

The traffic passing along the portage road increased steadily in volume. Four or five yoke of oxen or from two to four span of horses were required to draw the strong heavily laden waggons up the steep gradient of the Mountain. "I have seen four vessels of sixty and one hundred tons burden unloading at the same time," wrote an observer of the Lower Landing, "and sometimes not less than sixty waggons loaded in a day. . . . This portage is an increasing source of wealth to farmers for many miles around, who carry from twenty to thirty hundred weight, for which they get one shilling and eight pence N. York currency per hundred weight, and load back with furs, &c."⁶⁹ It is entirely possible that at least some of the Scots were at one time or another concerned in this carrying trade passing so close to their doors.

The Governor's regiment, called briefly "The Queen's" occupied buildings close to the river at the Lower Landing. These barracks were designated as "the Queen's town" with the result that this name was soon applied to the landing as well. This was one of the many changes in names which occurred at this time. Joseph Brant was heard to remark that Governor Simcoe had "done a great deal for this province, he has changed the name of every place in it."⁷⁰ The Governor began the systematic substitution of good English names for those of Indian and French which so offended his ears, and he showed a distinct preference for those in the shires of eastern England where several generations of his forebears had lived. Thus the sister townships along the river were among those comprising the county of Lincoln, that on the north was called Newark, and the mountain township Stamford. Chippawa Creek became the Welland River. It has generally been conceded that the name Stamford originated with Governor Simcoe, but to Ernest Green, the earlier historian of the area, this seemed an unsatisfactory explanation. "There is no evidence," he wrote, "that a single person from Stamford in England had settled in the township or had any connection with it." The present writer submits that the Governor, who was well acquainted with many settlers on the Mountain and frequently visited among them,⁷¹ sanctioned the name originating with those from the Head of the Delaware.

In the spring the encouragement of the Indians to plant corn for their own use began to meet with success. A "Return of Indians of Colonel Johnson's Department gone to plant at Different places, their villages having been destroyed," shows that by the end of May 1780 a total of 147 men, women, and children of "Captain Brant's Mohawks and other tribes" were busy at Buffalo Creek. "About 200 more [are] preparing to go out to plant very soon, and more will soon follow."³⁵ Along Buffalo Creek, which empties into the Niagara River opposite Fort Erie, was a stretch of "excellent flat land."³⁶ From the 200 bushels of seed corn procured for them they raised a crop of 20,000 bushels of which 2,000 was bought by the garrison.³⁷ Thus Captain Brant's own people produced the first crop under the agricultural plan of General Haldimand.

When Colonel Butler visited Quebec in the spring of 1780 the General seized this opportunity to discuss his plans with one who was familiar with frontier conditions and who had long farming experience. The mode of forming a settlement was arranged and Butler was given the necessary instructions, a copy of which was delivered to Colonel Bolton upon Butler's return to Niagara. The Commandant was advised by the General:

By your letter . . . which will be delivered to you by Lieut Col Butler, you will be made acquainted with my intentions of settling Families at Niagara, for the purpose of reclaiming, and cultivating Lands to be annexed to the Fort. The Expediency of this measure is sufficiently evinced, not only by the injury the service has, and must always suffer from a want of sufficient supply of Provisions as well as for the present unavoidable consumption of the Indians, as for the support of the Troops. . . . I am therefore come to a resolution to extend this scheme to the several Posts in the Upper Country. . . .

My letter to Colonel Johnson . . . will inform you of the situation I have chosen at Niagara, which he is directed to purchase from the Mesessague Indians. Lieut. Colonel Butler with whom I have conversed fully upon this subject has promised to give you every assistance in his Power and from his knowledge of farming, his being upon the spot with his Rangers, and his acquaintance and influence with those who may be found to settle I am persuaded you will find him very useful. I have . . . desired him to engage any Loyalists He may find proper persons about Montreal and take them up with him. He informs me there are some good Farmers in his Corp who either advancing in years, or having a large family, he could dispense with. . . .³⁸

name of Hamilton who comes out for and by Commission of Mr. Pollard." ²⁷ (Robert Hamilton was a Scot from Dumfries who would soon take his place in the upper country as "a gentleman of the first rank.")

ROBERT HAMILTON ::: cont.

The Executive Council responded, by recommending a Grant of 3000 scrs: " being appraised of the advantages derived to this District, in various instances for the Public spirit, and exertions of the Petitioner, both as Magistrate, and in his private capacity."

Robert Hamilton: page 7 . Memorials of Fort Erie and Early Navigation on Lake Erie ::

Fort Erie: 1790!s.

Robert Hamilton prospered greatly as a Merchant, and as a forwarder of goods. When the Province of Upper Canada was formed, he was appointed a member of the Legislative Council: and afterwards Lieutenant of the County of Lincoln: entrusted with the power of recommending proper persons for the appointment of Magistrate and officers of the Militia. He continued to take an active part in Public affairs; until his death sixteen years later.

Robert Hamilton, with whom Goring had evidently had occasional private dealings,³³ wrote from Carleton Island: "After a long dreary winter the communication with our friends is now again to be opened and the summer campaign to begin, when by our activity we must try and make amends for six months idleness."³⁴ During 1780 Hamilton formed a partnership with Richard Cartwright Jr. in a mercantile business of which Cartwright handled the Carleton Island end and Hamilton removed to Niagara