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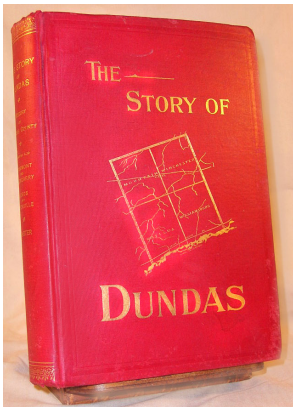
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# The Story of Dundas, (Ontario)

## by J. Smyth Carter - 1905.

### CA0087



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## ABOUT THIS CD:

This is a highly informative book about one of the areas of what we now called Ontario, which has been heavily touched by the hand of history. The combination of its location on the main migration path into “Upper Canada” and the fertility of its land caused many a settler to stop and set up their future homes in this county of Dundas. As a result, the area is a “melting pot” of ethnic traditions, and rich in its culture.

The author, J. Smyth Carter of Rowena, Ontario, was scrupulous in his research and does his best to identify all the influences which have guided the development of this county. In addition to the influence bought by the settlers, the county’s location on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, between the cities of Cornwall and Kingston made it a prime site for the failed invasions of the 1812 conflict, and many of the old battlefields are still remembered, and can be found marked to this day.

In writing his book the author elected to devote about half of the chapters to the history of various civil and administrative topics with as wide a range and scope as “Agricultural Development” and “Parliamentary Development,” “Religious Life” and “Drainage.” Even the local militia get a chapter to themselves.

Most of the remaining chapters are concerned with the establishment and development of Dundas’ many towns and townships including: Williamsburg, Matilda, Mountain, Winchester, Iroquois, Morrisburg and Chesterville.

One notable common thread throughout the whole book is the identification, by name, of the local inhabitants, frequently including their family and where possible, their portrait. Of the 56 illustrations included it seems that more than half are multiple portraits of one sort or another meaning there must be pictures of hundreds of individuals throughout the pages. Even the illustration plates of buildings, etc., are usually collages of many individual pictures. One illustration plate, for instance shows 12 local churches.

Although not singled out for individual treatment, the book recognizes the influence that the Loyalist settlers had on the county, and their contribution is well recorded.

Finally the book concludes with a series of fact packed chapters which are a goldmine of detailed information of utmost importance to those searching for their genealogical roots. For instance there is a listing, by Concession and Lot, of the original land grantees (as far as they were recorded) and page after page of hundreds of biographical records, tabulated by family name.

A wonderful book for those wanting to understand the history of this area and of those who settled and developed it. Access to this cache of densely packed information has been greatly enhanced by our making this digital reproduction fully computer searchable, a facility which is further enhanced by the application of our FastFind technology which brings you your search results almost instantaneously.

THE  
STORY OF DUNDAS  
BEING A HISTORY OF THE  
COUNTY OF DUNDAS  
FROM 1784 TO 1904

---

BY

J. SMYTH CARTER

ROWENA, ONT.

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With Portraits and Illustrations

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IROQUOIS :

THE ST. LAWRENCE NEWS PUBLISHING HOUSE

1905

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A contract to place 500 on Barbadoes, in the West Indies, was apparently not carried out. Ireland absorbed 3,800 of them who formed prosperous settlements in Munster. The Carolinas received 100 families. Death claimed 1,000 on Blackheath; about 800 were returned to their homes, and many enlisted in the English army. While they thus appeared as clay in the potter's hand, there is no doubt that the unanimous desire of these exiled people was to reach America, and strangely enough a complete solution to the problem was not to be given by the concensus of the intelligence and Christian devotion of England. It so happened that about this time the four Mohawk chiefs that form the subject of one of Addison's pleasant papers were in London under the guidance of Peter Schuyler and Col. Nicholson, and in their sight-seeing tour they were taken to see the foreigners of Blackheath. Touched by their misery, but more probably eager to appear generous, they invited the Palatines to America, and gave the Queen a grant of land on the Schoharie for their benefit.

"The idea of sending them to America was favored by Robert Hunter who was coming out as governor of New York. Ten ships with 3,200 Palatines on board set sail in March, 1710; nine of them reached New York in June and July, with a loss of 470 lives. One ship was wrecked on Long Island. This incident gave rise to the legend that the ship, lured on shore by false beacons, was robbed, burned by pirates, and all on board killed. A light is said to be sometimes seen from the eastern part of the Island, which from its fancied resemblance to a burning ship is called the Palatine ship. This furnished Whittier a theme for one of his poems.

"It is from this New York colony that the German U. E. Loyalists of the counties of Dundas and Stormont are descended. There were some additions to the colony from Germany from this time till 1774, but they were of an individual character. No U. E. Loyalist from any other German source ever came to these counties. It has been the prevalent error both of historians and of the people to believe that the founders of these counties were the descendants of the Hollanders who were the original owners of New Netherlands (now New York). There is scarcely a name of Dutch origin on the roll of the King's Royal Regiment of New York. In fact, nearly all the Hollanders of the Hudson were rebels.

"The survivors of the Atlantic voyage were domiciled at Nuttan Island for five months, until lands could be surveyed for them. Before they left for their new homes eighty-four orphan children were apprenticed to the people of New York. It was the intention of Gov. Hunter to employ the Palatines in producing tar from the pine for the use of the British navy. There was very little pine near the Schoharie and the Mohawk, so the government bought 6,000 acres of land from Robert Livingstone, on the east side of the

## CHAPTER V

### AGRICULTURAL EVOLUTION.

How blest the farmer's simple life !  
How pure the joy it yields !  
Far from the world's tempestuous strife,  
Free, 'mid the scented fields !

—C. W. EVEREST.

BUSH-WHACKING ! Farm-making ! These were terms well descriptive of farming in pioneer times. The crude conditions lingered long, for even after the woodman's axe had conquered the forest and the fire had swept along, leaving great heaps of ashes, the huge stumps stood in apparent defiance. Fortunately the soil was rich. The implements or means of husbandry were of the most primitive type. By hand the seed was scattered and then among the blackened stumps was trailed the huge brush or small tree-top. Sometimes in autumn the wheat was hoed in by hand. Wooden drags of various designs were later used. The first ploughs were constructed of wood, with perhaps a rough iron point made by the local son of Vulcan. Old residents in various sections of Dundas speak of the one-handed plough.

Shortly after the spring seeding the farmer arose with the sun and quickly heralded the news, "the grain is up." What a picture for the artist. Over the landscape the blackened stumps stood out still blacker against the background of pleasing green. Swiftly the summer months sped and soon the harvest was ready to be garnered. The sickle was taken from its silent place, sharpened, and the work began. The cradle and the scythe were implements of later years. By means of a hand-rake the grain was gathered, while the forked-end of a sapling peeled and dried in season served as a pitchfork, and in case of breakage these implements were easily replaced from the neighboring forest. The village blacksmith was not then consulted. Various methods

## CHAPTER VIII.

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

WHEN the Quebec Act was passed in 1774 Canada constituted but one province, divided into two districts. The western district, which embraced a section of what later became Upper Canada, was designated "Montreal." In 1788 this district was divided into four districts, the most eastern of which was Lunenburgh, comprising the townships of Lancaster, Charlottenburg, Cornwall, Osnabruck, Williamsburg, Matilda, Edwardsburg, Augusta, and Elizabethtown. Each of these townships extended north to the Ottawa river.

In 1791 the country was divided into two provinces, Upper and Lower Canada, respectively, and by an Act of Parliament, Oct. 15, 1792, the district of Lunenburgh became the Eastern District. A division occurred in 1798, when the Johnstown District was set apart, thus limiting the Eastern District to the counties of Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Prescott and Russell. In 1816 the last two counties were withdrawn and framed into the Ottawa District. The boundaries of the Eastern District suffered no further change, being the same as that now defined by the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

Until the year 1841 the magistrates in Quarter Session, in addition to their judicial duties, controlled the affairs of the district, such as the collection and expenditure of the revenue, the decision of all questions relating to county property, and the construction and repair of roads and bridges. This method was modified in 1841 by the establishment of district councils. The members of the new governing body were elected by each township at the annual meeting in January. Any township, in which the number of voters exceeded three hundred, was entitled to two representatives, while those not so populous in that regard sent but one. The warden received his appointment from the Government, and four annual meetings of the council were held. The members were elected for a period of three years, one third of their number to retire at the close of each year. The retiring councillors at the close of the

## CHAPTER XI

### RELIGIOUS LIFE

Each must in virtue strive for to excel,  
The man lives twice, who lives the first life well.  
—HERRICK.

#### THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. LAWRENCE parish of the Evangelical Lutheran church comprises St. John's church, Riverside, and St. Paul's church, Morrisburg. The settlement of this portion of the northern shore of the St. Lawrence has already been referred to. No sooner had those German Loyalists (many of whom were Lutherans) landed on the shores of Dundas than they began to establish religious institutions. Meetings for public worship were held, and in 1787 they sent a messenger to Philadelphia for a "Book of Sermons" and a hymn-book, both of which were used under the direction of a lay reader until they obtained their first pastor.

In 1789 they began the erection of a church, the first Protestant church built in Upper Canada. It was a quaint white edifice of the Dutch style of architecture. There was nothing especially peculiar in its appearance, nothing to arrest the attention of the passing stranger, nevertheless it possessed a history all its own. More than a hundred years have elapsed since its erection. Generation after generation have grown up about it. Generations have come into this world, grown old and died, still the old bell in the low tower continued to call the worshippers together. The scattered inhabitants met here for prayer half a century before Morrisburg was born.

The first pastor in connection with this early church was Rev. Samuel Schwerdfeger, a native of Saxony. He organized the congregation and dedicated the church "Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church." In 1792 the Lutheran congregation petitioned the Government for the lot, containing about seventy-five acres, upon which the church stood, as a glebe. They received a "license of occupation," with the further promise that a deed would soon be

## CHAPTER XIII

### BIVOUAC AND CAMP-FIRE

In peace, there's nothing so becomes a man  
As modesty, stillness and humility;  
But when the blast of war blows in his ears,  
Then imitate the action of the tiger.

SHAKESPEARE.

WHAT a spirit we find animating any movement which effects the patriotic life of a nation. In the military career there is a gallantry, nobleness of purpose, and individual possibilities which cannot fail to thrill one's emotions. The roll of nation-defenders is ever lengthening. They whose lives have been thus sacrificed are worthy of enduring admiration. Let us ever cherish and refresh our memory with their deeds of valor that they be not forgotten with the accumulation of years.

The war which brought to our shores the first settlers of this part of the St. Lawrence valley and the conflicts which later occurred fanned the national spirit. Militia organizations were soon found in the front townships, and as early as June 20, 1788, a commission was issued by Lord Dorchester appointing Jacob Farrand captain in the battalion of militia of Williamsburg and Matilda.

In 1803 the Dundas militia was directed by the following officers: (The name of the Colonel is omitted); Lieut.-Colonel, Allan McDonell; Major, Malcolm McMartin; captains, Michael Hanes, Farquhar McDonell, Cornelius Munro, Allan Patterson; lieutenants, Jacob Merkle, Henry Merkle, Michael Ault, Jacob Weegar, Jesse Wright, John Serviss; ensigns, John Shaver, John Munro, Frederick Weaver, Jacob VanAllan, Michael Carman; adjutant, Jacob Weaver; quartermaster, Alexander McDonell. Many of these had served in the King's Royal Regiment of New York.

The annual militia report for 1808 was issued from York (Toronto) and signed by Lieut.-Governor Francis Gore. For Dundas the report mentions one lieut.-colonel, one major, four captains, five lieutenants, six ensigns, one

## CHAPTER XX

### WINCHESTER TOWNSHIP

ONTARIO, which holds the palm among Canada's fair provinces, can boast of no fairer township than Winchester, named in 1798 after a city in Hampshire, England. When the early residents settled along the Nation river and began to unravel the tangled skein of their destiny they put heart and intelligence into their work, and soon various sections of the township became dotted with the familiar shanties, and the sound of woodman's axe echoed where now is heard the merry voice of children, the hum of modern harvesting machinery, and the whirl of industry on every hand. Not only the unflinching perseverance of the settlers but likewise the uniform par excellence of the soil contributed to their prosperity. Modern agricultural achievements of every character are now in evidence, well furnished farms, adorned with buildings substantial and convenient, help to make rural life enticing. The writer visited one neighborhood, the Melvin settlement, where six homes had telephone connection.

Dairying has attained prominence in Winchester as in the other townships of Dundas. Large quantities of cheese are manufactured, much of which is sold on the Winchester Cheese Board. The origin of this institution leads the enquirer back to 1894 when a board was founded, with George Irving, president, and S. S. Reveler, secretary, but after a few weeks it ceased to be. A similiar institution was then established at Chester-ville and flourished for a time. At a meeting held March 31, 1898, the re-organization of the Winchester Cheese Board was effected, the officers elected being: William Faith, president; Andrew Kennedy, vice-president; A. G. Smith, secretary. The following year Mr. Kennedy was chosen president, continuing in that capacity for five years. The history of this Board has been one of progress. In 1903 there were placed on sale 28,800 boxes of cheese, which brought a cash return of about \$240,000. The officers for 1904 are: President, N. W. Morton; vice-president, John Parker; sec-treas. R. F. Blair. The Montreal houses represented at the Board are: A. A. Ayer &



EARLY SETTLERS IN WILLIAMSBURG.

1 George Crysler, 2 Capt. Alex. Farlinger, 3 Alex. Becksted, 4 Geo. W. Marsellus, 5 Mrs. Geo. W. Marsellus, 6 Moses McPherson, 7 Mrs. Jacob J. Merkley, 8 Jacob J. Merkley, 9 Eli Cook, 10 John Hickey, 11 Peter McIntosh, 12 Geo. Whitteker, 13 John W. Loucks, 14 David Becksted, 15 Mrs. David Becksted, 16 John Plantz, 17 Mrs. John Plantz, 18 Alex. Colquhoun, sr., 19 Mrs. John Dickey, 20 Jacob Merkley, 21 John Whitteker, 22 Abram Cook, 23 Wm. Reddick, 24 Mrs. Wm. Reddick, 25 Henry Froats, 26 Mrs. Henry Froats, 27 Alex. Colquhoun, 28 James Pruner, 29 Geo. W. Loucks, 30 Mrs. Geo. Wells, 31 Christian H. Barkley, 32 Conrad Freymire, 33 Peter Saddlemyer, 34 David McMillan, 35 Samuel P. Weagant, 36 Mrs. Thos. Marsellus, 37 Michael O'Shaughnessy, 38 Abram Cook, 39 James Page, 40 Samuel Hyndman, 41 Mrs. John Deeks, 42 Wm. Schwerdfeger, 43 Mrs. John M. Willard, 44 Ezra Saddlemyer, 45 Mrs. J. J. McLaughlin, 46 Henry G. Stearns, 47 Solomon Lapiet, 48 Mrs. Wm. Lane, 49 James Croil, 50 I. N. Rose, 51 Henry G. Merkley, 52 Rev. Schwerdfeger, 53 Rev. Wm. Sharts, 54 Rev. H. Hayunga, 55 Rev. Hunton, 56 Peter Becksted, 57 Wm. Casselman.

## APPENDIX A

### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES OF EARLY SETTLERS

[WHILE the writer is indebted to many who have assisted with these sketches, he feels in a measure not responsible for the facts presented. A general invitation was issued through the local press of the county; and as a result many photographs and sketches of early settlers were furnished by correspondents. A number of sketches have also been clipped from old newspaper files, or gathered by conversation with friends. We believe, however, the notices will be found not only accurate but highly interesting.]

ANDREW ALLISON was born in the county of Antrim, Ireland, on October 10, 1803, and came to Canada during the summer of 1822. During the voyage he was a sufferer from ship-fever, and by the time he reached Quebec was a mere skeleton. After remaining there a brief period for recuperation, he came to Montreal, and thence to La Chute, county of Argenteuil, working there for some time and finding a wife in the person of Jannet Richey, of East Hawkesbury, who had also emigrated from County Antrim, Ireland. Subsequently they came to Dundas county, and, being directed to a Canada Company lot, Mr Allison left wife and child with friends in concession 8, Williamsburg, and with his axe and some assistants proceeded through the woods to his prospective home, e½ lot 11, concession 1, Winchester. Arriving there, he felled a suitable tree, and cutting the trunk the length of the intended building, left it where it fell, thus forming the foundation of the primeval shanty. In the autumn of 1830 he moved his family to their new home, their chief property being a yoke of oxen, two cows, a dog and an ox-cart. Then commenced the work of clearing the land, caring for the cattle as they fed on "browse" during the winter; saving the ashes after a "burn," and converting them into "black salts," which by means of a boxless ox-cart was conveyed to the St. Lawrence. Wolves were particularly annoying in those days; and in order to protect his flock of sheep, he built close to the rear of the house a small yard, in which the "innocents" were placed each night. Despite these efforts he frequently had to drive off the invaders with the aid of the dogs and a lighted torch. Mr Allison and wife were members of the first class of Methodists in Winchester, and with joy he accompanied the first travelling preacher, Rev. Henry Schaler, to his appointments. In politics he was also a staunch Reformer. He lived many years after pioneer life had vanished; enjoyed the comforts he so long labored to secure, and on June 25, 1892, died at the family homestead, the farm which 60 years before he found garbed in heavy forest.

JOHN ALLEN, a native of Somersetshire, England, married Mary Merkle, of U. E. Loyalist descent. He was a soldier, and served under Lord Nelson at Trafalgar. When he came to



## APPENDIX B

### THE FIRST FAMILIES

THE following list supplies information relative to the original patentees of the land in Dundas. The major part of the list was secured from the County Registry office, but in the case of a number of lots, for which no patent was found there, search was made at the Department of Crown Lands, Toronto. In this latter instance, the Assistant Commissioner in his letter says : "I have had the old register examined, and find that there are some of these lots which it is impossible to decide when or to whom the patents were issued." Such lots have been omitted from this list. Again, in several cases the patent embraces only a portion of the lot. The spellings are given as they occur in the entries.

#### TOWNSHIP OF MATILDA

CONCESSION I		Lot13
Lot A	Jesse Wright, 49 acres .....1807	Mary Shaver, all.....1803
	1 Hon. Capt. John Munro, all.....1793	14 Philip Shaver sen., e½.....1803
	2 " " " " all .....1793	14 Uriah Brown, w½.....1807
	3 H. Waggoner and Jacob Shiers, all.1797	15 Adam Shaffer } .....1797
	4 George Collison.....1797	15 John Shaffer } .....1797
	4 Allen Patterson, w½.....1802	16 Barnard Frederick, all .....1798
	5 Robert and John Glassford, all....1797	17 Adam and Edward Foster, all.....1798
	6 Corp. Jacob Vanallen, all .....1797	18 Conrad Shaver, all.....1803
	7 Henry Munro, all.....1817	Centre Commons. Prot. Epis. Church, all.1834
	8 James McDonell, w½.....1808	Lot19 Michael Ault, e½... ..1807
	8 Henry Munro, e½.....1818	19 Everhart Ault, w½.....1807
	9 John Middagh, w½.....1803	20 John Meddaugh, e½.....1798
	9 Stephen Meddouch, e½.....1807	20 Michael Ault, w½.....1808
	10 Samuel Robertson, e½.....1826	21 George Brouse, w½.....1800
	10 Isaac Keeler, w½.....1850	21 Joseph Brouse, e½.....1804
	11 Henry Baker } all.....1802	22 William Loucks, w½.....1801
	11 Jacob Hanes } all.....1802	22 Peter and Eliza Brouse.....1797
	12 Florence McCarty } all.....1803	23 Jacob Coons, e½.....1803
	12 William McCormick } all.....1803	23 Peter Murray, w½.....1819
		24 Martin Walter, all.....1806

## Special Notice:

Our copy of this book contained two loose news clippings about the wedding of Mr. Burleigh Warren to Miss Annie Marie Strachan on 17 October 1923(?) probably in Hamilton, although the couple subsequently took up their married life in Dundas\*. We have included scans of these clippings on the CD as additional information but would like to see the original clippings go to a good home so the first person who can prove a family connection with this couple is welcome to take these clippings into their care.

*\* Although these clippings were in a book about Dundas county we are wondering if the Dundas referred to might be the community of this name in the Hamilton area, rather than the county. The clippings give no hint.*

NB: The text of the clipping has been deliberately obscured so as to not give away the information we need to hear to prove your relationship. The original, and the copy in the CD, are perfectly clear.

