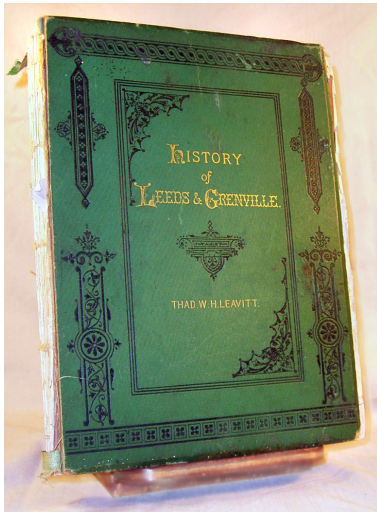


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# History of Leeds & Grenville, Ontario from 1749 to 1879

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HISTORY  
OF  
LEEDS AND GRENVILLE  
ONTARIO,

FROM 1749 TO 1879,

WITH  
ILLUSTRATIONS AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES  
OF

SOME OF ITS PROMINENT MEN AND PIONEERS.

---

By THAD. W. H. LEAVITT.

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1879.

ILLUSTRATED BY E. A. TURNER.  
RECORDER PRESS, BROCKVILLE.  
LITHOGRAPHS BY DAVIDSON, WHELAN & YOUNGER.

# INTRODUCTORY.

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The Author is deeply sensible of the demerits of the present volume, which has been compiled amid the pressing demands made by the editorial charge of a daily newspaper. Great difficulty has been experienced in securing information concerning the early settlement of the respective Municipalities, owing to the absence, in most cases, of official data. To avoid the use of explanatory foot notes and references to authorities, quotation marks have been employed, and the works consulted generally acknowledged.

A large amount of space has been devoted to Biographical Sketches; yet in this department the list is far from being complete, owing to various causes, the chief of which has been lack of co-operation upon the part of those most deeply interested.

The utility and benefit of a County History rests primarily upon the facts which are collated for the use of the general historian: the Author therefore ventures to hope that the HISTORY OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE will be productive of a more complete knowledge of the settlement, growth, and development of the United Counties.

THAD. W. H. LEAVITT.

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## PRINCIPAL WORKS CONSULTED.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
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| <i>Brockville Monitor.</i>                               | Old Files of Newspapers.                        |
| <i>Brockville Gazette.</i>                               | "Canadian Monthly."                             |
| "Parliamentary Companion."                               | "Colonel Coffin's Chronicle of the War of 1812. |
| "Case and His Cotemporaries."                            | Toronto <i>Globe</i> .                          |
| "Smith's History of Canada."                             | "Hogan's Essay on Canada."                      |
| „ McMullen's History of Canada."                         | "Documentary History of New York."              |
| "Hough's History of St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties." | "Life and Times of W. L. Mackenzie."            |
| "Evertt's History of St. Lawrence County."               | "Gazetteer of New York."                        |
| "Settlement of Upper Canada," by Dr. Caniff.             | "Census of Canada."                             |
| "Tackaberry's Atlas."                                    | "History of Methodism," by Playter.             |
| "The Irish in America," by Maguire.                      | "Parkman."                                      |
| "The Irishman in Canada," by N. F. Davin.                | "Tuttle's History of the Dominion."             |
|  | "Gourlay's Reports."                            |

# CONTENTS.

## PORTRAITS.

	PAGE
Davies, John C .....	89
Davies, Mrs. J. C .....	89
Davies, Dr. ....	89
Johnston, Robert .....	89
Johnston, Mrs. Robert .....	89
Schofield, Fred .....	137
Keeler, James .....	137
Whitmarsh, E. H. ....	137
Taylor, George .....	137
Fitzsimmons, William .....	137
Brouse, Senator .....	150
Church, J. R. ....	150
Hurd, Colonel .....	150
Hurd, Mrs. Colonel .....	150
Reed, J. K. ....	150
Lucas, Rev. D. V. ....	153
Lucas, Mrs. D. V. ....	153
Chamberlain, Wyatt .....	153
Alguire, Harmonius .....	153
Alguire, Mrs. H. ....	153
Buckley, John .....	164
Jessup, H. D. ....	164
Dumbrille, John .....	164
McCrea, Hiram .....	164
Beecher, N. H. ....	164
Legge, Joshua .....	174
Britton, C. E. ....	174
Miller, Samuel .....	174
Dickey, John .....	174
Preston, Dr. ....	174
Richards, Sir William B. ....	186
Holton, Hon. L. H. ....	186
Crawford, Hon. George .....	186
Crawford, Lieutenant-Governor John .....	186
Wylie, Colonel David .....	186
Morden, Dr. J. H. ....	186
Moore, Dr. V. H. ....	186
Ferguson, Dr. Charles .....	186
Evertts, M. K. ....	186
Alguire, R. B. ....	186

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Court House, Brockville .....	5
Riverside House, Lyndhurst .....	62
St. Lawrence Central Camp Ground .....	67
Rivers' Cliff, Brockville .....	68
High School, Farmersville .....	80
County Model School .....	80
H. Alguire's Residence, Farmersville .....	80
John Wiltse's Residence, Farmersville .....	82
John Kincaid's Residence, Rear of Yonge .....	82
Carriage Factory, D. Fisher, Farmersville .....	82
Munsell R. Bates' Residence, Dickens .....	82
Farmersville Emporium, S. A. Taplin .....	82
J. G. Giles' (M. D.) Residence, Farmersville .....	82
Charles Bates' Residence, Dickens .....	82
Joseph Merriman's Residence, South Crosby .....	82
Mrs. J. DeLong's Residence, South Crosby .....	82
J. B. Saunder's Residence, South Crosby .....	82
Victoria Hall, Brockville .....	84
M. E. Church, Farmersville .....	84
Duffield's Hotel, Charlestown .....	84
George Tennant's Residence, Mallorytown .....	84
Roman Catholic Church, Westport .....	84
British Hotel, Easton's Corners .....	89
Heman McCrea's Residence, Wolford .....	89
Methodist Episcopal Church, Jasper .....	89
James Bissell's Residence, Augusta .....	94
Genealogical Tree, Burritt Family .....	96
Hiram Boker's Residence, Wolford .....	102
Augustus Coon's Residence, South Crosby .....	106
B. L. Halladay's Residence, Elgin .....	108
J. P. Purcell's Residence, South Crosby .....	108
C. L. Ripley's Residence, South Crosby .....	108
McIntosh Mills, Front of Yonge .....	112
D. D. Tennant's Residence, Yonge Front .....	112
Reuben Field's Residence, Mallorytown .....	112
Jeremiah Wiltse's Residence, Yonge Rear .....	112
Roman Catholic Church, Kitley .....	118

	PAGE
James Hunt's Hotel, Frankville .....	118
Samuel Edgar's Residence, Frankville .....	118
Chauncey Bellamy's Residence, Kitley .....	118
J. Coad's Store, Frankville .....	118
Connor House, Frankville .....	118
Dr. Preston's Residence, Newboro' .....	118
Elijah Bowser's Residence, Bastard .....	122
James Barlow's Residence, Bastard .....	122
M. E. Church, Phillipsville .....	124
Philo Hicock's Residence and Foundry, Delta .....	124
J. A. Shaver's Residence, Newboro' .....	124
John Kilborn's Residence, Newboro' .....	126
James Hazelton's Furniture Factory .....	126
Mouth of the Gananoque River .....	126
Read Waldo's Residence, near Burritt's Rapids .....	136
T. A. Kidd's Store and Residence, Burritt's Rapids .....	136
George Hutton's Residence, near Easton's Corners .....	136
John C. Davies' Residence, Easton's Corners .....	136
Newman's Seed Farm, Wolford .....	136
John Rose' Residence, Wolford .....	136
Mill and Residence, Cook Brothers, Andrews ville .....	136
M. K. Evertt's Residence, Easton's Corners .....	138
Mrs. Col. McCrea's Residence, Easton's Corners .....	138
Cyrenus Stowell's Residence, Addison .....	144
John Lane's Residence, Elizabethtown .....	146
Henry Palmer's Residence, Bastard .....	144
Coleman Lewis' Residence, Addison .....	146
Robert Earl's Residence, Elizabethtown .....	146
Moses Waldron's Residence, Bishop's Mills .....	146
John Earl's Residence, Elizabethtown .....	146
Joseph Hayes' Residence, Elizabethtown .....	146
Stephen Seaman's Residence, Bastard .....	152
John McCarthy's Residence and Brewery, Prescott .....	158
James Millar's Residence, Edwardsburg .....	164
S. N. Throop's Residence, Augusta .....	164
John Chapman's Residence, North Augusta .....	164
John B. Bellamy's Residence and Mill, North Augusta .....	164
Edward S. Thomas' Residence, Mallorytown .....	164
Daniel's Hotel, Prescott .....	170
Queen's Hotel, Prescott .....	172
Central Camp Ground Tabernacle .....	172
Revere House, Prescott .....	173
Nelson Shipman's Residence, Elizabethtown .....	173
Brophy's Hotel and McKenzie's Furniture Store, Gananoque .....	174
Leeds' Foundry, E. E. Abbott, Proprietor .....	174
Charles L. Parmenter's Residence, Gananoque .....	174
Prescott Distillery and Stock Farm of J. P. Wiser .....	174
Samuel McCammon's Residence, Gananoque .....	176
C. M. Church, Farmersville .....	177
William Johnston's Residence, Kitley .....	177
R. Brown's Drug Store, Gananoque .....	177
W. H. Fredenburgh's Residence, Westport .....	180
Declan Foley's Residence, Westport .....	180
Clark's Woolen Mill, Westport .....	180
Conley & Truelove's Factory, Westport .....	180
W. H. Comstock's Residence, Brockville .....	187
Flood's Hotel, Delta .....	192
George Hough's Residence, Augusta .....	192
John S. Leggett's Residence, Brockville .....	192
Central Block, Brockville .....	192
Starr, Gill & Co.'s Biscuit and Confectionery Factory, Brockville .....	192
Battle of the Windmill .....	194
Robert Johnston's Residence, Augusta .....	194
Isaiah Wright's Residence, Augusta .....	194
Priest's Residence and St. Francis Xavier Church, Brockville .....	196
J. W. Hough's Residence, Fairfield .....	198

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

Alguire Family .....	80
Alguire, Harmonius .....	81
Aylsworth, Dr. ....	157
Abbott, E. E. ....	175
Atkinson, Dr. ....	176
Brouse Family .....	76
Brouse Senator .....	76
Bates Family .....	82
Britton, B. M. ....	97
Bissell Family .....	95
Bissell, James .....	95
Burritt Family .....	97

	PAGE		PAGE
Brophy, D.	175	Glassford Family	100
Brown, R.	176	Holmes, Richard	103
Booth Family	176	Holden Family	106
Buell Family	181	Halladay, B. L.	108
Brouse, Dr. J. E.	183	Hourigan, James	113
Buell, J. D.	147	Hunt, James	119
Buckley, Dr.	151	Hendry, Dr.	149
Bigg, W. R.	156	Hough, George	164
Bellamy Family	164	Hutton Family	165
Bellamy, John B.	164	Hutton, George	165
Burritt, Daniel H.	166	Hicock, Philo.	123
Beecher, N. H.	119	Hazelton, James	126
Bellamy, Chauncey	119	Hurd, Col. Stephen	135
Bowser, Elijah	123	Hayes Family	146
Barlow, James	123	Hayes, Joseph	146
Brough, W.	132	Holton, Hon. L. H.	187
Bradley, J. A.	139	Hough, J. W.	198
Barnes, John	101	Haley Family	200
Buker, Hiram	103	Irvine, James C.	112
Buckley, John	172	Jones, Dr. J. W.	151
Brooke, T. M.	195	Johns Family	165
Coleman Family	100	Jessup Family	167
Chamberlain, Dr. A. A.	101	Jones, W. H.	183
Chamberlain, Dr. T. F.	101	Johnston, Dr.	183
Chamberlain, Rev. Wyatt	102	Jackson, Dr.	183
Coon, Augustus	107	Jones Family (Branch)	183
Connor Family	119	Jones, Sir Daniel	184
Connor, Samuel	119	Jones, Dunham	92
Chipman Family	123	Judson Family	93
Chipman, Ami	124	Jones Family (Branch)	98
Colton, R. P.	132	Johnston, William	116
Cook, Benjamin	138	Johnston, Robert	197
Cook, Thomas	138	Keefe, Samuel	195
Comstock, W. H.	187	Kincaid, John	199
Crawford, Lieutenant-Governor John	195	Ketchum, John	101
Chaffey, Benjamin	200	Koyl Family	101
Cornell, Dr. C. M. B.	198	Kelly, Michael	105
Cole Family	144	Keeler Family	109
Clow Family	144	Keeler, James	109
Cole, Wilmot H.	145	Kilborn, John	68
Chipman, Dr.	151	Kincaid Family	75
Coad Family	159	Kincaid, John	82
Coad, Joseph	159	Kelly, Dr.	152
Chapman, John	164	Kidd, T. A.	136
Clark, Joel	180	Lemon, Neal	102
Cooke, R. P.	182	Longley Family	75
Collins Family	89-97	Loverin, Norris	178
Church, J. R.	91	Lothrop, F. L.	183
Cummings, Rev. Dr.	95	Lucas, Rev. D. V.	152
Davies Family	89	Lucas, Mrs. D. V.	152
Davies, John C.	89	Laishley, Henry	154
Davies, Dr.	89	Lane, Dr.	157
Devitt, Thomas	90	Legge, Family	128
Davis, Mrs. Mary E.	91	Legge, Joshua, Jr.	128
Denaut, W. H.	153	Legge, Charles	128
Dumbrille, John	165	Larue, Billa	141
Dunham, William Morgan	200	Lane, John H.	144
Deacon, Joseph	183	Lewis Family	146
Dickey, Rev. John	198	Lewis, Coleman	146
Dunham Family	106	Moore, Dr. V. H.	185
Delong Family	108	Mordon, Dr. J. H.	187
Delong, Mrs. Maria L.	108	Miller, John C.	198
Dickey, John	113	McMullen, John	195
Evertts, M. K.	138	McCrea, Hiram	117
Earl, John	143	McDonald, Family	127
Earl Family	147	McDonald, Hon. John	127
Earl, Robert	148	McDonald, H. S.	132
Easton, Dr.	151	Merrick, Henry	138
Easton, S. S.	89	Manhard Family	143
Edgar, Samuel	119	McBratney, Stafford	143
Fisher, Duncan	82	McCrary Family	145
Fraser Family	105	McLean, Dr.	151
Flood, James	113	McMillan, Dr.	151
Fields, Reuben	113	Merrick, Dr.	152
French, Benjamin	169	McCarthy Family	158
Fraleigh, Dr.	176	McCrea Family	166
Fredenburgh, W. H.	180	Mirwin, Justice S.	169
Ferguson, William	182	McKenzie, W.	175
Fitzsimmons, William	146	McCammon, Samuel	176
Ferguson, Charles	138	Merrick, Dr.	176
Fulford Family	143	Morris, Hon. James	184
Foley, Declan	180	McCrea Family	90
Fraser, Hon. C. F.	185	McCrea, Heman	90
Ferguson, William	199	McCrea, Colonel	90
Gerald, Ashael	169	McLean, John	102
Gascoigne, Dr.	183	Merriman, Joseph	108
Garvey Family	99	Miller, James	110
		Miller, Samuel	114

	PAGE
Newman, George.....	137
Norton, Hiram.....	148
Neddo, John.....	106
Olds Family.....	101
Parker, Dr.....	151
Perry, Dr.....	157
Preston, Dr. R. H.....	125
Parmenter Family.....	175
Parmenter, C. L.....	175
Pardee, A. B.....	99
Purcell, J. P.....	108
Purvis, George.....	114
Pennock Family.....	94
Purvis, Family.....	98
Putnam Family.....	90
Palmer, Henry.....	197
Pardee, Hon. T. B.....	198
Potter, S. C.....	200
Parish Family.....	115
Robinson, Jeremiah.....	90
Rathwell, Andrew.....	90
Rose, John.....	90
Rorison Family.....	105
Ripley Family.....	108
Ripley, C. L.....	108
Read Family.....	154
Reynolds, James.....	182
Richards, A. E.....	182
Reynolds, E. J.....	182
Reid Family.....	136
Reid, J. K.....	136
Riddell, William.....	149
Richards, Sir William B.....	186
Richards, Lieutenant-Governor A. N.....	186
Shaver, J. A.....	125
Struthers Family.....	148
Seaman Family.....	153
Seaman, Stephen.....	153
Shook, Adam.....	154
Shipman Family.....	144
Shipman, Nelson.....	144
Stowell Family.....	144
Stowell, Cyrenius.....	144
Snyder, Solomon.....	169
Scott, Hon. R. W.....	170
Sherwood, Adiel.....	18
Stuart, Rev. Dr.....	28
Schofield, James.....	61
Sliter, Hiel.....	61
Sherwood Family.....	72
Saunders, J. B.....	83
Schofield, Fred.....	195
Throop, B. N.....	198
Taplin, S. A.....	83
Tett, Benjamin.....	106
Tennant Family.....	112
Tennant, George.....	112
Tennant, David.....	112
Thompson, James.....	166
Thomas, Edward S.....	148
Vanormm Family.....	165
Vaux, Dr.....	183
Wright, A. A.....	148
Wylie, Colonel D.....	149
Williams, Dr.....	151
Weir Dr.....	152
Walsh, Major.....	156
Wood Family.....	157
Waldo Family.....	136
Waldron, Moses.....	137
Whitmarsh, E. H.....	137
Webster, William A.....	139
White B.....	169
Wood, John F.....	182
Wright Family.....	103
Wright, Asahel.....	104
Wells Family.....	73
Weeks, Edward F.....	115
Wiltse Family.....	81
Wiltse, Captain Joseph.....	81
Wiltse, John.....	82
Wickwire Family.....	90
Weatherhead Family.....	72

## GENERAL INDEX.

	PAGE
Algonquins.....	3
Amherst.....	8
Arnold, Benedict.....	17
Acts by Imperial Parliament.....	10
Anderson, Joseph.....	15
Adams, Samuel.....	38
Assessment of Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne.....	63
Avery, William.....	114
Augusta, Township Officers of.....	161
Agricultural Society, First County.....	200
Brown, Rev. William.....	25
Burritt, Colonel Stephen.....	15
Bani, Point au.....	8
Boat, Durham.....	12
Boats, Schenectady.....	12
Burgoyne's Defeat.....	14
Lockville, Capture of.....	35
Battle of Windmill.....	45
Bastard, First Settlers of.....	122
Bastard, How Nam'd.....	125
Burritt's Rapids.....	135
Bishops Mills, First Settlers of.....	136
Bass, Dr.....	160
Brockville, Early History of.....	188-196
Brock Lodge, I. O. O. F.....	193
Brockville Central Block.....	193
Beacock & Co.....	193
Best, Charles.....	193
Brockville, Founded.....	181
Cartier.....	5
Cataraqui.....	5
Champlain.....	5
Charlevoix.....	6
Chimney Island.....	8
Chippewa Creek.....	8
Creek, French.....	8
Canada.....	9
Cataraqui.....	9
Canada, Upper and Lower.....	10
Champlain.....	12
Coate, Samuel.....	26
Church of England.....	28
Church, Lutheran.....	28
Church, St Peter's.....	29
Church, R. C.....	28
Child, First Born North of the Rideau.....	31
Child, First Born in Leeds.....	31
Cemetery, Brockville.....	32
Causeway, near Farmersville.....	3
Canoe, Bark.....	12
Corps, Roger's.....	15
Corps, Jessup's.....	18
Court, First.....	21
Church, Methodist.....	24
Class Meeting, First in Augusta.....	25
Conference, Methodist, at Lyn.....	27
Combustion, Spontaneous.....	32
Cole, Peter, Carrying Mails.....	53
Council, District.....	54
Councillors, Members of First District.....	54
Courts of Request.....	58
Churches of Lansdowne.....	62
Camp Ground, St. Lawrence Central.....	67
Cliff, River's.....	67
Church, Roman Catholic, at Westport.....	85
Court, First held in Wolford.....	89
Church, Roman Catholic, at Cardinal.....	111
Church, Roman Catholic, Kitley.....	118
Churches of Prescott.....	170
Crosby, North, Officers of, in 1831.....	179
Connolly & Truelove's Factory.....	180
Clark's Woolen Mill.....	180
Church, Canada Methodist, Brockville.....	194
Church, Trinity, Brockville.....	194
Church, Baptist, Brockville.....	194
Church, Methodist Episcopal, Brockville.....	194
Church, St. Francis Xavier, Brockville.....	194
Church, St. John's (Presbyterian), Brockville.....	195
Church, St. James, Kemptville.....	199
Church, Presbyterian, Kemptville.....	199
Church, Roman Catholic, Kemptville.....	199
Church of England in Augusta.....	200
De Bearre.....	7
Dorchester.....	10
Duncan.....	12
Dunham, Darius.....	24
Don Lorenzo.....	25

	PAGE
District of Johnstown, Population.....	11
Divisions, First of Province.....	63
Division, St. Lawrence.....	65
Dargavel, Robert.....	107
Edwardsburg.....	8
Early Explorations.....	11
Elizabethtown, First Settlers of.....	178
Fraser, Thomas.....	39
Ferguson, Joseph.....	17
Farmersville, Schools of.....	80
Flint, Cynthia.....	158
Gananoqui.....	8
Gananoque, Indian Name.....	6
Gananoque, Capture of.....	39
Gowan, Ogle R.....	43
Grenville, Townships.....	11
Gower, South.....	76
Gower, Settlers Previous to 1812.....	77
Griffin, C. G.....	193
Grant, Ensign James.....	77
Ghost Story.....	88
Gananoque, Early Settlement of.....	126
Gourlay's Reports.....	11-129
Gananoque, Census of 1849.....	131
Grenville, First Settlement of.....	167
Gananoque, Industries of.....	174
Hurons.....	3
Hochelega.....	9
Hesse.....	10
Holmes, Ninian.....	27
Holmes, Richard.....	38
Holland, Major.....	17
Hastings, George W.....	179
Halladay, Noah.....	179
Iroquois.....	4
Isle Royal.....	8
Isle au Gallop.....	9
Isle au Rapid Plat.....	9
Isle Lower Long Saut.....	9
Indian Supremacy.....	11
Island, Barnhart's.....	8
Island, Baxter's.....	8
Island, Cornwall.....	9
Iron, Made in Leeds.....	61
Islands, Thousand.....	65
Inscriptions on Monuments in Farmersville Cemetery.....	79
Johnstown District.....	10
Johnston, Sir William.....	11
Jones' Creek.....	11
Jesuits Among the Indians.....	5
Jones, David.....	15
Jones, Jonathan.....	15
Jones, John.....	15
Johnston, Bill.....	51
Keeler, James.....	7
Keeler, Sylvanus.....	25
Kilborn, John, Account of War.....	34
Kilborn, John, Reminiscences of.....	68
Kemptville, First Settler.....	136
Le Cavan.....	5
Lallemant.....	5
La Galette.....	6
Lake, Black.....	8
Lake Champlain.....	8
Lunenburg.....	10
Leeds County, Townships and Population.....	11
Longley Estate.....	11
Loyalists.....	13
Laws.....	21
Lemon, Major.....	40
Land Grants to Soldiers.....	16-17
Laws, Early.....	21
Lake, Charleston.....	84
Larrimer, Verne Francis.....	109
Lombardy.....	115
Land Board, Organized.....	127
Landon, Oliver.....	139
La Rue, Billa.....	141
Lead Mine at Fermoy.....	179
Leggett's Carriage Works.....	194
Mona.....	9
Mecklenburg.....	10
McCrea, Jane.....	15
McDonald, Donald.....	15
Methodists.....	24
McDonald, Charles.....	39
Mound at Spencerville and Augusta.....	1
Maitland Founded.....	8

	PAGE
McNab, Allan.....	15
McCrea, Story by Thomas.....	70
Merrickville, Locks at.....	136
Manhard, S.....	193
McDougall, E.....	193
Missionaries, Roman Catholic.....	5
Marriages, First.....	31
Methodist Churches, Early.....	26
Magistrates, Courts of Request.....	59
Morris, Hon. William.....	65
Morris, Hon. James.....	65
Mallory, Daniel.....	112
Mormons, Life Among.....	124
Mill, McDold's, Gananoque.....	126
Merrill, S. B.....	171
McGlade, M.....	193
Nassau.....	10
Names, Ancient.....	22
Nichols, Elder.....	121
Newboro.....	125
Newboro, Incorporated.....	179
Ogglensburg.....	6
Oswegatchie.....	8
Ontario.....	8
Ontario, Lake.....	12
Oxford, Patents Granted to 1802.....	134
Orange Lodge, Lansdowne.....	139
Observatory of Brockville.....	185
Parish, William.....	3
Picquet.....	7
Point de Baril.....	8
Patents, Elizabethtown.....	15
Presbyterians, Early.....	27
<i>Peel, Sir Robert</i> , Burned.....	45
Provinces.....	10
Point au Pin.....	11
Pillory.....	59
Parliament, Members of, from 1792 to 1879, Leeds and Grenville.....	63
Paintings on Rocks of the St. Lawrence.....	66
Park, Thousand Island.....	67
Parish, William.....	115
Poem, by Frederick Wright.....	155
Prescott, Founded.....	167
Prescott <i>Telegraph</i> .....	171
Quakers.....	31
Relics, Canadian.....	1
Relics in Augusta.....	1
Relics in Edwardsburg.....	2
Relics in Yonge.....	3
Royal Highlanders.....	8
River, Black.....	8
River, St. Lawrence.....	8
Reed, Obediah.....	25
Reynolds, John.....	26
Rapid, Gallop.....	9
Rapid, Plat.....	9
Revenue, from 1775 to 1788.....	11
River, Racquet.....	12
Routes to Canada.....	12
Regiment, Cardigan.....	16
Reserves, Clergy.....	21
Ryan, Elder.....	26
Rebellion Losses.....	54
Ripley, Thomas.....	107
Rock, Marble.....	128
River, Gananoque.....	131
Reminiscences of 1837-38.....	163
Rangers, Jessup's.....	167
Reminiscence of Mrs. Fenton.....	199
Springs, Massena.....	9
Stuart, Rev. John.....	11
Sherwood, Thomas.....	15
Settlers, Early, of Leeds and Grenville.....	15
Summer, Hungry.....	22
Smart, Rev. William.....	27
Schofield, Dr. Peter.....	31
St. Lawrence, Discovery of.....	5
Smith's Island.....	6
Surveys of Townships.....	17
Simcoe, Arrival of Governor.....	32
Sliter, Hiel.....	31
Sessions, Quarter.....	58
Sherwood, Hon. H.....	65
Sherwood, Hon. George.....	65
Spencer, David.....	109
Soper, Timothy.....	117
Stone, Joel.....	126
Stages, First Line of.....	128

	PAGE		PAGE
Steamer, First on St. Lawrence .....	128	Township of South Gower.....	76
Shields, George .....	193	Township of Marlborough .....	133
Southworth, A. S. ....	193	Township of Montague .....	133
Starr, Gill & Company's Factory.....	194	Township of Leeds and Lansdowne Front.....	139
Tonihata .....	6-8	Township of Escott.....	140
Toronto.....	9	Treasure, Search for .....	141
Townships, Numbered . . . . .	17	The Long Ago.....	157
Temperance, First Address .....	31	Township of Augusta.....	159
Transportation, Early, of Goods .....	53	Township of North Crosby.....	179
Townships, First Government of.....	60	Tompkins, George.....	193
Tolls on Ferries.....	60	United Empire Land Grants.....	17
Township of Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne.....	61	Ventacour .....	5
Township of Rear of Yonge and Escott.....	78	Veterans of 1812.....	41
Township of South Crosby.....	107	Vannest, Rev., in Bastard .....	26
Township of Edwardsburg.....	109	Wiltse, Benoni.....	3
Township Officers, Edwardsburg, in 1813.....	111	War of 1812.....	33
Township of Yonge Front.....	112	Wooster.....	25
Township of Elmsley South.....	115	White, John.....	53
Township of Kitley .....	116	Wardens, List of.....	54
Township of Bastard.....	120	Warden's First Address.....	54
Township of Wolford .....	133	Wolford, Township of.....	86
Township of Oxford .....	133	Wellington, Fort.....	168
Township of Elizabethtown.....	142	Windmill, The.....	168



# HISTORY OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE

## Table of Chapters

(This is an addition to the original Table of Contents)

Chapter	CONTENTS	page
I.	• CANADIAN RELICS: ANCIENT INDIAN REMAINS IN AUGUSTA, EDWARDSBURG, AND REAR OF YONGE AND ESCOTT.	1
II.	• THE INDIANS TRIBES IN CANADA; ALGONQUINS; IROQUOIS; HURON VILLAGE.	3
III.	• THE DISCOVERY OF CANADA; CARTIER; CHAMPLAIN.	5
IV.	• RESULTS OF THE CAPITULATION; FORMATION OF DISTRICTS.	10
V.	• THE JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT; EARLY EXPLORATIONS; GOURLAY'S REPORTS.	11
VI.	• THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS.	13
VII.	• THE SETTLEMENT OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE; EARLY SURVEYS; LAND GRANTS; CLERGY RESERVES; • MEMOIR OF ADIEL SHERWOOD • SLAVES IN LEEDS COUNTY.	16
VIII.	• CLERGY RESERVES; LAND GRANTS • LAWS: JUDGE DUNCAN; A SEVERE SENTENCE • ANCIENT NAMES • THE HUNGRY SUMMER; A STRANGE FUNERAL; CHURCH BUILDING.	21
IX.	• EARLY CHURCHES	24
X.	• MISCELLANEOUS.	31
XI.	• THE WAR OF 1812 • INCIDENTS.	33
XII.	• VETERANS OF 1812-15	40
XIII.	• THE RISE OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, AND THE REBELLION OF 1837.	42
XIV.	• THE PAST AND THE PRESENT,	52
XV.	• REBELLION LOSSES ; ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICT AND COUNTIES' COUNCILS; LIST OF WARDENS; FIRST WARDEN'S ADDRESS.	54
XVI.	• QUARTER SESSIONS • COURT OF REQUEST; EXTRACTS.	58
XVII.	• THE REAR OF LEEDS AND LANSDOWNE.	61
XVIII.	• ANCIENT DIVISIONS; MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.	63
XIX.	• THE ST. LAWRENCE AND THE THOUSAND ISLANDS.	65
XX.	• BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH BY JOHN KILBORN, OF NEWBORO', AND OTHER RESIDENTS.	68
XXI.	• SOUTH GOWER.	76

**HISTORY OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE**  
**Table of Chapters**  
(This is an addition to the original Table of Contents)

Chapter	CONTENTS	page
XXII.	• REAR OF YONGE AND ESCOTT.	78
XXIII.	• ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN WESTPORT; ITS EARLY HISTORY AND PROGRESS.	85
XXIV.	• WOLFORD.	86
XXV.	• BIOGRAPHICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.	92
XXVI.	• SOUTH CROSBY.	107
XXVII.	• EDWARDSBURG	109
XXVIII.	• YONGE FRONT.	112
XXIX.	• SOUTH ELMSLEY.	115
XXX.	• KITLEY.	116
XXXI.	• BASTARD.	120
XXXII.	• NEWBORO.	125
XXXIII.	• GANANOQUE.	126
XXXIV.	• WOLFORD • OXFORD • MARLBOROUGH AND • MONTAGUE.	133
XXXV.	• LEEDS AND LANSDOWNE FRONT.	139
XXXVI.	• ESCOTT.	140
XXXVII.	• ELIZABETHTOWN.	142
XXXVIII.	• MISCELLANEOUS AND BIOGRAPHICAL.	148
XXXIX.	• AUGUSTA.	159
XL.	• MISCELLANEOUS.	165
XLI.	• FIRST SETTLEMENT OF GRENVILLE & PRESCOTT.	167
XLII.	• GANANOQUE INDUSTRIES.	174
XLIII.	• NORTH CROSBY.	179
XLIV.	• BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, • BROCKVILLE.	181
XLV.	• MISCELLANEOUS	197.

# HISTORY OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE.

BY THAD. W. H. LEAVITT.

## CHAPTER I.

### CANADIAN RELICS—ANCIENT INDIAN REMAINS IN AUGUSTA, EDWARDSBURG, AND REAR OF YONGE AND ESCOTT.

THE present age is pre-eminently characterized by a spirit of investigation and research, and in no department is this spirit more apparent than in that of History. To lift the veil which shrouds the misty past, and bring to light the facts connected with the birth and infant days of a nation, is a task possessing peculiar charms, not only to the antiquarian who traces the footsteps well worn by time, but also to those who love the legendary tales of long ago. Canada is rich in pre-historic mounds, in scattered relics, in memorable adventures, in pioneer struggles, but, above all, in the half-forgotten and never-recorded sufferings, privations, and heroism of the "King's Men," known as United Empire Loyalists. The history of an empire is but the combined history of its provinces; the history of its provinces the epitome of its several counties and townships. Proof is not wanting that Ontario was at one time the home of a race similar in civilization to the tribes inhabiting Peru, Central America, and Mexico, and who left behind them architectural and other remains, which the aborigines were unable to explain to their conquerors, the Spaniards. The higher types of ruined temples and other edifices were found in the low latitudes, while the ruder monuments of New Mexico were succeeded by the rock sculptures eastward of the Alleghanies, the mounds, embankments, and ditches stretching along the valley of the Mississippi and northward into Canada. These remains have been variously ascribed to Tartar, Hebrew, and Celtic origins, and also to a supposed migration of Aztecs from some undefined northern region, or from Kamtschaka, beyond Behring's Straits. Of the origin of such specimens of aboriginal art, the

Indians could furnish not the slightest explanation, though they possessed dim legends relating to a superior race, which occupied the fertile portions of the country long ago, and had been extirpated in a great war. The earthworks were undoubtedly of a defensive character, generally consisting of an embankment and exterior ditch, of varying dimensions, with approaches artfully concealed. When not erected so as to enclose springs, provision was made for artificial reservoirs for holding water in case of a seige.

In July, 1854, W. E. Guest, Esq., made a visit to the mound in the vicinity of Spencerville, in the County of Grenville, furnishing a report for the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, said report being subsequently published, and from which we quote :

"Hundreds and thousands of years before the white man's foot had pressed the soil of the New World, there lived and flourished a race of men who called this continent their home. Had they a written history, what deeds of chivalry might we not peruse! What tales of forest! Alas! for their glory, their ardor, and their pride!—

' They have all passed away,  
That noble race and brave,  
Their light canoes have vanished  
From off the crested wave.  
\* \* \* \* But  
Their name is on your waters,  
You may not wash it out.'

"One of the principal mounds in Canada is situated in the Township of Augusta, about eight and a-half miles north-west of Prescott, on a farm formerly occupied by Mr. Tarp. The work is almost eighty rods in length, its greatest width twenty rods. The westerly part has a half-moon embankment extending some ten rods across a neck of land, terminating to the north in a swamp, and to the south-west near the edge of a creek. It has three openings, which are from twenty to twenty-five feet wide. Upon this embankment there is a

Were the regulation in force at the present time, we fear the present genial gaolor would soon be worn down to a skeleton.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE REAR OF LEEDS AND LANSDOWNE.

THIS Township was originally settled by lumbermen, who were attracted to that quarter by the large quantity of pine and other valuable timber, found in close proximity to the stream whose outlet is the Gananoque River. At an early date, spars and masts of great value were cut and taken to Gananoque, where the firm of C. & J. McDonald had established a market.

The erection of an iron furnace at Furnace Falls gave an impetus to the settlement, which was subsequently increased by the erection of flouring and lumber mills at the same place. The completion of the Rideau Canal, touching the municipality at Seeley's Bay, laid the foundation of agricultural prosperity, by furnishing an outlet for produce, and, at the same time, enhancing the value of lumber, by opening, through Kingston, the American market.

In 1816, the Rev. William Smart furnished the following report, in answer to a series of questions addressed to the several townships of the Province :

LEEDS.

Settled in 1786 (Front Part.) Land selling at \$2 per acre. The iron works in a state of ruin.

The following list contains all the patents granted in Leeds, up to the 31st Dec., 1802 :—

TOWNSHIP OF LEEDS.

Cont.	Lot.	Name of Grantee.	Part of Lot.	Acres.	Date of Patent.
1	2	Christopher Foryea }	E 1-2	}	April 14th, 1798
	3		W 1-2		Aug. 10th, 1801
	3	Godfrey Leod.....	E 1-2	161	Mar. 26th, 1798
	4	William Dugan.....	W 1-2	100	April 21st, 1797
	7	Robert Macauley.....	All	290	Dec. 31st, 1798
	8	William Sheriff.....	W 1-2	148	Dec. 31st, 1798
	8	Joel Stone.....	E 1-2	200	June 30th, 1801
	9	Sir John Johnson.....	Pt		May 17th, 1802
	10	Sir John Johnson.....	Pt		May 17th, 1802
	11	Sir John Johnson.....	Pt		May 17th, 1802
	12	Sir John Johnson.....	Pt		May 17th, 1802
	13	Sir John Johnson.....	Pt		May 17th, 1802
14-15		Sir John Johnson.....	All		May 17th, 1802
	16	Neil McMullan.....	All		May 17th, 1802
	19	Joel Stone.....	Ft	200	June 30th, 1801
2	4	William Dugan.....	W 1-2	100	April 21st, 1797
	7	Robert Macauley.....	All	200	Dec. 31st, 1798
	8	Sir John Johnson.....	S 1-2		May 17th, 1802
	10	Sir John Johnson.....	S 1-2		May 17th, 1802
	17	David Reet.....	All	200	May 24th, 1798
	20	John Leahy.....	W 1-2	100	May 17th, 1802
3	3	Mary Cline.....	All	200	Dec. 1st, 1797
	13	Patrick McDonald.....	All	200	April 6th, 1797
	15	John Hall.....	All	200	Mar. 23rd, 1798
	17	Jacob Farrand.....	All	200	May 17th, 1802
	22	Michael Cook.....	W 1-2	100	May 17th, 1802
6	23	Abel Fulford.....	All	200	Dec. 1st, 1802

BIOGRAPHICAL.

DOCTOR JAMES SCHOFIELD.

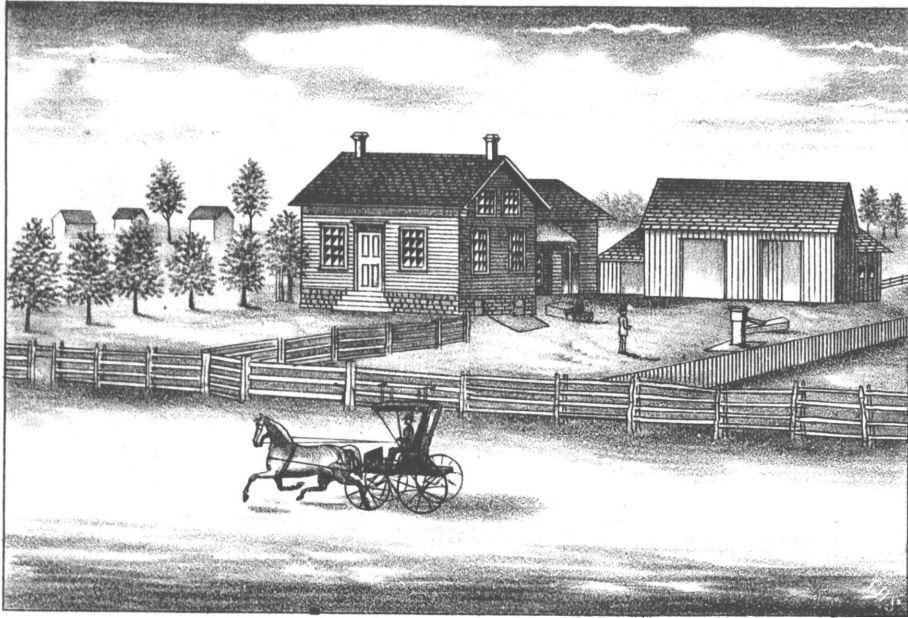
Doctor James Schofield, born in Connecticut, U.S., (father of the late Major Ira Schofield, James Schofield, Esq., and Doctor Peter Schofield), came into Canada with his son, Ira Schofield, in 1795, and immediately built an iron forge at Furnace Falls, where he manufactured the first iron made in Upper Canada.

When the war of 1812 broke out, Captain Ira Schofield was at once called out with his company and stationed at Gananoque, and afterwards at Prescott. His father, Doctor James Schofield, served in the force as a physician and surgeon ; James Schofield being at the same time employed in the Commissary Department at Cornwall.

Doctor Peter Schofield came to Canada in the year 1800, remaining a few years, and returning to New York, where he became a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of that State. When the war of 1812 broke out, he was appointed a surgeon in the U. S. army. At the close of the war he removed to the County of Leeds, where he settled and remained until his death in May, 1860. He was appointed Justice of the Peace and a member of the Commissioner's Court. In June, 1828, he called a public meeting and delivered an address upon Temperance at the close of the lecture organizing a Temperance Society (the first in the Dominion of Canada.)

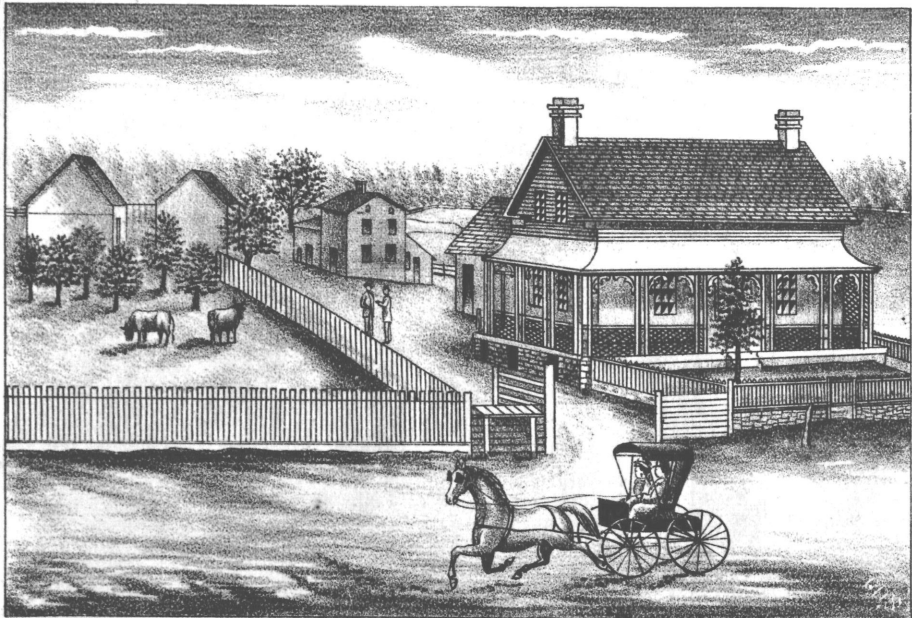
RECOLLECTIONS OF HIEL SLITER, ESQ.

Mr. Sliter was born in the State of Vermont, on the 13th of January, 1795, in the County of Rutland. In 1801, his father left his family in Vermont and visited Upper Canada, in consequence of the proclamation of Governor Simcoe, which contained an offer of a free grant of 200 acres to each United Empire Loyalist. Returning to Vermont, he obtained a yolk of oxen, built a large sleigh, upon which were placed his family and household effects, and with this conveyance started for Canada. The trip occupied nearly five weeks. When Mr. Sliter settled in the Rear of Leeds, the nearest store was kept by Daniel Jones, where Brockville now stands. The place was known at that time as Snarlingtown. Mr. Jones had a small store and also a mill. In answer to the question, "How did you live?" Mr. Sliter says "This is easier to ask than to answer." When we had 'no tea,' we procured a substitute in wintergreen sage, or burned corn coffee. One of our greatest difficulties was the grinding of the corn. We were compelled to construct a mill similar to that described in the memoir of Sheriff Sherwood.



Davidson, Whelan & Younger Lith. Montreal.

RESIDENCE OF CHARLES BATES, NEAR DICKENS.

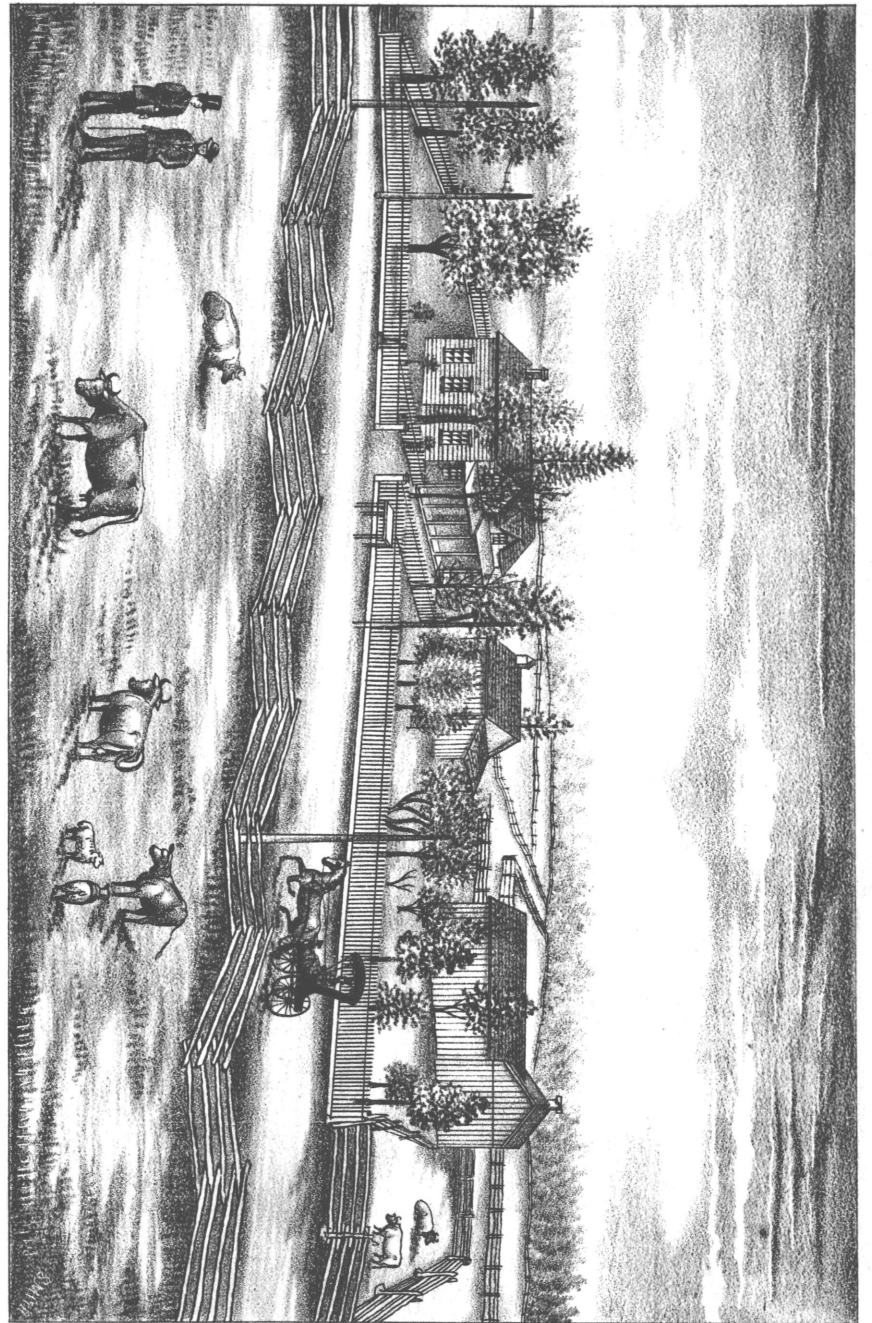


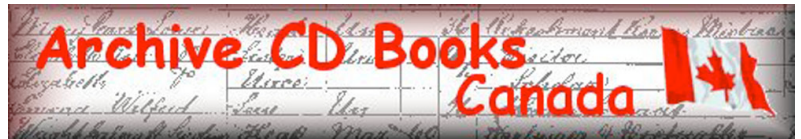
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RESIDENCE OF JOSEPH MERRIMAN, NEAR ELGIN.

RESIDENCE OF J. G. GILES, M. D. NEAR FARMERSVILLE.

Davidson, Whelan & Younger Lith. Montreal.





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