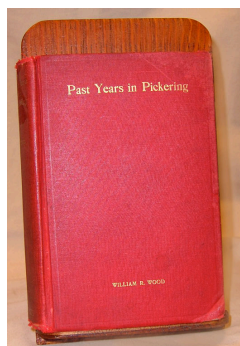




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## ABOUT THIS CD:

### The Book:

Published in 1911, this book was written by William R. Wood, the one time Presbyterian Minister of Claremont, Ontario. The Pickering we think of today is a city which exists within the urban sprawl of Greater Toronto, astride the main road between Kingston and Toronto. But the Pickering this book is actually about is the Township of Pickering, an administration of Durham County, comprised of several communities and rural districts just one of which originated as the village of Pickering.

The numerous changes in boundaries and administrative responsibility in the area make it difficult to name all the various locations which have been influenced by Pickering Township over the years, but the following list is our attempt at the task, taken mainly from places mentioned in the book: Balsam, Brock, Brougham, Cherrywood, Claremont, Dunbarton, Duffin's Creek, Eldon, Frenchman's Bay, Glen-sharred, Green River, Greenwood, Jackson, Kinsale, Liverpool, Mariposa, Mount Pleasant, Pickering, Rosebank, Rougemount, Rouge River, Salem, Whitevale.

In addition there are frequent references in the book to the adjacent centers of Whitby, Markham, Mississauga, Scarborough, & Stouffville

The Rev. William has provided us with, as he puts it, "a series of sketches," taking for their subjects various aspects of life and development of the Township. These sketches are filled with references to inhabitants and families who played a role in the settling and development although for a more in-depth examination of the inhabitants we turn to his last chapter which occupies fully one third of the book and provides the biographies of hundreds of local people and, frequently, their families.

The more "historical" chapters deal with some of the aspects of life important to the inhabitants such as religion, agriculture, politics and industry. There is even a chapter titled, "Pickering at Play." Other themes which may be of particular interest are the establishment of the Quaker settlement and of Pickering college, use of the Rouge River mouth as a shipping centre, and the influence the busy Kingston - Toronto road had on the area.

# Past Years in Pickering

SKETCHES OF THE HISTORY  
OF THE COMMUNITY

BY

WILLIAM R. WOOD

Presbyterian Minister, Claremont, Ont.

Toronto

WILLIAM BRIGGS

1911

## PREFACE

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ONTARIO, that once was "Canada West," is becoming in more senses than one "Old Ontario." Not a few of its settlements have passed and many more are nearing a hundred years of life. The life of the past century in every Ontario community is worth recording, and if it is to be adequately written it must be done before the participants in its experiences have all passed away.

This book is an attempt to do that task for the Township of Pickering. It does not profess to be a formal history. It is a series of sketches written with little endeavor after literary distinction, aiming to present in a simple way some true conception of the more important phases of the township's life.

No apology is made for the task being undertaken by one not born within the bounds of the township. Had some one of Pickering's sons undertaken it—and she has many who could have done the work well—I should have rejoiced, and gladly taken what place I might among his assistants. But none volunteered and the hour of the century's close was about to strike,—and I have made what attempt I could.

It is to be recognized that my comparatively short residence in the township necessarily precludes my possessing that complete acquaintance with community experiences and trends of local life which are desirable

## PREFACE

for such a work. Some things of importance will be omitted. Some trifling things will appear to have undue prominence. This is to be regretted, but will be seen to have been absolutely unavoidable in the nature of the situation.

The book is not all mine. Many kind hearts and keen brains and willing pens have assisted me. Let this paragraph convey to every one who sent me post card or brief note, to every one who told me single incident or particular fact, as well as to those who drove many miles to oblige me, quizzed many old friends and relatives and wrote dozens of pages of data for my information, my sincere appreciation and gratitude. If any success attends the issue of the book, it is largely due to them.

The sketches are published in the hope that many of the people of Pickering, still living on its fair fields or following their vocation in other provinces or distant lands, will find it interesting and useful in recalling the days of their fathers, and that in many another township, before it is too late, the life of the pioneers may be studied by abler minds and recorded by readier pens than mine.

WILLIAM R. WOOD.

THE MANSE,

CLAREMONT, June 1st, 1911.

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# PAST YEARS IN PICKERING

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## CHAPTER I.

### *THE DAWN OF HISTORY.*

THE recorded history of Pickering does not extend farther back than the year 1669. For some time before that year M. Fenelon and M. Trouve, of the Sulpician Order, had been engaged in missionary labors in the Indian village of Kente (the original of the name Quinte, in what is now Prince Edward County) and had established a second outpost at Ganeraske (where Port Hope now stands). In 1669 M. Fenelon proceeded still farther westward to a third Indian village named Gandatsetiagon overlooking the waters of what is now called Frenchman's Bay or Pickering Harbor. Here he remained through the long and severe winter of 1669-1670, and through his labors and those of others succeeding him considerable progress was made in bringing the Indians of the vicinity under the power of Christianity. Seventeen years later, when the Marquis de Denonville was returning from a campaign south of the lake, he was entertained with lavish hospitality by the Christian Indians at this place.

The Indians of Gandatsetiagon were of the tribe of the Senecas, one of the famous Five Nations or Iro-

## PAST YEARS IN PICKERING

we are forced to conclude that his description is in all probability a very accurate one. The journey from York to Montreal occupied regularly four days and a half, but was very often longer. Yet it is related that Weller, the stage proprietor, on one occasion sent Lord Durham through from York to Montreal in thirty-six hours. As early as 1816 a vessel propelled by steam was running on Lake Ontario and the time was fast approaching when stages, as means of communication between the provinces, were to be of the past. In 1836, Canada's first railway was in operation, and in twenty years from that date the Grand Trunk Railway was completed to Toronto.

### THE THIRTIES IN PICKERING.

It was during the early thirties that Pickering received its first large influx of settlers. To this period belongs the Scotch settlement in the First and Second Concessions, pioneered by William Dunbar and including the Annans, Gilchrists, Wilkies, Browns and Lawsons. The English settlement in the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Concessions, among whom were the Vincents, Tracys, Gosticks, Winters, Palmers, and Benets, came during the same period. Green River within the same decade was receiving the Osburns, Bices, Ferriers, Pouchers, McIntyres, Reynolds, Vardons and Wilsons, and other sections of the township were also in measure adding to their population. It was within this period that Donald Mackay came to the Kingston Road, Ebenezer Birrell to the Seventh Concession, John Bell to Atha, John Miller to Brougham, Hector Beaton to Whitevale, and James McCreight to Cherrywood.

## THE BAPTIST CHURCH

ing carefully and, we trust, prayerfully considered the matter, have concluded, guided, we hope, by Divine Providence, to avail ourselves of those privileges you so kindly offer us, and may our union prove to our mutual benefit, and be the means of promoting the cause of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the world.

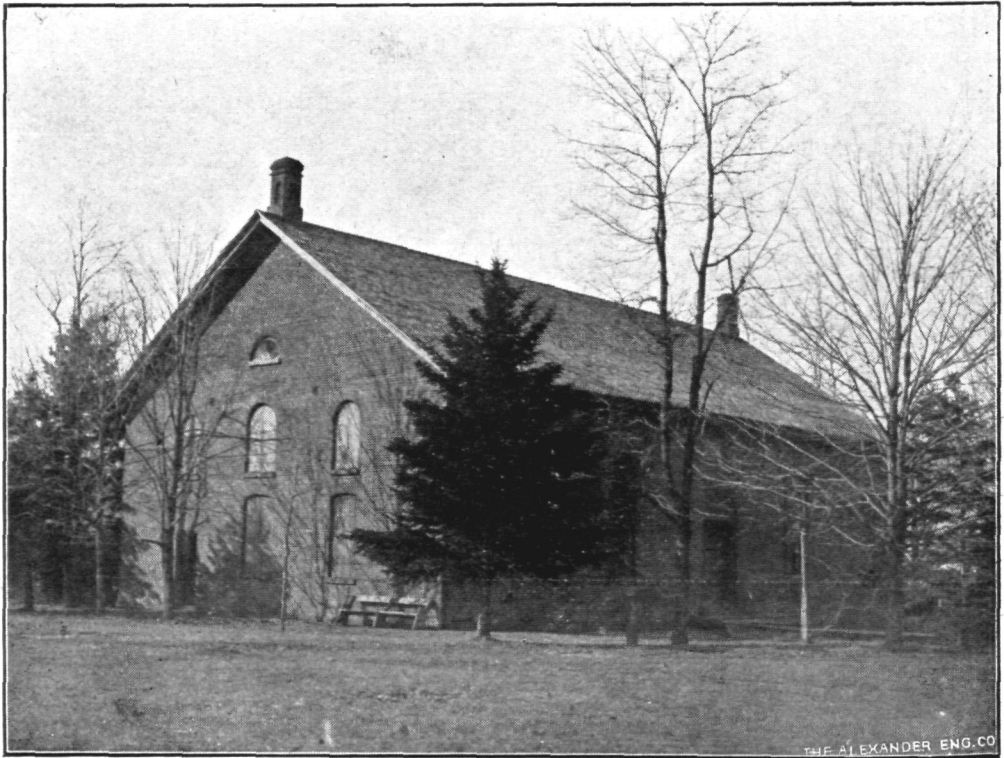
Thomas Gostick,	Hannah Palmer,
Frederick George,	Mary George,
S. S. Gostick, Sen.,	Sarah George,
Sarah Tracy,	George Gilman,
Alfred Tracy,	Elizabeth Gostick,
Eliza Tracy,	Ellen Michell.

It was then moved by Bro. John Barry, and seconded by Bro. George Bundy, that the above application be granted. Carried.

Feb. 13th, 1870. This morning after the usual service the hand of fellowship was given to the brothers and sisters received at the last church meeting, and they were added to the church."

The church in Claremont receiving this accession of strength, continued to grow and prosper, and during the last fifty years has been exercising ever wider influence in the northern half of the township.

The succession of regular pastors seems to have begun with Elder G. P. Frise, who served the church in 1857, and was engaged for the year 1858 at the salary of \$250 and his firewood. Perhaps it is not to be wondered at that his resignation was presented at the end of the term. After a short interval he was succeeded by Elder Alexander Anderson, who continued till 1862, when he was followed by Elder Lacey, who remained



THE ALEXANDER ENG. CO

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

## WHITE AND GREEN VILLAGES

Orange Lodge, which was maintained till a comparatively recent period.

Greenwood's first doctor was a Dr. Caddie, after whom came Dr. Tucker, who later moved to Pickering. Later Dr. A. Fullarton had a drug store in the village.

A list of the industries of the village made in 1869 contains the following: Shoemakers, M. Boddy, J. Boddy, R. Graham; coopers, M. Carey, R. Lennon, H. Shea and J. Stalter; merchants, J. Sterling and F. Meen; millers, F. Green, sr., S. J. Green, A. Byers, J. Mitchell; blacksmiths, G. Graham and D. Miller; tailor, A. McKay; hotel-keepers, Mrs. J. C. Sterling and O. Doyle. When the old Montreal Telegraph line was put through it had an office in Greenwood. The line crossed from Whitby to Markham.

At the time of the Fenian Raid the Greenwood company was called out, including the following: F. Meen, F. Green, S. Green, C. Green, J. Boddy, J. Mitchell and M. Ryan. Of this company Samuel J. Green was in 1858 appointed ensign, under Sir Edmund Walker Head, "Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief," and D. Macdonnell lieutenant-colonel, and in 1863 under the régime of Monck he was made lieutenant.

The Greenwood mills were managed by F. Green, sr., for many years, till they were taken over by his son, S. J. Green. By him they were operated till his death in 1878, when they were leased to John Mitchell for eight years. During this period Fred L. Green, son of S. J. Green, served his apprenticeship as a miller and, after several years service in mills elsewhere, in 1886 he took charge of the business and continues to manage it to the present time. His brother, W. S. Green,

## CHAPTER XIX.

### *THE ROAD, THE RIVER AND THE BAY.*

#### THE KINGSTON ROAD.

The Kingston Road, that time-honored highway of the pioneers, dates from 1800, when the contract for cutting out a road two rods wide between York and Kingston was let to an American. During the early years of the century there was no bridge across the Don, the river being crossed by means of a scow. In 1824 a petition presented to Sir Peregrine Maitland represented that the Don bridge was in bad repair and that the bridge over the Rouge in Pickering is "from its decayed state almost impassable, and if not remedied the communication between this town and the east will be entirely obstructed." A bridge seems to have been erected shortly after this period which did duty till about 1846.

The editor of the *Canadian Gazetteer*, describing a journey eastward along the Kingston Road in 1850, writes as follows:—

"Shortly before leaving the township (of Scarboro) you cross the Highland Creek, from whence to the River Rouge at the commencement of the Township of Pickering (seventeen miles from Toronto) the land bordering on the road is very sandy. The new road to

## THE SCHOOLS OF THE TOWNSHIP

key, 1879; Eli Wilson, 1880; Duncan Hubbard, 1881-3; C. Forsyth, 1884; Miss Phoebe Bodie, 1885-7; Miss N. Bell, 1888; Miss Irwin, 1889-91; R. Moorhead, 1892; A. Poynter, 1893; T. Armstrong, 1894-5; Miss Pilkey, 1896-8; Andrew Moorhead, 1899-1900; Miss Burk, 1901-2; Miss Calvert, 1903-5; Miss Cline, 1906-7; Miss Kidd 1908; Miss Bowers, 1909-11.

The record book of the Altona School, (now Section No. 17), entitled "The Secretary and Treasurer's Book for Union Section No. 3 Pickering and 5 Uxbridge," bears the following on its opening page:

"School Section formed 1844; School house built 1834; Number of Inhabitants 1856, 286; Unable to read and write, about 30 per cent."

At this distance of time perhaps we may be permitted to hope that the estimate of illiteracy was somewhat higher than was warranted by the facts. In any case the school was there and doubtless was doing its best to improve the condition.

The teacher at this time and for nine or ten years following was Mr. A. McSween. His salary for 1856 was £80 and for 1857, £85.

Before him the following men had been in charge of the school: O. Landing, R. Puzie, Abraham Spiker, Charles Crocker, Hiram Smith, Charles Rogers and John Phillips. The following are the names of succeeding teachers: Wesley Wonch, Miss M. Millard, James Bassingthweight, Thomas Beare, Frank Sangster, James E. Forfar, W. J. Stark, R. F. Andrews, Miss A. Irwin, Donald Noble, M. Flummerfelt, William Henderson, Charles McDonald, J. M. Tran, John Yake, Miss

## CHAPTER XXV.

### *PICKERING PEOPLE.*

ADAIR.—Dr. James Adair began to practise in Dunbarton, and continued there for five years, living most of the time in Mr. Tripp's house, but occupying for a short time the house which later was secured as the Presbyterian Manse.

ALLISON.—Andrew Allison came from Ayrshire, Scotland, in 1832, and lived for two years in Cobourg, after which he moved to Lot 30, B. F., where he lived till his death in 1873. He had seven children, Jane, James, John, Margaret, Andrew, William and Janet, of whom only one, Margaret (Mrs. A. Elliott of Agincourt) survives.

His son, Andrew Allison, was born in 1834 and was well known for many years in Pickering as a teacher. He graduated from Toronto Normal School in 1855, and first taught at Atha. Later he had charge of the schools at Green River and Whitevale. After this he gave up teaching and moved to Lot 28, Con. 2, where he lived till his death in 1899. Mrs. Allison, with her two daughters, Marjory and Violet, and two sons, Andrew and Joseph, now live on Lot 21, Con. 1. The other members of the family are Anna, Janet, Archie and Olive (Mrs. S. Mitchell of Billings, Montana).





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