

CORRESPONDENCE, &c. COVERING THE
QUEEN'S RANGERS FLAGS

September 26th, 1922.

Linton Simcoe Esq.,
Walford, near Honiton,
Devonshire, Eng.

Dear Sir :

I am the Chief Librarian of the Public Library of the City of Toronto.

For a number of years, in my capacity as Librarian, and with my interest in Canadian history, I was associated with the late John Ross Robertson in accumulating the great collection of historical prints and documents relating to early Canada. Mr. Robertson gave this collection into my keeping to be held in trust for the Public Library Board of the City of Toronto and to be used for the purpose of awakening in the boys and girls of our young country an interest in the history of our country. It was a great loss to the City of Toronto and to Canada at large when John Ross Robertson died, for he unselfishly gave himself to two great causes: first, the collection of historical prints and documents as I have outlined it and, second, the establishing and maintaining of a great hospital for sick and crippled children.

The above paragraph is a prelude to what is decidedly sad news to me, viz: that Governor Simcoe's estate in Devonshire is being disposed of. We have in the Library here a great, full-sized portrait of Governor Simcoe, painted by Mr. Nylie Grier of this City, and given to us by the late John Ross Robertson, and we

Linton Simcoe Esq. -2-

September 26th, 1922.

have treasured everything that we could get that had any relation to the Simcoe family.

In talking this matter over yesterday with the person who told me of the dispersal of the estate, we were wondering what disposal would be made of the colors of the Queen's Rangers of Toronto. It would seem in some ways as if this was a befitting place for those colors to be deposited and we were wondering whether in the great Robertson Museum here in the Public Library, with its largest picture that of Governor Simcoe, that here would be the place where these colors might properly be displayed and awaken in the people of this young country an interest in our early history.

You know we need to do that kind of thing in a country such as ours, which is peopled in a large proportion by those who have been only one generation, and sometimes only a few years in the country and whose idea of home is not Canada, but some far-off land.

If these colors have not been already sent to some permanent home, I am wondering whether you would be willing to take up the matter by correspondence with me so that we might in some way perhaps become possessed of them?

Then, I remember John Ross Robertson talking about the swords of Simcoe and the despatch box which he used at Navy Hall, where was held the first Parliament of Upper Canada. I am wondering whether these were disposed of?

Linton Simcoe Esq. -3-

September 26th, 1922.

Pardon me for addressing this letter to you in this way, but you can understand how, through my interest in Canadian history, through my position also as Chief Librarian of the largest Library in Canada, and my position as custodian of our great treasure of early Canadian history left us by the late John Ross Robertson, and his very special interest in everything relating to Governor Simcoe, I feel that I have what might be termed an adequate excuse for asking your assistance in giving me information on these points, and for your sympathy in my endeavors.

Yours very truly,

October 2nd, 1922.

John Satterly Esq.,
Department of Physics,
University of Toronto,
T o r o n t o.

Dear Mr. Satterly:

Thank you very much indeed for your kindness in forwarding to me the catalogue of books on Simcoe, which I have no doubt we will be able to make good use of, as we can of everything relating to Canadian history.

Yours very truly,

Ans^d 12^{Nov} Welford
S. Norton
13 Dec^r 22 Devon
Dear Sir

I must apologise for not
answering your letter of 26th Oct.
before but I was abroad at the
time of its arrival & have only
just come across it.

It is quite true, that much to
my regret, I am selling the estate
& have already disposed of
all furniture pictures etc.

I found that with enormous
death duties to find, an income
tax of 6% in the £1 & everything
else in proportion it was
impossible to carry on with
the small income now derived
from the estate, my own means
being very small.

It has always been in
my mind that possibly some
lullie body in Canada
would care to acquire some
more private relics and
I have retained the two Queens
Ranger Flap, the two swords
which belonged to General
Simcoe.

I think the Robertson Museum
a most suitable place for them
and I would suggest £300
as a basis of negotiation
in this country it is customary
when it is considered
advisable to acquire Historical
Relics to offer public

subscription lists which
enable the money to be easily
raised & at the same time
gives the people interested
an opportunity of showing it in
a practical way.

I shall however be prepared
to give reasonable consideration
to any proposal you make

Yours truly

Alb. Simcoe

offered
£20/-
29.1.23

WOLFORD,
HONITON.

Dear Mr. Locke

In reply to your letter
I will keep the colours and
two swords until I hear
definitely whether you can
purchase at the agreed price
should we do business
perhaps you would let me
know how you wish them
sent to you
I could of course hand them
over to any Agent you
care to appoint in
London

I may say I have been
approached in more than
one private quarter as to
hauling but I should
much prefer they had an
abiding home with you.

Sincerely,

Alf Ince.

I will endeavour to trace
despatch box.

*file
with Junior
papers*
WOLFORD,
HONITON.
18.2.23.

Dear Mr. Locke.

I have received a letter
from a Major Genl of the
Armouries Toronto asking
me if am prepared to
open negotiations with the
John Ranges for the sale
purchase of Genl Smicors
swords & the 2 Colours.

I have written saying that
there are at present no
offer to you and until
you definitely turn down
the business I can do
nothing in the matter.

However I hope you will see your way to
enable to be known in the line of justice
as I do not want others concerned
with different duties to do.

Travelling P.

W. H. Thacker.

April 16th, 1923.

Mr. Rutherford,

C/o The Rt. Hon. P. C. Larkin,

High Commissioner for Canada, to Great Britain,

London, Eng.

Dear Mr. Rutherford:

You will remember that John Graves Simcoe was our first Governor of Upper Canada. He came from the Simcoes of England - Honiton, Devonshire. He was a Major in the famous regiment in the Revolutionary War, known as Queen's Rangers, one of the most famous of the regiments that fought on the British side. When he was appointed Governor of Canada in 1792 he raised a regiment of Queen's Rangers here, which was disbanded somewhere about 1802 or 1803. Then again, in 1837 when danger threatened, Col. Jarvis raised a regiment and it too was known as the Queen's Rangers. Most famous, of course, of all of these was the Queen's Rangers of the Revolutionary War.

Now, the object of recounting this history to you is that the estate was sold by Christie's in 1922, much to our surprise in this country, and we lost an opportunity of getting a number of things which ought to have been preserved to Canada on account of our intimate relationship to Governor Simcoe.

Just on the bare chance, I took up the matter with Mr. A.H. Linton Simcoe, who is now the heir. He explained to me that the excessive tax rate had made it impossible for him to keep up the old place and so he had sold all the plate and the paintings. He told me,

however, that he had retained the colours of the Queen's Rangers and the swords that belonged to Governor Simcoe, and that he was willing to part with these for a substantial amount. I took the matter up with him and I have been negotiating for some time. Finally I got the option on them and it looks now as if I could be ready to take up the option in a few weeks. The description given me was that the colours belonged to the Queen's Rangers which were raised by Simcoe here. I just discovered a few days ago that it is a much more valuable thing than that, because it seems that they are the colours carried by the Queen's Rangers in the Revolutionary War.

Now, my problem is to get these safely delivered to us. They are of very very great value. I don't know anything of recent years in historical line that is of as much value to Canada as these. I have been thinking that if Mr. Larkin is willing I might make arrangements whereby Mr. Simcoe deliver to you in good condition these colours and the swords, and that you and I take up the question of how best to get these across to us here.

It also occurred to me that inasmuch as it is such an important event and that these colours have relationship to Great Britain and United States, it might be wise to have these colours photographed so that "The Sphere," "The Illustrated London News," and "The Graphic" might have an opportunity of publishing a photograph of these famous colours.

In order that the history of the Queen's Rangers might be chronicled we have for some weeks been delving into Canadian and American history, and I am going to send you a copy of the result of our researches. Canadian history has been so inaccurately done in so many places and especially in regard to this regiment.

Will you please lay the whole matter before the Hon. Mr. Larkin and ask him if he approves of our course of action.

Yours very truly,

23rd March, 1923.

Mr. A.H. Simcoe,
Wolford,
Honiton, England.

Dear Mr. Simcoe:

Thank you very much for your letter in regard to the Colours of the Queen's Rangers. I shall write you giving you directions as to shipment and making arrangements as to money within a short time.

In the meantime have you got any particulars as to when the Queen's Rangers Regiment was raised or when the Colours came into the possession of Governor Simcoe, and if he took them back with him when he left Canada?

Any information that you can find in regard to the colours I shall be glad to have.

Yours very truly,

THE EVENING TELEGRAM
TORONTO.

16th April 1923.

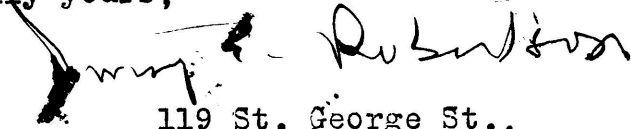
George H. Locke, Esq.,
Chief Librarian
Toronto Public Library,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Locke:-

I have just returned from a motor trip, which explains why I have not answered your letter of March 14th relative to the colors of the Queens Rangers.

If you can secure these for \$1,000 I will be glad to supply that amount. If Mr. Simcoe insists upon a further price I think he is exorbitant, and my offer will not hold good. Let me make it perfectly clear that this thousand dollars is not to be part of any fund, and if the colors cannot be obtained for that money the offer I am now making is null and void,

Faithfully yours,



119 St. George St.,

IER:S

April 17th, 1923.

Irving, E. Robertson, Esq.,
119 St. George St.,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Robertson:

Thank you very much for your letter of the 16th April, received this morning, concerning the colours of the Queen's Rangers. I tried to secure them for \$1,000. and I could not. Mr. Simcoe was offered £300 for them, but I beat him down to £275 and if I hadn't closed for them at that amount the colours would have gone to an American, and I certainly did not want the colours of the Queen's Rangers, one of the most famous regiments in the Revolutionary War, to go to the United States. I am sorry that you do not feel able to take care of the matter for me, but I am up against a situation that cannot be controlled by any further negotiations on my part. I already, as I have said, was able to get them for £25 less than Mr. Simcoe was offered from other persons and I did what I thought was best under the circumstances.

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE ADELAIDE 3200
CABLE ADDRESS
"ROBINSLIM"

Robins Limited

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Toronto

May 1st, 1923.

George H. Locke, Esq.,
Chief Librarian,
The Public Library of Toronto,
TORONTO.

Dear Mr. Locke:

I hope you will pardon my neglect in not answering your letter of the 26th ultimo earlier. I have been out of the City.

I will be very pleased indeed to purchase the Colors of The Queen's Rangers, at \$1300.00 and you can arrange to have the same shipped here, and on their arrival it will be my pleasure to present them to the Public Library of Toronto.

I note your wishes as to the Colors being first delivered to the Canadian High Commissioner in London and photographed, and I will leave this, and the arrangements for the unveiling of the Colors, entirely in your hands.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. B. Robins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

FBR/BB

Rangers and the swords presented to Governor Simcoe and I gathered that they would likely be disposed of either in some institution

SPECIAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD CONCERNING THE ACQUISITION BY THE TORONTO
PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE COLOURS OF THE QUEEN'S RANGERS.

In 1922 I heard through Mr. Irving Robertson that what is known as the "Simcoe Estate" was being dispersed by sale at Christie's in London. The present Mr. Simcoe is a "collateral" descendant of Sir John Graves Simcoe, the first Governor of Upper Canada and the Commander of the regiment in the Revolutionary War in America, known as the Queen's Rangers.

[The Queen's Rangers were the most famous regiment which fought on the side of the British or "Loyalists" in the Revolutionary War of 1776. It was raised originally in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and to it is attributed the turning of the fight at Brandywine. John Graves Simcoe was Colonel of this famous regiment and after the treaty of peace he was made Governor of Upper Canada and most of his regiment settled in Canada.]

I got into communication at once with Mr. Simcoe who said that owing to heavy taxation after the Great War he was unable to keep up the Simcoe estate at Wulford in Devonshire and it was true that the estate had been dispersed.

I voiced the regret of many in Canada that so many articles of historical value to us - and especially in Toronto - should have been sold without any notice being sent to our country. Mr. Simcoe, however, showed quite clearly that he had no interest in the historical value of the belongings of the late Governor of Upper Canada. He said that everything was gone except the colours of the Queen's Rangers and the swords presented to Governor Simcoe and I gathered that they would likely be disposed of either in some institution

like the Royal United Service Institution, or be offered for sale to the Americans who would give almost any price to possess the battle flags of a regiment so cordially hated by them.

I wanted these colours for Canada and especially for Toronto where we have in the Public Library such a large collection of articles connected with the Simcoe administration. I at once entered into negotiations with Mr. Simcoe and after six months' correspondence we agreed on a price - or he fixed an absolute minimum price to which I had to agree.

In the meantime knowledge of the existence of these colours leaked into the newspapers in England and in Toronto and I had to take a personal option on the colours. There was no one in sight who was willing, so far as I could see, to purchase these colours and present them to the Library and at one time it seemed as if I had better take an offer which I knew would be made to me, to transfer my interest to the University of Toronto and have the colours hang in the new Simcoe Hall, the administration headquarters of the University.

But one day I received a note from Frederick B. Robins, Esq., a gentleman whom I had never met, saying that he had an interest in history, and especially in Canadian history, and hearing that I was anxious to have this, perhaps the most famous war relic that ever Canada had an opportunity of getting, he would purchase the colours and present them if I would carry on the negotiations and complete the deal.

This, I have been able to do, and I submit herewith the letter of Mr. Frederick B. Robins and I would ask that a public presentation of these colours be arranged, the time to suit Mr. Robins, and that the matter of arrangements be left in the hands of the Chairman of the Board and the Chief Librarian.

for

May 1st, 1923.

F. B. Robins, Esq.,
Kent Building,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Robins:

I received a message this morning from your Secretary Miss Brooker in regard to the question of the colours of the Queen's Rangers. I was talking only this last week with some people from the Archives Department at Ottawa, notably with Mr. H.P. Biggar, English and Continental Representative of the Archives, and he was perfectly astounded that we had got the opportunity to bring the colours to this country. He couldn't see how it was that it escaped the American collectors. He said that the first thing we knew we would have the Mayor of New York or the Mayor of Boston telling us that it would be a "gracious act of international courtesy if we would restore these colours." At any rate, we are going to have in Toronto the colours of the Regiment that did most havoc against the Americans during the Revolutionary War. I am sending to you a copy of the history of the Queen's Rangers, done in short form, which history we expect to use in explaining to the people in England what these colours stood for - as well as the people of Canada and the United States. We expect to get out a special circular and we are hoping to also have articles in the magazines.

Now, what I propose is that the High Commissioner for Canada become the custodian for the colours while they are still in England, and that he makes arrangement whereby they are transferred here. Then when they come here that the arrangement be made at a suitable time for them to be unveiled in the Public Reference Library where they will be exposed under glass so as to preserve them; and that the unveiling shall be done by some official person who shall recount the history of the Regiment and also the history of the regiments of the same name; viz: the Queen's Rangers of the time of Simcoe's governorship in Ontario (these were the men who cut Yonge Street through), ^{and} of the Queen's Rangers of 1837-8.

With the colours come also Simcoe's swords. It looks to me like the greatest opportunity for an historical relic that I have known in my time in Canada and I should think that the whole cost would be about \$1,500.

Naturally there will be an inscription telling the way in which the colours were obtained, the name of the doner through whose generosity we were able to have these colours brought to Toronto.

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE ADELAIDE 3200
CABLE ADDRESS
"ROBINSLIM"

Robins Limited

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Toronto

May 2nd, 1923.

George H. Locke, Esq.,
Chief Librarian,
Public Library of Toronto,
TORONTO.

Dear Mr. Locke:

Thanks very much for your letter of the 1st instant, also Memorandum giving particulars of the Colors of The Queen's Rangers, which I will read with interest, and return to you in a few days' time. You no doubt have received my letter of yesterday, which I trust is satisfactory to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W.B. Robins", with a long, sweeping underline.

FBR/BB

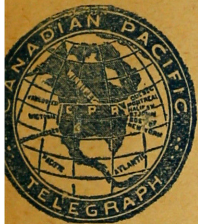
May 2nd, 1923.

F. B. Robins, Esq.,
Robins Limited,
Kent Building,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Robins:

Thank you very much for your letter received this morning. I shall take up the matter at once and shall keep you advised of the progress we are making.

Yours very truly,



CANADIAN PACIFIC R.Y. CO.'S TELEGRAPH TELEGRAM

FORM T.D. 1 M.

All Messages are received by this Company for transmission, subject to the terms and conditions printed on their Blank Form No. 2, which terms and conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message. This is an unrepeat message, and is delivered by request of the sender under these conditions.

J. McMILLAN, Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

31 rn in 6 Via Hx may 16

Moniton

Locke
Looke,

Public Library, Toronto..

Yes simcoe.

4.30pm

IF ANY REPLY SEND TO
ELLIS' DRUG STORE
(SUCCESSOR TO G. H. HANNA)
221 SPADINA AVE.
PHONES COLLEGE 7129 & 7130

May 2nd, 1923.

A. H. Linton Simcoe, Esq.,
Walford, near Honiton,
Devonshire, Eng.

Dear Mr. Simcoe:

Is my understanding right, viz: that the amount due you for the colours of the Queen's Rangers owned by Governor Simcoe, which colours are in good condition (and the swords of Governor Simcoe) is £275? Would it be satisfactory to you if we forwarded that amount to the Right Hon. P. C. Larkin, High Commissioner for Canada and have him accept from you the custody of the colours? I have just finally been able to complete arrangements with a gentleman in the city for the amount of money. If, on receipt of this, you cable me "yes" I shall see that the money is at once transmitted to Mr. Larkin for you.

Yours very truly, . . . except the Ca

May 9th, 1923.

Arthur Beverley Baxter, Esq.,
Editor, The London Express,
London, Eng.

Dear Baxter:

I am about to inscribe a long epistle to you. The facts are these: First, I heard during last year that the estate known as the Simcoe Estate, being the old homestead of John Graves Simcoe, Commander of the Queen's Rangers during the Revolutionary War, and the first Governor of Upper Canada, was being dispersed. I wrote at once to see if there was anything from the Estate which I might be able to get inasmuch as his name is commemorated in Ontario in very many ways, as you know, and is about to be commemorated again by his name being given to the large new Administration building that is being put up at the University of Toronto. Then, as perhaps you know, we have a wonderful collection of Simcoe relics, given us by the late Mr. John Ross Robertson.

On making careful inquiries I found that practically everything had been dispersed through Christies, except the Colours of the Queen's Rangers and the swords of Lt. Col. Simcoe. At once I opened up correspondence with the present owner of the Estate and have since then secured from him the option on these colours and the swords. That has taken us some months, and fortunately last week I was able to discover a man in Toronto who was generous enough to promise me the money with which to purchase these very

valuable historical relics.

Now, where you come into the tale is that these things are tremendously valuable. My American friends would give thousands of dollars to possess them, because these were the colours carried during the Revolutionary war by the regiment of the British ^{Army} Militia which did most to put the fear of God in the hearts of the Revolutionists. It would be a great day in the United States when these colours would hang in the Library of Congress or in the Collection of Flags in the War Department at Washington, or would accompany those British flags, which, I regret to say, are in the Academy in Annapolis. I want these colours to be sent out to me, but I want delivery of them to be made in London, to some one who will see after them carefully for me. It is too important an occasion to trust ^{to} any ordinary person, and therefore my thoughts turned to you. The plan that runs in my head is that these colours should be turned over to you by Mr. Simcoe and that you might be able to make a feature of it by joining with you the Rt. Hon. Mr. P.C. Larkin, the Canadian High Commissioner, and any other Canadians who might be interested on such an occasion. I think the colours ought to be photographed, and perhaps Mr. Clements Shorter would reproduce them in the Sphere, and also some of the other editors of other illustrated papers might care to take them. I wouldn't mention these things unless I knew that this was one of the most important historical relics that ever came to Canada.

Now, in order that you may know without any further trouble just who these rangers were and what they did in the Revolutionary war, I am enclosing an article carefully compiled by us, which accurately describes their part in that great war. This has taken us good deal of time lately, because we wanted it to be absolutely accurate. I thought that the best way to do would be to

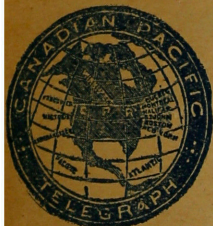
send you over the whole of the article and then you could use what parts of it you wanted for the purpose of publicity.

When you receive the colours from Mr. Simcoe, will you decide as to the safest way by which they might be conveyed to me. I think you can do that better from your end than I can from mine. I shall be responsible for all charges, of course, that are incurred. My patron has given me the money to pay for the actual colours, but the rest of the money the Library will have to stand for.

I hope that I am not inflicting too much of a burden upon you, but I thought that perhaps you and the Rt. Hon. Lord Beaverbrook might be especially interested in this historical event and that you might find time to carry through the details for me. It would indeed give me very great pleasure to come over to England and see after these things myself, but personally, I see no chances of my being able to afford it this year. I am in ~~the~~ special hurry about having the colours sent, but I thought that if, on receipt of this letter, this proposal appeals to you, I would like you to cable "yes" and then I shall write to Mr. Simcoe at once and give him the orders in regard to communicating with you.

Now, you know perfectly well that if it is ~~ant~~ convenient for you to do this simply cable me "no" and then you can write me the explanation afterwards. I don't want to put upon you anything more than you feel you can take care of, knowing as I do the many duties that come to you in your exacting work, but I felt that perhaps you might be able to squeeze this in inasmuch as it seems to be such an extremely important historical event so far as we are concerned.

Yours very truly,



CANADIAN PACIFIC R'Y. CO.'S TELEGRAPH

TELEGRAM

FORM T.D. 1 M.

All Messages are received by this Company for transmission, subject to the terms and conditions printed on their Blank Form No. 2, which terms and conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message. This is an unrepeatd message, and is delivered by request of the sender under these conditions.

J. McMILLAN, Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

24 rn in 13 cable via Hx

London may 22

Locke,

Public Library, Toronto ,

Yes will try bring relics personally early august.

Baster

2.2p

IF ANY REPLY SEND TO
ELLIS' DRUG STORE
(SUCCESSOR TO G. H. HANNA)
221 SPADINA AVE.
PHONES COLLEGE 7129 & 7130

PERSONAL

May 23rd, 1923.

F. B. Robins, Esq.,
Messrs. Robins, Ltd.,
Kent Building,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Robins:

I have just heard from Mr. Arthur Beverley Baxter, the Editor of the London Daily Express, and assistant to Lord Beaverbrook, that he will receive for me, from Simcoe, the colours and the swords, and that he will bring them over with him during the summer so that they will be safely landed here. I shall write him this week and explain to him how much I am indebted, and how much Canada is indebted to him for your generosity in providing that this wonderful historical gift should come here, and I expect that due publicity will be given it in the English papers.

We shall have our announcements this fall and the formal dedication and presentation of the colours. I have not said anything to my Board about it yet because I did not wish to have the edge taken off the surprise and pleasure by too premature an announcement. If you will send me a cheque at your pleasure for \$1,300. I will have it transferred to my agent in London, and the same amount will be paid over on receipt of the colours. I will guarantee that personally, as well as officially.

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE ADELAIDE 3200
CABLE ADDRESS
"ROBINS LIM"

Robins Limited

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Toronto

June 4th, 1923.

Personal

George H. Locke, Esq.,
Chief Librarian,
Toronto Public Library,
TORONTO.

Dear Mr. Locke:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 23rd ultimo. I would have answered your letter earlier, but I was out of town a few days and since my return have been confined to the house for about a week with a slight illness. I expect, however, to be at my office in a few days time, and will forward you cheque for \$1300.00.

Yours very truly,



FBR/BB

June 6th, 1923.

Messrs. C.I. Cazenove & Son,
12-13 Henrietta St.,
Covent Garden,
London, Eng.

Gentlemen:

This will authorize you to see Mr. Arthur
Everley Baxter, Editor of The London Express, and arrange
with him whereby you will honour his requisition for £275,
which money he is to pay to Mr. A.H. Linton Simcoe, of
Walford, near Honiton, Devonshire, in return for delivering
to Mr. Baxter the flags of the Queen's Rangers and the swords
of John Graves Simcoe, formerly Lt.-Gov. of Upper Canada.

Yours very truly,

June 6th, 1923.

A. H. Linton Simcoe,
Welford, near Honiton,
Devonshire, Eng.

Dear Mr. Simcoe:

At last everything is in order, and I want to tell you how much I appreciate your kindness in this matter. I have written to-day to Mr. Arthur Beverley Baxter, the Editor of The London Express, who has kindly consented to receive from you the flags of the Queen's Rangers and the swords of John Graves Simcoe. I have written to my agents in London, Messrs. C.F. Cazenove & Son, 12-13 Henrietta St., Covent Garden, authorizing them to see Mr. Arthur Beverley Baxter and to arrange with him for the payment of £275 to you, in return for you delivering to Mr. Baxter the flags and the swords.

Will you allow me to say to you how much I personally appreciate your kindness in this matter, and I hope to make special reference to it in the Autumn of the year when these flags will be properly presented and placed in the Public Reference Library of the City of Toronto.

I am sending you a copy of our latest report, by which you will understand some of our work in this, the largest Public Library in Canada.

Yours very truly,

June 6th, 1923.

Arthur Beverley Baxter, Esq.,
Editor, The London Express,
London, Eng.

Dear Baxter:

Well, matters have come now to a head!

Mr. A. H. Linton Simcoe of Walford, near Honiton, Devonshire, England, is in possession, as you know, of the flags of the Queen's Rangers and the swords of Lt.-Gen. Simcoe. He is willing to transfer these to the Toronto Public Library, through the Chief Librarian, for the sum of £275. As I wrote you in a former letter, these are extremely valuable. I should think that they are the most interesting historical relic ever sent over to Canada, and they are of untold value so far as the Americans are concerned. I don't know that pleased me more in a historical sense than to have kept these flags from going to the United States. I am writing to my agents in London, Messrs. C.D. Cazenove & Son, 12-13 Henrietta St., Covent Garden, authorizing them to pay, through you, the sum of £275 to Mr. Linton Simcoe, on the delivery to you by him of these flags and swords of Lt.-Gen. Simcoe.

I appreciate very much your kindness in this matter, and I accept, with thanks, your offer to bring them over with you when you come to Canada in August. As for the publicity which you may see fit to give to this

matter, I shall leave that entirely in your hands, but I think it is worth while bringing it to the notice of the English people. In this connection I want to say that I shall appreciate it if you will announce that the acquisition of these flags has been made possible through the generosity of Frederick B. Robins, Esq. of the City of Toronto, who is interested in historical matters. Perhaps you remember Robins: he is a Real Estate man in the City, and when he found that I wanted the flags and that I would likely have difficulty in raising the money in this city (which is not particularly interested in ideals) he offered to furnish the money, and I tell you, I appreciate it very much. I am writing to-day to Mr. Simcoe, telling him of what I have written to you, and I will write to-day to Cazenove and authorize them to see you and arrange for the payment of the money.

Again, I wish to ~~say~~ how much I appreciate your kind offices in this matter. Give my kind regards to P.O.D. when you see him.

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE ADELAIDE 3200
CABLE ADDRESS
"ROBINS LIM"

Robins Limited

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Toronto

Personal

June 20th, 1923.

George H. Locke, Esq.,
Chief Librarian,
The Public Library of Toronto,
TORONTO.

My Dear Sir:

I enclose you herewith my cheque for
Thirteen hundred dollars (\$1300.00) being the
amount, as I understand it, necessary for the
purchase of the Simcoe Colours and Swords. I will
leave the matter of arranging the presentation, etc.
in your hands.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of the en-
closed cheque.

Yours very truly,



FBR/BB
ENCL.

June 22nd, 1923.

Arthur Beverley Baxter, Esq.,
Editorial Office,
The London Express,
London, Eng.

Dear Baxter:

Everything is now completed at our end. I received from Mr. Frederick B. Robins this morning a cheque covering the amount of £275 and therefore the money transaction from this end is completed. It was with great pleasure that I heard you would try to bring the colours over with you when you come across in August. I shall be away at the time, but I shall leave orders so that they will be deposited by you in our safety vaults. It is altogether likely that the dedication and unveiling of the colours will be held later in the Autumn and I hope that on that occasion you will allow me to say in public how much I appreciate your kineness in this matter. Please do not forget in your announcements in England to give Mr. Frederick B. Robins credit for his generosity and his interest, because these men are all too few.

Yours very truly,

June 22nd, 1923.

Frederick B. Robins, Esq.,
Kent Building,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Robins:

I have just received your letter of June 20th, enclosing cheque for \$1,300., being the amount necessary for the purchase of the colours of the Queen's Rangers, the famous Regiment which fought on the British side in the American Revolutionary War, and which was commanded by John Graves Simcoe, afterwards First Governor of Upper Canada. Along with these colours also are the swords belonging to Simcoe. I have made arrangements with Mr. Arthur Beverley Baxter of the London Express to have the colours turned over to him, and have asked him to make an announcement in England that it is through your generosity and interest that we have been enabled to get these precious historical relics in Canada. He intends to bring the colours over with him when he comes up on a mission for Lord Beaverbrook in August. They will be then deposited in a vault until I return, and I shall then make preparations for the proper unveiling of them in the Public Library sometime during the Autumn months. Before these arrangements are made I shall do myself the honour and pleasure of calling upon you and laying before you all the matters connected therewith. In the meantime may I say how much I appreciate your great kindness in this matter.

Yours very truly,

TELEPHONE ADELAIDE 3200
CABLE ADDRESS
"ROBINSLIM"

Robins Limited

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Toronto

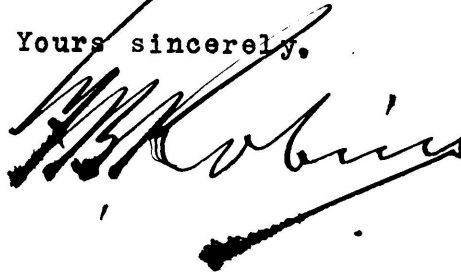
June 23rd, 1923.

Geo. H. Locke, Esq.,
Chief Librarian,
Public Library of Toronto,
TORONTO.

Dear Mr. Locke:

I am in receipt of
your letter of the 22nd instant.
Thanks very much for the information
regarding the flags. I will leave
this matter for you to handle in the
manner you see fit.

Yours sincerely,



FBR/BB

TELEPHONE:
CENTRAL 8000.
(15 LINES)

TELEGRAMS:
"EXPRESS FLEET LONDON"

The Sunday Express

8, SHOE LANE,
FLEET ST., LONDON,
E. C. 4.

28th June, 1923.

My dear Mr. Locke,

Things have happened with rather a rush over here. Your friend Simcoe, who is not a particularly imposing specimen and whom, I gather, gazes rather constantly upon the whisky when it is yellow, shipped the flags and swords to your agents and arrived at the same time as them. I went to inspect them, found them O. K. and authorised the payment of the cheque. I then telephoned Mr. Larkin, who sent for the relics and took them to his office. Simcoe, however, had disappeared from town. I sent him a telegram, asking him to meet Mr. Larkin and myself this morning, but I received a wire that it was impossible and that he would write. In the circumstances, I will not be able to get Simcoe and Larkin together until about July 5th. I shall have them photographed with the flags, etc., etc. Incidentally, the swords are beautiful things.

I now find that it will be essential for me to go home via New York and therefore I think it would be best for the High Commissioner's office to forward the things to you direct. The process of getting them through the United States would be altogether too complicated. This is all I have to report to you at the present moment except that Mr. Larkin has been very nice indeed and has showed every desire to fit into our plans.

With kind regards,
I remain,

Yours faithfully,

A. Beverley Baxter

MANAGING EDITOR.

G. H. Locke, Esq.,
The Public Library of Toronto.

14th July, 1923.

A. Beverley Baxter, Esq.,
The Sunday Express,
8 Abchurch Lane,
Fleet Street,
London, E.C.4., England.

Dear Mr. Baxter:

You are a trump! I knew you would see me through and I appreciate ever so much your letter of 28th June which I have just received because I was out at the Ontario Historical Association and was taken suddenly ill. I have been on my back for ten days; however, I am moving around once more. I am going to start next week and spend August in Red Deer, Alberta.

You do not know how much I appreciate your kindness in this matter and I hope I will have a chance to tell you some of these days. I am not sure whether I will be here to see you before you go back to England, but you know how I feel about it. I have written to Mr. Larkin.

With very kind regards.

Yours very truly,

14th July, 1923.

Right Hon. P.C. Larkin,
High Commissioner for Canada to Great Britain,
London, England.

Dear Mr. Larkin:

Mr. A. Beverley Baxter of the Sunday Express has told me how kind you were in co-operating with him in trying to get settled for me that great matter of the Queen's Rangers Colours. I am sorry that you had to be bothered about it. When I first took up negotiations for these very valuable historical relics I thought I would write to you about it, and then I recollected the thousand things you have to do, and I relented. As a matter of fact I wrote to Rutherford but found that he had left your service and come back here, then I thought that I would bring in Baxter and see if he would not clear up for me all the preliminary troubles. He has now written to me that the thing is completed and that you have the flags and swords, and that he considers it advisable for you to forward them to us. I agree with him. He had intended to bring them back with him, but he finds it necessary to come by way of New York.

The matter has been a very troublesome one but I believe it has been worth it. I think it is the most important historical relic that has come to Canada for a generation. The Queen's Rangers in the Revolutionary War were the most distinguished that fought on the British side, and when I think of the glee with

which the United States Historical Commissions would chortle if they could get possession of these, I congratulate ourselves on having them come to the city with which Simcoe was perhaps more actively identified than any other, and may I say that I appreciate to the full the open handed generosity of Frederick B. Robbins of this city. He heard that I was anxious to get these Simcoe relics. I do not know the man personally and yet he called me up and said that if I failed to get the money anywhere else (and I did) just to let him know and he would see me safely through. I think you will agree with me that this sort of generosity does not occur too often in life, and I am anxious that he should get credit for his thoughtfulness as well as his contributonal money towards this very desirable end.

In the meantime let me again thank you for your kindness and interest in the matter.

Yours ver, truly,

CABLE & TELEGRAPH ADDRESS,
DOMINION, LONDON.
TELEPHONE NO. GERRARD 3917.

IN ANY FURTHER COMMUNICATION
ON THIS SUBJECT, PLEASE QUOTE

S. 366.
AND ADDRESS LETTER TO
THE SECRETARY.



OFFICE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA

KINNAIRD HOUSE,
PALL MALL EAST,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

1st August, 1923.

Dear Sir,

*Write him
notifying of
arrival of
cases - him
for his
notification
J.B.*

Your letter of the 14th ultimo arrived just after Mr. Larkin's departure on a visit to Canada and I am therefore acknowledging it on his behalf.

Mr. Beverley Baxter of "The Sunday Express" had been in communication with the High Commissioner and arrangements were made for the delivery to this Office by Messrs. Cazenove & Son of the two flags belonging to the Queen's Rangers and the two Swords of John Graves Simcoe which had been obtained from Mr. A.H. Linton Simcoe, through the generosity of Mr. Frederick B. Robins of Toronto.

It was at first thought desirable that Mr. Linton Simcoe should hand the relics over to the High Commissioner formally but as no opportunity presented itself for this to be done, the flags and swords have been despatched to your address per Canadian National Railways. I trust they will reach you in good shape as your Agents here had them packed in strong wooden boxes before handing them over.

Yours faithfully,

George H. Locke, Esqre.,
The Public Library of Toronto,
Toronto,
Canada.

Lucius Pearce
Secretary.

November 27th, 1923.

F. B. Robins, Esq.,
Robins (England), Limited,
14 Hanover Square,
London, W. 1.

Dear Mr. Robins:

I am sorry to have disturbed you by the cable messages which you will have received from your Secretary, but I was much astonished when in calling up your Secretary in order that I might make an appointment with you, I found that you had left the city and would not be back until March. As I intimated to you in my former letter, I intended to get every detail settled before I laid the matter before you and there was one detail which held us back for two or three weeks, which was only completed yesterday. I wanted the ceremony to be absolutely complete and we needed this one detail. The moment I got that I called up your office with the result as indicated. Under the circumstances I see nothing to do except to postpone the ceremony until your return. In the meantime so that you will see how well our arrangements were carried out, I am sending you by concurrent post a copy of the pamphlet which we had proposed to distribute upon the occasion, and which now we have packed away and shall not put into circulation until after the ceremony has taken place.

Yours very truly,

November 27th, 1923.

Dr. R. B. Orr,
310 Roncesvalles Ave.,
Toronto.

Dear Dr. Orr:

I had everything in connection with the Simcoe flags ready to lay before you, with the exception of finding out when it would suit Mr. Robins. I telephoned his Secretary so as to make an appointment with him and found that he had left town the First of November and would not be back until March, therefore under the circumstances I cannot see that there is anything further to do except just to postpone everything. It seems too bad after we have all the arrangements made, but I see no other way out of it.

Yours very truly,

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:
NTAROBIN, WESDO, LONDON.

TELEPHONE;
MAYFAIR 363.

CABLE ADDRESS,
ROBINSLIM.

CODES;
A.B.C. 5TH EDITION AND
MAC NEILS (1908).

Robins (England) Limited.

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMPANY.

HEAD OFFICE,
TORONTO, CANADA.

14, Hanover Square,
London, W.1. 10th December, 1923.

G.H.Locke, Esq.,
The Public Library of Toronto,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Locke,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo. I am sorry I did not telephone you before leaving Toronto, as I expect to be here until April.

Would it not be well for you to go on with your arrangements and my daughter Mrs. K.F.MacLaren, I am sure, would be glad to present the Simcoe colours.

In fact I would like very much to have her do this, if it would be satisfactory to her, which I think it would be, and also satisfactory to you.

Yours sincerely,



R/D

December 13th, 1923.

Lucian Pacaud, Esq.,

Office of the High Commissioner for Canada,

Kinnard House,

Pall Mall East, London, S.W.1.

Dear Mr. Pacaud:

You were kind enough to write me on the 1st of August, telling me about receiving the flags and swords of Governor Simcoe, and how that you had sent them by the Canadian National Railway to us. I assure you that we appreciate very much your kindness in this regard, which kindness I hope was acknowledged by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Library Board, Mr. E.H. Caswell. The contents arrived here in first-class condition. We expected to have a formal presentation of them, but unfortunately Mr. P.B. Robins went over to visit his England office and is staying there now until the Spring.

I assure you we appreciate very much your interest and the interest of the Right Hon. Mr. Larkin in having these things sent to us.

Yours very truly,

January 24th, 1924.

Col. Alexander Fraser, LL.D.,
Parliament Buildings,
Toronto.

Dear Col. Fraser:

I have been so fortunate as to become the possessor of the colours of the Queen's Rangers, carried through the Revolutionary War. These Rangers, as you will remember, were under the leadership of Col. John Graves Simcoe. I have been negotiating for these colours for nearly two years and in the end was successful through the liberality and interest of a gentleman in the City of Toronto. The colours are here and the Chairman of the Public Library Board and I are anxious that a formal presentation of them should be made on Thursday, February 7th, at 4.30 in the afternoon, in the Public Reference Library Building, and on his behalf as well as on my own I am writing to you to ask whether it be possible for me to call upon His Honour Mr. Cockshutt, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario to ask him if on that occasion he would preside. It is proposed that the ceremony should be a very simple one, occurring about 4.30 with the presentation of the colours by Mr. Kenneth McLaren on behalf of Mr. F.B. Robins who was the donor of the money with which the colours were purchased, and that on that occasion Major Grant of Upper Canada College would deliver a short address. The whole proceedings to take perhaps an hour. If you will let me know if His Honour would receive

me in regard to the matter I shall be glad to call upon him and lay the matter formally before him.

Yours very truly,

January 25th, 1924.

Principal W. L. Grant, LL.D.,
Upper Canada College,
Toronto.

Dear Grant:

At last after many attempts we have decided to clear up the matter of the colours of the Queen's Rangers, and on the afternoon of Thursday, February 7th, in the Historical rooms of the Public Reference Library, we shall have the colours presented by Mr. Kenneth McLaren on behalf of Mr. Frederick B. Robins, the donor, and on that occasion I want you to make a short address on either the significance of the colours of the history of the Queen's Rangers, or anything that you think suits the occasion. You will be the only speaker and the rest of the programme will be the formal presentation of the colours to the Chairman of the Public Library Board.

Yours very truly,

2nd February, 1924.

Hon. Mr. Cockshutt,
Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario,
Government House,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Cockshutt:

Colonel Fraser has conveyed to me the news that you have consented to take the chair on the occasion of the presentation of the Colours of the Queen's Rangers of the Public Library of Toronto on the afternoon of Thursday the 7th of February at the hour of 4.30, in the Public Reference Library building on the corner of College and St. George Streets.

The ceremony on that occasion will be very simple. Dr. R.B. Orr, the Archaeologist of the Provincial Museum of Ontario,, and who has been this year Chairman of the Board, will be present to receive on behalf of the Board these Colours, which will be presented by Mr. Kenneth F. MacLaren, son-in-law of Mr. Frederick B. Robins, and who, in the absence of Mr. Robins abroad, will represent him on this occasion. After the Colours have been formally handed over Major W.L. Grant, Principal of Upper Canada College will give a short address lasting possibly twenty minutes, upon the significance of this regiment. After this the Colours will be displayed for inspection, and I am hoping that we shall have a short time for tea.

So far as you are concerned the words you wish

2.

to say as chairman will naturally be entirely at your own discretion. The one thing about this whole matter that is outstanding is the fact that we have in Toronto a gentleman who is interested enough in preserving the early history of our country, to give this substantial sum to enable us to get these Colours, and especially to prevent them from falling into the hands of some Museum in the United States. I must confess that I was very much afraid that this might happen, and I had some qualms that some day after they had been displayed in the Museum, or in some public place in that country, the legend might grow up that the Forces of the United States had captured these Colours in battle in the war of the American Revolution. Stranger tales than this have often developed on a much slighter foundation. May I just say here that people over there have heard that I have the option of these Colours, and the offers I have had to dispose of them are very alluring so far as money is concerned, but my suggestion to them was that they should come to look at these Colours in what was really the proper home for them.

I am sending by concurrent post a copy of the pamphlet giving the history of the Queen's Rangers.

Yours very truly,

PHONE 442 WESTON

" JUNCTION ~~XX~~

6401. W. Weston 402.

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RUTHERFORD AVENUE

MOUNT DENNIS LUMBER CO.

Manufacturers and Dealers in
ROUGH AND DRESSED LUMBER, SASH, DOORS, MOULDING, COLUMNS,
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AND BUILDING PAPER.

Rutherford Avenue,

MOUNT DENNIS, ~~February 8th. 1924~~ 192

Dr. G. H. Locke.

Chief Librarian.

Toronto.

*Dr. G. H. Locke
3 copies to
change*

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Gibson. D.S.O., Officer Commanding, 1st. Battalion, The York Rangers Regiment, I had the privilege of attending, as representing the regiment, the interesting gathering at the Public Library, yesterday, on the occasion of the presentation of the colours of the "Queens Rangers" to the City of Toronto.

I regret that I did not have the opportunity of making myself known to you, having to leave immediately after the ceremony, but I brought away one of the books which you kindly offered these attending, the reading of which I have exceedingly enjoyed.

I had occasion early in the past year to write a short article for a local publication, on the history and record of the regiment to which I belong, and I have in consequence found your publication on "The Queens Rangers" most interesting and valuable.

I am writing therefore to ask if it is possible for me to obtain two or three copies in addition, one of which Lieut-Col. Gibson has asked me to obtain for him, and the others I wish to place on the tables of the regimental mess^{es} in Toronto and in Mount Dennis.

I shall be very glad to defray the cost of same, if allowed, and desire to thank you for the opportunity of attending the ceremony of yesterday and for the welcome so kindly extended by yourself and staff.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am, Sir,

Yours very truly,

Charles W. Gigg

Lieutenant.

1st. Battalion. The York Rangers Regiment.
Mount Dennis.

Phone. Junction 6401. W.

11th February, 1924.

Mr. Frederick B. Robins,
Messrs, Robins (England) Ltd.,
14 Hanover Square,
London, W.1, England.

Dear Mr. Robins:

On Thursday, the seventh of February, according to our announcement, (a copy of which was sent you) the Colours of the Queen's Rangers were presented to the Public Library by Mr. Kenneth B. MacLaren, acting on your behalf. We sent out invitations to the military and to people who were interested in history, and in all about 125 were present with the Lieutenant-Governor in the chair. Aemilius Jarvis, whose great-grandfather was in the Rangers, one of the Merrittboys whose great-great-grandfather was in the Rangers, as well as a number of others whose names are connected with this famous regiment. Col. Borden was present in full military as was Capt. Nickle, and the Colour Party from the Fort to formally present the Colours. Altogether it was a very pleasant occasion, and the staff of the Library served tea afterwards, so that the people stayed for an hour or two beyond their time talking about the event.

In all the newspapers of the city publicity was given, copies of which have no doubt been sent you by your office. A copy of the book which we issued concerning the Queen's Rangers (a copy of which was sent you) was given to each person present

and other copies have been pretty widely distributed. If you have a number of friends in England to whom you would like copies sent I will be glad to do so, if you will send me a list of their names.

I am sending you a copy of the photograph of the Colours and of the Swords, and it may be that some of the illustrated papers would like to reproduce these, inasmuch as there are no Colours on this Continent so old as these, so far as I know. Any information regarding them can be had in the pamphlet.

I would like you to know that Mr. MacLaren performed his duties excellently. Of course we were very much disappointed that Mrs. MacLaren was not well enough to do it, but he certainly proved an excellent substitute. The Colours are now hanging over the great staircase in the Reference Library and people are coming in great numbers to see them.

With very kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



CANADIAN PACIFIC R.Y. CO.'S TELEGRAPH TELEGRAM

FORM T.D. 1 M.

All Messages are received by this Company for transmission, subject to the terms and conditions printed on their Blank Form No. 2, which terms and conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message. This is an unrepeatd message, and is delivered by request of the sender under these conditions.

J. McMILLAN, Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

3 rn in 7 Via Hx

London mar 12

Locke

Public Library, Toronto Canada.

Yes .

Simcoe

9.55a

L. M. Makee, D. D. S.

Dear Sir

Goderich, Ont., Feb. 4, 1924

I saw by Saturday's mail and Empire that you have the collection of Governor Simcoe's relics called the Robertson collection. Have you any records of his trips to Norfolk Co or of the Horn of Simcoe being named after him or has he a Biograph written of his life here in Canada in which these trips are described?

I would be pleased for any information and would thank you in advance, as a Norfolk also Boy's Re-union is held for this next Aug.

Remain Sincerely yours
L. M. Makee.

116 Highfield Lane

~~8, GLOUCESTER SQUARE,~~

SOUTHAMPTON.

27/3/24.

To Dr George Locke

Dear Sir

May I send you my best thanks for your Paper on The Queen's Rangers which I have received from Mr Biggar?

I have at present in my keeping certain letters etc bearing on the Corps, very fragmentary but with your paper to assist me, I shall certainly be able to "place" them with much more accuracy.

Possibly I may find something which will interest you.

At the present time I have not effected more than a species of general sorting but I hope in course of time to do more.

With regard to the dispatch box, I certainly remember one such at Welford, Doniton & I have forwarded to Mr Biggar a copy of catalogue of the Sale at which the Welford furniture was dispersed with a suggestion that the Auctioneers might be able to trace the purchaser of the Box in question.

Believe me

Yr truly yours

William Henry P. P. C.

April 10th, 1924.

Mr. Willoughby P. Cole,
116 Highfield Lane,
Southampton, Eng.

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 27th. I appreciate your interest in my endeavours to follow up the Simcoe matters, and if I can be of any service to you in any way, please command me.

Yours very truly,

O. T. Barck
748 St. Johns Place
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr George H. Lock
Toronto, Canada.

Dear Sir:

In the April number
of the American Historical Review,
I saw a notice of a pamphlet on
"The Queen's Rangers."

I am interested in anything
pertaining to the American
Revolution, especially so in Col.
Simcoe and the Queen's Rangers.

Five or six years ago, as a
member of the Field Exploration
Committee of the New York Historical
Society, I spent many pleasant
hours on the Camp site of the
Queen's Rangers at Richmond on
Staten Island, New York.
The ruins of the house occupied
by Col. Simcoe are still plainly

invisible and if you desire it I
will send you a copy of a
photograph taken about
twentyfive years ago when the
house was in better shape than
now.

For two or three years we
spent many days of our spare
time excavating the camp
site and uncovered many
interesting relics, bullets,
buttons, buckles, gun flints,
broken rum bottles, china, parts
of muskets and various other
articles of a military nature.

I would like to get a copy
of the pamphlet and if you
will kindly let me know the
price of one I will be please d
to remit.

Very truly yours

Oscar J. Barck.

April 10 1924.

12th April, 1924.

Oscar F. Barck, Esq.,
748 St. Johns Place,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Barck:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 10th. I am very much interested in what you have to say about the Queen's Rangers. I shall appreciate very much the photograph you mention and if you can tell me where I can get information in regard to them such as you indicate in your letter I shall be greatly pleased because I want to follow the matter up.

Perhaps the notice in the American Historical Review said nothing about the fact that I have the Colours of the Queen's Rangers - the Regimental Flag and the King's Colours - now hanging over the staircase in the big Reference Library here. You might be interested also to know that a man showed me the other day the powder horn carried by Rogers of the Rogers Rangers with the date of 1755 scratched on it and a seam along the side where a bullet had ploughed its way, which fact is recorded in history.

I am sending you with my compliments a copy of the pamphlet on the Queen's Rangers.

Yours very truly,

March 4, 1929

Mr. J. H. Bertram,
Collector of Customs,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Bertram:-

Some years ago I discovered that in the Manor House of a descendant of Governor Simcoe there were the battle flags carried throughout the American Revolution by the Simcoe Rangers, of which Simcoe at the time was Colonel. When, at the end of the war, Simcoe was appointed Governor of Upper Canada the regiment was disbanded, and as was the custom of these days the Colours went with the Colonel. They had remained in the Simcoe family from that time until within the last few years when I discovered them.

The Simcoe Estate fell on evil times, and the contents of the Manor House were sold at Christie's in London. I got an option on the flags because they belonged to the Queen's Rangers, and because they belonged to a regiment of which the Governor of Upper Canada, who also founded Toronto, was the Colonel, and because they are the only British Colours that were not surrendered to the American forces at York Town in the Revolutionary War.

The money for this was fortunately provided by Colonel Robins, and the Colours have hung for some years in the Reference Library. They were in very poor condition and I found out that they could be repaired in the Old Country by the Royal School of Needlework, one of their specialties being the repairing of battle colours. I had these Colours sent to the Honourable J. C. Larkin, the Canadian High Commissioner, who was very much interested in the matter. He had them delivered to the Royal School of Needlework, and now I have his letter saying they are sending them back.

The Colours are now in the City at the Customs House, and we have been asked to furnish proof that they have not just been purchased and that they are not liable to duty. I am therefore sending you this letter, supplementing the documents which I have already submitted, so that you will have the history of the Colours and what has happened to them. They are valuable colours in America, they have already entered Canada and been sent back to England, and are now being returned to me with, I hope, some additional thread on them so as to enable them to hold together.

Yours very truly,

7th October, 1939

J. W. Somers, Esq., O.B.E.,
City Clerk,
City Hall,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Somers,

I beg to thank you for your letter
of October 6th which I will place before the Toronto
Public Library Board at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Librarian

JAMES W. SOMERS.O.B.E.
CITY CLERK



CITY OF TORONTO
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT
CITY HALL
TORONTO 2. CANADA

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CITY CLERK

October 6th, 1939.

Charles R. Sanderson, Esquire,
Chief Librarian, Toronto Public Library,
College and St. George Streets,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Sanderson:

In reference to the Queen's Rangers Regiment's original colours now deposited in the Toronto Public Library, I am enclosing herewith a communication received from Lieut.-Colonel Merrick, Officer Commanding Queen's York Rangers, which speaks for itself, and would ask that the same be submitted to your Board at an early date.

I think the proposition contained in Colonel Merrick's letter is a very good one.

I have also sent a copy of Colonel Merrick's letter to His Worship the Mayor, who will likely attend the meeting of the Board in reference thereto.

Yours truly,

City Clerk.

Enclosure

V.



IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

NO.....

Department of National Defence
Queen's York Rangers (1st. American Regiment) (MG)
Fort York Armoury, Toronto, Ontario.

5th. Oct. 1939.

19.....

J.W.Somers, Esq., O.B.E.,
City Clerk,
City Hall,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

We understand the original Regimental Colours of The Queens Rangers Regiment were purchased by Dr. Locke and deposited in the Toronto Public Library as part of a collection of material concerning Simcoe. Carrying on the Regiment of Queens Rangers we are naturally very much interested in Simcoe and all that pertains to him and the old Queens Rangers.

We would very much like to obtain the Colours mentioned for our Regiment, for as it stands to-day the flags will deteriorate in the course of time. Our desire is to put them in hermetically sealed cases in our Officers Mess, which will preserve them.

Sir Harold Harmsworth has lately become our Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel and he, as you know, spent a large amount of money in purchasing the estate of Simcoe in England, which was in a rather dilapidated condition, and putting it into a state of preservation. I am quite sure that if these Colours could be procured, perhaps on loan from the Library Board in order that they could be preserved in our Officers Mess, that it would not only give pleasure to the Officers and members of the Regiment, but they would consider it an honour to preserve these for all time. If you, Sir, could approach the Library Board on our behalf for the permanent loan of these Colours we would appreciate it very much indeed.

Yours truly,

(R.C. Merrick) Lt-Colonel
Cmdg. Q. Y. Rang. (MG).

and September, 1939

J. W. Somers, Esq., O.B.E.,
City Clerk,
City Hall,
Toronto, 2.

Dear Mr. Somers,

I beg to thank you for your letter of
September 1st.

The statement that the Queen's Rangers
Regimental Colors were deposited here for safe keeping
is not really a statement of the situation. Actually
they are owned and possessed by the Toronto Public Library
Board.

It became known to my predecessor, Dr. Locke,
in the year 1923 that these colors were for sale. He entered
into negotiations for their purchase and through his efforts,
backed by outside financial assistance which he secured, the
purchase was effected and the colors were made part of the
Toronto Public Library collection of historical material
concerning Simcoe and public affairs in Canada. We also
possess Simcoe's military swords.

I am taking your letter as intended to be a
personal enquiry. If I am in error in this and if you wish
the matter to be submitted to the Public Library Board I shall
be grateful if you will so inform me.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Librarian.

JAMES W. SOMERS.O.B.E.
CITY CLERK



CITY OF TORONTO
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL
TORONTO 2, CANADA

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CITY CLERK

September 1st, 1939.

C. R. Sanderson, Esquire,
Chief Librarian, Toronto Public Library,
College and St. George Streets,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Sanderson:

I understand that the Queen's Rangers
Regimental Colors were deposited in your building for safe-
keeping.

Have you any record regarding the deposit
of these Colors and how they came to be placed in your building?
Is there any regulation regarding them?

We have been asked to have them released in order
that they may be placed in the Queen's Rangers Armouries, Officers'
Mess, where they will be properly cared for.

Awaiting your reply,

Yours faithfully,


City Clerk.

V.

Copied from the Minutes of the Libraries and Finance Committee,
November 6, 1923.

"The Chief Librarian presented a special report concerning the acquisition by the Library of the Colors of the Queen's Rangers of Revolutionary fame, through the generosity of Frederick B. Robins, Esq., who had furnished the \$1300.00 required to effect the purchase. He recommended that a public presentation of these Colors be arranged at a time to suit Mr. Robins, and that arrangements for such a ceremony be left in the hands of the Chairman of the Board and the Chief Librarian.

Moved by Mr. Banton,
Seconded by Mr. Self,-----and
Resolved, That the special report of the
Chief Librarian be adopted."

Special Report to the Members of the Public Library Board
concerning the acquisition by The Toronto Public Library of
the Colours of the Queen's Rangers.

"In 1922 I heard through Mr. Irving Robertson that what is known as the 'Simcoe Estate' was being dispersed by sale at Christie's in London. The present Mr. Simcoe is a 'collateral' descendant of Sir John Graves Simcoe, the first Governor of Upper Canada and the Commander of the regiment in the Revolutionary War in America, known as the Queen's Rangers.

"The Queen's Rangers were the most famous regiment which fought on the side of the British or 'Loyalists' in the Revolutionary War of 1776. It was raised originally in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and to it is attributed the turning of the fight at Brandywine. John Graves Simcoe was Colonel of this famous regiment and after the treaty of peace he was made Governor of Upper Canada and most of his regiment settled in Canada.

"I got into communication at once with Mr. Simcoe who said that owing to heavy taxation after the Great War he unable to keep up the Simcoe estate at Holford in Devonshire and it was true that the estate had been dispersed.

Special Report, etc.(continued)

"I voiced the regret of many in Canada that so many articles of historical value to us - and especially in Toronto - should have been sold without any notice being sent to our country. Mr. Simcoe, however, showed quite clearly that he had no interest in the historical value of the belongings of the late Governor of Upper Canada. He said that everything was gone except the colours of the Queen's Rangers and the swords presented to Governor Simcoe and I gathered that they would likely be disposed of either in some institution like the Royal United Service Institution, or be offered for sale to the Americans who would give almost any price to possess the battle flags of a regiment so cordially hated by them.

"I wanted these colours for Canada and especially for Toronto where we have in the Public Library such a large collection of articles connected with the Simcoe administration. I at once entered into negotiations with Mr. Simcoe and after six months' correspondence we agreed on a price - or he fixed an absolute minimum price to which I had to agree.

"In the meantime knowledge of the existence of these colours leaked in^{to} the newspapers in England and in Toronto and I had to take a personal option on the colours. There was no one in sight who was willing, so far as I could see, to purchase these colours and present them to the Library and at one time it seemed as if I had better take an offer which I knew would be made to me, to transfer my interest to the University of Toronto and have the colours hang in the new Simcoe Hall, the administration headquarters of the University.

"But one day I received a note from Frederick B. Robins, Esq., a gentleman whom I had never met, saying that he had an interest in history, and especially in Canadian history, and hearing that I was anxious to have this, perhaps the most famous war relic that ever Canada had an opportunity of getting, he would purchase the colours and present them if I would carry on the negotiations and complete the deal.

"This, I have been able to do, and I submit herewith the letter of Mr. Frederick B. Robins and I would ask that a public presentation of these colours be arranged, the time to suit Mr. Robins, and that the matter of arrangements be left in the hands of the Chairman of the Board and the Chief Librarian."

Copied from the Minutes of the Libraries and Finance Committee,
December 11, 1923:

"In the absence from the City of
Mr. Frederick Robins the arrangements for the
presentation of the Simcoe Flags and Swords had
to be postponed."

Copied from the Board Minutes of Friday, November 9th, 1923:

"That arrangements be made for a formal ceremony
to mark the presentation of Frederick B. Robins, Esq.,
to the Library, of the Colors of the Queen's Rangers
(Colonel - later Governor-Simcoe's regiment) and the
Colonel's swords, the details to be left in the hands
of the Chairman of the Board and the Chief Librarian."

Copied from the Report of the Chairman of the Board of
Management for the Year 1923:

"Among the notable gifts with which the Library has
been enriched this year are a portrait in oils of
Hon. John Willson, one-time Speaker of the
Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, presented by
a grand-daughter, Mrs. Alfred M. Scott, of Pasadena,
Cal., and the colors of the Queen's Rangers, of
Revolutionary fame (Governor Simcoe's regiment),
and the Governor's military swords. The possession
of these precious Simcoe relics we owe to the
enterprise of our alert Chief Librarian, who,
learning that they were for sale, entered into
negotiations for their purchase, and to our well-
known fellow-citizen, Frederick B. Robins, Esq., who
generously provided the very substantial sum
required to effect the purchase. The gift of Mr. Robins
is the more appreciated in that such benefactions have
been exceedingly rare in the history of the Toronto
Public Library."

October 10, 1939.

Copied from Board Minutes of May 8th, 1934

"The Deputy Chief Librarian introduced a request from Colonel Ingles, of the United Empire Loyalists' Association, for a loan of the Simcoe relics in possession of the Library for display at a Centennial Exhibition to be held in the T.Eaton Company's auditorium on the 14th of May and the two weeks following. The Board, after brief consideration, could only regret that they could not allow these relics to leave the building for this purpose."

December 27th, 1939.

QUEEN'S RANGERS REGIMENTAL COLOURS

Copied from Board Minutes of October 10th, 1939:

"The following correspondence concerning the Queen's Rangers Regimental Colours was read:

Letter from the City Clerk to the Chief Librarian
September 1st.

'I understand that the Queen's Rangers Regimental Colors were deposited in your building for safe keeping.

'Have you any record regarding the deposit of these Colors and how they came to be placed in your building? Is there any regulation regarding them?

'We have been asked to have them released in order that they may be placed in the Queen's Rangers Armouries, Officers' Mess, where they will be properly cared for.'

Letter from the Chief Librarian to the City Clerk
September 2nd.

'I beg to thank you for your letter of September 1st.

'The statement that the Queen's Rangers Regimental Colors were deposited here for safe keeping is not really a statement of the situation. Actually they are owned and possessed by the Toronto Public Library Board.

'It became known to my predecessor, Dr. Locke, in the year 1923 that these colors were for sale. He entered into negotiations for their purchase and through his efforts, backed by outside financial assistance which he secured, the purchase was effected and the colors were made part of the Toronto Public Library collection of historical material concerning Simcoe and public affairs in Canada. We also possess Simcoe's military swords.

'I am taking your letter as intended to be a personal inquiry. If I am in error in this and if you wish the matter to be submitted to the Public Library Board I shall be grateful if you will so inform me.'

Letter from the City Clerk to the Chief Librarian
October 6th.

'In reference to the Queen's Rangers Regiment's original colours now deposited in the Toronto Public Library, I am enclosing herewith a communication received from Lieut.-Colonel Merrick, Officer Commanding Queen's York Rangers, which speaks for itself, and would ask that the same be submitted to your Board at an early date.

QUEEN'S RANGERS REGIMENTAL COLOURS (Continued)

Letter from the City Clerk to the Chief Librarian
October 6th (continued)

'I think the proposition contained in Colonel Merrick's letter is a very good one.

'I have also sent a copy of Colonel Merrick's letter to His Worship the Mayor, who will likely attend the meeting of the Board in reference thereto.'

Letter from Lt. Colonel R.C. Merrick
Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) (MG),
Fort York Armoury,
to the City Clerk.

October 5th

'We understand the original Regimental Colours of The Queens Rangers Regiment were purchased by Dr. Locke and deposited in the Toronto Public Library as part of a collection of material concerning Simcoe. Carrying on the Regiment of Queens Rangers we are naturally very much interested in Simcoe and all that pertains to him and the old Queens Rangers.

'We would very much like to obtain the Colours mentioned for our Regiment, for as it stands today the flags will deteriorate in the course of time. Our desire is to put them in hermetically sealed cases in our Officers Mess, which will preserve them.

'Sir Harold Harmsworth has lately become our Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel and he, as you know, spent a large amount of money in purchasing the estate of Simcoe in England, which was in a rather dilapidated condition, and putting it into a state of preservation. I am quite sure that if these Colours could be procured, perhaps on loan from the Library Board in order that they could be preserved in our Officers Mess, that it would not only give pleasure to the Officers and Members of the Regiment, but they would consider it an honour to preserve these for all time. If you, Sir, could approach the Library Board on our behalf for the permanent loan of these Colours we would appreciate it very much indeed.'

Letter from the Chief Librarian to the City Clerk
October 7th.

'I beg to thank you for your letter of October 6th which I will place before the Toronto Public Library Board at the earliest opportunity.'

"It was:

Moved by Mr. Justice Kelly,
Seconded by Mr. Gash,-----and

QUEEN'S RANGERS REGIMENTAL COLOURS (Continued)

Resolved, That after careful consideration of the letter from Lt. Colonel R.C.Merrick, Queen's York Rangers (MG), and a close examination of the correspondence and records concerning the acquisition a number of years ago by the Toronto Public Library of the ownership of the Queen's Rangers regimental colours, the Library Board considers itself a trustee in perpetuity of these historical relics, that it has no legal right to hand them over to any other person, persons, or corporation, and that it would be a breach of trust on the part of the Board so to do."

December 27th, 1939

Written in response to a telephone message from Mr. Hamilton, who stated that the Mayor had had a request from the Queen's York Rangers for these colours.

22nd May, 1942

F. C. Hamilton, Esq.,
Executive Secretary,
The Mayor's Office,
City Hall,
Toronto.

Dear Mr. Hamilton,

With reference to our telephone conversation this morning, the story of the Queen's Rangers Regimental Colours is as follows:

When the Queen's Rangers were disbanded at the close of the war of the American Revolution the colours of the regiment, in accordance with the custom at that time, were deposited with the Colonel, John Graves Simcoe.

When he retired to his estate in Devonshire he hung the colours in his Great Hall.

In the year 1922 it became known to my predecessor, Dr. Locke, that what was known as the "Simcoe Estate" was being dispersed by sale at Christie's in London. This included the Queen's Rangers Colours. Dr. Locke entered into negotiations for their purchase and through his efforts, backed by the outside financial assistance which he secured, the purchase was effected and the colours were made part of the Toronto Public Library collection of historical material concerning Simcoe.

In October, 1939, the Colonel of the Queen's York Rangers asked for possession of the Queen's Rangers Colours, and at that time the Toronto Public Library Board passed the following resolution:

"That after careful consideration of the letter from Lt. Colonel R. C. Merrick, Queen's York Rangers (MG), and a close examination of the correspondence and records concerning the acquisition a number of years ago by the Toronto Public Library of the ownership of the Queen's Rangers regimental colours, the Library Board considers itself a trustee in perpetuity of these historical relics, that it has no legal right to hand them over to any other person, persons, or corporation, and that it would be a breach of trust on the part of the Board so to do."

F. C. Hamilton, Esq.

No.2

If there is anything further I can tell you for the information of His Worship the Mayor I shall be glad if you will let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Librarian