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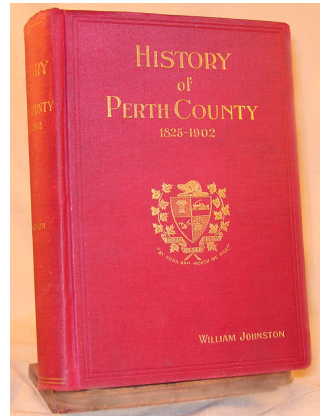


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## History of the County of Perth from 1825 to 1902

### CA0146

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## About this CD.

*"I propose to write a history of the County of Perth, in order that those whom futurity will bring may know the story of pioneer life in this portion of Canada."* So begins William Johnston's thoughtful and detailed history of this section of the great Huron Tract. Published in 1903 it recounts the events which took place but a mere 70 odd years before, bringing the advantage of relative freshness, and even living memory, to the account.

Perth County's beginnings are a little different to those of the more easterly districts of Upper Canada in that its land allocation, and so settlement, was made the responsibility of the Canada Company, and they decided to discharge this responsibility by initially using a system of land allocation described as "leasehold" as opposed to the more conventional direct sale, or freehold system, employed elsewhere. The importance of this is that it enabled settlement by pioneers who had little or no actual material wealth other than a "strong back" and a dream of carving their own farm from the wilderness. The early chapters of William's book explain all of this in some detail, pointing out both the advantages and the disadvantages of the system, even though he makes no "bones" about favouring it.

Having dealt with these early details the author settles down to follow the development of the county in many detailed aspects leading, inevitably to a discussion of the founding and growth of each of the significant centers of population including giving credit to those who took a leading part in the process.

Finally, more than 10% of the book is given over to what are more normally termed "Biographies" of the early settlers, although Mr. Johnston calls them "sketches." There are several composite photographs of the leaders of various administrations.

This is a fine, detailed, well constructed and illustrated history of the county rich with information on civic development and naming many, perhaps all, of the bold pioneers who played their own part in the development of Perth County.

HISTORY  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF PERTH  
FROM 1825 TO 1902.

BY  
WILLIAM JOHNSTON,

ST. MARYS,

AUTHOR OF "PIONEERS OF BLANSHARD."

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WITH PORTRAITS AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

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STRATFORD:

PRINTED BY W. M. O'BEIRNE, AT THE BEACON OFFICE.

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1903.

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delivered certificates of election from their several municipalities : Sebastian Fryfogle, South Easthope ; Robert Christie, Logan, Elma and Wallace ; Andrew Monteith, deputy reeve, Downie ; Alexander Gourlay, Elma and Mornington ; Arundel Hill, deputy reeve, Blanshard ; Alexander McLaren, Hibbert ; Thomas Ford, Fullarton ; Alexander Grant, North Easthope ; Thomas B. Guest, reeve, Blanshard ; William Smith, reeve of Downie. On motion of Mr. Gourlay, seconded by Mr. Fryfogle, William Smith, reeve of Downie, was unanimously elected first warden. There is no motion for appointing a clerk, but as Stewart Campbell's name first appears in the minutes as holding that office, it may be inferred that he was appointed. Three candidates appeared for the office of treasurer, Alexander McGregor, A. B. Orr, and A. F. Meikle. This contest was a keen one, and ended by Mr. McGregor being elected by a majority of three votes ; Mr. James Orr and Samuel Lloyd Robarts were appointed auditors.

The remuneration allowed those several officers for services rendered was :—Warden, £15 ; clerk, £30 ; treasurer, £50 ; auditors, £3 each, and the Reeves six shillings and three pence per day and three pence per mile. Mr. Rowland was allowed one pound for inserting by-laws in "Perth County News." Messenger, five shillings per day for each day's attendance. As indicating our financial ability, we find estimates for the several departments amounted to £1,860, of which £600 was for administration of justice. Of this sum Blanshard contributed £304 ; Hibbert, £122 ; Logan, £123 ; Mornington, £69 ; Ellice, £234 ; Downie, £318 ; Fullarton, £189 ; S. Easthope, £198 ; N. Easthope, £300. These sums include town line grants for that year, amounting to £100. It appears also from another item that James Redford was appointed superintendent of schools at a salary of £40 per annum. At this meeting also appeared the mania for special grants in all its youthful freshness and glory. The attitude of individual county councillors towards county funds in the matter of special grants appeared like a mild type of lunacy, which seemed to break out the moment they entered the council chamber. It was singularly infectious, and an honest, unsophisticated reeve or deputy from the



of the fund has been paid except the sum of £5, 10s., 7d., apportioned to school section No. 2, South Easthope; the teacher of that section being an alien could not receive Government money."

"Respectfully but earnestly requesting the council to use their best exertions to put me in possession without delay of the above mentioned sums, that the teachers may be paid their salaries so long due and in the only form that can supply their wants. I have the honor to be, etc."

In an auditors' report for the United Counties for 1844, 1845 and 1846, a balance was left in the hands of the superintendent amounting to £19, 16s., 9d.

According to the detailed statement of 1847, the teachers in what is now the County of Perth had received the following payments:—James Sheldan, Ellice, £3, 5s.; James Iazard, South Easthope, £12, 10s.; P. McLellan, North Easthope, £6, 12s.; James Trow, £6, 12s.; A. Amoss, £6, 12s.; A. Amoss, £5, 10s.; Gordon Meighan, Blanshard, £5, 11s., 3¼d.; James Sheldan, Blanshard, £2, 16s.; W. F. McCullough, Stratford, £17, 3s., 3d.; H. Hamilton, Downie, £12, 7s., 7d.; R. Henley, Downie, £6, 9s., 9d. This account is certified to by George Fraser and T. B. Woodliff, auditors, and dated Feb'y 5, 1848. The total sum received by the superintendent for 1847 was £1,119, 14s., 3½d., of which amount £307, 9s., 4¾d., was provincial grant, and £777, 5s., 6d., grant from the district, the balance coming from other sources. I believe this is the earliest statement to be found regarding our schools, the records covering a period extending from February, 1842, to February, 1848, being lost, as stated elsewhere. At the latter meeting of the council a large number of new sections were formed in the southern part of the United Counties. I have been unable to discover any data which would indicate the remuneration paid teachers for their services. The salary of the superintendent, I find, was fixed by by-law, passed on the 11th day of February, 1848, at £100 currency per annum.

In no department is the progress of this county more distinctly marked than in educational improvement. If the condition of our

farlane was promoted to majority, and Ensign Lang became Captain. Upon his retirement in 1883 Lieut. F. K. Burnham became Captain. Upon his retirement in 1885, Lieut. J. L. Hotson became Captain, who retired in 1892, and was succeeded by Lieut. S. M. Johnson, upon whose retirement in 1896 Lieut. Grayson Alexander became Captain and held command till 1898, when Lieut. Royal Burritt, the present Captain, was appointed. The other officer of the Company is Lieut. M. D. Hamilton.

No. 2 Company was organized in 1861 as "The Stratford Infantry Company," but was not recognized, armed and equipped till 1862. The first officers were Capt. W. J. Imlach, Lieut. Charles James, and Ensign Henry Sewell (the latter gentleman died in 1866); Capt. Imlach retired, and Lieut. James became Captain, the other officers being Lieut. Robert Smith and Ensign David Scott.

On March 8th, 1866, the Company was called out for active service and did duty at Stratford, Chatham, Windsor and closed as part of field force at Thorold in August.

On the formation of the 28th Regiment, the officers of No. 2 were Capt. William Smith, Lieut. R. A. MacGregor and Ensign Hugh Nichol. In 1872 Capt. Smith was promoted to rank of Lieut.-Colonel of the Regiment, and was succeeded by Captain A. W. Dodd, who retained the Company till he was appointed Adjutant in 1876, and was succeeded by Capt. J. R. Hamilton, who held the position till he was promoted to majority in 1885, when he was succeeded by Capt. Geo. T. Cooke, who retained command until promoted to majority in 1898, and was followed by David Gibson as Captain; upon the retirement of Capt. Gibson in 1900, the present Capt. A. H. Monteith was appointed. The other officers of the Company are Lieuts. S. W. N. Monteith and Clarence Trow.

No. 3 Company was organized in 1866 as "The St. Marys Infantry Company," with the following officers: Capt. T. B. Guest, Lieut. John McDonald and Ensign David McConnell. The Company formed part of the field force at Thorold in August, 1866. On the formation of the Regiment, Capt. Guest was appointed Major and Lieut. McDonald became Captain of the Company. He

of whom were early settlers in the neighborhood. This office was opened in 1856, with James Eaton, of the firm of James and Timothy Eaton, who opened the first store in Kirkton, as first postmaster.

*Kuhryville*—In Ellice, was named in honor of Andrew Kuhry, an old settler and prominent man in the municipality. This office was opened in 1899, with Alexander Smith as first postmaster.

*Kurtzville*—In Wallace, was named after John Kurtz, on whose farm the office was established in 1885, with Jacob F. Doersam as first postmaster.

*Lisbon* — In North Easthope, on the boundary line between Waterloo and Perth County, was named in honor of the capital of Portugal. This office was opened in 1856, with John Zinkann as first postmaster.

*Listowel*—Now the town of Listowel, was formerly known as Mapleton and Windham. The Department subsequently set aside both names in favor of Listowel. This office was opened in 1856, with William H. Hacking as first postmaster.

*Metropolitan*—In Blanshard, was named by John H. Donaldson, a school teacher in the neighborhood. A temperance hall was erected on the opposite corner from the school building. Mr. Donaldson, considering these progressive movements as evidence of a great metropolis, named it Metropolitan. This office was opened in 1875, with William Spence as postmaster.

*Millbank*—In Mornington, was founded by Mr. Freeborn, who was first settler, and derives its name from a mill being erected on the bank that bordered the stream. This office was opened in 1850 by William Rutherford, who was first postmaster.

*Milverton*—Also in Mornington, was first known as West's Corners, after the name of an early settler. Subsequently a more euphonious name was desired by the people, and at a public meeting called for the purpose, it was called Milverton, at the suggestion of Rev. P. Musgrave, in honor of his birthplace in the old land. This office was opened in 1854, with D. Matthews as first postmaster.

*Molesworth*— In Wallace, bears the name of Sir William

of settlement. This is a peculiarity of all new countries, from the beginning of all time to the present. In Perth County civilization is first found on the Avon, at Stratford, next on Black Creek, at Sebringville, then on Trout Creek, where first were located Monteith, Rankin, and Dempsey, and again at Avonton, far away in the wilderness, where John Murray came in 1842. It is also worthy of note in a new settlement how various nationalities group themselves together, doubtless for mutual sympathy and friendly communication. Thus, in the south-east corner we find a group from the North of Ireland, Monteith, Rankin, Dempsey, Wilson, Nelson, Thistle, Dunsmore, Robb and Hesson. South-west, from the South of Ireland are Clyne, McNamara, Hourigan, Killoran, Payton, Walsh, O'Connor and McCann. North, along the Goderich road, are Germans, and we have such names as Seebach, Kastner, Sebring, Pfrimmer, Arbogast, Shelleberger, Klein, Goettler, Goetz and Schweitzer. North-west is a Scotch settlement, and here, particularly along the Avon, we find the Ballantynes, Murrays, Dunlops, Strathdees, Thompsons, Grahams, McIntyres, Stephensons, Armstrongs, Muirs, Aitchesons, and many others whose names indicate Scotland as their birth place. Settlement in this township, which began in 1832, was not completed till 1850.

Those commercial centres, developed and fostered by the G. T. R., in building up St. Marys and Stratford, have absorbed the entire trade of this municipality. Its facilities for shipping at these two points, and at Sebringville and St. Pauls, are not excelled by any township in this county. In addition, Downie has splendid roads, rendering transportation of agricultural products a matter of no difficulty. With such favourable conditions for trade, it should not be a surprise if in so wealthy a township within its limits no villages of importance are to be found.

Sebringville, partly in Ellice and partly in Downie, four miles west of Stratford, is the greatest. This village is a station on the B. & L. H. R., and has several excellent business places. Here are located one large general store, a drug store, tin, stove and hardware store, three hotels, flour mill, chopping and planing

The various officers of Fullarton township from 1850 to 1902, inclusive, are as follows :—

*Reeves.*—1850-2, James Hill ; 1853, Thos. Ford ; 1854-61, James Watson ; 1862-7, Thos. Ford ; 1868-78, Wm. Davidson ; 1879-96, Geo. Leversage ; 1897-1902, James Russell.

*Deputy-Reeves.*—1864-5, Abraham Davidson ; 1866, Geo. Leversage ; 1867-9, A. Davidson ; 1870-3, Richard Francis ; 1874-6, R. H. Bain ; 1877-81, R. Francis ; 1882-7, Thos. Currelley ; 1888-9, Nicholas Roach ; 1890-96, Joseph Jackson ; 1897-8, Peter Arbogast.

*Councillors.*—1850, Robt. Roger, Robert Porteous, Geo. Leversage, John Arbogast ; 1851, R. Rogers, R. Porteous, John Fishleigh, Valentine Rohfreitsch ; 1852, J. Fishleigh, Wm. Martyn, Jas. Watson, V. Rohfreitsch ; 1853, John Fishleigh, Wm. Martyn, Jas. Watson, Wm. Dickie ; 1854, T. Ford, W. Martyn, Wm. Dickie, Payton Botterill ; 1855, Robt. Clark, Abraham Davidson, Daniel McPhail, Wm. Martyn ; 1856, R. Clark, A. Davidson, D. McPhail, John Cole ; 1857, D. McPhail, J. Cole, Edwin Dodds, A. Davidson ; 1858, T. Ford, E. Dodds, J. Cole, A. Davidson ; 1859-61, T. Ford, A. Davidson, E. Dodds, Alex. McConachie ; 1862, Geo. Leversage, A. Davidson, E. Dodds, H. E. Hanson ; 1863, Geo. Leversage, H. Hanson, F. Ullrick, A. Davidson ; 1864-65, Geo. Leversage, H. E. Hanson, F. Ullrick ; 1866, F. Ullrick, A. Davidson, Wm. Dickie ; 1867, Geo. West, F. Ullrick, Wm. Dickie ; 1868, Richard Francis, Samuel Gourlay, Jos Bald ; 1869, Jas. Brown, R. Francis, Edwin Ross ; 1870, Jas. Brown, Geo. Roy, Jas. Moore ; 1871-2, Geo. Roy, Michael Arbogast, James Moore ; 1873, M. Arbogast, Francis Standeven, N. Roach ; 1874, N. Roach, M. Arbogast, Jas. Moore ; 1875, N. Roach, Horace Fawcett, M. Arbogast ; 1876, N. Roach, M. Arbogast, Richard Watson ; 1877, N. Roach, R. Watson, Henry Heal ; 1878, N. Roach, R. Watson, Geo. Johnson ; 1879-80, N. Roach, Geo. Johnson, Thos. Currelley ; 1881, N. Roach, T. Currelley, Jacob Ney ; 1882-87, N. Roach, Nesbitt Potter, J. Ney ; 1888, N. Potter, Joseph Jackson, Thos. Edwards ; 1889, Jos. Jackson, T. Edwards, Jos. McIntyre ; 1890-1, P. Arbogast, Jos. McIntyre,

Stratford. The town clerk presented his accounts, which were examined and found correct. The following officers were elected:— Stewart Campbell, clerk; Patrick Cashin, assessor; Alexander Gourlay, collector; Michael Crowley, Jacob Weber, John Sharman, Thomas Reddy, and George Martin, wardens.

In 1847 the town meeting was also held in Stratford, when Stewart Campbell was again elected clerk; Patrick Crowley, assessor; Alexander Gourlay, collector; Philip McClosky, John Sharman, William Pinder, George Barthel, Michael Crowley, and Robert Henry, wardens. At this meeting two important resolutions were carried as illustrating the effect of a few years of partial self government by the people, in their demanding from the supreme authority “an acquiescence in such legislation as they, the people, considered to be in their interest.” Mr. McPherson, as district councillor, was instructed to lay before the council the desire of the people, that the town meeting should always be held at Seebach’s, and not as the whim of the magistrates may direct. The council at Goderich was also asked to publish a financial statement of their affairs, “and that forthwith.” These resolutions were transmitted to the Clerk of the Peace with other minutes of this meeting.

In 1848, at the town meeting, Mr. Stewart Campbell was again elected clerk; Patrick Crowley, assessor; Michael Crowley, collector; John Dempsey, William Moore, John Hays, wardens.

In 1849 Stewart Campbell was elected clerk; Patrick Crowley, assessor; Michael Crowley, collector; John Sharman, John Parker, and James Hamilton, wardens. This meeting was held at the tavern of Thos. Douglas, Stratford. During the summer of this year, Mr. McPherson, who had been district councillor since he resigned his position as clerk, died, and John Sharman, at a meeting held on the 25th day of September, was chosen as councillor for the balance of the term.

The first meeting of ratepayers in Ellice, under our present municipal system, was held at Mrs. Douglas’ tavern (Farmers’ hotel), Stratford, in January, 1850, Stewart Campbell, clerk, in the chair. At this meeting Andrew Seebach, George Brunner,

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### NORTH EASTHOPE

North Easthope is situated on the extreme eastern limit of Perth County. Although first settlement did not take place in this municipality, it has priority over all others in having at an early day a population whose influence and numbers were such as to give the name "Perth" to this new section of country. A very large proportion of those pioneers who came into North Easthope were from Perthshire, Scotland. With that distinctive love of country peculiar to their nation, they determined to perpetuate as far as possible memories still dear to them. Fond recollections still went back to Scotland with its hills and glens, and from those feelings "Perth" received its name.

In 1829 the first concession of North Easthope was surveyed by John McDonald; a further portion in 1832; the whole being completed in 1835. Its total acreage as stated in the field notes is 44,642, and was named in honour of John Easthope, of the Canada Company. Situated near to those older settlements lying eastward, and its soil being desirable for agricultural purposes, it had for several years a preponderance in population. In 1841, when a parliamentary election took place, this township had five voters, who walked to Goderich to vote for Mr. Dunlop, the anti-Family Compact candidate. These electors, who were also first freeholders, were Rev. Daniel Allan, John Stewart, Alex. and John Crerar, and John Whitney. It must not be forgotten that the number of votes in a municipality at that period was no indication of its population. In those dark days of an oligarchy that drove Mr. McKenzie to rebellion in his struggle for Canadian rights and liberty, those only could vote who had a deed of their property.

which rendered vain all effort to restore it to its wonted level. In this township 170 applications (or one in every three of its settlers) was sent in for relief from the fund opened by the county council. Who can tell the misery and patient suffering in those lonely shanties, even at that late day, amongst our old pioneers? Ah! Yes; who can tell? God only knows.

Conditions in Logan at this period were such as might have caused uneasiness in her public men. She had incurred heavy liabilities in constructing gravel roads, which would require years to liquidate. A failure of crops in 1858 had placed one-third of her farmers as recipients of relief. Those great swamps where rivers have their source, comprising one-fifth of her area, were still unproductive, except in malarial diseases. Notwithstanding these difficulties she still retained confidence in ultimate success. To this feeling we must attribute that aggressiveness which has brought about such great results as are now found in this township. It required some years to place her pioneers in such conditions as warranted any further outlay, and excepting a new town hall, erected in 1869, none were incurred.

In 1880 it was determined to inaugurate a system of drainage, which has been productive of great and lasting good. By adopting this policy thousands of acres have been rendered productive which were once considered as beyond reclamation. If large sums have been spent for this purpose, no better investment could have been made. A largely increased assessment roll is proof of this result. A loan of \$12,482 was, therefore, obtained as a test of this new scheme. A first effort was singularly effective. Further sums were obtained, until a total of \$30,000 has been invested, effecting a marvellous improvement. It is not a matter of historical value where and how this amount has been expended. It is enough to know that every acre in Logan is now, or soon will be, available for agricultural purposes.

By referring to the auditors' report of 1901, liabilities for drainage amount to \$3,120, with an expenditure during that year of \$2,660. The total receipts set forth by this audit amount to \$28,810, a very large sum, indeed; of which \$17,284 was raised



located in Elma, where he afterwards opened a post office, named Newry, in which he was postmaster till 1864. During that year Daniel Falconer built a general store in Newry, and was followed by Thomas Fullarton. A hotel was erected in 1856, and a blacksmith shop by John Morrison. Newry for several years was a prosperous village, being centrally located equidistant from Listowel and Monkton. In 1875 the W., G. & B. Railway was built, and the first locomotive whistle on this road seemed to sound like a death-knell to future prosperity in Newry. About half a mile north of the village a station was erected, which was known as Newry Station. Another post office was also opened, known also by that name. This led to confusion in mail matter, and it was determined to adopt a new name. In 1851 a log tavern had been erected by one William Blair. This house of public entertainment and its environs were known as Elma Centre. Newry station soon outstripped its sister villages in commercial importance, and to remove those postal inconveniences in connection with names a change had to be made. A public meeting was called, and several names suggested; amongst others were Ladybank, Dunedin, and Renwick, all quite euphonious. Mr. Renwick was the apostle of Presbyterianism in this section, and his co-religionists were desirous of honouring him through the name of this new town. The other names brought forward are quite suggestive of the nationality of the pioneer settlers in this neighbourhood. Over such a momentous question as naming a new town, discussion was animated and prolonged. Diversity of opinion and persistent disputation seemed to threaten a possible solution. In this dilemma a young lady suggested the name "Atwood," which was hailed by opposing orators with delight, and brought to a happy and peaceful termination this terrible struggle. Since that period Atwood has become a place of importance, with a population of over 700 souls. Several brick blocks have been erected, and excellent sidewalks laid for public convenience. Here are also express, telegraph, and newspaper offices, good hotels, and stores of every description, where goods can be obtained to satisfy the most fastidious tastes. Meantime a

disappeared, and a fine structure of white brick has been erected, at a cost of \$5,000. In this seminary three teachers are employed, it having an average attendance of about 120 pupils.

In Milverton are several brick blocks, two first-class hotels, and a number of general stores, where goods of the latest styles of manufacture can be found on their shelves. Many of the benevolent societies are represented, also, helping on that great work which will inevitably bring that period when, "Man to man the world o'er shall brithers be an' a' that." The village has also a mechanics' institute library, containing over 2,000 volumes.

No adequate conception of the wealth and refinement of the citizens of Milverton can be formed without having first seen its private residences. These are on a scale of greater opulance than might be expected in so small a centre of population. We consider it a noble characteristic of any people who make provision for the comfort and happiness of those dependent on them, and who create an environment refined and elevating that will impress young minds with a home influence, permeated with the good, the beautiful, and the true. This principle appears to have been carried out in Milverton to its fullest extent, indicating a commendable liberality in her people.

Of manufacturing establishments there is a tannery, a grist mill, two planing mills, a sawmill, cheese factory, blacksmith shop, with several of the smaller industries. There is also a private bank, kept by Mr. Ranney, treasurer of the village. The legal profession is unrepresented, while Dr. William Egbert and Dr. A. D. Nasmith represent the medical.

Milverton has one weekly newspaper, the *Sun*, founded by Mr. Whalley—its first issue appearing on December 17th, 1891, as an advocate of local interests. In 1893 it became the property of Mr. Malcolm MacBeth, its present editor and proprietor. The aim of its present management is to fully report local news, and advance the interest of the village and county generally, not by instilling its own political views on public questions, but by a persistent advocacy of the rights of all the people, irrespective of party.

Campbell, Hugh Jack, Hugh Kerr; 1888, Wm. Campbell, H. Jack, Chas. Trim; 1889-91, H. Jack, C. Trim, D. McCloy; 1892-3, D. McCloy, C. Trim; 1894, Wm. Johnston, D. J. Nicklin, C. Trim; 1895, Wm. Johnston, D. McCloy, John McCloy; 1896, John Campbell, D. McCloy, D. M. Nicklin; 1897, J. P. Griffin, D. McCloy, G. Shearer; 1898, J. P. Griffin, G. Shearer, D. McCloy; 1899-1900, David B. Grieve, J. P. Griffin, J. McCloy, G. Shearer; 1901, Robert Allingham, John Davidson, D. B. Grieve, J. McCloy; 1902, R. Allingham, J. Davidson, J. McCloy, David Swartzen-truber.

*Clerks.*—1854-7, S. Whaley; 1858, William Willcott; 1859-60, John W. Beaton; 1861, John Smith; 1862, John Jones (resigned), Chas. Fleming; 1863, M. McFadden; 1864-72, John Beaton; 1873, J. B. Rutherford; 1874-1902, John Watson.

*Treasurers.*—1854, Charles Burrows; 1855, continuously to 1902, Jas. Reid.

*Assessors.*—1854, John Freeborn; 1855, S. Whaley; 1856, Jas. Terriff, Robert Struthers; 1857, Jas. Terriff, Wm. Drake; 1858, Wm. Drake; 1859, Wm. Drake, Thos. Shearer; 1860-1, Jas. Baird; 1862, Wm. Drake; 1863, Moses McFadden; 1854-5, Wm. Drake; 1866-8, Thos. Hall; 1869, William Grieve, John Riddell; 1870, T. Hall; 1871, John Turnbull; 1872, Chas. Glenn; 1873, T. Hall; 1874, J. Kines; 1875, John Pfeffers; 1876, J. Kines; 1877-8, W. B. Freeborn; 1879, Wm. Loney, J. Turnbull; 1880-1, Jas. Magwood; 1882, C. Glenn; 1883-4, T. Hall; 1885-6, J. Grieve; 1887-8, S. Loney; 1889-90, Alex. Stewart; 1891, Jas. Hunter; 1892-4, Michael McCormick; 1895-1901, Joseph Gibson; 1902, Wm. J. Dowd.

*Collectors.*—1854, Uriah McFadden; 1855, John Gillespie; 1856, Samuel Watson, John Coulter; 1857, James Roe, John Legget; 1858, J. Roe, Wm. Hamilton; 1859, J. Roe; 1860, R. Struthers, J. Legget; 1861, J. Legget; 1862-3, G. Dorland, Alex. Patterson; 1864-6, S. J. Dorland; 1867-8, S. J. Dorland, S. Watson; 1869-70, S. Watson, R. Struthers; 1871, S. Watson, Wm. Moss; 1872, J. Kines; 1873, J. Watson, J. Kines; 1874-5, James Drummond; 1876, Joseph Williams; 1877-8, J. Drummond, Simeon

thus gaining a triumph over Newcastle. A double victory had been gained, one over Newcastle and another over Mr. Foley. It was determined these should be commemorated in a corporate seal. On this insignia of authority two wreathes of maple leaves spring from the lower side extending upwards, branching right and left, forming an alcove in the centre supporting a crown as a symbol of loyalty in both parties. In the centre of this alcove stands the lamb, a perpetual memorial of meekness and good-will to all men, and safe under the protecting ægis of British power.

The term "Wallace Lamb" really originated at an election in the adjoining County of Wellington, between Mr. Chas. Clark, the Reform candidate, and Mr. Gowan, Conservative. Mr. T. R. Ferguson, M.P. for Simcoe, was a relative of Mr. Gowan, and assisted at the contest. On the evening of the first day's polling it was rumoured that the Reformers had recourse to intimidation, preventing Mr. Gowan's friends from voting. A large number of Wallace people were from Simcoe, and to them Mr. Ferguson applied for support, and the clans were aroused. From a letter written by Mr. Jas. Robinson, of Crandell, Manitoba, who was an actor in the scene, we subjoin an extract as indicating what was not uncommon in old times at election contests:—"Early on the morning of the second day the men of Wallace were there in great numbers, marshalled by T. R. Ferguson, when whiskey ran galore and riot ran high. Every man was armed with a good stout stick, and no surrender was the word. The opposing forces soon came together, and hostilities began, continuing with varying success for both parties. In the melee Mr. Ferguson could be heard far above the din calling to his friends, 'Be quiet, my dear lambs; be quiet, my sweet lambs.' It was on this occasion, and at the riots in Hustonville where they were dubbed lambs. Had they been called lions the name would have been more appropriate." At the close of an election it often happened that the evolution of phrenological development had been rapid, varied, and abundant. Many an old settler who had gone to exercise his franchise, with a head as smooth as a turnip, returned with his cranial organism so corrugated in outline as would have been a very symposium for investigation to Combe or Fowler.

artistic effect on their goods. These instruments are sent to South Africa, Britain, France, Germany, Spain, and to every section of our own country. Under the management of President J. W. Scott and Vice-President Lieut.-Col. D. D. Campbell, with J. C. McDowell as executive officer, this enterprise has been a success.

The Listowel Furniture Company was organized in 1900. A fine brick building, which is being largely extended, has been erected to accommodate this institution. The principal promoters of this factory were Messrs. Kay, Wahl, McDuff, Fleming, and Andrew Forsch, who is president. From 50 to 75 hands are employed in this industry, and goods sent to every corner of the world, almost. Bedroom suites, sideboards, bookcases, chiffoniers, all of high-class manufacture, are special lines. A considerable amount of skilled labour is also employed in producing these goods, which commands liberal compensation.

Perhaps the oldest establishment in Listowel next to Mr. Hay's mills is a tannery, originated by Messrs. Towner and John Campbell in 1867. This industry in 1891 became the property of the Breithaupt Leather Company, and is now managed by Mr. Charles Anderson. In this establishment are employed from 20 to 30 hands, where the weekly output of goods is large and still increasing.

An infant establishment in this progressive town is the Bent Chair Factory, which began operations in 1902. A splendid building has also been erected to accommodate this business, now managed by a board of directors—John Watson, president. It is gratifying to know that a constantly increasing demand for goods of this class in our new territories has made this factory a success, and given employment to from 40 to 50 hands.

In 1882 Bamford Bros. opened an establishment as contractors and builders. Planing mills were erected, equipped with modern machinery. This business has expanded as other manufactories increased, and employs now from 12 to 15 men.

In the manufacture of agricultural implements Gilles & Martin employ over 50 men. This is comparatively an old-established business, re-organized about 1894 under its present management, having now a large trade.

A modern innovation in our educational system was introduced into this city during 1891 by establishing kindergarten schools. Since the first one was opened in that year two others have been added. These schools are presided over by three female teachers, with Mrs. L. Irvine as principal, who maintains a general supervision over the whole, and are kept open from 9 to 12 o'clock only. Pupils are admitted between the ages of four and seven years, and to those who delight in associating with children these little people, of whom there are about 140 in attendance, form a very interesting study. They are not taught to read—modelling, drawing, weaving, sewing, songs, games, and other exercises occupying their attention. In our tender years the faculty of imitation is singularly active, and that distinctive trend of thought, found to a greater or lesser degree in all by its early manifestations in any of these departments, would likely be roused to activity, thus rendering those studies an important factor in development. These schools are maintained by a general rate levied on the city. This really interesting work, first promoted by Messrs. J. Russell Stuart, principal of the public schools, W. J. Ferguson, and John Welsh, has been productive of good results, and is quite in accord with public sentiment.

Further remarks on our school system will be found in a chapter relating to public schools.

On September 11, 1849, was issued the first newspaper printed in Perth County. This was known as the *Perth County News*, and published by Mr. Thomas Rowland. It may be proper to state here that Mr. Robert McLagan, who assisted on that great occasion, is still a resident of Stratford, and the oldest printer, perhaps, in Western Ontario. For this notice of the press in Stratford I am greatly indebted to a pamphlet published by Mr. McLagan a short time ago in relation to this important subject. Mr. Rowland's paper seems to have survived only for a short time, and was supplanted by the *Examiner*, which also appears to have been somewhat ephemeral. The *Beacon*, now the oldest paper in Perth County, was first published on December 29th, 1854, by Mr. Peter Eby, a citizen of Berlin. Mr. William Mowat

men, therefore, who brave all circumstances and press manfully forward will find opportunities near their pathways in every direction. In this company he had a prominent place. A want of high education made him careful in his calculations, and so he became exact. An honest desire to overcome and advance his worldly circumstances gave strength to his character, and men will always lean on an oak rather than a willow. These qualities are eminently distinguished in this man, and to them, and not to external influences, he owes his position.

Mr. William Davidson, present county clerk, was born in Monaghan, Ireland, in September, 1833. His education was such as could then be obtained in that country, which, he says, comprised the three Rs., and doubtless a fourth branch might be added—a close acquaintance with the “tawse.” In this department of our old country system at that period a close companionship with this pedagogic appliance was considered a very effective means of communicating information. Of course a young aspirant after knowledge was not consulted regarding this part of his tuition, and frequent admonitions, even by the subject of this sketch, were not likely undeserved. In this seminary Master Keenan was all powerful, for good or evil. The seats were pieces of rock, and writing desks were simply a piece of board laid across the pupil's arm. Of these educational advantages he availed himself only for one year.

In 1845 his father, the late Abraham Davidson, emigrated to Canada, accompanied by his wife and six children, of whom William was second oldest. After a long voyage of nearly seven weeks they arrived in Toronto on June 9th. His father at once came on to Fullarton, settling on lot 14, concession 7, then a wilderness. Young Davidson remained in Toronto township with his uncle, who was engaged in teaching. They kept bachelors' hall, William the younger being cook. Here, for about twelve months, he resumed his acquaintance with his books, not much progress being made, his culinary duties no doubt being of so varied and interesting a character as to prevent a great acquisition of book learning. During 1846, in his thirteenth year, he rejoined