

PATRIOT WAR VETERAN ILL; WAS IN OLD FORT HENRY

Watertown, N.Y., Jan. 26.—Nelson H. Truax, one of the oldest residents of Watertown, is seriously ill at the home of his daughter in Bay City, Mich. Mr. Truax is ninety-seven years old, and the doctors hold out no hopes of his recovery.

Mr. Truax is one of the very few veterans of the Patriot war of 1837-40 and took part in the battle of the Wind Mill. He was a prisoner for many weeks in old Fort Henry, Kingston, and used to house alien enemies of England.

The Patriot war was one of the most foolish expeditions ever undertaken—299 rash young Americans making an attempt to free Canada. Cooped up in the old stone wind mill on the bank of the St. Lawrence, they defied the British sol-

diers, and only surrendered after the British fleet had battered the old walls so that further resistance was useless. The place was carried at the point of the bayonet and the surviving prisoners were locked up in Fort Henry. Mr. Truax owes his life probably to the fact that he was a boy, and with 21 others of a like age, were pardoned by Queen Victoria.

A number were hanged, among them being Sylvanus Sweet and Sylvester A. Lanton of the town of Lyme and Dormeus Abbey, Joel Peeler and Russell Phelps of Watertown. Most of the rest were transported to Van Dieman's land, and 22, including Mr. Truax, were allowed to go on account of their extreme youth.