

Capt. E. Cruikshank, *The Documentary History of the Campaign on the Niagara Frontier in 1814*, Part II (Welland: Printed at the Tribune Office, n.d.) pages 322–27, 401–3, and 409.

The War of 1812 was a war between Britain and the United States, ostensibly waged in part over American rights on the high seas and control in the Old Northwest. The United States believed the defeat of Canada would be a “mere matter of marching,” but British troops, First Nations allies, and Canadian militia (although often initially resistant to involvement) prevailed. The war did not simply affect those directly engaged in battle, but “regular” people as well. Indeed, the boundaries between combatant and civilian were very blurry, as was any sort of abstract notion concerning the “ethics” of war.

THE DOCUMENTARY  
HISTORY OF THE CAMPAIGN  
ON THE  
NIAGARA FRONTIER IN 1814.

PART II.

*EDITED FOR THE LUNDY'S LANE HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

BY CAPT. E. CRUIKSHANK.

WELLAND:  
PRINTED AT THE TRIBUNE OFFICE.

PRESENT.

The Honorable Thomas Scott, Chief Justice, President.

The Honorable Wm. D. Powell, Vice-President.

*Directors :—*

The Honorable Wm. Campbell.

The Revd. Doctor Strachan.

Wm. Chewett, Esqr.

Grant Powell, Esqr.

Wm. Allan, Esqr.

Alexander Wood, Esqr., *Secretary*.

The President read the following letter, from General Drummond:

QUEENSTON, 1st January, 1814.

SIR,—When shortly after my being appointed to the command of this Province, on visiting the Niagara Frontier, I was shocked beyond measure at beholding the desolation that had been spread over the once flourishing village of Niagara by an atrocious and sacrilegious [*sic*] enemy. Every feeling of just resentment was exerted against a Government that could sanction such an act so unprovoked and inhuman, and when I reflected that the innocent and unfortunate inhabitants were driven from their houses to undergo all the severities of a most inclement winter, retributive justice demanded of me a speedy retaliation on the opposite shore of America, and you are not unacquainted with the result of my determination.

As the principal sharer in the immense stores that have been captured in the important fortress of Niagara, I beg leave, Sir, to subscribe my portion of the prize money towards relieving the distresses of those persons who inhabited the late village of Niagara as well as the frontier in its vicinity, and I place every reliance on the benevolent and patriotic exertions of yourself and other gentlemen, members of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society* of Upper Canada, for discovering such of them as stand in the most immediate need of assistance, in order that it may with as little delay as possible be administered to them, after the distribution of prize money shall have been made.

The treasurer then laid before the board a letter which he had received from Lieutenant-Colonel Foster, enclosing the sum of two hundred pounds, provincial currency, being the amount of the annual subscription of His Honor Lieutenant-General Drummond, and one hundred and sixty pounds of like currency, being his proportion of the first division of the Niagara prize money, the whole of which he has been pleased to dedicate to the service of the institution.

KINGSTON, 4th December, 1814.

SIR,—I have received the truly gratifying commands of Lieutenant-General Drummond to remit to you the accompanying sum of three hundred and sixty pounds, Halifax currency, which His Honor requests that you will have the goodness to place to the credit of the Loyal and Patriotic Fund of Upper Canada, two hundred pounds thereof being the amount of His Honor's annual subscription, and one hundred and sixty that of his proportion of the first dividend of the Niagara prize money.

The Lieutenant-General regrets that this latter sum should have fallen so very far short of his expectations, but he trusts the next dividend will afford him a share better worth the acceptance of the society, for the truly laudable and benevolent purposes of so patriotic and charitable an institution.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

C. FOSTER,

*Military Secretary.*

At a meeting of the Directors of the *Loyal and Patriotic Society*, holden at the Chambers of the Chief Justice on the 21st day of January, 1815:

The Honble Thomas Scott, Chief Justice, President.

*Directors;*—

Major Allan.

John B. Robinson.

The Revd. Doctor Strachan.

Alexander Wood, Esqr., *Secretary*.

Appeared, Jacob Wood, from the County of Oxford, and produced a certificate from Major Bowen, stating that he accompanied George Nichol from Oxford to Burford to give information of the advance of the American army, and in consequence of which his house, furniture, barn, hay, grain, joiner's shop and tools were destroyed by the enemy.

*Resolved*,—That the like sum of two hundred dollars that was voted George Nichol be given Jacob Wood, as his services were equally meritorious.

A certificate was also produced from Major Bowen in favor of Henry Lester, Sergeant of the Oxford Militia, stating that he had lost his grain, fences and potatoes by the depredations of the enemy, and the certificate further states that he is a loyal subject and was always ready to defend the country when called upon by his superior officers.

*Resolved*,—That the sum of fifty dollars be given to Henry Lester.

Jacob Wood was interrogated by the society, whether he and George Nichol were paroled by General McArthur previous to their giving the British warning of the American army; in answer he stated that he and George Nichol had left their homes on hearing of the approach of the enemy, and so far from giving their parole that they never were in the power of General McArthur or his army.

The Directors put this question to Jacob Wood because McArthur in his official report states it as his reason for burning the houses and destroying everything belonging to these two men, that they had broken their parole.

ALEXANDER WOOD,  
Secretary.

THOMAS SCOTT,  
President.

(*From Report of the Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 160–2.*)

Swain Corliss, of the London District, appeared before the society and stated that he was severely wounded in a skirmish at Malcolm's Mills with General McArthur's troops, and left on the field and stripped; he has lost the use of his left arm in a great degree, had seventeen balls that pierced his shirt, seven balls entered his body, three of which still remain in it; he has a wife and seven children.

In consideration of his sufferings and services, the society vote him fifty pounds, which, with ten pounds already received, make the whole donation sixty pounds.

(*Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 184–5.*)

**Account of Houses Burned in the Town of Niagara and on the  
Niagara Frontier by the Enemy, with the Supposed  
Valuation Thereof.**

Isaac Swayze, a house and barn.....	£200
William Dickson, a brick house.....	1,000
Martin McLellan, house and stable.....	100
Michael Bellinger, a barn.....	125
Castel Chorus, do.....	125
Thos. Butler, house, stable and barn.....	200
Johnson Butler, do. do.....	350

John Secord, house, stable and barn.....	1,200
Peter Ball, do. do.....	800
John Ball, do. do.....	1,000
James Crooks, do. do.....	625
George Lawe, do. do.....	200
Thomas Merritt, do. do.....	400
Reverend Mr. Burns, a house.....	60
John McKay, a barn, &c.....	60
John Symington, house, &c.....	400
James Clark, house.....	400
Ralph Clench, house, stable, &c.....	150
John Macfarlane, house, &c.....	100
Charles Gesseau, 2 houses.....	400
Doctor Holmes, a house.....	100
Doctor Kerr, house, stable, &c.....	650
Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, 2 houses.....	500
Alexr, McKee, 2 houses.....	600
Mrs. Forsyth, a house, stable, &c.....	1,250
Garret Slingerland, near the town, lost house and barn.....	200
John Eggleston, 3 houses.....	750
Thomas Powers, 2 do.....	1,250
Doctor Muirhead.....	500
Mrs. Stewart.....	500
McKean and McEwan.....	1,000
Andrew Heron.....	700
William Dorman, McEwan & Co.....	150
David Hartman.....	100
Alexander Rogers.....	400
Samuel Bunting.....	100
Children of John Kelly, deceased.....	150
Peter De Jordan.....	100
Mrs. Rose Fields.....	750
Samuel Cassady.....	150
John Monroe.....	200
Daniel Secord's house, owned by John.....	200
Mrs. Wright.....	150
Estate of Fitzgerald.....	100
John Grier.....	750
John Young.....	1,000
James Crooks.....	1,000
William Dickson.....	1,000
Estate of John Emery.....	1,000
Joseph Edwards.....	500
Mrs. Bradshaw.....	150
James Rogers.....	250
Mrs. Frey.....	300

John Saunders.....	100
James—.....	50
Estate of Davenport Phelps.....	100
Colonel P—.....	600
Estate of Colin McNabb.....	50
Edward Vanderlip.....	1,000
Mrs. Hill.....	500
Alexander Garner.....	450
Major Campbell's estate.....	350
Francis Waddell's do.....	350
James Clark, sr., do.....	200
Colonel Claus.....	1,000
John Powell.....	300
Mrs. McBride.....	300
Estate of John Jones.....	650
Joseh Adlam.....	25
Joined the enemy { William W—.....	250
{ John Wagstaff.....	250
{ John Doty.....	375
{ Phineas Howell.....	500
{ Samuel Thompson.....	750
In Niagara—80 houses, besides barns, stables, etc.	
Elijah Phelp's barn.....	300
James Cooper's house.....	300
John Knox's do.....	200
—Johnston's do.....	200
Thomas Lundy.....	300
Philip Bender.....	400
John Muirhead.....	300
James Macklem.....	750
Christian R(iselay?), Frenchman's Creek.....	400
Alexander Douglas, farm house.....	400
Henry Trout, ferry.....	200
John Warren, do.....	250
Benjamin Hardison.....	400
Alexander Douglas, 2 houses.....	600
Henry Warren, house and store.....	450
Hugh Alexander, do. do.....	450
Jeremiah Kettle, do. do.....	150
Messrs. Hamilton & Co., storehouse.	
Messrs. Grant and Kerby's storehouse at Chippawa.	
Robert Hamilton's barns and stables.	

*Burned by Accident by our Troops.*

Joseph Brown, Niagara Road.....	250
Mr. Hamilton's, Queenston.....	2,000

James Rogers, do.....	350
John Fanning, Chippawa.....	700

*Burned by Order of the Commanding General.*

Thomas Cummings, 2 houses and store	} Chippawa.
J. J. Lefferty, a house	
—Morningstar, a house, Black Creek	

**A List of Buildings Burnt and Destroyed in Village of St. Davids  
by General Brown's Army, on the 19th July, 1814.**

David Secord—3 houses, 2 barns, 1 mill.....	£2,240
Richard Woodruff—1 house, 1 shop.....	300
Widow Clement—1 do. 1 barn.....	600
Widow Lowell—1 do.....	200
Timothy Street—2 do. 1 shop.....	430
Jacob Lutz—1 do.....	125
Widow Secord—1 do.....	500
Widow Bunting—1 barn.....	75
Daniel Secord—1 house, 1 barn.....	375
Samuel Boyd—1 do.....	250
Estate of Thos. Bunting—1 house.....	200
John Collard—1 house.....	436
	£5,731
	Currency.

*(From Report of Loyal and Patriotic Society, pp. 379–383.)*

**Minutes of Proceedings by the Trustees Appointed by Lieut.-General Drummond.,  
President, Administering the Government of Upper Canada, to Distribute the Nova Scotia  
Benevolence to the Sufferers by the War in this Province.**

**(Extract.)**

1816.

June 20.—Left York and on 22nd arrived at Stamford; procured returns of houses burned at Newark, on the line to Fort Erie, and in the Village of St. Davids.

June 23, 24.—Deliberated on the means of giving the best effect to the liberality of the sister Province.

per month when they can get 15 from the farmers. The notice convoking the Legislature would itself produce an immediate effect, as it would be an earnest of what they are to expect.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**Erastus Granger to General Porter.**

BUFFALO, May 28th, 1814.

DEAR SIR,—Since my arrival at this place I have been almost constantly with the Indians, and since they have determined to volunteer their services under you they are daily in council on subjects relating to the war, and have many things to say.

General Scott, conceiving that it would be an advantage to have them ready on your arrival, called them together three days since; told them that you and he acted in concert; that you were one; that you would move immediately, take the charge of them when embodied, but that you should be well pleased to find their warriors at this place on your arrival.

The chiefs have sent runners to Tonewanda, Genessee River, Allegany, and Catteragus, requesting their warriors to be here in ten days from yesterday. The Indians at Buffalo are impatient to be under pay, draw rations, &c. My opinion has coincided with that of General Scott.

The chiefs have requested me to be with them this summer, and as I find myself in a broken and disturbed situation, my family scattered abroad, and having heretofore received the appointment of Paymaster to the Indian volunteers, given bonds for a faithful performance and discharge of that duty for some time, opened accounts with the Paymaster General, &c., I have concluded to accompany the Indians in that capacity, and otherwise to be useful in any way in which my reasonable services may be required.

General Scott is very industrious in the exercising and disciplining his men. He spares no pains, and I think is an excellent officer.

Nothing important to communicate.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**General Winfield Scott to General Porter.**

H. QRS. NIAGARA FRONTIER,

BUFFALO, May 29th, 1814.

DEAR GENERAL,—I regret that I have not had a line from you on the subject of your levy, but hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing you at this place with your collected force.

Supposing it would be advisable to get the Indians together at this place to meet your arrival, I made them an invitation accordingly. They are full of zeal and anxious to engage in operations. I told them that you were expected here in some ten or fourteen days, and in the meantime they should draw rations and be put on pay. This measure may save us some weeks. The Secretary asks in one of his letters: "Are your red brethren with you?" So I thought it would be agreeable to his wishes and acceptable to you to bring them together as early as possible.

I am greatly deficient in tents at this place, and cannot therefore give you any assistance in that article at present. Only one-half the supply ordered from Albany has arrived. I hear the remainder are on the road, and I have required a further supply of 300 to enable me to furnish your corps. Everything else I have in sufficient abundance, except funds for the Q. M'r's. Dept., but suppose Major Noon has taken measures to procure the necessary sums.

Let me have a letter from you. Will it not be indispensable to your success with the Indians to engage the services of Mr. Parrish as interpreter. The Secretary would give the authority on application, and if you think it necessary I will join you in the solicitation.

I have ordered forward 500 rifles for such Indians as may be without, and am repairing all brought by them to our armory. They are much pleased with the prospect of having you as their commander.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**Sir George Prevost to Sir Gordon Drummond.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 1st June, 1814.

SIR,—It was with sincere regret and disappointment that I perused the detail of illiberal and wanton devastation and unjustifiable outrage reported in your letter of the 27th ulto., and M. Gen'l Riall's of the 19th, to have been committed in the vicinity of Dover, and on its unoffending inhabitants by the conflagration of their dwelling-houses and mills.

I cherished the hope that the severe, though just, retaliation inflicted for the destruction of the village of Newark would have deterred the enemy from recurring to similar acts of barbarity; under that impression I issued the proclamation of the 4th January last, which has been most scrupulously adhered to by the troops under my command. And it is with painful reluctance I feel myself compelled to return to a system so abhorrent to the principles which always animated and characterized Britons, but such horrors cannot be suffered to remain without notice or unavenged.

You must therefore transmit by a flag of truce to the officer commanding the American force nearest to you, a statement of those atrocities with information that you have my instructions to inflict a severe retaliation for them.

You may assure him that the same will be repeated for every act of cruel outrage committed on the defenceless and peaceful settlers of our frontiers, and that the British fleet on the coast of America will be called upon to assist in this measure of just retaliation.

**Sir George Prevost to Vice-Admiral Sir A. Cochrane.**

HEADQUARTERS, MONTREAL, 2nd June, 1814.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of a letter which I have written to Lieutenant-General Drummond in consequence of the late disgraceful conduct of the American troops in the wanton destruction of private property on the north shores of Lake Erie, in order that if the war with the United States continues you may, should you judge it advisable, assist in inflicting that measure of retaliation which shall deter the enemy from a repetition of similar outrages.

**General Porter to Jasper Parrish.**

CANANDAIGUA, June 2nd, 1814.

SIR,—You will please to proceed to Onondaga and Oneida and collect and march to this place, with as little delay as possible, all the Indian warriors in that quarter who may have agreed to comply with the invitation of the President of the 14th February last. Messrs. Trowbridge and Webster will assist you and be subject to your orders, the former as Inspector, and the latter as Quartermaster of the Indian corps.

The Indians who have rifles will be invited to bring them; they will be allowed a fair compensation for the use of them and the value of them in case of loss by unavoidable accidents. The contractor's agents will furnish provisions on your requisition.

The Secretary of War having directed me to invite you to take charge of the warriors, but without specifying what your rank and pay will be, I can only assure you that you will be allowed a fair compensation for your services and expenses, in addition to your proper pay as agent.

Your extra pay will commence from the time when you first went to Buffalo with the Secretary's letter to the Indians, and which I think was about the first of April.

*(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)*

**General Porter to Edmund A. Trowbridge.**



CANANDAIGUA, May 24th, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given to me by the Secretary of War, you are hereby appointed an *Inspector* of the corps of Indian warriors mustered into the service of the United States by the letter of the President of the 14th of February last.

You will be subject to the orders of Jasper Parrish, Esq., who will have the immediate command of the warriors, and assist him in collecting and organizing them.

I have not been advised by the Secretary of War what your rank and pay will be. I presume, however, you will receive the pay and emoluments of a Captain in the United States Infantry.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**General Porter to Ephraim Webster.**

CANANDAIGUA, June 2nd, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given me by the Secretary of War, I have appointed you Quartermaster of the corps of Indian warriors invited into the service of the United States by the letter of the President of the United States of the 14th of February last.

Mr. Parrish will leave this place in the morning for Onondaga and Oneida to collect the warriors in that quarter, and march them to the frontier. You will obey the orders of Mr. Parrish as the officer having the immediate command of the Indian corps. I am not advised by the Secretary of War what your rank and pay will be, but I presume you will receive the pay and emoluments of a Captain of United States Infantry.

(From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.)

**General Brown to Caleb Hopkins.**

BUFFALO, June 20th, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given to me by the Secretary of War, you are hereby appointed *Adjutant* of the

**Monthly Return of 1st Brigade, General Scott, June 30, 1814.**

	<i>Present for Duty.</i>		<i>Aggregate.</i>
	<i>N. C. O.</i>		<i>Present and</i>
	<i>Rank and File.</i>	<i>Officers.</i>	<i>Absent.</i>
9th Regt.....	332	16	642
11th Regt.....	416	17	577
22nd Regt.....	217	12	287
25th Regt.....	354	16	619
General staff.....		4	4
Total.....	1319	65	2129

**SECOND BRIGADE, GENERAL RIPLEY.**

21st Regt.....	651	25	917
23rd Regt.....	341	8	496

General staff.....	2	
Total.....	992	35 1415

#### ARTILLERY, MAJOR HINDMAN.

Towson's company.....	89	101
Biddle's company.....	80	104
Ritchie's company.....	96	138
Williams' company.....	62	73
Total.....	327	413

#### Monthly Return of General Brown's Division, July 1, 1814.

	<i>N. C. O. and Men.</i>	<i>Officers.</i>	<i>Aggregate.</i>
Artillery.....	330	15	413
Scott's Brigade.....	1312	65	2122
Ripley's Brigade.....	992	36	1415
Porter's Brigade.....	710	43	830
Total.....	3344	159	4780

*(From Henry Adams' History of the United States, VIII. p. 35, 37.)*

#### Buffalo Gazette, Tuesday, July 5, 1814.

On Thursday last a party of British regulars and Indians, between 2 and 300 strong, made their appearance at Lewiston and drove away many of the inhabitants, some of which they took. We learn that they then proceeded a few miles on the Ridge Road, burnt the militia barracks at Hardscrabble, and plundered horses, cattle, hogs and sheep. A branch of the same party, as we understand, came up to Schlosser. They were commanded by a son of the celebrated Elliott.

One of the Indians was killed in a quarrel with a Mr. Sage, who was detained as a prisoner. The Indian, being intoxicated, attacked Sage with the butt of his gun. Sage struck him with an axe, cut him down and escaped.

Young Elliott told the inhabitants that those who remained peaceably in their houses should not be hurt.

We learn further that the party have left Lewiston with above a hundred head of cattle.

*(From Boston Yankee, 15th July, 1814.)*

#### Extract of a Letter to a Gentleman in New York, Dated Sackett's Harbor, July 6.

With pleasure I inform you of a small expedition, (fitted out of this place on the 27th ult., and returned this day,) of two whale boats carrying 15 men each, who succeeded in burning a bomb vessel of 90 tons, on the stocks ready for launching, together with a public building

containing naval stores, at a place called Presqu' Isle, directly opposite Oswego on the Canada shore.—*Mer. Adv.*

(*See Part I. p., 26.*)

**General Brown to —Fleming.**

CHIPPAWA, U. C., July 6th, 1814.

SIR,—In pursuance of an authority given to me by the Secretary of War, you are hereby appointed *inspector* of the corps of Indian warriors invited into the service of the United States by the letter of the president of the 14th of February last.

(*From MSS. of Hon. P. A. Porter.*)