



HON. JAMES CROOKS, 1778-1869

Native of Scotland, settled in Niagara 1791, shipped the first wheat and flour from Niagara to Montreal. Member of Legislative Council for twenty-five years, was Captain in 1st Lincoln Militia and heroically mentioned for conduct at the battle of Queenston Heights.



HON. Wm. DICKSON, 1769-1846

A native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, member of Legislative Council, 1816, founder of Guelph and the Township of Dundas, built the first brick house in Niagara about 1790, member of Law Society 1797.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF HON. WILLIAM DICKSON

By James E. Kerr

Read before the Waterloo Historical Society and by permission is now printed in the Niagara Historical Society, it being peculiarly appropriate that an account of one so prominent in the Town for so many years, should appear in our pages and we return our thanks to Mr. James E. Kerr and the Waterloo Historical Society for an article so well written and containing such valuable information. - Ed.

In this Centennial Year of the founding of Galt, it is thought that a short sketch on the life of Hon. William Dickson should find a place in our Annual Report of the Waterloo Historical Society.

My readers will, I trust, pardon me if I dwell too much on the history of Niagara, but it seems to me that some historical details are necessary. We must not forget that Mr. Dickson spent in Niagara, the greater part of his life, the period from boyhood to middle age and the period when, his work all but accomplished, he returned to his old home in which to pass the remainder of his life and enjoy the competency his ability and energy had won. Niagara was no ordinary village, for in it and in its vicinity events took place that decided the future of Canada. On many of these events, Mr. Dickson must have been a spectator and in some of them, he took a prominent part.

I beg to acknowledge my indebtedness to Miss Carmochan of Niagara for the material taken from her History of Niagara, to Miss Florence Dickson of Kirmichael,

Galt, for copies of letters written by her grandfather, and to Hon. James Young's Early History of Galt and the Settlement of Dumfries.

The family of Dickson came originally from the Parish of Caerlaverock in the southern part of Dumfries-shire, Scotland. They came of good Presbyterian stock, for we find that seventeen of the family signed the Solemn League and Covenant, whereby they bound themselves to use every means in their power to exterminate popery and prelacy in the Three Kingdoms and to establish uniformity in religion and worship by making everybody Presbyterian like themselves. The first of the family of whom we have any particular account was a Thomas Dickson who about the year 1700, left his parish and moved into Dumfries. There he engaged in trade. He married Margaret Bell, a daughter of one of the burgesses of the town. He left three sons, John, Thomas and Nicholas. We are only concerned with John, who carried on his father's business so successfully that he was able to add to it, several other commercial undertakings. He had inherited from his Uncle George Bell, the estate of Conheath. He was looked up to as a very successful merchant and his townsmen showed their appreciation of his ability by making him their Provost. Evil days came, however: the estate which his uncle left him was found to be heavily encumbered and the failure of a large banking concern with which he was in some way connected crippled him financially. He had married a Miss Helen Wight, a daughter of the Minister of St. Michael's, and had a large family, four daughters and six sons, Robert, William, John, Alexander, Thomas and Walter. Perhaps it was the losses their father had sustained that turned the attention of three of the sons to Canada, where the prospect of bettering their condition, seemed brighter than in Scotland. However that may be, Robert, William and Thomas found their way to this country. We know from his own statement that William came to Canada in 1784. He was born July 13, 1769, and therefore his age must have been about fifteen. The dates of the arrival of his brothers are not known. Probably Robert came with William as he was the oldest and Thomas, who was the youngest of the three, may have come sometime later. William entered the employment of his cousin, Hon. Robert Hamilton, who in partnership with Hon. Richard Cartwright, carried on an extensive mercantile business in the Niagara district.

Hamilton was an energetic, pushing, business man. His name was associated with everything that had for its object the betterment of the community. Bishop Strachan said of him that "he was remarkable for varied information, engaging manners, princely hospitality." William and Thomas Dickson were fortunate in their association with such a man. Of their first years in Canada, there are few particulars. Robert went out West and became a Fur Trader in the region of the Upper Mississippi which at that time was almost uninhabited except by roving tribes of Indians. He acquired by long residence among these, a profound knowledge of Indian life and character and was able to render valuable assistance to the American Government in its dealings with the red men. He retained, however, his British citizenship, and during the War of 1812, he induced many of the Indians to fight on the English side. For these services, he was at the close of the war rewarded by the British Government with a pension of three hundred pounds and a grant of a large tract of land. He died at Drummond Island in 1823. William and Thomas settled in the Niagara District. William seems to have stopped on his way from Quebec at Carleton Island on the St. Lawrence, but afterwards he lived at Niagara. Thomas took up residence at Queenston. In 1790 or perhaps a little later, William built the first brick house erected in Niagara. Both the young men seem to have been successful, first in the

employment of their cousin, Hon. Robert Hamilton, and afterwards in business on their own account.

The village of Niagara, which in 1795 contained, according to George Weld, only seventy houses, was from 1792 to 1796, the capital of the new Province of Upper Canada, which contained at the time from ten to twenty thousand settlers. In 1791, an Act was passed by the Parliament at Westminster by which Canada was divided into two self-governing provinces, Upper and Lower Canada, but it was not till the 17th of September of the following year that "the little yeoman Parliament of British Canada" as Goldwin Smith called it, was opened. A Constitution was bestowed which the Governor told his backwoods Parliament was "the very image and transcript of the British Constitution." William Dickson, who was present at the opening said in a speech made many years after that in Galt, "Well do I remember the joy and enthusiasm which pervaded all classes and ranks on such a boon being granted." The five sessions of the First Parliament were held in Niagara and there Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe resided.

To a visitor, the population of Niagara must have presented a strange medley. There were retired army officers, U.E. Loyalists, settlers from the States and a floating population of Indians half-breeds, negroes, voyageurs, traders and adventurers of all sorts. The constant presence of British troops quartered at Fort Niagara, and afterwards at Fort George, and in the village itself, added much to the liveliness and gaiety of the place. Not a few persons of note found their way hither in those early days. Here came in 1792, the fourth son of George the Third, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent. He was at that time, a young man of about twenty-five.

He was taken up by Governor Simcoe to see the Falls, wined and dined by Mr. Hamilton at Queenston and during his stay, numerous pleasure parties were gotten up for his delectation. In 1795, the Duc de la Rochefoucauld-Liancourt paid a visit to the Governor and he has left us an interesting account of what he saw. Another exile of the French Revolution, Count De Puisaye lived in the neighborhood of Niagara from 1798 to 1802. His mission was to establish a Military Colony of French Loyalists in Upper Canada, but this was unsuccessful. A brother of Sir Walter Scott was at one time quartered with his regiment at Niagara, "poor Tom, a man of infinite humor and excellent parts" Sir Walter says of him. Tom Scott died in Canada. Many people at one time thought that he was the author of "Waverley." Tom Moore the Poet came in 1804 as the guest of General Brock and spent a very pleasant fortnight. William Dickson, in April 1794, was married to Charlotte Adlam, an English lady, the daughter of Captain Adlam, of the Royal Navy. The notice of the wedding is found in the Register of St. Marks, though that fine old Church was not begun till 1804. Mr. Dickson was a member of the Niagara Library from 1800 to 1820. He had himself a valuable collection of Books which were burnt with his house in 1813. We find his name also among the early members of the Agricultural Society. He early began to take an interest in farming, a pursuit that was to occupy much of his attention in later years. The Agricultural Society was started in 1792. At the monthly dinners, a great silver mounted snuff box was handed round. Each President kept it during his year of office and then handed it over to his successor who I suppose refilled it. In 1796, in accordance with the terms of the Jay Treaty, Fort Niagara was given up by the British and for the first time became the property of the United States. The Garrison, along with the guns and stores, were removed to Fort George, a recently constructed Fort on the Canadian side of the River.

With an American Fortress opposite it and commanding it, Niagara was no longer a suitable place for the seat of Government, and the Capital was changed to York, the name at that time given to Toronto. In this year also, the Parliament of Upper Canada was dissolved. Governor Simcoe was recalled shortly after the dissolution. He was an honest and capable Governor, though his ideas of Government were too aristocratic to suit the people of Upper Canada.

In 1803, William Dickson received by special license to practise at the Provincial Bar. By an Act passed in July 1794, the Governor was authorized to license "such as he shall deem from their probity, education and condition in life, best qualified to act as advocates and attorneys in the conduct of legal proceedings." A better choice could perhaps not have been made than of Mr. Dickson, whose probity was unquestionable, who had received the rudiments at least of a good education and whose position in Society was acknowledged. It seems from the wording of the act that an extensive or thorough knowledge of law was not regarded as essential. If we give the subject any thought, we will come to the conclusion that at that time and in that community what Josh Billings called "strong horse sense" would be much more useful to a lawyer than a complete knowledge of legal technicalities. Mr. Dickson practised in Niagara for a number of years with success. He frequently acted in the magisterial capacity of a Justice of the Peace or a Judge of the District Court.

In 1806, an event of a painful nature occurred at Niagara which shows the method by which gentlemen at that period not infrequently adjusted their differences. I shall quote from the Albany Gazette of the time:-

"Mr. Weekes, a gentleman from Ireland who has practised, "at the Bar of Upper Canada for some years past, had the misfortune not to stand well with the late Governor (Simcoe) of that Province, and was at variance also with several of the most respectable members of the Government. On Monday, 6th October, he took the opportunity in an argument from the bar to abuse the terms of very gross invective, the memory of the late Governor and the character of several of his most intimate friends. This was passed over by the Judge without notice. Mr. Dickson, also a Counsellor at law, was also engaged in the same cause with Mr. Weekes and followed him in support of the question before the Court. Before concluding however, he thought it his duty as a gentleman and a Lawyer to enter his strongest protest against such declaration saying he conceived it originated in personal malice and malevolence and that were he the judge on the bench he would not permit such language to pass without censure. Nothing further happened in Court, nor was anything further intended at the time, as we believe, by either of the parties.

Unfortunately, Mr. Weekes spent the following day and night with a party at a Tavern in the country. Circumstances have led us to suppose that his resentment against Mr. Dickson had been aroused by the conversation of the party. Perhaps some hasty promise was then made to avenge the affront. On Wednesday, a man calling himself Major Hart, was sent by Mr. Weekes with a message to Mr. Dickson insisting on his making such an apology as Mr. Weeks might dictate and that this should be read in open court or that he should give him satisfaction in another way. The first was inadmissible, but Mr. Dickson, recurring to the alternative which he highly disapproved, made through a friend, a proposition to Mr. Weeks that if he would state in the Court that the language he made use of on a former day was only to support the cause he was engaged in and had

nothing personal against the character of Governor Simcoe, that he, Mr. Dickson, would in the same free manner, declare his sorrow for having misunderstood him. This being absolutely refused, they agreed to meet."

"As no gentleman could be found, who would associate with Major Hart, he was set aside, and Mr. John McKee went in his place. Dr. Kerr, (a son-in-law of Sir William Johnson) accompanied Mr. Dickson. They met on the American side of the river, near Fort Niagara, at 7 o'clock in the morning of Friday, 10th October. At a distance of twenty yards, they fired nearly together. Mr. Weekes missed his aim, but Mr. Dickson's ball entering Mr. Weekes' right side, went through his body. He died about twelve o'clock the following day."

Public opinion was strongly in favor of Mr. Dickson, and, as the duel had occurred on American soil, no legal proceedings appear to have been taken in the matter.

Mr. Dickson visited Scotland in 1809, taking with him his sons, Robert and William, whom he placed in a school in Edinburgh, where his youngest brother Walter, who was a writer to the Signet lived. Walter took a fatherly interest in the lads and reported from time to time to their father at Niagara, the progress they were making in their studies. Mr. Dickson's letters to his brother in Edinburgh are not very interesting reading, but they leave the impression that the writer was a kind hearted man in whom family affection was strong.

In the war, which came in 1812, Mr. Dickson does not seem to have taken an active part. Shortly after the taking of Niagara by the Americans, May 27th, 1813, he and a number of leading residents were in violation of a promise made to them by General Dearborn, seized and taken prisoners to Albany, the journey thither lasting almost two months, and being attended by many privations. It was not till the end of the following January that Mr. Dickson, liberated on parole, reached home to find his house in ruins. Before retreating, the Americans had burnt the Town. By this unprovoked and cruel act, several hundred people were rendered homeless and many destitute. Mrs. William Dickson, who was sick at the time, was carried out and from a couch placed on the snow, watched the burning of her home. Retribution came quickly. In a few days, Lewiston and other villages on the American side were given to the flames, Fort Niagara stormed and its garrison taken prisoners. Colonel Thomas Dickson, William's younger brother, commanded the 2nd Lincoln Militia Regiment at the Battle of Chippawa, where his conduct and bravery and the gallantry of the Regiment under his command, earned high commendation from General Riall. In this battle, Colonel Dickson was wounded. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly which met at York, and he carried on a successful business at Queenston. He died in 1825, and his grave is in the burying place of the Hamilton family.

The fratricidal war came to an end in 1815. It decided nothing except that Canada should remain British. The short-sighted and cruel treatment of the Loyalists after the Revolution, drove thousands of them into Canada. They carried with them the bitter feelings which persecution had engendered and were ready to take up arms in defence of the country that had sheltered them and given them homes. Among the Canadians, affection for the motherland was strong. England had treated them generously. It had given them home rule. In Lower Canada, it had respected the wishes of the French population, leaving to them their Church and in a large measure, their old laws. To the Canadians of Upper Canada, it had granted a constitution which if not, "the express

image and transcript of the British Constitution" satisfied for a time their desire for self-government. The hypocritical assurances of American demagogues that they were coming as liberators to an oppressed people, were treated with the scorn that such assertions deserved.

Canadians felt themselves competent to work out their own destiny under the aegis of Britain.

The war cost many valuable lives and left bitter feelings that only a full century of peace had eradicated. To the credit of the New England States, be it said that they were opposed to the War. To this opposition may be ascribed the immunity from invasion which Canada enjoyed on her north-eastern frontier.

In November, 1815, William Dickson was summoned to take his place in the Legislative Council. He lived to witness and take some part in the great struggle for Responsible Government which was about to commence. In the politics of that time, he belonged to the Family Compact, which thought it contained many conscientious and excellent men, must now regard it as the party of retrogression.

In 1784, the British Government gave its friends and allies, the Six Nation Indians, a strip of land six miles on each side of the Grand River, from Lake Erie to the Falls of the River at Elora, and containing over a half million acres. This land, which is now one of the most valuable and productive areas in the Province, was at that time a wilderness. After it came into the possession of the Six Nations, they used it merely as a hunting-ground. The only portion of it which they made any attempt to cultivate, is what is now called the Indian Reserve a few miles below Brantford.

The lands on the upper reaches of the Grand River, the Indians, after keeping for about a dozen years, expressed a desire to sell. They sold to Mr. Philip Stedman of Fort Erie on March 2nd, 1795, the block of land, afterwards known as the Township of Dumfries, giving him a deed signed by Joseph Brant and forty-one other sachems and war chiefs. A Crown Patent, granted in 1798, was required to validate Stedman's title. After Stedman's death, there were a number of transfers, which is unnecessary for me to recount, till the land was purchased by Hon. Thomas Clarke, of Stamford, in 1811. In that year, Clarke turned the land over to Mr. Dickson, probably giving him an agreement of sale. The deed from Clarke to Dickson was not given until July 3rd, 1816. The land which Mr. Dickson acquired, was a block a little more than twelve miles square containing 94,305 acres. The southern boundary crossed the Grand River at the point where it is joined by the Ninth. The place was known at that time as the "Forks of Grand River." The price paid for the land, including the assumption of a mortgage is said to have been 24,000 pounds, which reckoned in Halifax currency, would amount to \$96,000 or at the rate of a little more than a dollar an acre.

Having obtained his Deed, Mr. Dickson with characteristic energy set about the work of settlement. He was fortunate in his choice of an assistant in this task. Mr. Absalom Shade was a young Pennsylvanian, shrewd, wide-awake and money-making. The son of a Farmer and by trade a Carpenter, he had every qualification needed for leadership in a backwoods community.

On a July day in 1816, Mr. Dickson and Mr. Shade set out on their journey from Niagara to Dumfries. Mr. Dickson wished to explore the country and somewhere on the Grand River, to choose the site of a village which would serve as a trading centre for the farmers who should settle on his lands. The travellers after reaching Hamilton took "The

Governor's Road" to "The Forks of Grand River." From thence they engaged an Indian guide. Mounted on ponies, they followed the old Indian trail which led up the east side of the stream till they arrived at the place where the Mill Creek joins the river. Here they were not only struck with the beauty of the spot but also with its suitability for the village site. At this point in its course, the river runs between banked high enough to confine its waters even at flood time to its proper channel. By the construction of dams on the river, and the creek ample water-power could be obtained at a moderate cost and the comparatively level ground between the streams afforded good locations for houses and stores. Proceeding up the creek a couple of hundred yards, our site seekers came upon the site of a little mill that had been built by an early settler and abandoned, probably for the reason that no good title could be obtained for the land on which the Mill was built. This little Mill Mr. Shade afterwards "fixed up" and it was used till it was superseded by the Dumfries Mills." After lingering some time on the site of the future village, the explorers continued their journey up the river and found shelter for the night in the little log cabin of a squatter on the flats below Cruickston Park. Here they had reached the northern limit of the purchase and next morning they returned to the Mill Creek, and having taken another look at the place, were more than ever pleased with the location they had fixed upon.

A log house, one end of which contained a little store in which Mr. Shade and his wife served at the Counter, was the first building erected in the village. It was situated according to Mr. Young, where Mr. Sloan's Grocery Store now stands. After that followed a Saw Mill in 1817 and the Dumfries Mills in 1818. In the following year, the Main Street bridge was built. A small distillery commenced work in 1820. It stood on the south side of Chapman Street, about half way between Ainslie Street and the G.T.R. tracks. In 1821, a Tavern was built at the Woods and Taylor corner. Despite these conveniences of civilization, the little village grew very slowly for a number of years. The fact is that immigration from Britain had hardly commenced. The backwoods of Upper Canada were harder to reach than Timbuctoo would be now. As yet, Canada had no immigration agencies and the country was generally considered in Europe as a land of snow and ice, the fitting abode of the trapper and Indian. Mr. Dickson soon realized the necessity of making known the benefits that Canada, and especially Dumfries, offered to the enterprising and industrious immigrant. He sent agents to Scotland and through their efforts and through articles he supplied to the Scottish press, a large number of small farmers from the south of Scotland were induced to give up their holdings and to take up land in the new Township. The land was offered at about three dollars an acre. How these settlers were treated is best described in the following extract from a resolution passed at a public meeting held in Galt in 1839, for the purpose of inviting Mr. Dickson to a dinner to be given him by the inhabitants of Dumfries:- "That the settlers of this Township are under a heavy debt of gratitude to the original proprietor, the Hon. Wm. Dickson, not only for that indulgence and considerate lenity for which he has always been distinguished, but for the parental and effective aid with which he strengthened the hands of very many of his earliest settlers, and enabled them to contend with and overcome the manifold difficulties encompassing those who without means to take upland and locate in the woods."

Mr. Dickson, who had hitherto lived at Niagara, took up his residence in Galt in 1827. He lived in the village until 1836, when he returned to his residence of

"Woodlawn" near Niagara leaving the management of his affairs to his son, William Dickson. In 1827, the village which up to this had been known as "Shade Mills," was now given, the name of "Galt," in honor of John Galt, the Scottish novelist, who paid a visit to his friend, Mr. Dickson, in that year. As Mr. Galt was only a little boy five years old, and living in Irvine when in 1784, Mr. Dickson came to Canada, they could not have been school companions in Edinburgh as Mr. Young states, but meeting in Canada in 1827, they may well have become friends, for they were men of similar tastes and at that time were both deeply interested in the sale of farm lands.

During the period of Mr. Dickson's residence in Galt, he lived in a little rough-cast house near the south-east corner of Queen's Square, and afterwards in a house, of which only part of the foundation remains, on the hill above Crescent Street.

In the thirties, the wisdom of Mr. Dickson's policy of advertising the merits of Dumfries, became apparent in the large number of Scotch farmers who took up land. As the Township filled up with these settlers, the village became prosperous. The chief lack was of roads, especially of a good road to the head of navigation at Hamilton, between which place and Galt, the Beverly Swamp presented an almost impassable barrier to travel. It was not till 1837 that a macadamized road was commenced. This road, built at Government expense, added much to the prosperity of the Townships of Beverly, Dumfries and Waterloo.

A few words about Mr. Dickson's family may not be uninteresting. The Hon. William Dickson had three sons, Robert (1796-1846), William (1799-1877) and Walter H. (1806-1884). Robert and Walter were Barristers and lived at Niagara. They were both in the Militia and probably both served as Cavalry Officers during the Rebellion of 1837. Walter represented Niagara in the Assembly from 1841-1851. He was appointed a Legislative Councillor in 1855 and after Confederation, he sat in the Dominion Senate. Robert also was a Councillor. He died at Leghorn, Italy in 1846. William lived at Kirkmichael, Galt, where he died in 1877. Hon. Walter Hamilton Dickson of Niagara, married Augusta Maria Geale, daughter of Lieutenant Benjamin Geale, 49th Regiment. They had five sons and four daughters - William, Walter, Augustus, Julia, Mary Louisa, Robert George, John Geale, Florence Augusta, Arthur and Augusta Maria.

A few years before his death, which occurred at his residence in his seventy-seventh year at Niagara on the 19th of February, 1846, the Hon. William Dickson retired from active business. His estate he divided equally between his three sons, retaining only enough to support him comfortably in his declining years. He to the very last, manifested a lively interest in the progress of Galt and the settlement of Dumfries and was unfailing in his attendance to his public duties in the Legislative Council.

The Dumfries Courier, Feb. 21st, 1846, in the notice of the death of Mr. Dickson, pays the following tribute to his memory.

"The Township of Dumfries which under his fostering care, has in an incredibly short period been converted from a wilderness into one of the most flourishing and prosperous parts of the Province, bears witness to the wisdom and benevolence of the late lamented gentleman, whose memory will be long cherished in the hearts of thousands to whom he has been indeed a benefactor and a friend.

In the "Reminiscences of the Early History of Galt and the Settlement of Dumfries" is an account of the dinner to Hon. Wm. Dickson and his speech in reply which gives us a more intimate view. While the political condition of Upper Canada is

presented himself, with a family, I did not make the enquiry so much for money as I did to ascertain if the party was honest, industrious and laborious. Assistance in cattle, provisions, and other necessities was given, and under a personal supervision, the Township has become the residence and abode of a happy and wealthy population, seldom or never having recourse to the ruinous and compulsory process of law, during a period of 25 years. In recurring to many incidents during so long a period and to a strict self-examination, I am afraid you may have over-rated my merits; for in rendering you assistance in advancing your views, I was not negligent or unmindful of my own and now my most sanguine anticipations have been realized. In all my difficulties a moral principle and a religious sentiment sustained me. Many of you have had your days and night of gloom - you have encountered privations, toil, trouble and up-hill exercise, but many of you have attained the summit of your wishes, and others are in a progressive advance. Have I not reason to be proud of such a class of men, of generous mind and intelligence, who can feel such gratitude and express such sentiments as are embodied in your resolutions?.....

I was at Niagara when Gen. Simcoe first addressed the assembled Legislature, and well do I remember the joy and enthusiasm which pervaded all classes and ranks... I have heard much in my time of grievances, but I can conscientiously declare that I think we have as few in Upper Canada as in any country under the sun. A residence of fifty-five years in the Province and a seat in the Legislative Council for twenty-three authorize me to claim some knowledge of our institutions, having in the course of my life in this Province, both practised and administered the Law, without at any time receiving any emolument from, or giving any pledge to His Majesty's Government, beyond the duties of a good subject.....

I have now done with public and general subjects. I shall take leave to speak merely for a few moments shortly of myself. I was born at Dumfries, Scotland, in the year 1769 and this day is the Anniversary of my birth. I have attained the advanced age of 70 years; the future can only be a remnant, and should be devoted to high and solemn purpose. I trust when that remnant of time shall likewise be run out, that I may be found prepared for the great change that all men must sooner or later submit to. I have now only to announce to all my friends here assembled, the heart-felt expression of my gratitude to God for permitting me in the midst of my family and at this late period of my life, to enjoy health and strength sufficient to receive and acknowledge the honour and approbation you have this day conferred upon me. - J.C. Ed.

Original documents in the Scrap Book of Niagara Historical Society.

MEMORANDUM RESPECTING THE MILITARY RESERVE.

Niagara, 11th June, 1787.

As the line comprehending the ground reserved by the King on the south west side of this River, is the most material object to be first ascertained. It was therefore directed to be begun at a deep hollow at the north east corner of Lot No. 23, First Concession, Niagara Township and to run from thence, due west till it strikes the 4 Mile Creek in which Government erected Mills presently occupied by Mr. Daniel Service (Servos), thence down the bank of said Creek to the Lake, thence along the Lake and up the River to the place of beginning at the distance of forty-five chains, seventy-five links