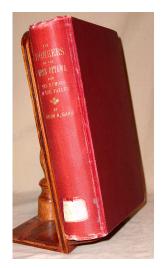


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Pioneers of the Upper Ottawa

and The Humors of the Valley (South Hull and Aylmer Edition - 1906) **CA0189**



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PIONEERS OF THE UPPER OTTAWA

AND

THE HUMORS OF THE VALLEY

SOUTH HULL AND AYLMER EDITION

BY

ANSON A. GARD

AUTHOR OF

THE YANKEE IN QUEBEC; UNCLE SAM IN QUEBEC; THE WANDERING YANKEE; HOW TO SEE MONTREAL; THE NEW CANADA;

THE HUB AND THE SPOKES; MY FRIEND BILL;

ETC., ETC.

THE EMERSON PRESS
OTTAWA, CANADA

INTRODUCTION.

"You are doing what we should have done twenty years ago, before the old pioneers were gone." This was said by one of the most noted men of the Valley. At the time he spoke, I did not know how truly he spoke. When I began to hunt out the data of the early days, I was met by the oft repeated: "If you had only been here before grandfather died! Why, he could have told you just what you want to know!" With "Grandfather" dead, it has been a tedious task, but then the descendants of "Granpa" have been so delightful that time has not seemed long, and when I have finished and gone to another country, I am sure that my mind will ever return to these "Children of the Pioneers," for they have been kind to me.

I do not give this work as perfect—I was not here "twenty years ago," and have had to glean from their memories (some of which have proved little short of marvellous) and so have done what I could to preserve the records for succeeding generations. I do not give it as a perfect work, since in some instances, my only source of information was memories which were not marvellous, and as no written records had been kept, in these instances, I have been compelled to rely upon the best obtainable. As many will know, I have spared neither time nor effort in my search.

That many errors will have been recorded I do not doubt, but the errors are the reason of each family being more careful in the keeping of their family data. I have recorded as the facts have been given me. In subsequent editions, if subsequent editions there be, I shall be greatly pleased to correct anything not correct herein. Do not find fault—any one can do that, if not a thing else—but send corrections, if you would have accuracy to go down to the future.

I cannot pass without paying a just tribute to the memories of many a one who has helped me in this work, whose work on

earth is done. No one can realize how fast the old are going, unless that one has come in contact with them as I have. I began my search, now (July, 1906) almost a year ago. Since that time the following dear old people—who gave me kindly information—have all gone to their reward: Mrs. John Nesbitt, Joseph Neill, George Simmons, Samuel Benedict, N. E. Cormier, Thomas Symmes and Alex. Lavigne, while many others of whom I have written have passed over to the great majority.

The growth and changes of a community are so marked that even during the printing of a book, after the manuscript has been handed to the printer, one would need to follow the edition with an immediate other to be up-to-date.

Aylmer has—since the "end"—a long needed drug store, "The White," and another tailor, Wm. Fitzsimmons, and some new factories in sight. The name of Aylmer's fourth lawyer, Hector Chauvin, was missed in the setting up.

On page 85, Part III, I predicted that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, "supported by all who have at heart the good of the Nation," would do a certain thing. The vote has since passed—passed between the printing and the binding of this book—and the work will soon begin, and the rest of the prediction will come true.

PART I.

SOUTH HULL.

THE HULL OF 'EM.

"Rube, can you get the run of things political here in the Township of Hull?" asked the Colonel, one day when first we started in to solve the municipal mysteries of the Township.

"Not vet, Colonel, not vet. Every time we come over we

find a new Municipality."

This ran on for several months, but finally (I guess it is "Finally," but will not give it as a statement to be bet on, as a large wager) we found that there are: Hull City, in the southeast corner; Aylmer, near the south-west corner; East Hull, in the north-west corner, around Cantley; West Hull, about Chelsea; and South Hull, almost any old place between. Of course there is no particular need of all this subdividing of a small Township, or at least we thought there was no need. We thought that there was no need, until we met the politicians of Hull, and then the wonder was how that they could all find places with only five municipalities to officer. And again the wonder was how that at election time they could find enough lay citizens to do the voting to make it legal. We have

TIM CAMPBELL AND THE CONSTITUTION.

since been led to think of Tim Campbell's comment on the Constitution. Some one once asked Tim: "Tim, old man, is that constitutional? Is it legal?"

"To Hull with the constitution! What's the constitution among friends!"

At the time Tim said that I didn't know that he knew his geography well enough to know that there was such a place as Hull. I know I didn't at that date. But now I see that he not only knew this Township, but he must have known that here small things don't bother the politicians, and the rest of the people are so few that they don't count anyhow. Yes, there was a whole lot more in Tim's head than we used to give him credit for. Poor old Tim is dead, but I find that his philosophy still lives on here in Hull——Township.

I might be wrong in speaking of these good people as politicians. You must remember, dear reader (I say "dear reader," so that we can get up close and have a real confidential chat about things political) that there are nearly as many kinds of politics

great aid in furnishing dates of things old and forgotten by the present generation.

This farm extends to the west to the Edey road, to the right. Going back on the south side to Frank Grimes' place, the old Joseph Lebel farm begins. It has been subdivided into a number of holdings. The first 25 acres belongs to A. Scoby, and is now occupied by Mrs. Hamilton McVeigh of Eardley; the next 75 acres, running to the river, is the property of James Rivington, late of Hintonburg. (It was in Joseph Lebel's house where was held the first Catholic service in this locality). This brings us to the road leading down to the Fraser Mills. There is a one-acre lot with a house just at the corner of this road. It is the home of, and owned by, Mrs. Joseph Lompré.

THE RITCHIE BROTHERS' FARM.

Beginning at the Fraser road, mentioned just above, and running to the Aylmer line, which begins at the little toll-gate, you may see, to the left—south side—what is possibly the finest farm on the whole distance from Hull to Aylmer. It was once owned by John Egan, who had it brought up to a high state of cultivation. It was entered by Joseph Wyman. It is now the property of the Ritchie Brothers, Robert and Thomas, successful lumberers, with large limits up the river and mills in Aylmer. Just now they are finishing one of the finest houses on the road. It stands far down toward the Electric Line.

The little house at the corner of the Edey road, is the home of Joseph Dawza, one of the oldest men along the way. He came in 1857, and has resided here ever since. He tells with much animation of "The morning the Prince passed along on his way to Aylmer."

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CEMETERY

comes next, to the right. It contains fifteen acres and has been laid out with much care. It was purchased in 1872. There are many fine monuments to be seen, on which are names of more than local interest. Here is buried John Foran, the father of the poet, J. K. Foran and the well known Attorney, Thomas P. Foran. The monument to the memory of the mother of the two Members of Parliament, Charles and E. B. Devlin—is here. The old postmaster, John R. Woods, who for 64 years gave out the mail at Aylmer, and Hull City's Postmaster, J. Kerr, both lie buried in St. Paul's. Another prominent character, J. Murphy, the Village Jailer, father of the well known Captain Murphy, was buried here. As we go about we read the familiar names of Glenn, O'Connor, Haldane, Rainboth, McDermott, Quirk, Bourgeau, Mullarky, and many more of whom we have heard while hunting out the records of the town.

PART II.



- A. S. WOODBURN.
- CHURCH P. WRIGHT.
- JOSEPH NEILL.
- CAPTAIN AMBROISE GOULET.
 WM. A. STANGER, ALL-ROUND ATHLETE OF THE GATINEAU VALLEY.

4. A. E. BEAUDRY.

6. SIMON HILL.

- 9. SAMUEL BENEDICT.
- 10. R. A. MILLIONS, EDITOR AYLMER REVIEW.

ing second to none in the Dominion was an Aylmer boy. I might go on and point to that young Aylmer Member of Parliament in London, who fears not to meet on the forum the old and trained statesmen of the Empire, but I need not do so. The few must instance the many, as the "few" would be the "many" of thousands of towns far larger than Aylmer.

I speak thus of the town of which I am writing, that those who know not of Aylmer may see the why of my enthusiasm.

ORIGIN.

In 1816 a young man of eighteen years of age looked upon the situation here presented, and said, "Here will I build me a home." That young man was Charles Symmes. He not only built for himself a home, but founded the home of many another, as he was "the Father of Aylmer."

In 1832, when the "Lady Colbourne," the first steamer, began running between here and the head of the Lake, at Chats Falls, the place at once reached the dignity of a name and was called

"SYMMES' LANDING."

It later was given the name of a popular Governor-General, and ever since has been Aylmer; and as may be seen above it has ever been an honor both to its founder and to Lord Aylmer, for whom it was named.

When all the traffic of the upper Ottawa passed by boats alone, this was a busy centre, since all boats started from here owing,—as I have elsewhere said, for the benefit of those who do not know—to the fact that the Rapids between here and Hull City prevent navigation further down the river than Aylmer.

The many hotels were always crowded by those coming by stage from Ottawa and Hull to take the boat or on their return

from a winter in the woods.

"GROUND RENT PLAN."

At first Symmes leased his lots on the "Ground Rent" plan. It is said that he was the most lenient of landlords and seldom pressed his tenants, and would take in payment work on other parts of his farm. He must have been most exemplary and kind, as there is naught but good said of him.

A CENTRE OF GREAT LUMBERERS.

In the old days Aylmer had some of the greatest lumbermen in all Canada. Here and near by lived the pioneers of the lumber industry of the Ottawa.

It begins to look as though Aylmer will again be the lumber centre it was in the middle of the past century. With the Ritchie Brothers' mill in the town and that of the Fraser Brothers near by, things are very prosperous. The result is seen on all

"THE BLACK HOLE."

Aylmer was not always the law-abiding, peaceful town along the Ottawa. In ye olde dayse a "hot time" was not an unusual condition, especially so at elections, and as they often lasted a whole week the "times" were often "hot" for fair. The questions then seem to have been far more serious to the people than they are now. The Colonel says they were "burning questions." He might have referred to them as differences, as to those questions. But that's all past and peace and harmony now reign at elections, as well as throughout the rest of the year.

In the adjustment of the questions of the day the adjusters were not at all particular as to the means used in the adjusting, and by night the "lock-up" was often quite crowded. There being but one room in "the Black Hole" (as the boys used to call it from its lack of windows), there must have been quite an assortment of chaos and other things by the time the door was opened. This building remodelled, is now a comfortable dwelling-house, having been used as jail, printing-office, law office, etc., etc.

Not only at election time was "The Black Hole" called into use. Aylmer being on the line of the Shanty and Rivermen, on their way up and down, used to stop long enough to let the citizens know that they were in town, and the citizens in turn would entertain them for a day or two in this "Hostlery." Now the Chief of Police might go fishing a month at a time if it were not for his having to attend to his chief of policing, tax-collecting, street commissionering, looking after the health and Poo-bahing the town in general. It is indeed well that "The Black Hole" has gone out of commission, else Elie might be kept busy.

The thrilling stories one might collect of those old days, would fill a number of entertaining volumes.

AYLMER DIRECTORY OF 1851.

In 1851 John Lovell of Montreal issued a directory in which I find the following about Aylmer and its business people.

The village was started in 1830 by Charles Symmes. It was incorporated in 1847. In this (1851) year it had 1,000 inhabitants—many times the size of Hull.

Doctors—Brock Carter and Peter Church. Rev. Mr. Hughes, Catholic priest, and Rev. J. C. Johnston, Anglican Church, looked after the spiritual interests of the village.

PART III.

militia. There were Robert H. Conroy, Thomas Moore, Duncan Dewar, Richard Hawkins, J. C. Smith, Nicholas Anninger, A. B. Wylie, Narcisse Durin, Wm. McConnell.

REMINISCENCES OF THE OLD OTTAWAN.

Seeing an old Ottawan in the party of smokers, I asked: "Here, don't you know something about the Aylmer of long ago?"

"Yes, I know enough to fill a book, about Aylmer and the valley all the way up the river. I know enough if I could only recall the things. It is so long ago that I used first to come out

here that I have nearly lost count of the years.

"Havn't heard any of you speak of the time Aylmer was a Court town. Ah, those were the good old days when we had interesting times. I mind a number of the old lawyers. There was the firm of Colman, Wright (McKay) and Lawler. Poor Colman, the leader of the bar, went to a dinner one night and died very suddenly shortly after. He must be buried up in the old Catholic cemetery. I was up there this afternoon, but I could find not so much as a board to mark the grave of this once prominent man. There was John Delisle, who married Miss Maudsley, the Egan's governess. T. J. Walsh was another prominent lawyer. He was Crown Attorney and later a partner of the famous D'Arcy McGee who was shot in Ottawa in 1868. Poor D'Arcy, I knew him well-wonderfully clever, but misunderstood by the very men who wanted him out of the way.

"There was a great lawyer who used to come over from Montreal—Henry Driscoll, Q.C. His son Alfred became a prominent surveyor, here in Aylmer.

"I mind Judge C. B. Rouleau who went out to the North-West where he died. He was for a long time Superintendent of the Catholic Schools, and afterward became stipendary magistrate for the District of Ottawa.

HOW LAWLER AND CAPTAIN POWELL WHIPPED THE RAFTSMEN.

"Some of you mentioned Captain B. S. Lawler. Did you ever hear how that a lot of drunken raftsmen wavlaid him and Captain Powell, 25th Regiment, K.O.B.? Never heard it? Well, these two were once coming out from Hull in a buggy, when as they were passing Bellview cemetery, down the pike, the raftsmen stopped their horse and ordered them to get out and get out quick! They obeyed orders. They being soldiers were used to obeying orders. They were possibly better used to giving them. At any rate they got out, when they were at once set upon by the men. Some of you must remember Lawler, and if you do, I hardly need to finish my story. The two Captains had no sooner gotten out till they met that crowd blow for blow, and having been incorporated in 1859. At that time they had 14 steamers plying the Ottawa River from Aylmer to Deux Riv-These boats with their Captains were:

Aylmer to Pontiac: (better known now as the Chats Falls): Jessie Cassels, Chaudiere, Emerald, with Captains Findlay, Smith

From the Chats to Portage du Fort: The Prince Arthur, Alliance, Oregon and Snow Bird, with Captains Murphy, Toner, Hilliard and Edmunds.

From Bryson's to Chapeaux: Sir John Young, with Captain Beattie.

From Cobden to Pembroke: The Jason Gould, with Captain

Pregg.

From Pembroke to Des Joachims: The John Egan, Forest Queen and Pembroke, with Captains Duggan, Munroe and Reid.

From Tait's Landing to Rocher Captaine: The Kippawa, Captain Mulligan.

From Rocher Captaine to Deux Rivieres: The Deux Rivieres, with Captain Greene.

The Capital Stock of the Company was \$2,500.000.

Its Directors were: President, R. S. Cassels; Vice-President, C. O. Kelley. Directors: Hon. John Hamilton, Henry McKay, Gilbert Scott, Daniel Cowley, W. R. Thistle and T. H. Thompson. Secretary-Treasurer: Henry Chepmell.

FORGOTTEN MEN AND FIRMS.

The very names of men and firms whose advertisements are seen in the little book are nearly all forgotten, save by a few of the older people of Ottawa. A very few are still in business. The rest are gone, or dead. Of the names familiar, I give them here: "Birkett and Grant." This was James Birkett, brother of Thomas, who is to-day at the head of the largest hardware house in this part of Canada. He bought out the old firm. "R. W. Shepherd," then President of the Ottawa River Navigation Co. is still the genial head of that Company. "Notman Studio, Wm. I. Topley, Proprietor." That name is still to be seen over the door of the best photographic gallery in Ottawa, with the added words: "and Son." "Wm. Young, Watch Maker," tells us what the old chief of the Ottawa Fire Dept. was in 1873. "S. Rogers," is succeeded by that prince of good fellows, Colonel S. Maynard Rogers. "Holt's Express Line," gives us to know, in the ad., that if a passenger left Pembroke one morning and fooled no time away, that he might hope to reach Montreal next day, if the engines kept in good working order. This line was then run by A. M. Holt, whose family are to be found still in charge of the famous old Holt's Hotel in Aylmer.

When I showed the relic to Mr. George Orme, and he read: "J. L. Orme and Son, sole agents for all the popular pianos of the

PART IV.

GENEALOGY OF THE VALLEY.

A

Algar, Michael, formerly with Robert Conroy, came late and bought of L. M. Coutlee. He married Catherine Laughey. Children: John, m. Margaret Blake; Michael was killed by the cars in Duluth; Thomas, Ada, Kate, Bernice and Roland, unm.

Allen, John, was one of the earliest settlers. He married (1794) Lavina Wyman, a sister of Mrs. Philemon Wright. John, nr.; Christopher, m. Miss Gow; Wm., unm.; Ruggles, m. Mary, daughter of George Routliffe, in 1837; Lavina, m. Zenos Olmstead, a son of the pioneer, Gideon; Abigail, m. John Nesbitt; and Hannah, unm.

Nearly all are gone from here but the family of Ruggles, some of whom are prominent farmers along the Aylmer Road. His children: Wm., a member of the South Hull Council, married Leonore Edith, the youngest sister of David Moore, the great lumberer, with whom Mr. Allen was long connected. Douglas, m. Emma, granddaughter of Hooper Wright; Dalhousie, m. Caroline McConnell, daughter of Wm.; Hannah, m. George Bartlett; Ruggles, m. Mrs. John Cameron, nee Anna Steele; Mulvina, m. David Clark; and Alonzo, m. Minnie, daughter of Wm. Simmons.

"THE FIRST LADY OF THE LAND."

Mrs. Wyman Allen lived to be a very old lady. She was accounted the first woman to land in Hull on that bleak March day 105 years ago. In 1846 when the question arose who should christen the Emerald, the first iron steamboat on the Deschenes Lake, at Aylmer, John Egan bethought him of "Granma Allen," as she was affectionately known, and at once she was sent for, and did the honors as became "The first lady of the land," which literally she was.

Amlin, Honore, or Henry Amlen, has been in Aylmer since 1865. He married Deleor Reno, and just saved the "King's record" by one daughter, Miss Clara.

Andrews, David, came from Dorchestershire, England, to Aylmer in 1860. He married Hannah Adams. Children: Henry, m. Marjorie McVickers; Eliza, m. Delormie Edey; Louisa, m. Alex. McCallum; Wm., m. Sarah Service; Edward, m. Barbara McLean; and George, m. Elizabeth Therien.

Notes—Henry and Wm. are wealthy land owners near Brandon, Manitoba. David died in 1879, aged 53.

Arbuckle, Samuel, from Russell County, came into South Hull in 1894. He is of a pioneer family, his father having come early to Russell. He married Margaret Minions, of Eastman Springs. Children: Herbert, Percy, Jennie, Eddy, James and Margaret. He resides on the Bessey farm on the Aylmer Road.

Archibald, John C., came in 1849. He married Maria Hackett. Children: Harriat L., m. Thomas Langdon; Frederick C., m. Katherine Kennedy; Eliza L., m. Edw. Cowan; Mabel, m. Edw. P. Nye; Wm. m. Jennie Halladay; Mary E., m. Henry Connough; and Joshua, m. Anna Moran.

children were: Wm., unm.; Louisa, m. J. Campbell; Jessie, m. George McAfee; Ira, Graham, Ellen and Weldon, unm.

Rachael Reid, the one sister, married John Begley and went to the far Northwest. Children—of whose marriages I found no record—Wm., Robert, John, James and Mary A.

NOTES: All of the six are dead. The five brothers lie buried in the Aylwin Cemetery. Only James' widow, of all the wives, is yet living.

SAMUEL BINGHAM.

Samuel Bingham was born in Ottawa in 1846. He was drowned in the Gatineau River June 17th, 1905. He married Miss Helen Brannigan. They had six children—only two of them are living—Misses Helena and Carmel.

KING OF THE GATINEAU.

While not a resident of the country of which I am writing, yet there was no one who had so much to do with the beautiful river in whose raging waters he met his death. He was justly called "The King of the Gatineau, by reason of his long connection with the river. There is no citizen of the Valley whose name should be so much honored. Others have piled up fortunes far beyond the one which he left, but no one of them left so much to charities as did Samuel Bingham. While his faith was Roman Catholic, he showed his broadness and sweetness of heart by leaving bequests to Protestant and Catholic alike—no distinction, each sharing in his kindness. Just now two school buildings are being erected on the Gatineau not far from Blue Sea Lake—one for Protestant and the other for Catholic children. They will stand not far from where a number of his rivermen were drowned. These schools are to be monuments to their memory. However much he did, the very city for which he did work while living, and whose institutions he so generously remembered when he was distributing his wealth, has allowed the anniversary of his death to come and go without so much as a bare mention. Is that city unappreciative? It should build to him a monument, but instead, it has torn down his very name from the Play Ground which he did so much to make for the children, and nothing is left to mark the Park as his, which he so beautified. I have often wondered why so many men of wealth died leaving nothing to their city. I do not wonder now—the wonder would be that any other should follow the precedent of this generous character.

I would say more were it my province so to do, for knowing this noble man as I did, my heart burns to think that his memory is not more honored. And yet I cannot think that the citizens of that city would be so unappreciative. It must be that they do not give thought to the matter. Our own little world is so big that we have no place for larger and more

generous thought.

When Mrs. Bingham and her daughters were in Rome, recently, they were given audience by the Pope, who, on learning that they were widow and daughters of this generous character, was most gracious to them, presenting them with his autographed picture, and in other ways showing

his appreciation of this noble citizen.

Samuel Bingham's is another Canadian name that I have marked as worthy of more than the passing notes in a book of generalities. My final tributes may count but little to the readers of those tributes, but they will please my own heart and I shall be selfish enough to some day give them to the world, even though I be but the one reader.

ADDENDA.

As soon as you have finished writing a book, and have it all printed, ready for the binder, then it is that your friends begin telling you a lot of most valuable information which you should have included in order. They have had the information all the while, but: "I forgot to mention it." You can't blame them as 'tis a fate that no one can tell the why of its

being.

"Have you the early Militia of Hull and Templeton?" Of course I say "No, I never heard of it." "No? Well see Miss Fannie Wright, daughter of Edward V., and grand daughter of Ruggles, and she can give you all the data." I go at once, telling the printer, for the 'steenth time to, "wait an hour or two as I have just one more item." Of course he "says things," but by the time one gets to the end of one's book one is so used to hearing "things" said, that he don't mind it but takes it as a part of the game, and then goes off for the "information."

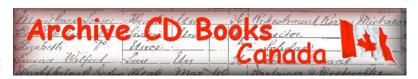
NAMES OF THE MILITIAMEN OF HULL AND TEMPLETON, IN 1821.

Here are the names of the militiamen of 1821. As early as 1808 Philemon Wright was Captain of a militia company, but then as this new company included almost all of the same names, with many additional ones of note, I shall give only the latest company.

Philemon Wright was Captain, and his son, Philemon, was Lieutenant (the latter's death is given in the roster as occurring when he was 39 years old and on November 30, 1821). John Allen was Ensign. Thomas Brigham, Christopher C.

Wright and Joshua Wyman were Sergeants.

The names of the privates were: Robert Klock, Jas. F. Taylor, Wm. Elder, Samuel K. Rollins, Charles Hurdman, John Snow, Calvin Radmore, Wm. Jones, James Dunn, Joseph Clemow, Francis Moore, Wm. Smith, H. Esterbrooke, David Heatherington, Edward Hurd, David and John Benedict, John Underhand, David Moore, Job Moore, Joseph Rice, James McConnell, Fry Holt, Wm. McConnell, George Routhy (George Routliffe?), Robert McConaghey, Wm. Cunningham, Robert Balmer, Hale Fulsom, Abram and David Olmsted, David Gardner, John and Christopher Allen, Thomas Ames, Laird Waller, Thos.



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