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Schooner Days MLXIV (1064)
By C.H.J. Snider

Carleton Island, 1780.

Last time we sent out an identification S.O.S. several friends responded with the supposition that the unknown port in the wilderness submitted in picture was indeed as we had guessed Amherstburg in its early days, Fort Malden, to be official – shortly after the British naval establishment was moved over from Detroit. But no one could shed light on who painted the picture.

Now the boot is on the other foot. We know who painted this picture – it is a water color – and we know about when. But we don't know where. The drawing is in Lieut. Francis Hall's sketch book, which is in the Public Archives of Canada at Ottawa, among several that show Lake Ontario ports – and other harbours, Baltimore among them I believe – shortly after the war of 1812 had ended; probably in 1815.

My guess is that this picture represents the British military and naval establishment at Carleton Island, not as it was in 1815, after the Americans had taken over, but as it was during the war of independence, when Fort Haldimand dominated the St. Lawrence. Much in it suggests this. The Fort on the height would be Fort Haldimand, the ship on the stocks perhaps the fatal snow ship *Ontario*, second of the name built and lost in 1780. The sloop or cutter to the left might be the HMS. *Caldwell*, the three vessels moored side by side part of the Provincial Marine Fleet of the time, the chimneys and rooftops under the bank the naval commandant's house in the 'Kings Garden' which supplied the garrison with vegetables. I have seen cannon balls marked with the broad arrow which was found in that garden, and the wreck in the fore-water, to windward of the sloop, might have been the wreck of the French Corvette *Iroquoise*, which was sunk in 1760, after the conquest, and is still at Carleton Island. A military map of 1810 marks the wreck in the same position.

Hall named all other sketches, but left nothing to identify this one. What is your opinion?