

CHARLES ASKIN'S JOURNAL OF THE DETROIT CAMPAIGN,
JULY 24—SEPTEMBER 12, 1812³

Left Warner Nelliss⁴ Sunday afternoon the 24 met on my way up to the Mohawk Castle two or three Indians who appeared alarmed one of them told me that an Indian had just come from Amherstburgh that he said there were a great body of the American troops on their way up the River Thames, horse & foot. this Indian appeared from his dress &c as if he had left home to go and meet the Enemy with the party under Major Chambers;⁵ but had got alarmed and was going back again. after going a little farther I came to a Village where I saw two or three hundred Indians. I found from some of them who rode up with me to Mohawk Castle that they had had a Council and it was their determination not to fight the Americans. I afterwards learnt that General Hull had wrote them a letter which was brought them by the Indian who had as I before mentioned come from Amherstburgh, which was the cause of their holding the Council. I got in the Eve^g to the Bridge. there got a fresh horse and rode to Yiegh's where I got about 9 O'clock, I found Major Chamber's with the party under his command, also M^r W^m Crooks,⁶ and Hamilton Merrit⁷ with some Light horse, who had Ebenezar Allan

³ From the original manuscript in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa.

⁴ Warner Nelles. Henry William Nelles migrated from the Mohawk Valley region of New York to the then wilds of western Canada about the opening (possibly later) of the Revolution. With the immigrant came six sons and several slaves. One son, known as Major Nelles, settled on the Grand River (modern York, in Haldimand County). Another son was Warner Nelles here noted. Mohawk Castle was Brant's Grand River settlement; it stood a short distance east of modern Brantford, where the ancient Mohawk Church still stands. Warner Nelles' home must have been some distance lower down Grand River. For the Nelles family see E. A. Owen, *Pioneer Sketches of Long Point Settlement* . . . (Toronto 1898), 403 ff.

⁵ Peter Latouche Chambers came to Canada as an ensign in the Forty-first Regiment early in the century. He became a captain in 1808 and brevet-major, Feb. 25, 1815. He served with his regiment in most of the battles on the western front during the war. See Irving, *op. cit.*, 261; Casselman, *op. cit.*, *passim*.

⁶ William Crooks, a captain in the Fourth Lincoln Militia Regiment during the war, was an elder brother of Ramsay Crooks who is notable in the annals of the American fur trade. William was born in Scotland about the year 1775, and came in early manhood to the Niagara region, where several other members of the family had located. A younger sister of William, Joan Crooks, married at Niagara on Dec. 11, 1807, Lieut. William Procter of the Forty-first Regiment, brother of General Henry Procter. See *ibid.*, 120; William Kirby, *Annals of Niagara* (n. p., 1896), 131; Irving, *op. cit.*, 80.

⁷ William Hamilton Merritt was the son of Thomas Merritt, a New England loyalist, who served during the Revolution as an officer in the Queen's Rangers. At the close of