

Veterans of 1812 14.

Some Interesting Facts regarding Old-time Affairs.

Col. Elijah Ketcheson and his Contemporaries.

It was a graceful and a most appropriate action which the Dominion Parliament a few years ago, at the suggestion of Dr. Brouse, M. P. (now Senator), performed in voting an annual pension of \$50 each to the remaining veterans of the war of 1812-14. These survivors of a former generation had done the State much service—they had left their homes, many of them their wives and young children, on war occurring, to defend their country against what was in reality overwhelming odds,—abandoning their all at the call of duty, and how nobly did they discharge the trust committed to their charge, the pages of history record. The slight recognition of their services of which mention is above made, though long in coming it was none the less heartily received. These men of simple habits and of brave hearts have proved to be long-lived, the bracing climate of Canada having so maintained their generally strong and wiry physical organizations that they might well share with a celebrated British regiment the honorable designation of "the die-hard." Whilst the unavoidable arrival of old age has found most of them in tolerably comfortable circumstances, yet there

are not a few to whom the country's bounty has been of great service, and has aided in rendering their declining years more comfortable than would otherwise have been the case. The muster roll shows a rapidly reducing number of veterans who can answer to the call of the paymaster, and in a few years all will have passed away. Let us hope, however, that the departed patriots have taken their places in the ranks of the great army of the just made perfect, and that their valor and self-sacrifice in the cause of their country are now receiving a higher reward than man has it in his power to bestow.

Amongst the aged and faithful few who yet survive is Lieut.-Col. ELIJAH KETCHESON, of Sidney, who still, at the extreme age of 87, is hale and hearty, and lives to tell with pardonable pride the deeds of his youth and to narrate interesting particulars of the early days of this part of the country. Col. Ketcheson was the fourth son of William Ketcheson, a U. E. Loyalist, who served his king during the whole of the revolutionary war—of which devoted band so many settled on the shores of the Bay of Quinte—and was born in Fredericksburg on the 28th of June, 1795, and came to Sidney with his parents in 1800, living at first in the 5th concession, but removing in 1810 to the farm where he now enjoys an honorably earned competence and surrounded by several members of his numerous family. This venerable gentleman called at the INTELLIGENCER office a few days ago and left for our and the public's information a number of interesting documents, of the information in which we herewith present a summary.

The first of these is the muster roll, made on parade day, of the "Hastings Flank Company," forming part of the 1st (afterwards the 4th) regiment and which was the first Militia Company formed in the County of Hastings Militia. This parade was held on the 2nd of July, 1812, the second day after war broke out, and the men were marched to Kingston under command of the following officers: Captain—Jacob W. Meyers; Lieutenant—John Thompson; Ensign—William Ketcheson. The Sergeants were Thomas and Benjamin Ketcheson. Elijah Ketcheson served for six months as a private, and was then made Sergeant, in which capacity he remained until peace was declared. The Company, after proceeding to Kingston, was divided into two Companies, which were commanded respectively by Capt. John McIntosh and Capt. Simon McNab. Lieut.-Col. John Ferguson commanded the 1st Hastings Battalion, and Col. Richard Cartwright commanded the militia at Kingston.

The following is the muster roll, above spoken of, with remarks appended as in the original: SERGEANTS—Thos. Ketcheson, B. Ketcheson, S. Patrick, James Yeomans, Isaac Stimers. CORPORALS—Abijah Ross, David Roblin, S. Ellis, Edward McConnell. PRIVATES—John Ackerman, Andrew Atthoun, Samuel Badgely, John Barnum, John Boice, Lewin Barnum (excused, deputy), James Brown, Asa Brown, F. Butterfield, Daniel Canniff, Edward Carscallen, William Cook, Amos Caverly (excused on account of a widow), Stephen Caverly, Samuel Curtis (unfit for service), David Crouter, David Comstock (under age), Edward Gram (deserted), David Couch, John Carter, Edward Cook, David Cotter, Smith Dimarco, Daniel M. Dean, John Doxtator (excused as lame), Peter Davison, Thos. Dickson, Philip Emery, Geo. Finkle, Harvey Fowler, Daniel Fraser, William Fairman, John Fulton (deserted), Shubael Foster, Cornelius Gunsolus (unfit for active service), John Griffin, J. B. Gomas (unfit for service), Eben S. Green, Milton Hoard, Philo Higley, John Hennessy, Reuben Hubble, Peter Hubble, Isaac Hendrick, Stephen Halstead, Joseph Ingersoll, Elijah Ketcheson, Baltin Lott, James Lake, George Lott, Isaac Lawrence, Roswell Leavens, Stephen Lawrence, Sol. Marshall, — McMaster, Samuel Mott (deserted), James McMasters, Stephen McMullen, James Martin, Henry McMullen, Abijah Marshall, James Merrill, Pettiah Morgan, W. G. Maybee, Charles Wilson (said to be unfit), Bama Nicholson (do. unfit), Thomas Nelson (unfit for active service), Simon Ostrom, Benjamin Ostrom, Jacob Perry (discharged as under age), Ruliff Purdy, Daniel Palmer, Martin Pitman, Rowland Potter, (deserted home), Thomas Pitman, Jacob Rose, William Rosebush, Sol. Reed, Daniel Reed, Leonard Ross, Isaac Smith, Peter Sine, William Sine, jr., John Smith, William Sine, John Sine, Rufus Streeter, Daniel Sealy, N. Simmons, J. R. Smith, Ammi Smith (deserted), John Simmons, Peter Simmons, Benj. Simkin, Robert Thompson, Stephen Tomkins (excused), John Thrasher, William Thomson, Cornelius Thrasher, Gideon

Turner, George Vandervoort, Henry Veely, John Vandewaters, Sam. Westfall, — Warner (deserted), Asa Werden, Ira West, William Welsh, — Wright John Weaver, George Young, Philip Zwick, Peter Van-Silver (discharged sub. of W.) John Christdale, Thomas Parker (in Kingston), Israel Barnum, J. B. Glover, Lawrence Badgley, and Peter Frederick. Of these Philip Zwick and Robert Davis are, with Mr. Ketcheson, the only survivors.

Col. Ketcheson served with his company during the whole of the war at Kingston, which fact is attested over the signature of Lt. Col. Ferguson, dated 11th May, 1818. He was appointed Ensign by commission from Lieut.-Governor Gore, dated October 16th, 1818, the appointment dating from the 25th of December in the same year, he having been recommended by Lieut.-Col. Ferguson.

On May 19th, 1819, Eliza Ketcheson and Miherva Ostrom were married under license, by Solomon Hazelton, J. P., the witnesses being William Zwick and Nancy Ostrom.

The rebellion of 1837-8 once more called Elijah Ketcheson, with many other patriotic men, into active military service in defence of their country at Peaquis Isle and Trenton. He then commanded No. 4 Company of the Hastings Militia, and that the conduct of Capt. Ketcheson and his company gave entire satisfaction to the officer in command is evidenced by the following general order:

"The Lieut.-Col. commanding cannot allow Capt. Ketcheson's company to return to their homes without conveying to them the expression of his entire satisfaction at their uniform good conduct during the period they have been embodied, and also the loyalty and zeal with which they turned out at the first warning to defend their country.

"He has not failed to notify this to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, Major General commanding, and he begs that Capt. Ketcheson, the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates will accept his best thanks for their meritorious behavior.

"Col. Hawley will please to have the above order read to the officers and men of Capt. Ketcheson's company, and that he will also please to send in to the Quartermaster at this station a return of all arms, ammunition and accoutrements received from Capt. Ketcheson's company.

"I beg leave to send the above written general order.

"I have the honor to be,
 &c., &c., &c.,
 WELLESLEY RICHEY,
 Capt. and Adj't."

Mr. Ketcheson's commission as Lieut.-Col. of the 2nd Battalion of Hastings Militia, was signed by Earl Elgin, then Governor General, on Sept. 21st, 1848, and dates from Sept. 20th, 1848. This forms a fitting climax to Col. Ketcheson's military career, and that he well earned, by valuable services and by merit a distinction so prized, will be satisfactory to those who have perused this brief outline of his connection with the Militia of Hastings, the hardships and privations of which in a country poor and very thinly settled, we who live in the days of railroads, steamboats, telegraphs, and with all the comforts supplied by an advanced civilization, can form but a very faint idea of. We close with the hope that Col. Ketcheson and his surviving contemporaries may yet be spared for several years to come.

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