The Bicentennial of the War of 1812 has brought out a large number of publications including *The “Tiger” Soldier, Engineer, & Army Surgeon!* to commemorate the War. Firsthand accounts of the War of 1812 are uncommon and those accounts of a British surgical and military perspective are exceedingly rare. 

Dr. William Dunlop was such a man. He recounted his experiences during the War of 1812 in 1846 which was later published in a serial format in the *Literary Garland* in Montréal in 1847. Some have criticized Dunlop's memory, believing that time had coloured his recollection, in writing these events so many years later.
Later in 1906, Dunlop’s Recollections Of The American War 1812-14 were republished by A.H. Colquhoun for the first time in book form. It is this version of Dr. Dunlop's account, which has been widely read by those who have an interest in this war.

This original version can be difficult to understand with excessively long sentence and paragraph structure. Grammatical forms and expressions are difficult to interpret for the untrained and at times even the experienced reader.

Paul Carroll, has updated the work by annotating Recollections Of The American War 1812-14. to create The “Tiger” Soldier, Engineer, & Army Surgeon! Carroll's purpose is to present these works in a form that appeal not only to the academic but also for the enjoyment of the casual reader. A clear distinction is made from the outset that this publication is not an academic review but primarily a pleasure read. The readers will not find endless footnotes, endnotes and bibliographic sources, however, some sources are cited and clarifications are added with parentheses.

Carroll has also written extensively regarding the Huron County including Four Years on the Great Lakes: 1813-1816, the Journal of Lt David Wingfield, RN. in The “Tiger” Soldier, engineer, & army surgeon!. Carroll draws a few parallels between the lives of Mr. Wingfield and Dr. Dunlop entertaining the notion that their paths may have even crossed.

Mr. Carroll was successful with the added commentary to allow a greater understanding of the meaning and innuendo of Dunlop’s writings. Additional details regarding his career including illustrations bring more life to this work. This annotated version is clearly easier to read as paragraphs, subtitles and shorter sentences have been created.

For those who have not yet read the writings of “Tiger” Dunlop, Carroll's annotated version is clearly superior to the 1906 edition. It is far more enjoyable to read with the improved format, illustrations and diagrams. These changes complement Dunlop's recollection of his journey from the Isle of Wright to his arrival at Quebec. The arduous
journey from Québec to Upper Canada is vividly described with entertaining and surprising anecdotes. He served in both military and medical duties along the St. Lawrence River and Niagara peninsula.

This is not strictly a surgical journal. However many of the descriptions regarding medical and surgical care provided by Dunlop are nothing short of gripping and are consistent with the experiences of other surgeons of the time. Surprising to some, the majority of the recollections of Dunlop revolve around everyday life, as the skill of the surgeon are solely put to the test only after a battle which are often infrequent. He is also critical of the futility of some military actions. There is no shortage of his descriptions of events displaying his humour and eccentricities even passing himself off as a major-general.

During his time in the Canadas, Dunlop gained a wide knowledge of the geography, local inhabitants and cultures. After the war, Dunlop’s life was described in several appendices including his time in the Canada Company as “Warden of the Woods and Forests” and his role as the founding father of town of Goderich. Dunlop's writings conclude with his experience in the construction of a road from Lake Simcoe to Penetanguishine during which time he was lost in a snowstorm.

For those who are new to the story of Dr. Dunlop, will certainly find Carroll's annotated version is the preferred source. Even though I had read the original version several years ago, rereading the annotated version gave me a greater insight into this most fascinating man and period of history.

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