

## **ALEXANDER CAMERON**

### **Veteran of the War of Independence and the War of 1812**

Alexander Cameron was born in Glen Nevis in the Highlands of Scotland around 1754. In 1773 his family, together with about 400 other Highlanders, left Scotland for New York, having gained a grant of lands in Albany. They took up land in the Mohawk Valley. The Camerons had scarcely had enough time to build a rough home and clear a few acres of land when the American Revolution broke out in 1776. Alexander and his father immediately joined their landlord's regiment, the King's Royal Regiment of New York. According to Cruikshank's "King's Royal Regiment of New York", Alexander was in Watt's Company 1776-77, in Major's Company 1778 -1781, and a Light Infantryman 1782-83. He was a prisoner with the rebels in 1779 while with Major's Company.

According to family stories told by his grandson years later, Alexander was able to free himself the first time he was captured by donning the clothes of a milkmaid and walking demurely through the group of twenty soldiers set to guard the prisoners. His last capture was more critical -- he was to be shot for espionage. Apparently his mother, on hearing the news, personally rode by horseback to Washington's camp to beg for her son's life. A very beautiful woman, she apparently succeeded in gaining General Washington's consent to release him on condition that the family leave the country immediately and forever.

When peace finally ensued, the Camerons found themselves in Canada in what was known as the Eastern District. On 21 Nov 1785 Alexander and his father drew lots and were awarded with Lot 6 of Concession 4, Cornwall Township in recognition of their loyalty to the Crown . Two months later, Alexander married Sarah Parks, the daughter of another UEL from Connecticut. Alexander and Sarah made their home and raised their eight children on Lot 6 Concession 4 of Cornwall Township.

Alexander would have been a member of the Sedentary Militia during this time. In 1812 when the alarm bells of war were once again rung, Alexander was appointed Ensign in the 1st Stormont Regiment and served throughout the War.

By 1812 Alexander's two oldest sons were also of an age to join in defense of their new home. Alexander jr. served as a private in Captain Philip Empey's Company in the 1st Regiment Stormont Militia for six months and in Captain John McDonell's Company for six months. These companies were commanded by the Hon. Neil McLean. In 1835 Alexander Jr. was granted the Prince Regent's bounty for 200 acres in Nissouri Township, Oxford County.

Alexander's second son, John, served as a lieutenant in Captain Campbell's Flank Co, 1st Regiment Glengarry Militia from 22 July 1812 to the 25th March 1813. In 1822 he was granted the Prince Regent's bounty of 500 acres in Nissouri Township, Ontario.

Even Alexander's third son, Robert, just 14 years old when the conflict broke out, was cited within his SUE petition for land in 1819, as having done "his duty in defence of the Province during the late war."

As their children began to reach maturity, Alexander and Sarah realized that there was little opportunity for them in the old townships, which were now heavily settled. In 1821, armed with Orders in Council for free land grants for the five children who had reached 21 years of age, they left their home of more than thirty years for Nissouri Township. Alexander and Sarah took up Lot 14 in the 13th Concession. Three of their children were already married when they arrived and immediately took up their own farms. The others soon followed suit.

In 1829 Alexander's two youngest sons, Robert and Allen, and three of his sons-in-law were serving in Captain John Stephens Company of the 1st Regiment Oxford Militia.

Alexander and Sarah died in E. Nissouri, buried in now long forgotten graves. Their oldest four children farmed and raised their families in E. Nissouri and finished their own lives there too. The three youngest pulled up their roots once again in the late 1840's and headed for new territory in Kincardine, Bruce County, Ontario.

### **Children of Alexander Cameron and Sarah Parks:**

Alexander jr	(b. 1790 Cornwall, ON; d. ???)	
Mary	(b. 1792 Cornwall, ON; d.1870 E. Nissouri)	married William Shaw; 8 children
John	(b.1794 Cornwall, ON; d.1887 E. Nissouri)	married Marion Patterson; 3 children
Sarah	(b. 1796 Cornwall, ON; d. bef 1871 E. Nissouri)	married Donald McDonell; 5 children
Robert	(b. 1798 Cornwall, ON; d. 1875 E. Nissouri)	married Nancy Ross; 10 children
Janet	(b.1803 Cornwall, ON; d.1855 Kincardine, ON)	married David Ramage; 6 children
Allan	(b. 1805 Cornwall, ON; d. ???)	married Paulina Yeigh; 3 children
Sophia	(b. 1808 Cornwall, ON; d. 1870 Kincardine, ON)	married William Withers; 9 children