

MAJOR SAMUEL HOLLAND.

It would appear that in the early history of Canada, during the French regime, land surveys were performed by Royal Surveyors. By an edict in 1690, and another in 1702, the Royal Surveyors were superseded by officers known as Appraisers and Land Surveyors, who were also Royal Notaries. At the same time, each Notary Royal was an Appraiser and Land Surveyor. The Seigneurs also had the power to appoint surveyors of lands for their own seigneuries or within their jurisdiction, and there was also a class of free surveyors, who made surveys for private citizens.

In the "Edits et Ordinances du Conseil Souverain de Quebec," there appears only one rule or regulation respecting land surveying, this being dated May 11th, 1676. By it all "concessionnaires" were to measure and survey their lands, and to draw the boundaries ten arpents in depth, etc. By a last clause, surveyors were to place their "boussoles" (compasses) and surveying instruments in the hands of Martin Boutet, Professor of Mathematics, at the Jesuit College, for adjustment or correction.

On November 20th, 1752, letters patent were granted by George II. to Robert Cholmondly, naming him Auditor-General and Surveyor for all of British North America. After the conquest in 1760, Robert Cholmondly recommended the nomination of Rev. John Brook, of Quebec, as his deputy, which recommendation was approved by the British authorities in London, and Brook was officially appointed January 14th, 1764. His duties and emoluments were, however, restricted to those pertaining to the royal revenues.



Samuel Jan Hollandt was born near Amsterdam in Holland, in 1713, and at 15 years of age he joined an artillery corps, and served for years in the Dutch Army. In 1755 he came to England and obtained a Commission in the British Army. War was shortly afterward declared against France, and Hollandt received rapid promotion. Lt. Captain of 60th regiment of foot in 1757. Captain in August, 1759, and breveted a Major in America in March, 1776. He came to America in 1756, and in 1758 was with the expedition against Louisburg as Engineer.

In 1759 he was with Wolfe at Quebec in the Royal Engineers. It is reported that he was a favorite with the General, who presented him with a brace of duelling pistols on the Plains of Abraham before the final battle. Years later his son, Samuel, was killed in a duel when using one of these pistols.

In 1762 Holland was employed at Quebec under General Murray as Assistant Engineer, who testified that he was an industrious, brave officer, an intelligent engineer, and deserved advancement. He was sent to England in 1762 with plans of surveys made, but returned in March, 1764.

On February 10th, 1764, an Order-in-Council was passed appointing Major Samuel Holland as Surveyor-General, and on March 6th, 1764, this appointment was proclaimed. On March 23rd of the same year he received a new commission in which he was designated as Surveyor-General for the North District of the American Continent, extending from Virginia to Hudson's Bay. It was in 1764, therefore, that proper scientific surveys were inaugurated, not only in Canada, but in the New England States.

On September 8th, 1764, he appointed John Collins, then a member of the Executive Council, as his Deputy. In the commission granted to Collins by the Governor, Guy Carlton, dated May 2nd, 1775, it is recited that Collins had been acting as Deputy Surveyor-General for many years.

Holland took up his residence in Quebec after his appointment, where he remained until 1774.

He was appointed a member of the Council by General Murray and attended the first meeting on August 13th, 1764, and shortly afterwards he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the districts of Quebec and Montreal.

Major Holland's first work as Surveyor-General was the survey of Prince Edward Island, then known as St. John's

Island, of which a plan was made in 1765. He then proceeded with surveying the coasts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and then made a survey of the River Kennebec. He then resided in Prince Edward Island and at Quebec.

The surveys in the Maritime Provinces, Gaspe, and the Lower St. Lawrence were carried on from 1764 to 1769. In 1770, having completed a map of the Province of Quebec, he set out for the Eastern coast of New England, to complete surveys made by Des Barres, which work he prosecuted until 1775, when his work was stopped by the rebels, and he was forced to flee from the country. He reached New York, went to England and then returned to Quebec. He retired from the army in 1772, but rejoined it in England in 1776, and returned to America with General de Hirster's Hessian troops.

During the siege of Quebec by the Americans, under Arnold and Montgomery, 1775-76, Major Holland was with the British Army at New York, and the Military Engineering at Quebec was performed by Wm. Chewett under the direction of John Collins, all being Land Surveyors.

In 1780 he returned to Quebec, where he purchased for his future home what was afterwards known as the Holland Farm, a beautiful estate and mansion, situated between the St. Louis and the St. Foy roads, and bounded on the north by the St. Foy Heights. This mansion had been occupied during the siege of Quebec in 1775-76, by General Montgomery as headquarters.

Holland remained at Quebec for three years, superintending surveying operations. In 1781 he surveyed public ordnance lands at Montreal.

By proclamation dated November 18th, 1791, the Province of Quebec was subdivided into Lower and Upper Canada, which took effect on Monday, December 26th, 1791.

D. W. Smith was appointed Surveyor-General for the Upper Province on September 28th, 1792, and the duties of Holland and Collins terminated in the Upper Province.

In 1783 he was directed to proceed to Cataraqui (Kingston) to conduct an examination and prepare a report. His Deputy, John Collins, made the actual surveys, while Holland prepared a voluminous report, in which he emphasized the importance of Cataraqui from a military standpoint. (See Report O.L.S., 1898, p. 199).

In 1784 he was again at Quebec preparing plans of the Province. The map published by him in 1791 was probably

the result of field work performed during the seven preceding years.

On December 22nd, 1784, he appointed Phillip R. Frey as one of his Deputy Surveyors for the western part of the Province, who was sworn in at Detroit, then a British possession, on March 30th, 1785.

The first English ordinance respecting surveying was promulgated in 1785. Its provisions were as follows:

- (1) The establishment of a meridian in the presence of the Surveyor-General or his Deputy.
- (2) The examination of surveyor before being appointed.
- (3) An obligation to take oath of allegiance.
- (4) The surveys made prior to 1760 not to be disturbed.
- (5) All surveyors to keep field notes.
- (6) Upon the death of a surveyor his notes were to become public and to be filed with the Court of Common Pleas of the district. In the same year, by a second edict, surveyors were debarred from acting as notaries and notaries from acting as surveyors.

In a report to the Hon. Hugh Findlay on January 31st, 1791, upon the surveying instruments in his department, Major Holland states as follows:—

“I am not aware that any further instruments are at present wanted in my department, but that, in a great measure, depends on the nature of the work to be performed, and persons employed, as I should be loth to trust in any unskilful hands my capital set of instruments, consisting of all sorts necessary for carrying on a general survey, or making astronomical observations, made by the best artists in London. They have already been proved by me in settling the longitudes and latitudes in the northern district of North America, as inserted in the Philosophical Transactions, and with which Mr. Sproule and Mr. Wright ascertained the longitude and latitude of Gaspé and Isle Anticosti. As they were much deranged by being moved from their boxes by Mrs. Holland, to prevent their being carried off by the Americans, while she and her family were their prisoners in the year 1776, I was under the necessity of taking the principal ones with me to England, where they underwent a thorough repair in Mr. Ramsden's hands, except a quadrant of the old construction, which was left in

my office, where it has been nearly ruined." (See O.L.S. Report, 1887, p. 24).

In 1786, Wm. Chewett was directed by Deputy Surveyor Collins to proceed to Upper Canada and take charge of the surveys in the Lunenburg District (that is, all east of Gananoque). Settlements began along the Upper St. Lawrence in 1783 in advance of the Township surveys. Here he was employed until the autumn of 1791, when Upper Canada was set apart. During these six years many Townships and portions of Townships were surveyed in Upper Canada, also several Town sites, and the triangulation of the St. Lawrence was completed.

For some years before Major Holland's death he was an invalid and was obliged to leave to others important work. He died at Quebec on December 28th, 1801, and was buried beside his son under the "Holland Tree"—long afterwards pointed out by inhabitants of Quebec.

Major Holland was not only Surveyor-General, but a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils.

The following important plans, etc., were prepared by Major Holland, or under his directions:

- (1) Plan of Isle St. Jean (Prince Edward Island) 1765.
- (2) Observations made of Islands of St. Jean and Cape Breton for latitude and longitude, 1768.
- (3) Astronomical observations, 1769.
- (4) Eclipses of Jupiter's Satellites, 1774.
- (5) Astronomical observations, 1774.
- (6) Plan of meridian lines of Quebec determined in 1785 (manuscript).
- (7) Plan of Lower Canada, 1791, from Gaspé to Montreal, showing seigneuries, number of inhabitants, etc.
- (8) Topographic map of Lower Canada published in 1803 by W. Vondenvelden.
- (9) A new map of Lower Canada, printed at London in 1813.

His plan of Canada, now at Ottawa, which has been reproduced by the Government, is of great interest to students of early Canadian history and geography.

The Holland River and Holland Landing preserve his name in this Province. Cook's Bay, the southerly part of Lake Simcoe, into which the river discharges, was named after Captain Cook.

There are other valuable works in manuscript quite as valuable as those published. Holland also assisted Louis Ferland

in the preparation of a famous map of the City of Quebec, now in London. This plan showed the camps of the French and British troops during the siege, the redoubts, trenches, fortifications, the position of war vessels, shore batteries, etc. Major Holland, Captain Debeig and Captain Desbarres, of the Royal American Engineers, were entrusted with the surveys for this plan.

When we consider the immense extent of the territory covered by Major Holland's work, the difficulties of transportation, the tedious means of communication, the small population and the equipment available, we are amazed at the number and accuracy of his plans. In many instances the draughtsmanship is most artistic, great care being given to details. It should also be borne in mind that the land surveys were being rapidly pressed forward, in order that farms and homes might be provided for the United Empire Loyalists, who lost their farms and estates in the United States after the Revolution, and for the disbanded British soldiery, Scotch, English, Hessian and American Royalists.

Samuel Holland married Marie-Josephite, daughter of Francois Rolette, and Therese Grenet, his second wife, all of Quebec. The young lady was noted for her beauty and distinguished manners. Her parents were averse to the British officer, but she hearkening to the call of her heart, rather than to her father's patriotic repugnances, persisted in her love, the affair terminating in an elopement.

The marriage took place at Quebec about 1759. There appears to have been ten children by this marriage—six sons and four daughters, but the sequence of births cannot now be ascertained.

John Frederick was born in 1760 and died in 1845. He lived at Charlottetown, P.E.I., and was Master of Barracks there.

Frederick Braham lived at Charlottetown until late in life.

Henry was in the army. He was drowned at the Isle of Wight on the return of his regiment from the West Indies.

George, mentioned in the Major's will, but no records are now available of his descendants.

Samuel II. was killed in a duel at Montreal.

Robert lived at Quebec.

Charlotte was engaged to Lieut. Haldimand, who was drowned at Magdaline Islands, while surveying, under Major

Holland. By one report she remained unmarried, and by another she married Major Walker.

Susan married Col. Sylvester.

The names of the three remaining daughters have not been ascertained.

Major Holland received a grant of 20,000 acres of land in Prince Edward Island, which by agreement with the British Government he was to colonize. This system of settlement, adopted for P.E.I., was not a success, and in 1863 the rights of the proprietors were purchased by the Government. For many years the Major was a landlord over thousands of acres in the Island, although residing in Quebec.

Col. John Frederick had three sons, Edward, Robert and Samuel III. (killed at Chrysler's Farm, 1913) and three daughters—Emily, Matilda and Henrietta. Although John Frederick lived the greater part of his life at Tyron, Prince Edward Island, he and his wife, both died at Quebec.

Frederick Braham married first Mde. St. Laurent, by whom he had two children—Samuel IV. and Josette. After the death of his first wife he married Frances Gretkay, a daughter of the Court Physician of Prussia, by whom he had the following children:—James Wolfe, Sarah, Henry A. P. (Melbourne, P.Q., died Dec., 1908), Frederica, Matilda, Augustus E. C. (died July 17th, 1919, aged 95 years, who lived at Wallace Bridge, N.S.), Manna, Francis and John F. B.

Augustus Edward Holland, of Searletown, P.E.I., is a son of John F. B., and grandson of Frederick Braham.

Edgar I. Holland, of Great Falls, Montana, is a son of Alex. Edward, who died in 1919 at the age of 84 years, and a grandson of Samuel IV.

The Quebec mansion purchased by Major Holland about 1780 was improved by him by the addition of a cupola. It remained in the family after the Major's death until 1817, when Frederick Braham sold his share to William Wilson, and in 1835 Wilson acquired the rights of the other heirs. Wilson sold it in 1843 to Geo. O. Stuart, who subsequently sold to R. Cassels. The farm has been subdivided.

Upon the death of Major Holland, his nephew, Lt.-Col. Joseph Bouchette, son of Commodore Bouchette, was appointed Deputy Surveyor-General, and in 1804 Surveyor-General of Lower Canada. (See p. 152, Report 1895).