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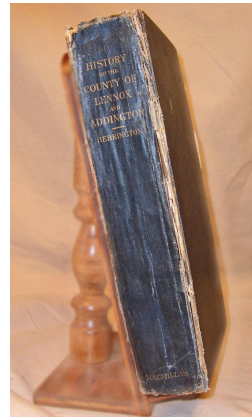
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History of the County of Lennox and Addington - 1913

by Walter S. Herrington, K.C.

CA0169

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ABOUT THIS CD.

Here is another of the great turn of the (19th) century county histories of Ontario. The author, Walter S. Herrington, K.C., already the author of at least three books about Canadian development, begins his history at the beginning, with a discussion of the First Nations people's use of the area and of the earliest "white" exploration by Champlain.

This area we now call the County of Lennox and Addington seems to have been little inhabited until it was decided to use it to "house" a good number the incoming United Empire Loyalists, the first of whom arrived in 1784 before the government's land survey teams had finished laying out the concessions which made up "the first five townships."

The influx of such a large number of settlers all at once led to a rapid development of the area's infrastructure, commercial, social and political. This in its turn led to the keeping of records right from the beginning although the author does lament the number of these records which were lost or destroyed before he went looking for them in the early 1900's. Despite these missing records this book is a mine of detail, including mentions of so many of the early families appearing in records as diverse as Town Council minutes and merchant's account books.

Having made a thorough expose of the areas initial inhabitation the author goes on to devote individual chapters to local government, Commerce, Schools, Recreation, Banks, Churches and Newspapers... Similarly, he discusses the main centers of population in individual chapters in proportion to their importance to the counties development.

Finally, and arguably most important, the author devotes the last 72 pages of the book to biographical sketches of, "... men who have filled the important public offices within the gift of the people of Lennox and Addington...." He should have said "men and their families" however and this shouldn't be taken to mean that the "ordinary" citizens do not get mentioned. Although not formally identified as "biographies," in the course of giving this history, the author frequently identifies the key "players," and where he could he provides any personal information he had to hand. As a result there is personal information on hundreds more early citizens than would be apparent from reading the biographies section alone.

If your family has UEL connections or has origins in the Lennox Addington County area you are going to want a copy of this book it is a fund of good information and well illustrated with over 80 images, many of early settlers and their property, taken from early portraits and photographs.

As so frequently happens, this book has lost one of its illustration pages during it's 90 odd years of existence. It is the picture of the 1905 Napanee Football team which should face p417. As usual we will be searching for it and when we locate it we will put it on our site for downloading. In the meantime the book does not lose any value by the lack of this single, isolated, page.

Although the author has provided an extensive index our searchability features offer a more reliable method of finding any mention of individuals and places, and with the FastFind enhancement, searching for the results is virtually instantaneous.

HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF LENNOX
AND ADDINGTON

BY
WALTER S. HERRINGTON, K.C.,

AUTHOR OF "HEROINES OF CANADIAN HISTORY," "MARTYRS OF NEW
FRANCE," "THE EVOLUTION OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES."

ILLUSTRATED WITH EIGHTY-THREE HALF-TONES, TAKEN
FROM DAGUERREOTYPES AND PHOTOGRAPHS



TORONTO
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED
1913

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PREFACE

Had I not consented to undertake the task of writing a history of Lennox and Addington, before I began to look about me for material, I would probably not have given that consent quite so readily. Those only who have attempted a work of this character can appreciate the difficulties that lie in the way of the amateur historian. Many hours of fruitless research may often be spent in an effort to fix a date or to ascertain a name, and very frequently what appears to be reliable authority may upon closer examination be found to be far astray in the information so confidently communicated. All the depositories appeared to be empty, many of the old residents had recently departed this life, and such records as could be found were very incomplete. Old minute books which had served their original purpose have been destroyed or are still concealed among the rubbish of some unknown attic. If municipal clerks and secretaries of public bodies had only been taught to preserve all the books and documents appertaining to their office the work of the historian would be greatly lightened. Yet with the assistance of many willing helpers I have endeavoured to unearth all the available data that I considered within the scope of my inquiry.

To Mr. Clarence M. Warner, President of the Lennox and Addington Historical Society, I desire especially to acknowledge my gratitude for his never failing courtesy in placing at my disposal his own well selected library and the files of the Society. He has directed my attention to many items that otherwise would have escaped my notice. I received many valuable suggestions from Prof. W. L. Grant of Queen's University. I am also deeply indebted to the gentlemen whose papers are reproduced in this volume, namely: Mr. E. R. Checkley, Geo. Anson Aylesworth, Paul Stein, and J. P. Lochhead. The following have also cheerfully rendered all the assistance in their power:—Robert Cox, A. C. Warner, C. R. Jones, P. F. Carscallen, P. W. Dafoe, Daniel Davern, Dr. H. S. Northmore, Ira Hudgins, Jno. A. Timmerman, T. S. Henry, Alfred Knight, Jno. M. Wallace, Jno. T. Grange, Abraham E. Loucks, Isaac Lockwood, E. O. Clark, Miss Helen Merrill, James S. Cartwright, K.C., and Rev. James Cumberland. In short, on every hand where I have sought for information I have found an eagerness to help. But for such encouragement I would long ago have felt disposed to abandon the undertaking. My thanks are due to the Hon-

ourable the Minister of Education for his kind permission to use the extracts from the Documentary History of Education in Upper Canada which appear in the chapter upon the early schools. I have also consulted and obtained much useful information from the following works:—*Picturesque Canada, Nothing But Names, Centennial of Canadian Methodism, The Settlement of Upper Canada, The Makers of Canada, the Ontario Bureau of Archives Reports, The Loyalists of America and Their Times, The Medical Profession In Upper Canada, The Emigrant's Guide to Upper Canada, the Statutes of Upper Canada, A Compendious History of the Rise and Progress of the Methodist Church*, the files of the *Napanee Standard* and the *Napanee Beaver*, and many other authorities dealing with the early history of the Province.

Doubtless many readers will think that some important events have been but lightly touched upon, and some may venture the criticism that undue prominence has been given to others. In reply to the former I may say that I have endeavoured to make the most of the material at my command, and I would remind the latter that it is very difficult to measure the importance of preserving some apparently trifling bit of history. Above everything else I have aimed at accuracy, and while many errors may have crept in unobserved, I feel confident that the general statements of facts are upon the whole correct.

I have been singularly fortunate in securing photographs of many of the county's most celebrated men. Some of these are copies from daguerreotypes, and others from faded photographs which are not in suitable condition for reproduction; but I feel that it is better to preserve imperfect likenesses of such men as Samuel Casey and Peter Perry than allow the opportunity to pass and lose all knowledge of their personal appearance.

W. S. HERRINGTON

Napanee, Ont., July 1st, 1913.

our hunters, who had been constantly gaining upon me until they had reached their inclosure. In trying to catch up with them, going, as it seemed to me, straight to where the inclosure was, I lost my way in the forest—going now one way, now another—without being able to see where I was. As night was coming on I passed it at the foot of a large tree.

“The next day I set out and walked until three o’clock in the afternoon, when I found a little stagnant pond and seeing some geese there I killed three or four birds. Tired and worn out I prepared to rest and cook these birds, from which I made a good meal. My repast over, I thought to myself what I ought to do, praying God to aid me in my misfortune: for during three days there was nothing but rain mingled with snow.

“Committing all to His mercy, I took courage more than before, going hither and thither all day without catching a glimpse of any footprint or trail, except those of wild beasts, of which I generally saw a good number: and so I passed the night without any consolation. At dawn of the next day, after having a scant meal, I resolved to find some brook and follow it, judging that it must needs empty into the river on whose banks our hunters were. This resolution once made I put it through with such success that at noon I found myself on the shores of a small lake about a league and a half long, where I killed some game which helped me very much; and I still had eight or ten charges of powder. Walking along the bank of this lake to see where it discharges, I found a rather large brook, which I followed until five o’clock in the afternoon when I heard a great noise. Listening I could not discover what it was until I heard the noise more distinctly, and then I concluded that it was a waterfall in the river that I was looking for. Going nearer I saw an opening, and when I had reached it, I found myself in a very large, spacious meadow where there were a great many wild animals. And looking on my right, I saw the river wide and big. Wishing to examine this place, and walking in the meadow I found myself in a little path where the savages carry their canoes. When I had examined this place well, I recognized that it was the same river, and that I had been that way. Well pleased at this, I supped on the little that I had and lay down for the night. When morning came and I had studied the place where I was, I inferred from certain mountains that are on the border of that river that I was not mistaken and that our hunters must be higher up than I by four or five good leagues, which I covered at my leisure, going along the bank of this river till I caught sight of the smoke of our hunters. I reached this place, greatly to their happiness as well as to my own.”

“The Usual Programme of Common School Teaching in those days:

1. Opening prayer by the teacher.
2. Reading the Bible.
3. Shorter Catechism questions.
4. The teacher making and mending quill pens, while the scholars were busily occupied with their lessons, most of them writing.
5. The Junior Class reading and spelling.
6. Reading the New Testament.
7. Class in English Reader.
8. Class in English Grammar; the text-books being Lennie or Murray.
9. Mayor’s Spelling Book.
10. Arithmetic, the text-books being Daboll or Gray.

“The method of teaching in pioneer days was exceedingly mechanical. The pupil was taught to parse a word, not by studying its relation to other words, but simply by committing to memory a list of ‘prepositions,’ ‘adverbs,’ ‘interjections,’ etcetera. He knew that a certain word was a preposition, because he had committed to memory a list of prepositions, in which that word occurred; and so on with the other parts of speech. The list of prepositions was of course very long, and was a terror to young Grammarians. It was arranged alphabetically: first the prepositions beginning with ‘A’: about, above, according to, across, after, against, along, amidst, among, amongst, around, at, athwart. Then came the ‘B’ words: bating, before, behind, below, beneath, between, betwixt, beyond, by, and so on with the ‘C’s.’

“The list of adverbs was not arranged alphabetically, but proceeded in this fashion: so, no, not, yea, yes, too, well, up, very, forth, how, why, for, now, etcetera.

“After this the interjections claimed their right to be memorized; but oh! oh! I forbear. We used to think the long dagger-like mark after each one of them was put there to indicate some murderous design.

“The ‘tawse’ was a great institution in those days. It was thought that the knowledge that could not be crammed into the memory or reasoned into the head could be whipped into the fingers or the backbone. Pupils, girls as well as boys, were flogged for being late, although some of them came two miles through the woods, climbing over logs, and often wading through streams, to get to school. They were flogged for whispering in school, or for making pictures on the slate, or not

A century ago Bath was the military centre of the county where the volunteers from the other townships used to meet for training; and during the war of 1812 the township contributed the following officers for the defence of our county: Lieutenant-Colonel James Parrott, Captains Joshua Booth, C. Fralick, Norris Brisco, Peter Daly, Robert Clark, and Sheldon Hawley; Lieutenants Davis Hambly, Henry Day, John Richards, Daniel Fraser, Robert Worlet; and Ensigns Isaac Fraser, David Lockwood, Daniel Simmons, Abraham Amey, Solomon John, and John Thorp, Senior.

While the present inhabitants of this township are largely prohibitionists their forefathers were evidently not so inclined, as the first brewery and distillery in Upper Canada was built by John Finkle not far from Bath; and to afford the public an opportunity of sampling his products his brother Henry kept for many years the only tavern between Kingston and York.

The Kingston *Gazette* of April 19th, 1817, announced "A Pearl and Pot Barley Factory is to be established in Ernesttown. It is said this is the first establishment of the kind we recollect to have heard of in Upper Canada. We have seen some of the barley and think it equal to that imported. Such domestic manufactories ought to be encouraged by the community." As Gourlay writing of the same year states that there was a barley hulling mill in Ernesttown we conjecture that both writers referred to the same establishment.

During the first twenty years of the settlement of this county nearly all of the buildings were constructed of squared logs, which could be shaped for the walls quite easily by the aid of the cross-cut saw and the adze. They were substantial and durable, cool in summer, and warm in winter. Lumber was not used for the simple reason that there were no means of producing it except with the whip-saw, to operate which required such exertion that lumber was used only for the manufacture of furniture, vehicles, doors, and other articles where it was impracticable to use the heavier material. With the introduction of saw-mills towards the close of the eighteenth century lumber became more common; but the log-house still found favour with the inhabitants. The saw-mills, as a rule, were furnished with a vertical saw, and the power was obtained from the old-fashioned undershot wheel, although in some instances that were favourable for its erection the overshot wheel was used.

One of the most widely known men in the county was Henry Finkle of Bath. He was a son of Dr. George Finkle (or Finckel), a Prussian by birth, who came to America between 1740 and 1750, and engaged in

About twenty-five years ago, when paying a flying visit to the town during a general election, and engrossed as he must have been with so many calls upon his time, with that characteristic thoughtfulness which he possessed in such a remarkable degree, Sir John did not forget his old Clarkville friends; but found time to call upon the Widow Henry, whose dwelling was only a few rods from the store in which he had served fifty years before. Upon that occasion he remarked that he was familiar with every stone in the foundation of the old building which is still standing and is the first house on the north side of the street east of the Agricultural Grounds. The ordinary citizen of Napanee would indignantly scoff at the idea of there being a log house in our town, yet if he would strip the clap-boards off the house just across from the old Ramsay store he would find that there is at least one, and this one built only sixty years ago.

Mr. Thomas S. Henry was among the first pupils of the new Clarkville school. About the same time John Newton taught in the school on the other side of the river; later he was succeeded by the late Dr. Grange. As a lad Mr. Henry went to a circus, the tent of which was pitched on the west side of East street near where the residence of Mr. F. W. Smith now stands, and remembers seeing the elephants led away to the woods,—the present site of the court-house and jail.

The first Academy in Napanee was built in 1846 on the lot north of the Western Methodist Church, and the first head-master was the Rev. J. A. Devine, M.A. One of the most popular masters of the Academy was Robert Phillips, who began his career as a school teacher at Asselstine's Factory, Ernesttown, in 1842, and afterwards taught in the Public School and High School at Bath until 1855, when he accepted the head-mastership of the Academy. The trustees at that time were Dr. Carey, father of the Venerable Archdeacon Carey of Kingston, John Benson, John Stevenson, James Blakeley, John Gibbard, and Allan Templeton. The Academy was then used both as a High School and Public School, there being twenty pupils in the former department and forty in the latter. There were several private schools in the town which also accommodated a large number of pupils. Under the new head-master the school improved; and the attendance increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to provide more accommodation. Another building was erected south of the Academy, and for a time it was used exclusively for the High School pupils and the other building was given over for the use of the Public School.

This arrangement did not prove very satisfactory; so in 1864 the Board decided to erect a brick building on Bridge Street to accommodate

CHAPTER XX

SHEFFIELD AND THE NORTHERN TOWNSHIPS

The Township of Sheffield was named after John Baker Holroyd, Lord Sheffield (1734-1821), an Irish peer, greatly interested in the North American trade and in the Colonial Empire of Great Britain.

Accompanied by Mr. P. F. Carscallen, one of the veterans of the township of Sheffield, the writer strolled through the streets of Tamworth loitering here and there at a corner, and from his guide gathered the following information concerning that interesting village.

Calvin Wheeler was the first white man of any consequence to settle in the township of Sheffield. He owned four hundred acres of land lying east of Main Street. If we cross the river over the wooden bridge we find to our left a knoll, and over the top of it we observe a depression—that depression was a continuation of the road along the east bank of the river which no longer goes over the knoll but turns at right angles and proceeds eastwards. Taking our stand upon this knoll we command a view of several points of interest. Looking northerly between the banks of the stream about a quarter of a mile distant, standing in the hollow is the residence of Mr. James Donovan. Upon that spot stood the first house built in the township of Sheffield, a log cabin, the forest home of Calvin Wheeler. At the edge of the bank near by he built a saw-mill and threw a small dam across the river and, on a small scale for a few years carried on a lumbering business, until he conceived the idea of moving farther down stream. He next constructed a dam just below and a little to the right of the knoll, about forty feet north of the cement dam recently built by Mr. A. B. Carscallen. At the western end of the dam he erected a saw-mill, and on the eastern bank about a hundred feet farther down stream a grist-mill. We can see where the knoll has been pared away to make room for the foundation of the shed that stood in front of the grist-mill.

The old road that passed over the knoll and along the eastern bank of the river to the first mill was abandoned, the old bridge up near the site of the Donovan homestead was neglected and subsequently washed away, and a new bridge built where the wooden one now stands. In the olden days the only public highway leading to the front by the western route was out by the road now passing the Presbyterian manse, on

else appears to know; but the fact remains that he was elected year after year until the custom became a fixed rule, and if any one presumed to bring forward any other name it would be resented as an uncalled-for innovation.

IRA HAM,

Warden of Lennox and Addington, 1873

John Ham, the ancestor from whom all the Hams of Lennox and Addington are descended, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War and took part in several important engagements. It is related of him that at one time when in the firing line of the British forces he was struck by a bullet from the rebel army, which lodged in the calf of his leg. He limped away to the improvised field hospital and assisted the surgeon to remove it, and picking up the blood-stained missile he wiped it dry, and as a special favour requested a comrade to return it to the enemy in the same manner in which it had been forwarded to him. He settled in the township of Ernesttown, where he raised a family of ten children, eight of whom were sons, all of whom lived and died in Canada.

Such was the U. E. L. grandfather of Ira Ham, a farmer in the township of Fredericksburgh, who inherited some of the characteristics of his grandfather, especially that of saying precisely what he meant. He was a "plain, blunt man" accustomed to speak his mind freely upon all subjects; but fortunately he was optimistic in his views and of a jolly disposition, and rarely felt disposed to make any disagreeable or offensive remarks. If he had occasion to comment severely upon any event or concerning any individual, he never sought a dark corner in which to express his views nor waited until the back of the individual he was about to criticise was turned, but spoke it frankly and freely in broad daylight to his face. He rather enjoyed a scramble in municipal politics, took a defeat with as good grace as he accepted a victory, and was never known to grieve over the result of an election. In his native township he was respected as a kindly neighbour and a man of many good parts, not anxious to thrust himself forward, but prepared to accept his share of the burden of public service. He was warden in the year 1873, and ten years later died at his home in his native township.

JOHN DAVID HAM,

Warden of Lennox and Addington, 1866 and 1886

John D. Ham was a grandson of the U. E. L. pioneer John Ham, and a cousin of Ira Ham, the subject of the previous notice. Mr. Ham



THE NAPANEE BICYCLE CLUB, 1886.

Back row—Left to right. Dr. G. C. T. Ward. Wm. E. Foster. A. N. Sweetman. A. R. Boyes.
Wm. C. Smith. W. J. Trimble. W. J. Normile. Archie Clark.

Front row—Left to right. Fred Roe, Wilkie Pringle. Wm. Thompson. Fred McGuin.



THE STAFF. THE NAPANEE STANDARD, 1878.

Back row—Left to right. George Burnip. Charles Ham. Guy Baker. William Davis.
James Baker. Edward Root. F. R. Yokum. James Gallagher.

Front row—Left to right. Elliot Vanalstine. Charles Allison. Sandy Melville.

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