

Bustler³⁵ were obliged to surrender themselves prisoners of Warr, to us. this was on the 24th Ult^o. the Enemy had marched out of Fort George to surprise and take a party we had at the Beaver Dams under L^t Fitz Gibbon³⁶ of the 49th Reg^t and probably also to attack an advancing party we had at the 10 Mile Creek commanded by Col. De Heran³⁷ of the 104th Reg^t. the Enemy were observed in the Morning on their march by some Indian Scouts, who gave the alarm and about four hundred & fifty Indians who lay at 20 Mile Creek marched off immediately to meet them.³⁸ I joined them with three more young men of the Country, and in about three quarters of an hour after, we came up to their rear guard which were horsemen and attacked them. after killing several of them, we were then forced to retreat into a woods which was a little distance from us. some Infantry followed us across one or two fields, but we forced them to retreat. they then came along the edge of the woods sheltered by a fence but we also drove them from this. they after this came some distance in the Woods; but we forced them to retire to a wheat field where the Enemy remained nearly two hours firing at us from two field pieces with Canister shot, which Kept the Indians from advancing on them. after a short cessation from firing, the Americans began to retreat but in very good order. the Indians

35 Colonel Charles J. Boerstler of the Fourteenth U. S. Infantry.

36 James Fitzgibbon was a native of Ireland, who after several years' service as a non-commissioned officer in the Napoleonic wars was commissioned a lieutenant in the Forty-ninth Regiment in 1806. He was an enterprising character who in the warfare on the Niagara frontier seems to have enacted the rôle of a ranger leader, having organized a company for scouting service which proved a magnet for adventurous spirits. His outstanding exploit in the war was the capture of Colonel Boerstler's force at Beaver Dams. Fitzgibbon became assistant adjutant general in 1822, and in the uprising of 1837 he commanded the force which defeated the rebels near Toronto. In 1846 he returned to England, where he died in 1863. See Wallace, *op. cit.*, and Babcock, *War of 1812*, 93 ff.

37 Peter W. DeHaren, lieutenant colonel of the Canadian Fencibles. He was a veteran soldier, having been commissioned lieutenant in the Sixtieth Regiment, Dec. 30, 1797. He had joined General Vincent shortly before the battle of Beaver Dams, having brought a detachment of several hundred men from Lower Canada. See Irving, *op. cit.*; Matilda Edgar (ed.), *Ten years of Upper Canada in Peace and War, 1805-1815, Being the Ridout Letters with Annotations* (Toronto, 1890), 200.

38 This statement negatives the claim that the British learned of the impending American attack from Mrs. Laura Secord, whose supposed exploit in conveying the warning has caused her to be lionized by the Canadian people. For a discussion of the subject, see Babcock, *War of 1812*, 99 ff.