric Anemograph Invented by Napier Denison

The electric anemograph invented by Napier Denison is still in use at Gonzales Observatory. It records the velocity and direction of the wind continuously. The wind-gauge comprises four cups on crossbars, which revolve with every gust of wind. A total of 500 revolutions equals one mile. When a mile has been tolled off, an electrical contact is made which sends the record down to another instrument inside the observatory. As the current speeds on its way to the recording instrument, it passes the weather-vane and makes another electrical contact, which in turn records the direction of the wind at the end of each mile. In this way the general direction and velocity of the wind at any time is obtained. The exact time also is shown on the recording instrument, so that the wind velocity and direction can be seen for any minute of the day.

Napier Denison's Own Telescope

Beneath the white dome of the observatory is situated Napier Denison's own telescope, a five inch instrument, made by O.C. Hastings of Victoria, an amateur astronomer. This instrument was installed for the purpose of Mr. Denison's own observations and to provide the visiting public with some form of popular science so that they might get an insight into scientific work in astronomy in a simple way.

Mr. Denison used to cast onto a screen an image of the sun, showing the numerous sun spots. In this way he could explain the sun-spot theory. When these spots are larger and more numerous, colder and wetter weather is to be expected.

Napier Denison's Evaporograph

On the lawn of the Observatory is an instrument called an evaporograph, designed by Napier Denison. It measures the amount of evaporation from a surface of water to a hundredth of an inch, besides recording the exact precipitation and humidity of the air.

Radio Time Signals System Invented by Napier Denison

The little instrument that sends out accurately a dot for each second and a long dash for the hour was designed by Napier Denison. With this, international radio time signals are broadcast. These signals may be depended upon because of Napier's instrument, and a few seconds inaccuracy could make a lot of difference to a liner in the mid-Pacific.

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 Napier Denison followed his career in science with the same indomitable spirit that has marked the story of his ancestors.

Other Inventions

<u>Patent Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Invention</u>
47458	Nov. 9, 1894	Electric Dental Motor
46367	June 16, 1894	Electric Magnetic Brake
49293	June 21, 1895	Grain Bin
49703	Aug. 20, 1895	Electric Transmitting Thermometer
54326	Dec. 11, 1896	Dental Motor Stop Motion
50997	Jan. 10, 1896	Shaving Brush and Soap Holder.
52416	May 27, 1896	Sprinkler for Plants.
93093	May 16, 1905	Tea Strainer and Infuser (Ancestor of the Tea Bag)

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Richard Lippincott Denison-Taylor, "Toronto's Terrible",
Surrealist Artist, Cartoonist, Illustrator
Best Known as R. Taylor, and as Richard Taylor of
International Fine.

I was 'taken' by the first letter I ever received from Dick Taylor. I had told him I was looking up the Family-Tree. He wished me every success, and hoped (I quote) "that I would find out a whole lot of things that would put a permanent crimp in my hair". I sure did, only I didn't put too many of them in this book. Taylor is a very interesting unusual man--most geniuses are!

Taylor paints in both water-colours and oils. His pictures sell for a lot of money. His cartoons have just that added something that makes editors of the Continent's Leading Publications pay large sums for the privilege of reproducing them.

Taylor the Terrible was not reared in a family of anarchists or rebels. He was one of the Denison-Taylors, who hark back to an ancestor granted land in Toronto by the Crown far beyond living memory. For this reason, Taylor wishes to remake society in the image of Fafnir the Dragon.

Taylor was born at Fort William. He learned to walk and paint at exactly the same age. At 12 he was recognized as a conventional figure and landscape painter. At 14, he painted a canvas in the style of Rubens with plenty of nymphs and satyrs. At 16, he painted signs and posters for a living, down in Los Angeles in a place that was a Mexican movie theatre. They said his paintings did not have enough blood in them. Taylor obliged by adding blood.

He then attended the Los Angeles School of Art and Design, and finally returned to Toronto to enter the Ontario College of Art. He won a prize for a cartoon strip, which landed him a job with Toronto's Evening Telegram. At one time he was on the staff of The Goblin, the Toronto University Undergraduate Magazine. His work was exhibited by the Ontario Society of Artists and the Royal Canadian Academy. Around this time he did work for Maclean's Magazine under the name Ricardo.

Taylor's work has been widely exhibited at such places as the Walker Galleries in New York; Butler Art Institute, Youngstown, Ohio; Addison Gallery of American Art, Andover, Mass.; Rouillier Galleries, Chicago; Hudson Galleries, Detroit; and many other places. He has many times contributed to The New Yorker.

He has lived at Port Chester, N.Y., and Bethel, Conn.; and he now lives at Umpawung Road and Peaceable Street, West Redding, Conn.

His wife is a daughter of the late Dr. Newton MacFavish, sometime editor of The Canadian Magazine, and well known in literary and art circles. Her name is Maxine.

Taylor's work hangs in the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Boston Museum of Fine Art; the Albright Art Gallery, Buffalo; the Wichita Museum, Wichita, Kansas; and many other places of similar importance.

Taylor's Surrealist Art and Its Crumpets

Most of Taylor's pen-and-ink drawings have mysterious forms in them that resemble crumpets. This is admitted by Taylor himself, and explained this way: "I receive my greatest inspiration following a hearty meal of hot buttered crumpets, shrimps and root beer, topped by a cheap cigar. The headiness that results transports me into a realm of myopic penetrations. While in this state I try to visualize a series of crumpet-like forms. From these I carefully select the most uninteresting."

The bulbous-eyed blankness which is the hallmark of all Taylor-made figures is achieved as follows: "After I've had my inspiration, it is simply a matter of adding haphazard conversation, the faces of friends and relatives, and a little morbid curiosity. Further, I am convinced that long after the events of the present are remembered, my art will be forgotten."

Taylor has been called the "poet of the little man's sad bad dreams in a muddled world". He is said to picture "an eerie and oozy world wherein the women hover like vultures over men who rarely escape." His women (in the paintings of course) are bulbous-eyed, beak-nosed, predatory, rotund and fat; his men (also as aforesaid) are round-punched, bay-windowed, and undersized. Taylor has no "conscious policy" except "to ridicule pretence and smugness".



TAYLOR THE TERRIBLE is much handsomer than this.



Taylor's Cave Woman

BUT this is how Taylor sees himself

Taylor's Alley Cats, Etc.

Once while living on Church Street, Toronto, Taylor picked up cats---nine of them---all from alleys---each cat had nine lives-- so that makes---let me see---let's get a calculating-machine. Whatever money he made from his drawings went to feed the cats. The cats ate so much, he found he couldn't pay the rent. They yowled so much, day and night, that all the neighbours went down to the City Hall and took out an injunction against the cats. Taylor was forced to turn the cats over to the Humane Society. This made him so mad at Toronto, that he went to the States.

Taylor is Permitted to have all the Pets
he likes in the good old U.S.A.

While enjoying life on his country estate, and communicating with editors by mail only, he spends any spare time he can get with his pheasants, racoons, deer, squirrels, groundhogs, and chipmunks.

He has two dogs--Afghan hounds---called Trillium and Trailing Arbutus. He has one cat---the alley variety---called Batch, sometimes called Daisy.

Taylor's Own Definition of Surrealism
in Art.

Surrealism in Art is a movement which attempts to depict the imagery of the subconscious mind (particularly as outlined by Freud). The Surrealists believe that Reality in the old sense---the exterior world---is not nearly so real as the inner Reality of the ego (and who is to say them nay?) They feel that the exterior world cannot compare in interest for the artist--- who is above all a High Priest of the Spirit---with the interior world of the mind as uncovered by the modern science of psychology and that in following the lead of psychology they are merely carrying on the tradition of the Old Masters who always kept in step with the scientific developments of their time.

There is, of course, a great deal of bunk and side-show ballyhoo mixed up in all this, partly because of Dada which preceded Surrealism (a tongue-in-cheek art meant to outrage smug academism and bourgeois respectability) and partly because of modern publicity methods necessary for success in any field.

My "unpublished" watercolour drawings are not, strictly speaking, straight Surrealist art. In them I have bordered on Surrealism somewhat, but in the main I have tried only to amuse or entertain in the sense that some of the Old Boys (Hieronymus Bosch, etc..) did. You might call what I do an art of pure fantasy, the creation of an imaginary world... sometimes humorous, sometimes grim. The substance of day-dreams, sleep-dreams and even nightmares. I am not the slightest bit concerned with any profound meanings or doctrines, and don't try to illustrate theories of any kind.

Surrealism is, in a sense, satirical. Or perhaps I should say, it sometimes is, or can be.

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Charles Barrard Kingston, B.A., B.L.Sc., LL.D.,
Mining Engineer

In my search for relatives for this family history, I discovered the address of Charles Barrard Kingston in the summer of 1943. I wrote to him, and received a very interesting and friendly reply. He enclosed the following three biographical sketches. I wrote and thanked him, and might have heard further from him, but he died Dec. 31, 1943. The letter he wrote to me was one of the last he ever wrote. First his own biography as he wrote it for me for this book:

Born May 15, 1867. Married Mar. 29, 1913 Janet Blyth Train, daughter of Rev. John G. Train, well known Scottish minister, and onetime Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in England. Charles Barrard Kingston graduated from McGill, B.A., 1887, B.L.Sc., 1892, and was given the honorary degree of LL.D., 1929. He practised his profession of mining engineer in Canada, U.S.A., Australia, South Africa, and Rhodesia. He was consulting engineer and general manager of three concessions in Northern Rhodesia covering an area of 15,000 square miles. His company discovered, developed, and equipped large copper deposits that have become an Empire asset. His company also developed under his direction other deposits of strategic minerals that are needed in wartime. In 1929, he retired to England, where he has been a member of one of the committees of the Imperial Institute, a member of the Council, and President of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, and a member of several other engineering societies.

Lieutenant Peter Hoocke Kingston, B.A., B.Sc.,
 Son of the Above

Born Apr. 23, 1914. He attended Orundie. He was interested in rowing and stroked his house boat. He went to Clare College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A., degree with honours in Mechanical Engineering. He continued his interest in rowing and stroked one of the Clare College boats, and won his oar. He was also interested in the engineering side of the O.T.C. In 1937, he graduated from McGill in Mining Engineering with the degree of B.Sc., first in his class and gold medalist. After a year in Canadian Mines, he went to South Africa, and joined the staff of one of the big mining corporations in Johannesburg. Here he was doing well, when the Second Great War broke out. He was sent to Potchefstroom for training and passed at the head of his class. He went to Egypt with the 23rd South African Artillery as a lieutenant. He volunteered for transfer to the Royal Artillery, and served with the 31st Regiment, Royal Artillery in the Middle East. He was killed in action in Italy, Feb. 12, 1944.

Cecily Mary Kingston
 Daughter of Charles Barrard Kingston

Born Mar. 11, 1916. Educated in England, and passed the examination for the Junior Certificate which admits to universities. She then went for a time to France, and on her return was presented at Court with her mother in 1934. She next took the training of "The League of Health and Beauty", and was for a time instructress at the London Head Masters of the League. When the war broke out, she at once joined the P.A.N.Y.S., as an ambulance driver. She was driving at Folkestone when the troops came back from Dunkirk. After the Battle of Britain she was transferred to the Scottish command. After nine months' driving, she was sent to the O.C.T.U., in Edinburgh, and was given a commission in the A.P.S.; was sent to the Southern Command in England under Lady Carlisle. She was promoted to Junior Commander (Captain) and was specially attached to Lady Carlisle. Here she met, and on Dec. 12, 1942, married Captain Basil Wingate-Saul, second son of Sir Ernest Wingate-Saul, K.C.; Basil later was promoted Major. He is a barrister in civil life. As regulations forbade husband and wife from working at the same post, she was transferred to another post in the Southern Command as Junior Commander and Adjutant.

John Mortimer Courtney, C.M.G., I.S.O.

John Mortimer Courtney was a Civil Servant, born at Penzance, England, second son of John Sampson Courtney. He was privately educated and was for some years in the service of the Bank of Agra, India. In 1869 he came to Canada at the invitation of Sir John Rose, and became June 2, 1869 Chief Clerk and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Board of Canada. On Aug. 1, 1878, he became Deputy Minister of Finance, and this post he occupied until his retirement, Oct. 31, 1906. In 1907 he was Chairman of the Commission appointed to investigate the working of the Civil Service Act, and the report which he submitted in 1908 was the basis of legislation establishing the Civil Service Commission, and making competitive examinations obligatory. In 1897, he was created a Companion of St. Michael and St. George, and in 1903 a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

Colonel Reginald Mortimer Courtney

Colonel Courtney, son of the above John Mortimer Courtney, is the head of an Insurance and Real Estate firm in Ottawa called Courtney and Grant. He is interested in boating, and has several fine sailing ships.

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Guy Kingston Argles

Guy Kingston Argles wrote this biography for this book when he was at Liguanea, Jamaica.

Guy Kingston Argles was born at Johannesburg, South Africa, Nov. 27, 1911. He was married in Jamaica on Jan. 22, 1939 to Miss Barbara Lucy Wates who was born in Kent, England, which also happens to be the ancestral home of the Argles Family. He has two sons---Guy Linsworth Argles and John Leslie Kingston Argles. His wife's mother's surname was Linsworth, while Leslie was his father-in-law's given name. From 1911 to 1923, Guy Kingston Argles lived in South Africa, except for two visits to England, the longest being during the first Great War. In 1923, he went to England to live. From 1924 to 1929 he went to school at Charterhouse. From 1929 to 1932 he attended London University Agricultural College, Wye, Kent. The next year he went to Cambridge on a Colonial Agricultural Scholarship; the following year, he was at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad, on the same scholarship. In 1934 and 1935 he spent short periods with the Ministry of Agriculture at London, and in Palestine for further training. Then for two years he worked at the Imperial Bureau of Fruit Production, East Malling Research Station, Kent, England, where he met his wife. For the following ten years, without a break, he has remained with the JAMAICAN Agricultural Service, where he is Senior Agricultural Officer.

In 1952 he is at Whitmoon Farm, Doddiscombloigh, Devon, England. While in Jamaica he encouraged the production of foodstuffs by the natives under the Sir Frank Stochdale Commission.

John Denison Kingston Argles

John Denison Kingston Argles, brother of the above mentioned Guy Argles was named after Admiral John Denison who was his god-father. In peacetime he was on the Stock Exchange in London, England. During the Second Great War he was a Captain in the Anti-Aircraft Section of the Royal Artillery, and served in the Middle East and Italy. He is now with the British Council in Western Germany, 1952.

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The Governor-General's Body Guard
Its Beginnings and Its End and New Name

Desiring to avail himself of the benefit of new clauses in an Act passed by the eighth Parliament of Upper Canada affecting the militia, Colonel Chewett, then in command of the 1st West York Regiment of Militia, decided to create a troop of cavalry in connection with his battalion. It was the year 1822. The man he chose to do it for him was Col. George T. Denison the First. The reasons he gave for his choice were that Col. G.T. had served in the War of 1812-14 with distinction, that he was a particularly good horseman of energetic temperament, and that he was the most available and best-equipped to undertake this duty. The troop of cavalry so founded was called variously Denison's Cavalry and Denison's Horse.

There is an interesting story of how they got their particular type of uniform of the design and colour that it was. It happened that a tailor had moved to town. History records his name as Wedge. It was noised about that he had been tailor to H.M. 13th Light Dragoons in England. He was immediately hired to make uniforms for Denison's Cavalry. He made these uniforms exactly like the ones he had made in England. Therefore, when the 13th Light Dragoons came to Canada during the Fenian troubles, they found the Canadians in their own uniforms.

From 1822 to 1837 the uniform was a blue coat, with buff facings over the breast, thickly laced for officers, and laced also on the sleeves and back. The shako was of bear skin, of helmet shape, with a plume of red and white feathers standing erect up the side. The overalls were blue with a double white stripe down the outside. A sash was also worn.

In 1861, Col. G.T. Denison the First, prepared a memorial signed by Colonels Richard L., George T., the Second, and Robert Brittain Denison, asking the Governor-General of Canada, who at that time was Viscount Monck, to grant the 1st York Cavalry the title of Governor-General's Body Guard, in consideration of the troop having performed escort duty so often and for so many Governors-General of Canada. This was presented to Lord Monck by Col. R.L. Denison himself. Nothing happened. Then on April 13, 1866, the Royal Guides of Montreal, a newly organized outfit, suddenly were granted the name Governor-General's Body Guard. The Toronto troop complained, and were granted the name of Governor-General's Body Guard of Upper Canada, while the Montreal troop became 'of Lower Canada'. When the latter troop became defunct some years later, the Toronto troop became simply, as they had wanted, the Governor-General's Body Guard. At last they were second to none, or as their motto reads in Latin, "Nulli Secundus".

At one time the Governor-General's Body Guard was made up largely of Denisons. In 1939, there were no Denisons in it at all. Around that time it was amalgamated with the Mississauga Horse to become the Governor-General's Horse Guards---rather an improvement in the name. Besides having no Denisons in it to-day, I am quite willing to wager that there are no horses in it either. As far as I know, it is entirely mechanized. The end of the name Governor-General's Body Guard marked the end of an era in Canadian History.

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During this famous rebellion, Col. G.T. Denison the First was in command of Old Fort Toronto. His brother, Captain Thomas John Denison, also served in defence of Canada, as may be noted from the following incident, a record of which has been handed down to us.

On one particular occasion the defenders of the fort beheld a body of men coming in the direction of the Fort. Were they friends or foes? Fortunately before a single shot was fired, Colonel George T. Denison the First exclaimed:

"That man out in front looks very much like my brother Tom." It was. Captain Thomas John Denison, a captain in the militia, and who had fought at Queenston in the War of 1812--14, was living at Weston northwest of Toronto. Hearing of the outbreak he had collected all the men he could with all available weapons including pitch-forks, and had marched them to the Fort to offer what assistance they could in the service of Canada.

Colonel Robert B. Denison once said that on that occasion Capt. Thomas Denison's troop had met a rebel piper en route and had forced him to pipe them to the Fort.

Col. G.T. Denison the Second in "The Canadian Monthly" of April 1875 tells the following about the part he himself played in the Rebellion in defence of his Sovereign. "I had performed our share of garrison duty, and had taken part in the so-called Battle of Gallow's Hill. We had also gone through the winter march to the Village of Scotland, and on to Ingersoll under Sir Alan MacNab. Thence we marched to Chippewa, where the company in which I was a lieutenant was stationed as part of the force besieging Navy Island."

Mentioned in the original order-book of the 1st Regiment of West York Militia, covering the period May 29, 1837 to Nov. 26, 1838, are the following names of Denisons and relatives: Major George Denison, Captain Thomas Denison, Lieutenant R.L. Denison, and Ensigns George T. Denison and William J. Coates (husband of Sophia Taylor Denison).

Then there were the York Dragoons, who were on service between December and June. They were officered as follows: Major George T. Denison the First, in command; R.L. Denison, lieutenant; Perino Lawrence, cornet (a relative of the Weston Denison Branch). The York Dragoons did so well that they were honoured with the right to the name The Queen's Light Dragoons, in acknowledgement of their service to the Queen.

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STORIES

As related earlier (page 50) most of the Denisons were taken prisoner at the Capitulation of York, 1813. Mr. John Denison, son of Charles Leslie Denison, tells this interesting addition to the story. The Denisons were taken by their captors to the ancient Fort which stands on the American side at the mouth of the River Niagara where it empties into Lake Ontario. They were detained there under one guard with a musket and fixed bayonet. One of the Denisons, probably George, bought a bottle of whiskey, and taking very little himself, kept offering it to the guard. After the guard had had about three drinks, George suggested that he finish off the bottle. Then occurred what he was hoping for-- The guard placed the bayonet between his knees as he stood, threw back his head, and raised the bottle to his lips with both hands. George administered a powerful right to his jaw. The guard fell over as if he had been a row of nine-pins. The Denisons took his bayonet and musket; hastened to a small boat that rode at its mooring line just below; cut it loose; and escaped in it to the Canadian side. From thence they found their way back to York, and home.

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John Denison also says that when the North-West Rebellion of 1865 broke out, the Governor-General's Body Guard needed mounts for their cavalry. Now his father, Charles Leslie Denison, was very interested in breeding race-horses, (one of the reasons for his starting Dufferin Race Track). John Denison remembers that Col. George T. Denison the Third and Col. Clarence Denison approached his father with a view to obtaining mounts. Charles Leslie Denison supplied the Body Guard with horses at so much per day, and they were the finest horses available. After the war was over the same group gathered to talk about it. George and Clarence were very proud of how they had captured an Indian chief who rode a bronco! Charles Leslie Denison chimed in with "You couldn't have done that, if you hadn't had my horses".

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The Ride Through the Night

About seven years after Rusholme was first built, a real estate deal was consummated which, in the light of present-day methods, is significant of the ease in which large property turnovers were made, as well as throwing strong emphasis on the energetic character of the first Denison who owned Rusholme.

The north half of Park Lot 26, where Heydon Villa later stood, was up for sale on behalf of its owner, William Crooks of St. Catharines. Several letters had already passed between Col. Denison and the owner, when it was suddenly learned that another prospective purchaser was in sight.

Col. Denison had learned that his rival for the property had left one particular morning for a trip across the lake, armed with the necessary funds and determined to acquire the land. Coming out of a King Street shop on the beautiful May day, the keen Denison eye caught sight of the only sloop available for lake traffic becalmed just off the island.

Hurrying to a friend he borrowed \$300 and started to ride to St. Catharines. The rest of that day and night and well into the next morning Col. Denison urged his horse forward and reached his destination in time to see the sloop slowly coming toward the town. He roused Crooks and his family from their four o'clock slumbers and left the house with the deed to the Heydon Villa property and enough money for breakfast in his pocket. He met the other investor coming up from the sloop.

The ride in those days was a dangerous one, being through eighty miles of forest and darkness around the border of the lake, but as the relator of the anecdote remarked, "the prize was worth it".

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Following a pious preamble about miscreants who make our fire-sides unsafe and instil terror into the heart of the settler more surely than the howl of the wolf, an old newspaper clipping tells of the residence of Col. R.L. Denison being invaded by a burglar. Hearing a noise R.L. Denison rushed downstairs in the dark and struck twice at the invader with a sword. It missed its mark as did a pistol shot from the burglar who dashed away. Mr. D. then rushed upstairs and fired through an open window with a double-barrelled gun at the burglar, who with two girls escaped.