

**Niagara Historical Society  
United Empire Loyalists  
The Read Family in Early Years  
The Women's Institute  
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**United Empire Loyalists**

When speaking of the Loyalists we generally think of this neighborhood but Professor Wilbur H. Siebert, M.A., of Ohio State University, Columbus, has written a number of papers which appear in six or seven pamphlets which describe the flights of the Loyalists to places as far apart as West Florida, Upper Canada, Quebec and Great Britain. Part of this paper I gain from Prof. Siebert's accurate description for which he has spared no pains to gain full account. The places are : 1<sup>st</sup>, West Florida; 2<sup>nd</sup>, Great Britain; 3<sup>rd</sup> Gaspé; 4<sup>th</sup>, Machiche; 5<sup>th</sup>, Seignories in the Province of Quebec; 6<sup>th</sup>, Penobscot and Passamaquoddy; 7<sup>th</sup>, The Loyalists and Indians in the District of Niagara. It is not my intention to take up the story of the causes of the Revolutionary War, the seven years of the contest between Britain and the colonies, who was right and who was wrong in a partisan spirit. We know something of the bitter spirit of both parties but we rejoice to see that the best of the historians of the United States have acknowledged the cruel treatment meted out to the Loyalists. We know that they were driven out, that they were seized, imprisoned, shot down, in some cases tarred and feathered, their property taken from them, proscribed, spoken of with abusive language. Prof. Siebert gives a mere statement without expressing any opinion as to the right or wrong, does not argue the case but just tells plainly the story of the exodus of the Loyalists. Owen Wister's book "Let the old grudge die" is written in admirable spirit, speaks of the foolish and wrong things that are spoken even in the present day. But it must have been a strong feeling of loyalty that caused then thousand people to leave homes of plenty to face a wilderness, traveling through dangers and difficulties, starving, hardships of all kinds. It has been said that no such pilgrimage has been made except perhaps the expatriation of the Huegenots from France at the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. We said 10,000, that number refers to those who came to the Niagara District but the number 50,000, nay 100,000 has been used. The term U. E. Loyalists stands for those who stood for the Unity of the Empire.

(1) Flight of the Loyalists to Britain. The number of these is not certainly known, some went as individuals, some went in groups. Rev. Samuel Peters the father of Mrs. Wm Jarvis went as early as 1774. The chief point of departure was Boston which was the head quarters of the provincial aristocracy which supported the crown till the evacuation in 1776. Many fled to Philadelphia where General Howe and his officers spent the winter of 1777 and 1778. Many loyalists fled to West Florida which was British from 1763. When it was given up to Spain in 1783 many fled to the neighboring islands, the Bermudas and the West Indies and two boat loads left for England. Many of the Loyalists sailed from New York. At least four fleets left in 1777-8. In 1783 one of 120 sail, another of 200 sail under convoy of several frigates, another of 150 sail. The question of how many of there went to Great Britain has been much discussed. Prof. Flick thinks the number not too much more than 2000 but others place it at 5000 or 6000. Many of these had at first taken refuge in Halifax, Shelburne, Quebec and St. John N.B., New England and the South.

(2) We have not been accustomed to associate the name of U.E. Loyalists with West Florida as few are aware that West Florida was British from 1764 to 1787 and embraced Alabama and Mississippi. Numerous settlers had come in from the States around. A British regiment came in and many from the West Indies and many in 1776. Trouble arose with the Indians and United State troops and when Spain declared war with Great Britain the settlement was attacked and after many engagements the fugitives fled in many directions for shelter. In 1781 many were shipped to New York and in 1783 to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, among them Loyal American Regiment.

(3) Loyalist settlement in Gaspé. General Haldimand finding that a number of Loyalist settlers had found their way to different spots in Lower Canada sent Captain Sherwood in 1783 to investigate and report. His written report states that he had found a number near the bay of Chaleur. Paspediaic is mentioned as refugees building homes, clearing the land and a letter that says it is the best country for a poor man that he has ever seen on account of the great quality of fish, game and lumber and the fertility of the soil producing wheat and vegetables. At Gaspé fishing became the chief occupation and much dried codfish had been exported. Supplies had been given by the Government for some time. When Sir J. Le Moine visited the Gaspé Peninsula in 1877 he found descendents of the Loyalists all industriously employed as fisherman. We see the immense task of the British Government in sending supplies of all kinds to the widely scattered Loyalists.

(4) Temporary settlement of Loyalists at Machiche Que. By the fall of 1778 considerable numbers of Loyalists, men women and children and old men too were arriving at posts below Lake Champlain and at Machiche now Yamachiche at the western end of Lake St. Peter. Haldimand appointed Gury, a fellow Swiss, his former secretary to the task of lodging these distressed people, by October a dozen houses were underway and six more were ordered one for a schoolhouse, two hundred had been sent and household utensils. In April 1779 free provisions were given to 196 but by October 442, clothing also was forwarded from Sorel, a saw mill was arranged for and there were 80 pupils in the school. In the settlement there were a number of enlisted Loyalists who were now ordered to return to their regiments as Gury's settlement was only for women and children. In 1781 there were 321 receiving provisions while later there were only 265 of whom there were 13 men, 68 women and 184 children. Even then we are surprised to find when it was proposed to reduce the provisions some preferred indigence to going to service or working for a livelihood and we find that in this day some prefer being fed publicly to going to work at lumber camps and thus swell the list of unemployed. Haldimand had plans for the permanent settlement and in 1783 invited refugees to settle in Cataraqui, the greatest part did so and 218 consisting of 45 men, 35 women, 68 boys and 70 girls sailed May 11<sup>th</sup> in 16 flat Lottomed boats landed on the 26<sup>th</sup> and only few remained after 1784. This temporary settlement had cost the Government a large sum for oversight, lodgings, food, clothing to hundreds of exiles, most of them women and children, and had provided instructions to the young.

(5) Loyalists in the eastern seigniories and townships of the province Quebec.

Although Quebec had been saved from capture in 1775 Montreal remained in possession of the Americans till June 1776. The day after it was again in possession of the Canadians, Sir John Johnson arrived with 200 followers having fled from his estate in Mohawk valley through great hardships and suffering. He was at once commissioned by Carleton to form a regiment which was called The King's Royal Regiment of New York. Many of the refugees enlisted and Carleton invited all loyal subjects to join the King's forces and were to receive the same pay and

allowances and those serving till the end of the war to receive 200 acres of land. These joined Burgoyne's forces, one regiment was called the Queen's Royal Regiment. Many of these regiments fought nobly with Burgoyne but after the defeat at Saratoga, he speaks rather disparagingly of them and failed to say a word in their behalf in the article of capitulation. Before the signing at the convention many Loyalists escaped to Canada preferring the dangers of the conditions of surrender. Several officers shewed that they had a paper signed by General Philips under the order of Burgoyne for them to make their escape to Canada but in one place he speaks of them as "running away" Some were captured and kept in prison for months. Sir John Johnson's Royal Greens fled to Canada after the disaster at Stanwix. In 1779 the sum of 6,460£ was paid to Sir John Johnson for the present of relief of several corps of royalists belonging to Burgoyne's army. It may be seen that much of the Loyalists emigration into Canada was military, coming in groups under leaders in some cases accompanied by women and children in destitution. At the close of the war transports came bringing varying numbers to Montreal, to Quebec, to Sorel, to different military posts, in one case of 70 as Vercheres, Chambly etc, the exact number can be told accurately by the number supplied with food as shewn in the military record. Many came in under a flag of truce and exchanges of prisoners were thus made and sent to join relatives already in Canada. A letter of Wm. Fraser to his sons Capt. Wm. And Thos. Fraser at Yamaska near Sorel is worthy of quoting in part. Not knowing the address of the sons it was simply addressed "Province of Canada." It told them that their wives, mothers and children were well. He had permission to remove to Canada, had sold off his movables but being delayed had sent off the women and children in thirty sleighs with seventy-three men, women and children, were delayed by bad roads, the creeks unfrozen, had left the party at Fort George, had waited for a flag of truce and suffered much, living chiefly at he expense of the poor Loyalists. The letter closed with the pathetic appeal, "I have turned myself out doors for your sakes. For God's sake don't neglect us but do your best to get us into Canada."

It is pleasant to know that these people reached their destination found their relative, and the aged father was granted a pension. The Rev. John Stewart came under a flag of truce. Sir John Johnson however preferred to go with a force by land to his own estate on the Mohawk and bring off the loyalists, he went by land and water with 528 men some of them his own soldiers and about 200 Indians they marched through the woods secretly ten days and brought off 150 loyalists and many prisoners also eight negroes. Scouting and recruiting parties were constantly at work and did more than Sir John Johnson in bringing away and piloting loyalists safely to Canada, meanwhile provision had to be made for permanent settlements and in May 1784 John Collins, Dep. Surveyer Gen. was sent to distribute lots, no one to have more than 60 acres and they were to draw for lots. A census was taken and it was found there were 5500 – 800 received royal grants at Sorel, Chambly and St. Johns. Complaints were made that the town promised to be built at Sorel had not been built, and many grievances with regard to clothing, implements live stock and it is believed that these were rectified by Dorchester. Haldimand had opposed settlers on the St. Lawrence opposite the United States but many had taken up home there, Petitions were sent sometimes of indignation that various restrictions were laid upon them, that provisions were denied them, that they seen that the administration had its own difficulties as well as the loyalists.

(6) Exodus of the Loyalists from Penobscot and the Loyalist Settlements at Passamaquoddy. This differs in some respects from the other settlements and indeed presents romantic features and is not always fugitives seeking shelter but aggression and afterwards disputes as to the possession of several islands claimed by both parties, also the proper boundary

line between Maine and New Brunswick. British government ordered General Clinton in New York to secure a post on the Penobscot river in Maine for the purpose of erecting a province to which Loyalists might repair. Accordingly in June 1779 General McLean in Halifax prepared materials to fortify a fort on Penobscot river and a force of 640 men consisting of part of the 74<sup>th</sup> regiment and the 82<sup>nd</sup> left with a convoy of four men of war and landed at the mouth of the Penobscot and took possession and began to build a fort. The inhabitants feared that the country might be plundered and they, ill treated, but a proclamation reassured them and called on them to take the oath of allegiance to the king which about 500 did and others later. The next step was that an American fleet of thirty-seven sail of all sizes with 2600 troops laid siege to the place, scoured the country and did much damage. McLean and his men held out for three weeks expecting relief from Halifax but events moved quickly as on August 14<sup>th</sup> it was found that the Americans had abandoned some of their works and retreated up the Penobscot river as the king's fleet under Admiral Collier had opportunely arrived. The American ships were burned and the force retreated. Many now came in to the post and suffered much hardship for food and shelter and steps were now taken for carrying out the plan of the new province to be called New Ireland comprising the land between the Penobscot and Nova Scotia. Meanwhile complications had arisen as to the ownership of this land, the boundary line and when arrangements had been made in 1783 for the excavation of the Loyalists they found themselves in great difficulty, obliged to leave their homes, they were warned off their proposed homes as part of it was claimed by Massachusetts. The St. Croix river had been named as the boundary line but three rivers so called empty into the bay and which was the correct one was the question. However many did settle in the disputed territory. In June 1783 Carleton wrote to the Governor of Nova Scotia that two ships had been sent to remove those who choose to his province. Meanwhile settlers came in and gradually the parishes of St. Andrew, St. George, St. Patrick, St. David, St. Croix, St. Stephen were formed along the water front, many of them Quakers. An Association of Quakers (Pennsylvania) came from New York 1783. One regulation provided that no slave be either bought or sold or kept by any person belonging to the said Society on any pretence whatever. Another complication arose, the ownership of the islands Grand Manan, Campbell with other small islands belonging to New Brunswick, others to the South to Massachusetts and much negation ensued. The Convention of 1803 curiously enough made no mention of Grand Manan. In 1817 it was decided that three islands Moose, Dudley and Fredrick belonged to the United States and that all the other islands belong to His Britannic Majesty in accordance with the second article of the treaty of 1783.

(7) Loyalists and Six Nation Indians in the Niagara Peninsula.

The western side of the Niagara river was occupied by the Mississauga Indians and was bought by the British government. It had formerly been the land of the Neutral Indians who had been conquered by the Iroquois and were now an extinct race. Fort Niagara had been captured from the French in 1759 and the Indians were friendly to the British from a treaty made with them by Sir William Johnson in 1764 and Fort Niagara became a refugee of Loyalists and Indians fleeing from Fort Johnson and the Valley of the Mohawk river. It is known that in 1775 a party came for safety to Oswego and thence to Montreal where they met the Governor who sent some of them to Fort Niagara. There was Guy Johnson with his family (the nephew and the daughter of Sir. Wm. Johnson) Col. Daniel Claus the son-in-law, John Butler, Barent Frey, Gilbert Tice, two sons of Sir Wm. Johnson and 120 warrior and chiefs of the Six Nation, Capt. Butler took charge and immediately as refugees were constantly arriving began to form a force afterwards known as Butler's Rangers and employed a number to bring those fleeing through the

wilderness to safety. In May 1776 Sir John Johnson finding his life in danger in Tyron country fled with 170 followers through the wilderness with great difficulty and danger to Montreal. Johnson Hall was sacked and the families of the refugees kept as hostages in Albany including Lady Johnson and Mrs. Butler, were they remained prisoners. In 1777 a force of Indians was formed, permission from the Carleton having been delayed sometime. Recruiting agents were sent out among the refugees to have them enlist but the Indians did not need to be solicited but came to Fort Niagara so that in Dec. 1777 and May 1778 there were over 2700 Indians waiting to be led out in attack. It may be imagined what were the difficulties to feed this force as well as the white refugees. Men were sent out to buy up cattle and gather provisions even as far as Detroit. Much of the supplies had to be brought from Britain.

The story of Wyoming has been greatly misrepresented General Cruickshank in his Butler's Rangers has vindicated the character of Col. John Butler showing that he had used all his authority to suppress outrages by the Indians and gives several examples of his humanity and as for the expression used as regards Brant in Campbell's Gertrude of Wyoming it has been fully proved that Brant was not present but was invading the Delaware Valley. When representation was made to the poet that the phrase "the monster Brant" should be omitted and the real facts stated, all that was done was a short footnote added. Part of the reason for the attack on Wyoming was to release a number of their friends who were prisoners there, a number of them relatives or escaped refugees and a number who were thus released were afterwards found at Fort Niagara having followed an Indian Trail to Oswego and then coasted along the shore of Lake Ontario for nine days living meanwhile on the hips of the wild rose.

By a census taken in Feb. 1779 it appears that 1346 people were drawing ration at Fort Niagara, of them there were 445 red men and Rangers 348, troops of the garrison 200, there must have been 350 white refugees, it is mentioned that 64 were belonging to distressed families most of them from the Mohawk Valley. In 1779 there was no cessation of flights to Niagara and the destruction of 40 Indian Villages and the laying of waste of the fields of maize in the Genesee Country by General Sullivan U.S. Agent in August and September increased the number of Indians at the fort, brought the number to over 5000 so that the Supt. John Johnston had difficulty on providing food and clothing for his wards, to make matters worse the season was so severe that the Niagara river remained frozen from January to March. Among the Loyalists who escaped to the Fort during 1779 were Daniel Servos with his father and brother from Tryon County, John Middagh, Isaac Dobson, Daniel Servos was appointed in the Indian Department with a company of men under his command. John Land arrived at the fort and settled near what is now Hamilton. The romantic story of his being joined there in his lonely hut by his wife and children seven years after, whom he had thought all murdered by the Indians. Meanwhile the difficulty of supplying food had suggested to the other commander that the land might be settled on the other side of the river and food thus supplied. From a census taken in 1782 by Butler a list given of 16 families numbering 73 persons, the acres under cultivation, the horses, cows, sheep, the bushels of wheat, oats, potatoes raised. A complaint was made that food was bought at a fixed price by the military and they wished the regular market price. Refugees who had reached Niagara had been often sent down to Quebec from the scarcity of food. When peace was made some of the refugees thought of returning to their homes but found that these were confiscated and they ill treated and decided to remain and obtain the grants of land promised to them and by 1784 there were 46 families opposite the fort, all but two had built houses, 731 acres were cultivated and their live stock had much increased and more wheat was raised. Steps were taken to provide a home for the Indians and at first a number were placed eight miles south of the

for and two miles east of Lewiston on the American side. Different attempts were made by Butler and Brant visiting Sir John Johnson and Governor Haldimand at Montreal and Quebec at different times. Finally it was agreed that land should be bought on both sides of the Grand river six miles in length. At a meeting of the Mississaugas, Six Nations and Butler a deed was secured of an immense tract containing nearly two million acres for 1180£ for the government. To relieve their present needs 1500£ was given then with clothing, provisions, and utensils.

By 1785 of Butler's Rangers 258 men had agreed to take up land opposite the fort and the census of June 1785 shewed the number of settlers as 770 of men, women and children. Arrangements were made to have the land surveyed and laid out and Phillip Rocknell Frey a former lieutenant in Butler's Rangers was appointed deputy surveyor. The Garrison line was drawn from the hollow above Navy Hall to Four Mile Creek. The survey of townships 1 and 2 known as Niagara and Stamford was completed in 1787. Two assistants were supplied in 1788, Jesse Pawling and Augustus Jones. Complaints had been made that the farming implements promised had not all been supplied not the grist mills and that the distribution of provisions to Loyalists was to be made only to June 1<sup>st</sup> 1786. Permission was given to erect mills at their own expense. John Burch near the Falls built a structure for use both as a grist and saw mill this year. For the administration of justice in the peninsula there were appointed in 1788 John Butler, Robert Hamilton, Jesse Pawling, justices of the court of Common Pleas, Philip Frey clerk of the court and clerk of the Peace, Gilbert Tice, sheriff and as Justices of the Peace, John Burch, Peter TenBrock, John Warren, John Powell, Jacob Ball and Samuel Street.

The Land Board in 1789 settled the amount of land to be given to the military, to the loyalists as from 1000 acres to field officers down to 200 acres to others. There was delay in giving certificates of land as David Secord who received the first given by the Land Board June 28<sup>th</sup> 1790 although we learn that John Secord was living on his farm in 1782 as we learn from the wonderful story of the Gilbert Captivity. The family of eleven living in Pennsylvania were carried off as prisoners, by the Indians all the way some of them to Niagara a little girl was living with the Secord family and was well treated. Some of them were bought from the Indians and we know of a group of Loyalists who came in 1777 having been helped by Indians. It was said there were five families, Nelles, Secord, Bowman, Buck and Young, five women and thirty one children and only one pair of shoes among them, helped by the Indians. The story of the famine what is called the Hungary Year gives some sad pictures, the famine was caused by the failure of crops. The experience of one family may be given, Peter Bowman, one of Butler's Rangers settled in Stamford, walked three miles to the river after work, fished all night twice a week carrying home the fish in the morning, the fish was eaten without salt or bread. Many lived on game, herbs, nuts, milk, berries, grains of wheat grown large enough to be rubbed out then boiled for the use of the family. Mrs. Bowman Sphon tells of their hardships. The government gave the settlers some articles, they drew an axe and a hoe, and bought a yoke of oxen, her mother had a cow, a bed, six plates, three knives and a few other articles.

Government mills were built in the Four Mile Creek in 1783, later a grist mill by Peter Secord, a saw mill by David Secord and a grist mill by Daniel Servos. By a survey published in 1901 we find that 200 families belonging to Butler's Rangers settled in Niagara Township and 200 in Grantham which shows that very many of the present inhabitants are descended from the Loyalists. Many found homes in Louth, in Welland, south of Stamford 140 families and in the whole of Welland 820 Loyalist families.

In a volume called the United Empire Loyalists issued shortly after the celebration at Niagara and Adolphustown in 1884 there many found long lists of those entitled to the name, the date of their coming and in what district they settled, their former abode and the words Niagara Stamped Book. On inquiry at the Crown Lands Dept. and other Government offices it was found that no information could be gained as to the present existence of this book, but it seems that from it, most of the information in this list has been gained but no one seems to know when it disappeared or how. Then in two bulky volumes issued by the Ontario Archives 1904 there may be found much curious information respecting the losses of the United Empire Loyalists. The British Parliament had been urged by the King to treat the Loyalists with "a due and generous attention" a commission of five members was appointed in July 1783 to classify the losses and services. The Commissioners sat in different places to take evidence as London England, Halifax, St. John, Quebec and Montreal. As witnesses must be produced it easy to see hoe difficult it was for claimants from Upper Canada to travel so far with the poor facilities for traveling n those days so that many names are not found in the lists. It is rather a strange story how we are able to read these records. It was known that a copy of the manuscript was in London, England, in the Public Record Office. One of the Commissioners Col. Thomas Dundas had retained the Manuscript in his home, Carron Hall, Stirlingshire. In 1844 Sir Henry Lefroy had been sent out to organize a magnetic survey, selected Toronto as the site and married a daughter of Sir John Beverly Robinson and after her death a grand daughter of Col. Dundas. In 1860 while staying at Carron Hall he saw the original Manuscript and being interested in the Smithsonian Institute of Washington advised that it be sent there but afterwards they were transferred to the Archives of Congress (Of course they should be in our own archives) The Ontario Government granted a large sum to have the record copied and thus we have the information in two large volumes.

The manuscript being frail has been repaired, and is much fuller in notes and references than the transcript in London. Claims were made to the amount of \$47,000,000 and the total outlay to the Loyalists in food, clothing and monetary compensation amounted to \$30,000,000 to 2560 persons. You may find in number 31 of our publication extracts from thee volumes of names of settlers in this neighborhood, the names of Ball, Servos, Secord, Field, Freel, Butler, Clement, Claus, Crysler, Johnson, McMicking which space will not permit me to give here. In the story of Britain did to help the refugees must not be forgotten. It is said that every ounce of food brought across the ocean and then thousands of miles farther from Montreal and Quebec to boats as distant as Detroit and Michilimackinac, ammuniton, food and clothing.

No one need to wonder at hearing or reading of the suffering of the U.E.L. in treading through pathless forests or wading through marshes in hunger and thirst, escaping enemies or wily Indians, generally on foot carrying perhaps some treasured relic having left the graves of those they loved, their homes and coming to a wilderness, cutting down trees to build the log house and having to learn to perform tasks to themselves unknown before with poor tools, the women learn to bake with primitive ovens, to spin, to weave, the men to make rude furniture, chairs, tables, make wagons, sleighs, make clothes, everything. But they were on British soil, these were their won homes however rude. All honor then to the memory of those who sacrificed so much to be loyal to their King to obey the dictate of conscience, the poets have given honor to the Loyalists, Wm. Kirby and Le Roy Hooker especially, and in "Has Canada a History," I have tried to do justice to their memory.

WILLIAM KIRBY IN THE HUNGRY YEAR

They who loved  
The cause that had been lost and kept their faith  
To England's Crown and scorned and alien name  
Passed into exile; leaving all behind  
Except their honor.  
Not drooping like poor fugitives they came  
In exodus to our Canadian wilds,  
But full of heart and hope, with heads erect  
And fearless eyes, victorious I defeat.  
With thousand toils they forced their devious way  
Through great wilderness of silent woods,  
Tat gloomed o'er lake and stream ill higher rose  
The northern star above the broad domain  
Of half a continent still theirs to hold  
Defend and keep forever as their own.

REV. LE ROY HOOKER

Dear were the homes where they were born  
Where slept their honored dead  
And rich and wide on every side.  
Their fruitful acres spread,  
But dearer to their faithful hearts  
Than home or gold or lands  
Were Britain's laws and Britain's Crown  
And Britain's flag of long renown  
And grip of British hands.  
They took their last and got them out  
Into the wilderness  
All dark and rude and unsubdued  
The lonely wilderness,  
Where hopeless famine might assail,  
Should autumn's promised fruitage fail.  
When they must lay their dead away  
Without the man of God to say  
The solemn words that Christian men  
Have learned to love so well, but then  
T'was British wilderness.  
With high resolve they looked their last  
On home and native land.  
And sore they wept o'er those who slept  
In honored graves that must be kept  
By grace of stranger's hand.

HAS CANADA A HISTORY

No history- then tell me ye who can  
As chronicles of brave and good ye scan



A higher, nobler, more unselfish deed  
 And more deserving laurel crown and meed  
 To leave broad fields and fruitful orchards fair  
 Or happy smiling prosperous homes and dare  
 To face wild beasts and still more savage men  
 And venture far beyond the white man's ken –  
 To leave the graves of those they loved so well  
 More loved than these, perhaps, the sweet church bell  
 And all for what? For an idea --? No –  
 Ten thousand times we say again – not so  
 The right to say aloud – God save the King  
 To British laws and British homed to cling  
 For love of what they deemed good government  
 Nor less than these demands will them content;  
 To face reproach, abuse nor weakly yield  
 Even when the contest with their blood they sealed  
 When specious pleading made the worse appear  
 The better reason, oft through force or fear  
 These are the things that test and try men's souls  
 And show what leading principal controls  
 And not the men alone thus did and dared  
 But women fair and young and old and silvery haired.

-JANET CARNOCHAN

### **The Read Family**

There are few burial plots in the old historic County of Lincoln, whose gravestones mark the last resting place, of so many of the old pioneers of the Niagara District more interesting than the Homer cemetery, on the Hamilton and Grimsby Stone road, about half a mile east of Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines. Here side by side in this quiet little spot sleep many members of Colonel John Butler's Rangers, the Lincoln Militia of 1812 fame, the Loyalists of Mackenzies Rebellion, and the Lincoln Militia of the Fenian Raid.

A row of tall Elms on the west side of the little burial ground stand out as silent Sentinels over the remains of some of Canada's best and bravest. The little Ten Mile Creek along whose bank the old soldiers camped and kept their watch fires in the martial days of long ago, sings its unceasing song on the south side of the little green plot in noble memory of the sacred dead.

Here the eye greets such familiar names of the present and of the past century as: Ball, Secord, Schram, Havens, Bessey, Goring, Parnell, Stull, Read, Grass, Hare and many others whose heroism and devotion to the British flag will never fade or pass away with times. On the dust of such men as these the British Empire has been founded, brilliant battles fought and won, and glorious deeds performed.

On a marble slab on a sloping bank on the south side of the enclosure one may read the following epitaph: -- "In memory of George Read, who was born at Brenton, in Yorkshire England, 1763 and came to New York in 1773, to Canada in 1784 and departed this life, February 1834."

The George Read referred to in the inscription was but twelve years old when discordant notes began to break the harmony of the American Colonists in the year 1775, yet when he reached his sixteenth year he was wearing the dark uniform with red facing of Col. Butler's Rangers. He fought for four years with the regiment of his choice and served with great distinction even for one of so tender years. As far as is known the Read family at that time consisted of father, namely John Read, Sr. and three sons, William, George and John Jr. It was generally understood that the mother also one daughter were alive when the revolution broke out. The family after many hardships finally reached the Niagara frontier, where the descendants are still found scattered throughout Grantham Township, St. Catharines, Port Dalhousie, and the Great West, where they are still loyal to the British Crown and the flag under which they fought in all Canada's wars and covered themselves with glory. When the American finally cast off their allegiance to the motherland, the Reads, being outstanding loyalists, at once threw in their lot with the British. In consequence their lands and Chattels were confiscated, their buildings burned and one son William was severely persecuted and cast into prison for two years, because of his devotion to the British Crown. With what weariness and sadness must have been their lot as they left their adopted land and trudged wearily by day and night through the depths of primeval forests, where the redmen of those days lurked in their shady canopies ready to plunder and massacre every form of being. Swollen streams has to be forded, precautions had to be taken against wild beasts and not the least of all, hunger was their daily companion. Their goal was Canada's Wilderness – where the Union Jack still waved and flaunted out its welcome to all lovers of the Empire good.

The following extracts taken from the Public Archives of Canada may be of interest:

“To His Excellency, John Graves Simcoe, Esq. Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of Upper Canada, Major General of His Majesty's Forces, Etc. in Council.

The Petition of George Read, late of Butler's Rangers, Humbly shewth – That your Petitioner has received two hundred acres of land which he has considerably improved, prays your Excellency will be pleased to grant him the remaining 100 acres which may be due him as a “discharged soldier.” He further respectfully informs your Excellency that he has a wife and five children born before the year 1788, for whom he has never received and lands, and humbly prays your Excellency will grant him 350 acres in their behalf, that the same may be located to him in the Township of Beverly, or other vacant lands of the Province, as in duty bound your petitioner will ever pray.

(Sg'd) George Read

Newark,

15 July, 1795

Endorsed: Petition of George Read – July 17, 1795.

“Recommended that the remainder of his Military Lands be made up to him, and such family lands as he may appear to be entitled to on producing the required Certificate:

“Gave a Warrant, 8<sup>th</sup>, October, 1796 – 6 months. No. 650.”

Here follows a petition of William Read, brother of George Read –

“His Excellency John Graves Simcoe, Esq. Lieutenant Governor: General and Commander in Chief of the Province of Upper Canada etc. in Council.

Humbly showeth; That your Petitioner, a Native of Great Britain came with his father and the family in General to America in 1773. At the commencement of the American War, was severely persecuted and he was to years imprisoned. He will not tire the Patience of your

Excellency with a long detail of suffering, but hopes that the loyalty of the whole family will be a convincing proof that they were even unshaken in their fidelity to their King and the Constitution of Great Britain.

The brother of your Petitioner, who served His Majesty in Colonel Butler's Rangers has lodged a Certificate with John Small. Esq. which they brought from Britain which your Petitioner hopes your Excellency will peruse.

Your Excellency's Petitioner has drawn but 300 acres of land for himself and family, and if industry has any weight in his claim to your further Notice, wishes that his improvement may be stated, and not only that, but with the assistance of his neighbors he has erected a church on his premises in which Divine Service has been performed by the Rev-d. Mr. Addison.

Your Petitioner has a wife and five children, and prays you will be pleased to him an additional Grant of land to accommodate them further, or such other relief as through your Wisdom may seem meet and your Petitioner will ever pray.

(Sgd.) William Read.

Endorsed; Wm. Read, rec'd July 17, 1795.

Recommended for 300 acres in addition.

On referring to a copy of a map of the Township of Nassau 791, now Grantham, William, George and John Read had 1100 acres of land. On William Read's land or in what is now the village of Homer the church referred to was erected. There is no doubt whatever of it being and Episcopal Church for all the Reads of earlier days were strict Episcopalians and the Rec. Mr. Addison was in charge of the Parish at Niagara long before the days of St. Mark's Church. The was probably the first Episcopal Church in the Niagara Peninsula. It is but natural that the church referred to was erected adjacent to the present Homer burying ground, for in those days the church and burying ground was always in close proximity. And what strange congregations must have been assembled there, old pioneers, men of Military bearing and the noble red man, were no doubt seated side by side, being taught God's truths by Rev. Robert Addison., of sainted memory. The descendants of William Read afterwards moved to Port Dalhousie and were mainly instrumental in building the first Episcopal Church in that village nearly a century ago;

The following certified document by Lt. Col. John Butler taken from the Archives at Ottawa, is of interest: --

"By John Butler Esq., Lieut. Col. Commandant of the Corps of Rangers. These are to certify that the Bearer hereof, George read, Private of Captain Bernard Frey's Company of the aforesaid Corps for the space of dour years, and in consequence of His Majesty's Order for discharging, the said Corps, he is herby discharged, and is entitled by his Majesty's late Order to the portion of land allotted to each private Soldier of his provincial Corps, who wishes to become a settler in this Province, he having first received all just demands, arrears of pay, clothing, and from his entry in of said Corps to this date of his discharge as appears by his receipt on the back hereof.

Given under my hand at Niagara this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 1784.

(Sgd.) John Butler, Lt. Col. Commanding.

(To all whom it may concern.)

I, George Read do acknowledge to have received all me pay, arrears of clothing, and all other dues and demands, from my Colonel and Captain, from the day of my entry into the within mentioned Corps of Rangers to this present day of my discharge –

As witness of my hand at Niagara this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1784.

(Sgd.) George Read

Well it was for Canada that the District of Nassan (Niagara) was settled by such men as these, men true to British Crown, for just twenty years later, its virgin soil was stained by their blood in the War of 1812. The same indomitable courage displayed by these old warriors was characteristic of their children upon whose shoulders the latter struggled mainly rested. Fully two thirds of the Townships of Niagara, Grantham and Louth were settled by the United Loyalists and of these majority fought under Colonel Butler. It is said of George Read when the Americans had for some months possession of the Niagara Frontier in 1813, some American Officers accosted him one day with these words “Well old man your country is gone now,” His quick reply was, “maybe it is and maybe it is not.”

The two sons of George Read, U. E. L., were actually engaged in the war of 1812. George, Junior was for a short time Captain of No. 5 Company, of the First Lincoln. Cornelius was a private in Captain McEwen’s Company of the same Regiment, Cornelius was a both the Battles of Queenston and Lundy’s Lane and while on furlough in 1813 was taken prisoner by the Americans, but shortly afterwards released. George was also at the Battle of Lundy’s Lane and both brothers were with the Canadian troops at the burning of Buffalo. A son of Capt. George Read once told the writer that he heard his father say ay the burning of Buffalo, barrel after barrel of lipuor was broken in and the contents ran down the streets. At the Battle of Queenston, as Cornelius was getting over a stump fence an Indian coming on a rush behind him gave him a shove and got on the fence. A bullet, an instant later laid in the Indian low. Some years previous to the war of 1812 George Read, U. E. L had moved with his family to lots 9 and 10 in the 1<sup>st</sup>. Concession of Grantham, first farm east of what is now Port Weller. Here he built his log home a few yards from Lake Ontario. It was torn down about twenty five years ago. William moved to ort Dalhousie with his family about the same time that George move to the Lake Shore. The third brother John remained at Homer where he died. It is said of the old Loyalists father, John, Senior, that the went back on a short trip to the states after the Revolutionary War and died there. His sons rather than have their father’s body rest in rebel country went to the states and brought his remained back to Canada and re-interred them on Canadian soil. Such was the bitterness that marked those early struggles.

Cornelius married, Ann Young, daughter of John Young U. E. L. His home was on the Lake Shore Road on the banks of the Ten Mile Creek. Here was his home during the War of 1812 and I have often heard my Mother tell that when her father would be away for weeks at a time with First Lincoln, her mother would hide any silver they had in the straw stack so the Indians would not steal it when they came in their home during the War. She often related to me that the younger children of the home before retiring each night had to come one by one kneel down at their father’s knee and say their prayers before retiring and when they were each tucked in their little bed by their mother they were not allowed to speak after having said their prayers.

How those old days remind is of that celebrated poem of Robert Burns in his Cotter Saturday Night, when speaking of family worship:

From scenes like these old Scotia’s grandeur springs  
That makes her loved at home revered abroad;

Princes and Lords are but the breath of Kings,  
“An honest man’s the noblest work of God.”

The home of Cornelius Read Sr. was erected on the banks of the Ten Mile Creek, sometime about the year 1800 or a little before. William’s son George moved to Port Dalhousie about the time his son, George Read, moved to the Lake Shore near the Ten Mile Creek. The late Eleazer Hodgknain (who died about 30 years ago) used to relate as a young man, he was well remembered the wild deer drinking from a salt spring on the farm where the writer was born. It is said of the wife of Cornelius Read Sr., that she as the first girl christened in old St. Andrews Church, Niagara. Her father, John Young was chairman of the Committee who undertook the erection of that church. He was long an honored and enthusiastic member of the church of his choice in that town.

Susan (Read) Parnell, mother if the writer is the youngest child of the late Cornelius Read Sr. She was born at the old homestead on the Ten Mile Creek on February 21<sup>st</sup> 1830. She is still very active for one of her years. Up every morning at 5:30 to 6’o’clock, she still assists at light house work, knits the finest lace, read without glasses and with a keen memory still on the events of youth and later years. In fact she has possession of all her faculties and can repeat from memory in a very clear, distinct voice verse after verse of poetry. She often loves to rehearse the events of by-gone days. Well, she remembers the days, long before railroad, locomotives sent out their shrill whistle, giving defiance as it were to the old yokes of oxen. She often tells when the traveling circuses used to cross over at Lewiston by boat down to Niagara and after showing there, go up the Lake Shore Road to St Catharines, watering by the way, the elephants and wild animals in the show wagons at the Ten Mile Creek. It is also interesting to hear her tell of the time before matches came in to general use when neighbors used to borrow fire in shovels from each other. She is at the present time in her ninety sixth year and the oldest member of McNab Episcopal Church. From all appearances she bids fair to reach the five score years.

Of five boys and three girls none trod the wayword path. All one summer during the War a British out post was stationed at the Lake Shore by George Read’s farm no doubt to sound alarms at the approach of the enemy. Cornelius Read named his eldest son John Brock, (who was born during the war) after General Brock, whom he so admired. Cornelius was a member of one of the first Library boards of Niagara.

The Public Archives again enlightens us with the following Petition.

“To the Honorable Isaac Brock, Esq., President, Administering the Government of the Province of Upper Canada, Major General Commanding the Forces in the said Province, and etc. in council.”

The Petition of Cornelius Read of the Township of Grantham, Yeoman, humbly shewth;

That your Petitioner is the son of George Read, Senior of the Township of Grantham, a U. E. Loyalist, that he has attained the full age of twenty-one years, has taken the Oath of Allegiance (as will appear by the annexed certificate) and has never received any land or order for land from the Crown.

Wherefore your Petitioner prays, that your Honor may be pleased to grant him two hundred acres of the waste lands of the Crown, and permit Thomas Hamilton of York, Gentleman, to be his agent to locate the same and take out the deed when completed. And your Petitioner will ever pray.

(Sgd.) Cornelius Read

Niagara 8<sup>th</sup>, October, 1811,  
District of Niagara

In General Quarter Sessions,

Personally appeared the within named Petitioner, Cornelius Read, who on oath deposeseth and saith; that what is contained in the within Petition is just and true.

(Sgd.) Cornelius Read

Sworn before me in the General Quarter Session of the Peace at Niagara, the 9<sup>th</sup>, day of October.

(Sgd.) Thomas Dickson, Chairman

George Read made the oath and saith, that Cornelius Read, the within named Petitioner, is the person he describes himself to be, and has never received any land or order of land from the crown to the best of his knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) George Read

Sworn before me in General Quarters Sessions of the Peace at Niagara, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1811.

(Sgd.) Thomas Dickson, Chairman

Endorsed: Petition of Cornelius Read for land, and son of George Read, U. E. L. Received 21<sup>st</sup>, Oct. 1811 from himself.

(Sgd.) J. Small

It does not appear that the Petitioner has received any land by order in council

(Sgd.) J. Small

(Sgd.) J. Small, C. E. C.

Presidents Office  
11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1811

Referred to the Executive Council. By order of the President.

(Sgd.) James Brock

Read in Council 12<sup>th</sup> of November, 1811.

The Petitioner recommended for a grant of two hundred acres of land, as the son of U. E. Loyalist.

(Sgd.) Thomas Scott, Chairman

Approved: Isaac Brock, President

I certify that Cornelius Read of Grantham has taken and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance as required by law, before me this ninth day of October one thousand eight hundred and eleven.

(Sgd.) William Dickson, Commissioner

This land was located in what is now the City of Hamilton and assigned to the said Cornelius Read who in return quite a number of years later deeded to his son, William. William kept it for quite some time, year by year disposed of it to advantage. This William was an ardent British subject, so much so, that on one occasion his son George from St. Louis, Mo. was on a visit to him and asked him the question, "Father when are you coming to see me," he replied, "Never, George, while you live in the United States, for I will never put my foot on Yankee soil" and he never did. He lived to a ripe old age, 86 years, full of energy and intellectually very

bright to the end. Though over eighty years of age at the time of the South African War, 1899 he was wishing himself a young man again so that he could enlist with the Canadian Forces.

Cornelius Read, Sr. died the same year of McKenzie's Rebellion, 1837, three of his sons enlisting with the Canadian troops viz. John, William, and Aaron. George and Cornelius Jr. (Bub) were too young. Many times have I heard my Mother tell how the soldiers in marching to and fro St. Catharines, to Niagara, would stop at her mother's home on the Lake Shore Road for a drink, and that her mother would pass out pans of milk for them to drink. The widow of Cornelius Read, Sr. passed many sleepless nights at home with her five small children when the three older boys were away during the rebellion. It was several years later that the celebrated outlaw, Townsend had the whole countryside terrorized, and no one knew the day or the hour when he might appear.

Coming down to the time of the Fenian Raid, four of Cornelius Read's Sr. sons were enrolled in Captain Angus Cooke's Flank Company of the XIX Regiment, namely William, Aaron, George and Cornelius, Jr., the eldest son, John Brock having died a few years previous to the Raid. An amusing story is told of Cornelius Jr. at the time of the outbreak of the raid Captain Cooke had working for him a Fenian sympathizer by the name of Patrick C-----y Mr. G. hearing of the Fenian landing at Fort Erie, left the Cooke farm near Port Weller in the early morning hours for Niagara to cross the river there for the American side. Cornelius Read hearing of it hitched up a horse and went by the way of the Lake Shore Road and overtook Mr. C just before he reached Niagara. Read ordered Mr. C. to get on the old time sulky with him, drove back up the Lake Shore Road to a point near where the Port Weller Station now stands. Here Capt. Cooke had an outpost stationed. Private William Hodginson and W. Williot marched Mr. C at the point of the bayonet from there to Captain Cook's residence, a distance of about a quarter of a mile, much to the amusement of the acquaintances of Mr. C.

In the Great World War of 1914-8 Corporal Fred N. Read, of the celebrated Princess Pats, son of Aaron Read, Jr., Ex-Mayor of Owen Sound, a grandson of Cornelius Read, Jr. lost his life in the desperate battle of Passchendale, a battle in which Canadian Forces covered themselves with so much glory.

In the same War, Private Alex Read of the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, C. E. F. son of George Read of Beamsville laid down his life for world freedom at the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

The old British spirit which permeated the Reads during the Revolutionary War of 1775-6 has been passed down for five generations from father to son. It is such men as these who fight the Empire's battles and keep unstained the old Union Jack and preserve the Crown for Britain in its days of stress and danger.

The reads have ever been prominent in Municipal matters. For years a Read sat at the Council Board in their native Township of Grantham, Fred C. and William W. both passing through the Reeves' chair. Aaron, now of British Columbia is also an Ex-Mayor of Kerrobert, Sask. And John C. is assessment Commissioner of Owen Sound. These four just mentioned are all sons of the late Cornelius Read, Jr.

The Reads are loyal to the heart's core and should occasion arise they still ready and willing to rally around the old Red Cross banner when occasion demands it;

No Traitors blood is in their veins  
For Britain cause they'll die  
In her defense they'll draw the sword  
Beneath her flag on high.

How the wheel of time has left its imprint upon this beautiful Niagara District. A century and a half ago where lurked the dusky red man around the rude cabins of the old loyal pioneers in the heart of the forest, today we have the orchards with their luscious fruit and vineclad hills, beautiful homes, around which are heard the voices of happy children. All honor and praise to those old United Loyalists whose dust today commingles with Mother earth. They builded well this Canada of ours and have left to us a heritage unsurpassed in the British Empire and rivaled by none in the notations of the earth.

May our children and our children's children ever be true to the traditions of our father, leaving untarnished names behind them and taking their places side by side with those who day by day are the builders of our glorious British Empire.

-FRED R. PARNELL

St. Catharines, Ont.

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1924

### **Women's Institutes and Specially that of Niagara-on-the-Lake**

To follow the rise and progress of Societies that have done so much for the good of humanity in later years in so many ways is an interesting study. When hearing that the first Women's Institute instead of being in a town or city was formed in the Village of Stoney Creek, I always had a desire to know the name of the woman who proposed it and called the first meeting. After consulting many of the annual reports and reading of the first formal meeting, I still wanted the name of the one whose thought gave rise to the meeting, for there always is a first thought, and what vast results have followed from that thought as the steam engine, the telephone, the Atlantic cable, the wireless; I wrote several letters to gain the knowledge I wished for. At last came a letter from Mrs. Walker of Bartonville who gave an account of the early meetings and how much was accomplished and I was rather surprised to find that the first step was not altogether by a woman, but a man (well there was a woman in it.) It appeared there was a Farmer's Institute in Stoney Creek, I quoted the words of Mrs. Walker. "A Farmers' Institute had been formed by the influence of Mr. Smith, the Inspector of schools and Mr. Erland Lee, a progressive young farmer who attended the O. A. C., (Ontario Agricultural College,) was the President in Stoney Creek and hearing of a meeting at Guelph on 1896 went to it and was much interested in hearing Mrs. Hoodless of Hamilton giving an address on Domestic Science and Swing to the schools. Mr. Lee in February 1897 invited Mrs. Hoodless to give an address at the Farmer's Institute, in the evening when both women and men attended and Mrs. Hoodless suggested the forming of a Women's Institute similar to the Farmer's Institute and asked how many women would attend and 35 hands were raised. On the following Friday evening, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1897, there were present 101 women and one man, one account says two. Mr. Lee acted as Chairman and it was decided to form a Women's Institute. Mrs. Hoodless had come as promised and so was formed what we now call the "Mother Branch" in the village of Stoney Creek on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1897, twenty-eight years ago, the first Women's Institute of Ontario when Mrs. Hoodless presided.

For some time it was generally thought that these meetings were for the farmers wives in the country and the subjects discussed would be cooking, housekeeping, care of children, but how wonderfully enlarged has been the scope of these formations as now they embrace townships, towns, countries, and the subjects discussed range over a vast area, cooking, housekeeping, physical culture, libraries, amusements, schools, sanitation, care of graveyards,



what not? And the number of Institutes, the thousands of women who belong, the large sums of money raised and expended to benefit the world, the addresses given by women as well as men, all this would have been thought unbelievable years ago.

I have a vivid recollection of the formation of the Women's Institute of Niagara. In the afternoon of May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1911, my friend Mrs. Rowland called in me accompanied by Dr. Margaret McAlpin who had been appointed to visit different points with the idea of forming Women's Institutes. A meeting has been announced for that afternoon but owing to insufficient advertisement only three were present and it was resolved to have the meeting in the evening and give notice to as many as possible. The meeting was in the Mayor's room and eighteen were present, Dr. McAlpin explained the objects of the formation of these Institutes, but those present were very slow in deciding to take any action. At last it was decided to form an Institute, but the next question was who will be the officers, but no one seemed willing to assume the responsibility. Among others I was asked but said as I had done before in other gatherings "I have made a vow that I will not take office in any other, but that I am willing to be a member and do anything that I can to help." Finally Mrs. Rowland consented to act as President and I well remember the words she used when appointed. "I don't know what my husband will say when I tell him." There were, I believe eighteen present and eleven agreed to become members and this was the beginning of what became a large Society numbering 127 at one time. Mrs. Rowland although not in strong health spared no pains to induce membership, by visiting and correspondence in town and township and was very successful and when the war broke out, here was an enthusiastic group of women of all religious denominations, Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, women of different positions in life who perhaps had never met to work together and that to me was the most beautiful feature, all anxious and willing to take up the work of helping when was needed, to mitigate suffering, and when I think of the extent of the work of the different nationalities, of the different ways on which money was raised, of the sacrifices made, of the meeting day after day week after week, of the packing heavy bales, of the help given to our own soldiers training here and in England, France, in hospitals and in the trenches, of the assistance to the Belgians in distress, to the Serbians, to northern Ontario from fires, and to those in the Halifax disaster, to the formation of the Girl's Community and Service Battalion work, of the Xmas boxes sent to gladden the hearts of our Canadian boys far from home, of the little messages of kindness, of thanks received, of the coincidences of meetings of schoolmates perhaps of brothers, perhaps in Mesopotamia or France or at sea, we must render tribute to the Red Cross Society formed, was it not in Geneva during the Franco Prussian War. When we think of the frightful suffering, say at the battle of Waterloo, nay even in the Crimean War from the want of nurses, of surgeons, of anesthetics, of so many modern inventions to allay suffering we may bless the work of the Red Cross on the battle field.

The first Red Cross Society was formed in 1863 at Geneva, Switzerland by the influence of Monsieur Henry Dunant. There were nine articles agreed on at the International Convention to which twelve governments affixed their signature, there were delegates from sixteen governments, Articles 1, 2, 3 refer to the safety and neutrality of hospitals and all connected therewith, we all know how this was broken in the last war by at least one government. The United States did not unite with the International League till 1905 with the idea of avoiding entanglements with European countries but that wonderful woman who went to on the field of battle and endured all sorts of hardships succeeded in forming a Red Cross Society in the United States in 1881, but that did not unite with others and was not really organized by the government

till 1905 and that of Miss. Clara Barton's dissolved. Who has read the life of Clara Barton? The story of her long life is an inspiring tale.

The first regular meeting of our Institute was held on July 3, 1911, in the Custom's room. Among the officers present were Mrs. Rowland, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. Chamberlain who was Secretary Treasurer, the Directors and Programme Committee, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Macklem, Miss. MacIntyre, Miss. Hiscott, Mrs. Stewart, others present Mrs. J.C. Clark, Mrs. Lyall, Miss Carnochan, Miss. Clement. On it being said that there were thirteen members it was suggested that there should be another member and Mrs. Ascher joined and the record says "there was then heard a sigh of relief." Notwithstanding the rain there were eleven present on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. On October 12<sup>th</sup> Dr. Marjory McMurchy came to give an address, there were 100 present, the chief subjects were digestion, cleanliness, daily bathing, food, rest, no patent medicine to be used. On November 21<sup>st</sup> samples of cooking were exhibited, and disposed of pumpkin pie without eggs, also cookies and sponge cake. On December 19<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Rowland who had been appointed the Delegate to the Convention on Toronto read her report of the meeting. On May 21<sup>st</sup> Miss. McIntyre who was the Convener of the Programme Committee read her report. There had been 5 original papers, 7 vocal solos, 6 piano solos, 1 duet, 1 violin and several practical Demonstrations. In October 1912 Mrs. Rowland resigned and Mrs. Macklem was appointed President. In December 1912 Miss. MacIntyre gave an account of the Convention in Toronto and on October 1913 Dr. McAlphin was present and spoke of the almost hopeless first meeting and congratulates the Society on the progress made. In December 1913 Mrs. Lyall and Miss. Clement gave an account of the Convention. Other delegates who described the meeting on different years were Mrs. Mussen, Mrs. Houghton, Mrs. C. E. Brown, Mrs. Redhead, Mrs. Major.

Among the speakers at our meeting during 1912, 1913 and later were Mrs. Steiniwitz, Mrs. Nelles, Mr. Macklem, Rev. J. C. Garrett, Miss. Clement, Mrs. Clarke, Dr. Rigg, Rev. A. F. MacGregor, B. A., Mrs. Macklem, Miss MacIntyre, Major Sproule, Mrs. Young, Miss. Carnochan, Mrs. Bale, Miss. Constance Boulton, Dr. Crysler, Mrs. Macgregor, Miss. Onslow, Major Young and among the subjects of the addresses were Education, Child life, Banking, Union Jack, The War, Hannah More, Niagara 100years ago, Women's position in National Development, Soldier Comforts, Problems of Russia, Care of the Teeth, How to preserve health, Remarkable escapes in the war, Poland, also Poland by young girls, its history and customs, literature, government, Chrims in Germany.

It was a representative gathering at an emergency meeting of the town and township which took place in the town hall, September 8<sup>th</sup> 1914 after the declaration of war, when the Red Cross work was begun under the auspices of the Women's Institute for the sick and wounded in the war. Miss. MacIntyre the President presided and read a list of articles most needed, which Mrs. J. J. Wright had brought and Miss. Minnie Ball who had had experience in hospitals suggested articles to be made and offered patterns. Mrs. J. J. Wright was appointed Coverer of the Red Cross which position she held till 1919. The following ladies were appointed as a committee to purchase materials, Mrs. Macklem, Mrs. J. J. Doyle, Mrs. J. J. Wright, Mrs. Billing, and the following members offered to help in the work, Mrs. Armstrong, Miss. M. Ball, Mrs. Mason, Miss. Carnochan, Miss. K. C. Ball, Mrs. Taggert, Mrs. Longhurst, Mrs. Schmidt.

One of the most pressing needs for help was the tragedy of Belgium, the suffering there appealed so strongly, the help through the war, to relieve the distressing condition of people driven from their homes and much was done in Niagara by the devotion of two ladies of one home, the Misses Emma and Minnie Ball, who offered their home to home to which

contributions in clothing piled up, filled almost to the ceiling and another room partly filled, awaiting packing in bales, all sorts of garments, coats, dresses, shirts, underwear, stockings, shoes, quilts, sheets, caps, men's, women's and children's clothing. It is noticeable that the bales sent from the Parish Hall were all made from new material purchases with money contributed as woolen yarn for socks, cotton or woolen goods for shirts, etc. all to be made, the bales sent out from the home of the Misses Ball consisted mostly of articles which had been used articles were many as good as new, where buttons were missing or stitches required the busy fingers of Miss. Emma Ball had put all in order ready to wear. Many bales were sent from this home. After showing their love and devotion for the afflicted these years, first one and then the other of these benevolent ladies was taken to a higher region than this but have left with is a fragment memory of their devotion and well doing which will not be forgotten.

To give some idea of what the work must have been of arranging and classifying for packing, a list may be given of one miscellaneous collection at the house of the Misses Ball. Of women's clothing 247 articles, coats, waists, stockings, night dresses, shirt waists, of men's clothing 87 articles coat, socks, overcoat, shirts, suits, of children 1635, coats, petticoats, caps, blouses night dresses; miscellaneous, boots, shoes, under garments, mufflers, mittens, hats, blankets, sheets, 267 articles in all 737 articles.

On the breaking out of the war the first thought of the women of Canada was to raise money for a Hospital Ship, and plans were thought out to reach every women's organization and finally all the women in the country. The idea was taken up enthusiastically and the Women's Institute of Niagara was not behind in work. The Patriotic fund was formed and the Red Cross planned which carried out the most of the work of the Institute. The amounts given appeared day by day in the papers through the whole dominion, the first offering for the Hospital Ship from British Columbia being \$1200 and when the amount reached about \$282000 a letter for the country was sent to the Duchess of Connaught from Toronto, this letter was signed by Mary R. Gooderham, Resident, Mary Plummer, Secretary and Helen R. Bruce, Treasurer, the closing words are "for the alleviation of the suffering of the sick and wounded in the war, this gift is the expression of our love and loyalty to our King and Empire and of our undying gratitude to the brave men who are fighting for the vindication of our honor among the nation, for the advancement of civilization, for the freedom of our Empire for the safety of our homes."

The thought of writing and printing, putting into permanent form some account of the wonderful work of the members of the Women's Institute of Niagara occurred to me. Now where could be found such information as I required. Two sources I thought of but nearly all given was obtained from a scrap book I had made for the Historical Society which has this inscription "war Scrap book relating to the work of this neighborhood for relief in the war from August 18th 1914 to December 1918, also the best poems of the war, arranged by the President of the Historical Society." Second I asked permission of the committee of the Women's Institute to look over their Secretary's books which was given with the understanding that this should not be published and sent out as by their initiative as some seemed to think that they should not tell of their good deeds but I felt that as a matter of the history of the town there should be a record of how the town especially by its Women's Institute met the difficulties caused by the Great War of 1914-1918. The Secretary's books give very full detail of motions made, of names of committees.

From St. Catharines and Niagara papers I gathered the reports of the bales sent, of their contents and value and the money raised each year (the reports of officers and speakers, of those who read papers on special subjects, and of those not members of the Institute who gave

assistance.) When looking over the records it seems wonderful the variety of help give, their arms stretched out to take in first one and then another object requiring help and tributes were paid to the work of the Institute by Mr. Putman who asked Miss. MacIntyre at a meeting in Toronto to make a list of the cash sent in the report during the last months of 1917 and the at theirs was one of the best if not the best given in, and on another occasion reference was made to the high standing of our Institute, also Mr. Marshall, the President of the Red Cross. In the records there sometimes appears little intimate notices which serve to break the monetary of motions passed, of the number of bales, of their value, of the contents, and some of these I shall try to give, but first must be given a page or two of dry details.

The variety of articles sent by the Red Cross is astonishing, at first things that would naturally occur to the mind as socks, wristlets, shirts, then gradually swelling out to those not at first thought of mufflers, pajamas, handkerchiefs, towels, bed socks, dressing gowns, blankets, sheets, respirators, hot water bag covers, pillow slips.

Then the different ways of raising money is interesting. First the members' fees, bazaar, teas, concerts, Trafalgar day collection, Queen's Hotel fete, Autograph quilts, little girls' entertainment, collection of old silver (broaches, thimbles, etc.), papers collected by boys and sold, Tennis Club, Public School, Athletic Club, High School, Military Ball, Golf Cob, Royal George Theater, Fireman's ball, Bible Class, Historical Society. And next the objects to which money was sent, Belgium, Hospital Ship, Serbians, Patriotic fund, Navy League Military Hospitals, flowers for men in the hospitals, Siberians, Sick children's Hospital, North Ontario sufferer, Soldiers' Comfort, Our boys Xmas boxes, Halifax sufferers, McCall Missions, food for our owning need, Salisbury Plain, Seconrs Natimal, Poles, Cottage Hospital, Polish White Cross, etc. While we read that 3431 pairs of socks were knitted, which we can well believe when we know how many were knitted by single individuals as Mrs. Onslow, Mrs. Conorton, Mrs. Long over a hundred as at one time recorded and no doubt other by them later, Mrs. Carnochan 200 pairs but these we read of here are far surpassed by Mrs. Lundy of Niagara Falls at the age of 92 who in four years made 400 pairs, but still more remarkable a blind lady Mrs. Reynolds, of Goderich aged 82 knitted 738 pairs and received a letter of thanks and congratulation from Queen Mary; the only help she received was picking up the stitches for turning the heel.

Several names should be mentioned for special work, a Halloween shower of nuts, oranges, candy planned by Mrs. J. Burns and Mrs. McKenzie for the convalescents in camp gave them much pleasure, Mrs. Trounce gave a Military Ball which realized \$180.00 Mrs. Kloefer entertained a party of 60 at Saraguay Hall, among them several Polish officers, this being the third time she had been hostess.

Nor do we forget the help given by boys and men or by those not able to attend the meeting but who worked quietly at home as Mrs. Mason at her house in making quilts, eleven in number for the distressed Belgians, also mending articles to send away in good condition and making over garments for those in need, Mr. Burns, Mr. Alfred Ball, Dr. Crysler who helped pack and cord up the Bales, Mr. George Murray who took bales and boxes to train and boats gratuitously, Mr. Hilborn who packed the barrels with fruit jars also Mr. Weston, the Misses Oliver and Harry Ball who sent 50 baskets of grapes to our boys on the train on the way to embark for overseas at Montreal. Mr. MacKenzie who put up the lights for the garden party at the home of Mrs. Nelles, Mr. Macklem, Mr. Hosteller, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Major, Mr. McParlanl and Mr. Hiscott who gave teams for the boys to collect newspapers for sale, the boys fifteen in number who collected paper in town and township. The sale of paper brought about \$100, one collection \$37.00, another \$29, another \$4.00. And those who offered their grounds and homes

to hold entertainments. The Golf Club gave an entertainment at the Queen's Royal Hotel for the Red Cross.

Major Young gave a fine address on Poland and wrote an article "The Polish Touch" a fine piece of literature, the International Fete at the Queen's Hotel gave \$529 for the gift of a motor for the Orthopedic Hospital in Toronto and many guest contributed liberally. Mr. Hostetter gave much assistance.

At the close of the war there were many treats given to convalescent soldiers in Toronto and to other bodies of soldiers or sailors as an outing. For the men of H. M. S. Niobe and soldiers at Queenston 250 in number as a treat to them also a treat at Niagara to convalescents of Toronto of a varied nature, first a lunch for tem at St. Marks' Parish Hall, a trip to points of interest, a visit to the movies given by Mr. Reid at the Theatre and a matinee at Mrs. Van Arsdale's. They came at 1:30 and left at 8:15, an expression by one of them was heard, "This has been a perfect day" How so much could be crowded into one day is a mystery. Seven little girls prepared an entertainment which they carried out on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Major, consisting of recitations, sals, chorus singing, dancing, all well executed and as the result handed in \$13.00 which was afterwards increased from additional money till the total reached the sum of thirty dollars, their names deserve to be recorded, Hope D'Arcy from New York, Victoria and Patricia Rowe from Jersey City, Doris Redhead and Mary Brown of Niagara. The Bible Class of St. Andrew's Church sent \$12.00, the Historical Society sent \$50.00 at one time and \$25.00 again for naval Relief. The Committee of the Autograph Quilt did good work in collecting names and money and arranging for the outlining of buildings and giving out the blocks. The sum realized was \$150.00. There are blocks, one contained sixteen names, each person giving one dollar, certainly the richest block, the names are from distant places in Canada and the United States as well as our own neighborhood. The story of the autograph quilt is worth recording. It was started in 1916 and we find it was finished in 1917. The different churches are depicted in it with the name in each case of the pastors of that church also the Historical building and Fort Mississauga, a large red Cross in the centre. It was intended to send it to a Canadian Hospital in England, thinking it might be amusing to the convalescents to find the names of people familiar to them. There was a large committee as the work of collecting the names and with the amount given by each person from ten cents to one dollar or upwards. The convener was Mrs. C. E. Brown, the other members were Miss. Kate MacIntyre, Miss. K. E. Ball, Miss Effie Murray, Miss. G. Eckersley, Mrs. H. R. Doyle, Mrs. W. J. Campbell, Mrs. Armstrong, Miss. D. Wright, Miss. M. Randell, Miss. M. Gillies, Mrs. D. Longhurst, Miss. I. Onslow, Mrs. Snell. It now hangs on the high post bedstead in the Historical building and is a monument to the busy fingers of those who skillfully wrought on it and of those who collected the names and the money.

A few figures may be given and figures speak whether in money or in articles. Think of 15408 articles sent away, 3431 pairs of socks. As shown by the books of the Treasurer, they were at different times Mr. Macklem, Mrs. Mussen, Mrs. F. J. McClelland, Mrs. Rigg. In May 1915 the red Cross had sent \$1071 in May in 1916, \$1311 in 1917, \$1487 in 1918, \$1428 and in 1919, \$946 making \$6343. The different sums from different sources are interesting. The Council of the town make a special effort and formed a committee to canvas the town and township on Trafalgar day, the names dividing the town in town into five divisions under Mayor Harrison, Reeve Masters, F. J. McClelland, Alfred Ball and G. E. Frizelle each having assistants from the Red Cross, when \$2100 was realized. In February 1917 there had been 698 articles sent to Belgium value \$626, so far 15 bales had been sent away 2007 articles, value \$1569. Money

was constantly being sent away as at one time \$25 to Siberian Red Cross \$25 to Serbian relief \$50 to Field Comforts. During 1918, 345 articles valued at \$250 and 491 pairs of socks valued at 368, also 114 articles for Siberia valued at \$111 and 40 pairs of socks for the Poles. At a wonderful bazaar in the Court House \$680 was realized. Nor were these the only things thought by the different committees. The question of sanitation in the schools was thought up, the streets to be kept free from cows and horse at large, a drinking fountain for the schools, two copies of the Montreal Witness were ordered to be sent to our boys overseas, a deputation to meet the commanding officer as to the alleged waste in the camp as this was detrimental to our Red Cross work. Home relief was given to six families with coal and food in a severe winter. To sum up all the various interests involved would be difficult.

The meetings at first were held in the houses of the members, some one always offering her home and a collection was always made, those present varying in numbers present as the amount of the offering, afterwards the members agreed to give a certain sum weekly or monthly to the end of the war, ten cents or \$5.00 or more some promising a generous sum but all promises were kept. At one time \$100 a month was paid in. The meetings after same time were held in the Masonic Hall but for the greatest part of the time they were held in the Parish Hall of St. Mark's Church in each case rent was paid.

A word must be said for the work of the different committees as on them fell a heavy burden to carry out the wishes of the members of the Institute. A list of the different committees, besides those already mentioned may be given at least partially. In one year for sending parcels to the boys the committee was Mrs. Houghton, Mrs. Major, Mrs. W. J. Campbell, Miss. E. Murray, Miss. K. E. Ball, Miss E. Onslow, Miss. Jean Coleman, Miss. Eckersley; For Belgian relief Miss M. E. Ball, Mrs. T. Stewart, Mrs. Houghton, Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Rigg, Mrs. Mason and Mrs. F. J. McClelland. For Xmas treat to convalescent boys here, of oranges, nuts, candy, Mrs. Burns and Mrs. MacKenzie, for Home relief Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Ludeke, Mrs. Mussen, Mrs. Ryan. This committee was thoughtfully selected as there was one from each of the four churches in the town. Packing committee Miss. Ball, Miss. Best, Mrs. M. Miller, Miss. MacIntyre, Miss. E. Ball, Mrs. Bottomley and Mr. A. Ball.

Of the News from Home Committee Mrs. Burns was the convener, Scrap books were made with Newspaper cuttings, pictures and amusing stories, jokes and puzzles.

The number of members at one time recorded was 126. The attendance was often 75 on one occasion 80. At one of the houses there were 56 present and the offering was \$27 and at another there were 65 present and the offering \$40. At Mrs. Mussen's one day there were 42 crates packed of jam, honey, pickles, and on another occasion 12 barrels of canned fruit and jam at another home. Among those who entertained by song, recitation, or otherwise were Mrs. Coyne, Mrs. Jno. Carnochan, Miss. Burbach, Miss. Sherwood, Miss. D. Wright. On one occasion was given a whistling chorus by Mr. and Miss. Burns.

Rev. Cannon C. K. Masters, M.A. told at one time when returned from overseas that he had received a letter from one who had been a member of his church in Canada telling of how he has enjoyed canned peaches sent from Niagara.

In all 25 bales were sent some of them very large and heavy. From the beginning of the war to May 1916 the number of articles sent was 11947, the value being \$2687 of socks 1077 pairs. In one year \$1467 cash sent, in another \$1540. In one year 1040 articles were sent value \$650. As the need became less, near the close of the war, the bales were less in size the 23<sup>rd</sup> bale value \$106 the 24<sup>th</sup> bale \$42 the 25<sup>th</sup> \$88. In December 1916 the 14<sup>th</sup> bale was packed.

A very vivid picture remains in my mind of the Coverer of the Red Cross, through these years, always present Mrs. J. J. Wright, although not strong and not living near the Parish Hall, cutting out garments from long rolls of cloth, on a long table, the first to come, and the last to go, again tying up packages with strong cord, giving out yarn for socks but always with her sweet smile, her readiness to advise, to give information, to devise means for help in some new case, and this went on for years till the close of the war. It was a busy scene with four sewing machines at work. Much pleasure was given to the Niagara boys by the Xmas boxes sent every year and much pleasure was no doubt experienced by those who packed them here but the first year there was disappointment at their late arrival at Calisbury Plain although they had been sent away early they had not arrived on the 29<sup>th</sup> December. The ladies had paid \$59 express charges besides war and marine insurance. The value of first boxes sent was \$1.50 each in another year \$2.50 and another \$3.50 and later \$4.50 to 62 boys. The contents will amuse us. In one consignment there was great variety, there were eighty boxes each weighing seven pounds and contained one pair of sox, one pound of fruit cake, three pounds peach, pear or plum jam, chocolates, gum, pencil, writing paper, envelopes, handkerchief, tooth brush, paste, which collection shows much thoughtfulness. The contents for another year were one pair of socks, one handkerchief, 3 packages of gum, 3 cigarettes, one of tobacco, one writing pad, one package of envelopes, one lead pencil, one roll adhesive plaster, ½ lb chocolates, package oxo, one cake soap, one candle, one package playing cards, one pair of shoe laces, one Xmas card. One went to Salonica and one to a prisoner in Germany. In 1918 of Xmas, boxes to our boys overseas, 36 went to England, 41 to France, 1 to Siberia, 16 to South Africa. In January 1919 letters of thanks from 21 of our boys. At another time thanks form Captain Smuck of the Military Camp and Col. Le Pan.

A few personal items may now be given to give color to our story, At one meeting a gentleman had sent in a request that the Institute name a mayor and Council for the ensuing year for the town, bit this was very properly laid on the table as "Politics is not the work of the Institute." Another item is the letter sent expressing the pleasure of receiving a bottle of canned fruit in perfect order.

A very interesting incident in our Red Cross work. It is often said the world is a very small after all, how one incident seems, to dovetail in to another and this form an ever circling chain. First in our own Niagara, then somewhere in France, again in Niagara, next to a French soldier and a nurse in Winnipeg on the staff of the Telegram next to Niagara again. To explain, one of the members of the Red Cross in the Institute had lately been giving her attention to knitting the beautiful long white soft hospital bed socks and one day put her card and address in one. After some time she received a letter from a nurse in charge 11th September 1917 B. E. F. France No. 6 Canadian General Hospital, from which letter an extract may be given. "Dear Madam; In giving out socks to some of my patients this morning I found your card tucked away in the foot of a beautiful soft white wool bed sock and it will perhaps be a pleasure to you to know how keenly these socks you knit are appreciated by our "Poilus," we will never be able to tell the women at home what they have done for the wounded boys and incidentally for the nursing sisters searching for supplies for patients, may I thank you on behalf of one of my patients for the comfortable bed socks, Nursing sister C. A. M. C. At Christmas 1918 a greeting card was sent to the nursing sister at the Base Hospital in France. As shewing the care of correspondence thus has been forwarded to the address of the nurse now on the staff the Winnipeg Telegram and she writes thus in return. "I am no longer a nursing sister but shall always treasure my memories both sad and glad of the months I spent among the soldiers as the

biggest thing in my life. I felt pleasure that I had been able to express to you a little of the appreciation that we, as Canadian nurses overseas felt got the work of the women at home. We were so proud of them and in my experience among the French soldiers I always had reason to be doubly proud of my country women for we depended so on the Canadian Red Cross for supplies and they never disappointed us." Is not this a beautiful little story to enliven the page? Another picture in my mind's eye comes back to me. Some one has made what I thought was a slighting remark about the work of the Institute and I felt indignant and still more indignant when I saw on a bitterly cold day Miss. K. MacIntyre standing on the high steps of the former Bank office waiting for the boys to come with their packages of newspapers to be sold to add to the treasury of the Red Cross, could anyone fail to see what patience was shown and what hardship suffered in her willing work?

Great pleasure was given by the fruit sent from St. Catharines, Niagara and vicinity and the letters of delight and gratitude from the soldiers are interesting, on from Private G.S. Martin in the hospital at Shorncliff shows that the fruit from the farm where he worked before he enlisted. He says, "Dear Mrs. Peters I thought that perhaps you would be pleased to know how much we enjoyed some of your peaches. These peaches reminded me of the fine Niagara orchards I worked in when I came to Canada." Mrs. Peters was the daughter of Mr. Crow on whose farm he worked and who says "Martin was a good faithful man, I am delighted that the canning fruit campaign was held." Nurse F. W. Wylie's letter home told of peaches from St. Catharines were received at Etaples, France, No. 1 Canadian Hospital and of the pleasure given to the wounded in the hospital where she was a nursing sister. Some of the peaches were from the Presbyterian Church, St. Catharines. Niagara too has done its share in sending canned fruit. Miss. Wylie was a Niagara girl and so her letter to St. Catharines was interesting to us. There were so many letters of thanks received, one from the Amy Corps at Niagara, one from Col. Le Pan commanding the Polish force training here 1917, 1918 also one from ----- . Many gifts of socks and other articles were bestowed on the Poles, the raising of the flag was an interesting event and also was the presence of Madame Paderewsky and Ignace Paderewsky one day and Prince ----- . A letter from Mrs. Van Koughnet to Mrs. Mussen the President of the Institute at the close of the war. Many letters were received appreciative of fruit sent. At one time 319 jars of fruit were sent to our boys at Shorncliff. On one day at the home of Mrs. Mussen 42 crates were packed of fruit, honey, maple sugar, at another time thirteen barrels of canned fruit, pickles, again 12 barrels of jam, all this representing much labor in preparation as well as packing.

No doubt in attempting to tell the story, many things have been omitted, we must not forget the Nursing Sisters from Niagara, whether for the Canadian Red Cross or otherwise Miss. Flora Wylie who served in France, in the Christie Street Hospital in Toronto, again in Halifax and now in the Military Hospital of St. John, Que., Miss. Muriel Armstrong (Mrs. Wickwire) who has served in so many ways and places, then Miss. Moss Chrysler in the service of the United States has been on duty in Rome and Athens, and Miss. Maud Fisher for years in Rochester. Nor must we forget the mothers of our town of the Red Cross of our Institute who have been given their sons even unto death for our benefit serving the Empire. Mrs. C. M. Nelles whose son Lt. Norman Nelles one of the first to give his life while she his loving mother was doing so much for our Red Cross work, Mrs. Houghton whose two sons Robert and Tom Houghton gave their lives, one after the other, one reported missing was waited for long but never returned. The first one of our boys reported killed was Perry Currie while the first Canadian to win the V. C. was Lance Corporal Fisher who had lived here for years but enlisted in Montreal. Captain Ted Shepherd the son of Mrs. Edwin Shepherd died bravely lamented by his company. Robert Follett Best, so



anxious to give his services died before he could reach the fields of battle as did Gordon Ryan whom we remember in his Highland garb as a bandsman and always with a smiling face, and there were Reginald Tomas and Herbert Longhurst also. All honor and sympathy to the mothers who gave their boys even unto death.

I cannot refrain from quoting from an address given by Mrs. Johnson Clench of St. Catharines in a letter from a lady in Alexandria, Egypt. "We feel ashamed to talk of what we have done for our soldiers, rather would we tell of what they have done for us. Often when surrounded by a wall road of khaki clad men while we packed up the parcels or stamped the letters 15000 perhaps in one evening or changed their money we have remembered that this same khaki clad wall ha stood between us and utter horror and misery and we have witnessed the extravagance of their self sacrifice, their entire absence of self glorification, their brave endurance of their own pain and suffering coupled with a tender consideration of the suffering of their own comrades."

The members of the Institute in spite of removals and alas of death remain nearly the same as formerly. The removals were, first Mrs. Rowland the first President, next Mrs. Macklem and Mrs. J. C. Garrett all to Toronto, Miss. Clement to British Columbia, Mrs. Sheppard to Saskatchewan, Mrs. Doyle to St. Catharines and last Mrs. J. J. Wright the Convener of the Red Cross for so many years and we deplore the loss by death of Miss Emma Ball, Mrs. Nelles, Mrs. Randall, Miss. Minnie Ball, Mrs. Hartley whose special call seemed to be to see that the boys on leaving were supplied with socks.

An address was presented to Mrs. J. J. Wright the Convener of the Red Cross through all the years of the war which read thus. "Dear Mrs. Wright: --The members of the Women's Institute realizing your unfailing interest in our work and your constant attendance at our meeting as well as you r ever manifest amiability of manner to all our members desire to approach you with some word and token of our appreciation and gratitude. It is unnecessary to multiply words that may contain little or much that recognizing your fidelity and honoring your person we would just ask you to accept this small present not as the measure but simply as the token of the committee's affectionate regard." The address was read by Mrs. Houghton and the presentation made of a handsome silk umbrella. The last meeting of the Red Cross, for the war, was March 31<sup>st</sup> 1919. Joyous faces were seen at this meeting compared wit those of 8<sup>th</sup> September 1914.

At the April meeting of the Women's Institute 1919 Mrs. J. J. Wright the Convener of the red Cross branch read the following statement. "Madame President and Ladies; -- In closing up the work of the Red Cross Committee of the Women's Institute, it is with mingled feelings that we look back over the nearly five years in which this Committee has been engaged in its work. Now that we realize that the necessity is over it is with satisfaction that we look back and note the quantity of work we have been able to accomplish and feel that our efforts have not been altogether in vain. If we have fallen short of our ideal in any respect it has not been for want of trying to attain it. I think we can say we have done what we could. In our satisfaction at the successful completion of our work there may be a tinge of regret that the sacrifices made at home and on the battle field have had no better ending. It is misgiving and to some extent alarm that we note the outbreak of what may be called the spirit of Anti-Christ among so many of the nation of the earth, but we put our trust on that Divine being who has so far led us in His keeping that it will still be well with is and that our own fair land will be spared such terrible calamites as are now devastating the stricken lands of Europe. The work of our hands may be over for the present but we should not cease to offer our prayers to our Heavenly Father that out of the misery

and confusion may be brought order and to al the warring spirits peace, so that happiness and prosperity may be vouchsafed to the nation again.

Since our annual meeting 1<sup>st</sup> May we have made 348 articles valued at \$256 and 114 articles for the Serbian valued at \$111 also 401 pairs of socks valued at \$365 for which they supplied the wool. Since the inauguration of the red Cross Committee in 1914 we have made and distributed to various places 15406 articles worth \$4141 and 3423 pairs of socks valued at \$2276. As overseer of the Red Cross Committee, it gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity of thanking the members of the committee for their loyal support and of expressing my appreciation of their capable assistance in carrying on the work of the organization. It has been due to the harmonious relations existing and the unfailing and cheerful energy of all concerned that we have been able to achieve the creditable results that are shewn in this report.”

It is fortunate that this address has been preserved to is in the scrap book of the close of the Red Cross work, but the work of the Institute has gone on to the present day and much has been accomplished since 1919. We humbly record our thanks to our Heavenly Father that we were able to take a part in the work.

-JANET CARNOCHAN