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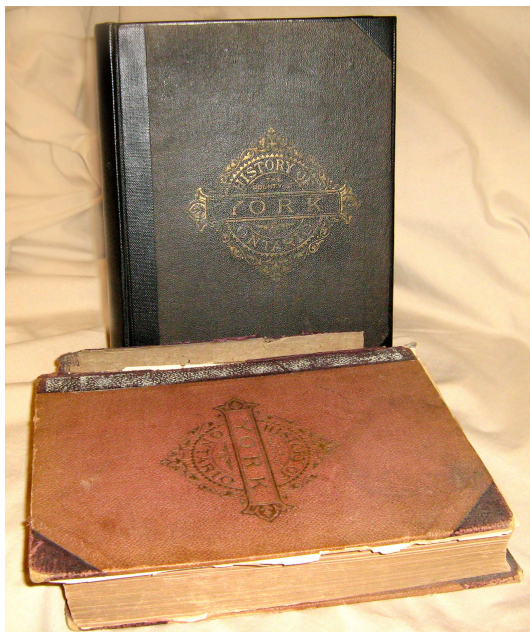
History of Toronto and County of York - 1885

Illustrated - in 2 volumes

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ABOUT THIS CD.

This is a two volume book containing over 1200 pages in total, published in 1885. The volumes, in order, contain historical information about the county and biographical information about its early inhabitants. The history has been written by a number of authors selected for their particular knowledge so that this book contains a depth of knowledge far greater than could be expected from only one person. The biographies appear to have been submitted for publication by the subjects or by a sponsor wishing to make sure the subject would be remembered. They range in length and detail from a few lines of concentrated factual information to at least one account of the subjects life running to several pages. The book provides no index or listing of the biographies but it is estimated that it contains over 1500 individual biographies.

Dr. Mulvany has written the initial chapters of the first volume, giving a concise history of the discovery and development of Canada so, as it were, to set the scene for the succeeding history of the discovery, settlement and development of York County. Following this each of the significant individual settlements / villages is discussed giving such facts as are available on its origins, its development and the people who were significant in that development. Of course this whole volume is dominated by the parallel story of Toronto, Canada's largest city and capital of Upper Canada since 1793, as it intrudes on, and flavors, the progress of every other part of the county. About 40% of this first volume is given over specifically to the story of Toronto.

In addition to the written information the book also contains numerous scenic illustrations and portraits as well an 18 in. by 23 in. fold out map of the county of York, presumably contemporary with the book's publication in 1885. It is a detailed map, apparently hand drawn, showing not only the topography and main population centers but also the made up roads, the allocation of settlement lots in the various townships and the location of post offices, school houses and churches including an indication of the denomination.

The whole book is computer searchable and we have enhanced the search speed by enabling our FastFind technology. A wonderful history of what may now be Canada's most populous area written at a time when the people who had first hand experience of the history were still available to be interviewed and to tell their stories.

PAGE NUMBERING

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HISTORY
OF
TORONTO AND COUNTY OF YORK
ONTARIO;

CONTAINING AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA; A
HISTORY OF THE CITY OF TORONTO AND THE COUNTY OF YORK,
WITH THE TOWNSHIPS, TOWNS, VILLAGES, CHURCHES,
SCHOOLS; GENERAL AND LOCAL STATISTICS;
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, ETC., ETC.

Illustrated.

VOLUME I.

TORONTO:
C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, PUBLISHER.
1885.



P R E F A C E .



IN submitting the following pages to the judgment of subscribers the Publisher has to apologize for a slight delay in their production—a delay, however, which has been rendered necessary by the difficulty encountered in obtaining certain minute topographical and biographical information which it was highly desirable to obtain, and which have materially enhanced the value of the work as a local record. It is believed that these volumes will be found to supply a long-felt want, and that all the various promises embodied in the Prospectus will be admitted to have been faithfully kept.

The first portion of the work, entitled “A Brief History of Canada and the Canadian People,” gives, in an abridged form, most of the material facts in the annals of our country, and will doubtless be found useful by those who have neither time nor inclination for the perusal of larger and more elaborate histories. It was written by Dr. C. P. Mulvany, of Toronto. The portion relating to the early history of Toronto is the work of Mr. G. M. Adam, also of Toronto; while the remaining portion, embracing the History of the County of York and of the various townships of which it is composed, together with the strictly topographical and biographical portions, have been written by persons having a special knowledge of the respective subjects treated of. The greater portion of the matter will be found to possess more than a merely local interest, and may be read with pleasure, even by persons who have no special knowledge of, or interest in, the respective localities described.

In a work of such extent, dealing entirely with matters of fact, and involving the verification of innumerable minute details, it is perhaps too much to expect that perfect accuracy has in every instance been secured. It is confidently believed, however, that the errors, if any, are few in number ; that the wealth of information is great, and, upon the whole, accurate ; and that these volumes will in all essential respects compare most favourably with other works of the same character, whether issued in this country or the United States.

With which expression of confidence the volumes are respectfully submitted for the approval of their patrons.

THE PUBLISHER.

Toronto, 1885.





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CHAPTER IV.

ACADIA.



HE strangely-freighted ship in which De Monts sailed with some three-score soldiers to subdue a continent, supported as he was by a company of thieves and murderers, in order to win the heathen to Christianity, held other strange and incongruous elements of discord. De Monts was a rigid Calvinist, but at the French court, even in the time of Henry the Fourth, nothing could be done without consulting the interest of Mother Church. De Monts had agreed that the converted Indian should belong to the Catholic fold. But, for the welfare of his own soul and those of his fellow Protestants on board, Calvinist ministers also formed part of the ship's company. During the voyage, priests and ministers engaged in perpetual wrangling on theological points; from arguments they sometimes fell to blows; which, as Champlain quaintly says, "was *their* way of settling controversy." Mr. Parkman quotes a story, given in Sagard's *Histoire du Canada*, to the effect that when they reached land, the dead bodies of a priest and a minister were laid in the same grave by the crew, who wished to see if even *there* they could lie peaceably together. At length the ship reached the southern coast of Nova Scotia. There they waited in a land-locked bay for the arrival of Pontgravé's store-ship. After a month, she brought their supplies, and De Monts passed on to the Bay of Fundy, and, sailing through its broad southern expanse, entered a small inlet to the north-east, which opened into a wide reach of calm water, surrounded by forest-mantled, undulating hills. This was the harbour of Annapolis. Poutrincourt foresaw the importance of this place as a site for a settlement, and obtained a grant of it from De Monts. He named it Port Royal. They then coasted along the tortuous windings of the bay, and, returning, discovered the St. John River and Passamaquoddy Bay. At the mouth of the River St. Croix they formed their first settlement. They built houses, workshops, and a magazine. Champlain tried to lay out a garden, but the



CHAPTER XI.

THE BEGINNING OF MONTREAL.



O Champlain succeeded a Governor of very similar temperament, Charles Herault de Montmagny, with his lieutenant, De Lisle, and a brilliant train of French gentlemen. Both Montmagny and De Lisle were members of the semi-military, semi-ecclesiastical order of the Knights of St. John, of Malta. Both were therefore in thorough accord with the Jesuits in favouring that system of paternal government by the priesthood which, fostered by them, has more or less prevailed in New France ever since, and of which many survivals exist in French Canada at the present day. Montmagny was the bearer of letters from some of the most illustrious nobles and the greatest ladies of France, expressing their interest in the Canadian mission. The *Relations* of the Canadian Jesuits, especially those of Le Jeune, had been read throughout all France. The apostolic lives of these most self-denying of missionaries had awakened a general enthusiasm, of which the Jesuits throughout France took full advantage to stir up the susceptible minds of female devotees to aid, with prayers and money, the good work in Canada. Some person unknown to men, but blessed of God, was about to found a school for Huron children at Quebec. In one convent thirteen of the sisters had bound themselves by a vow to the work of converting the Indian women and children. In the church of Montmartre a nun lay prostrate day and night before the altar, praying for the Canadian mission. Accordingly, in 1637, the Jesuits succeeded in building at Quebec a college for French boys and a seminary for Huron children. The commencement of the work with the latter was not hopeful for the few original pupils. One was taken away by his father, four ran away, and two killed themselves by over-eating. The Jesuits were enabled to complete both buildings by a generous donation of six thousand crowns by a French nobleman. An appeal was made by Le Jeune, in his *Relations*, to the effect that he prayed God might put it into the heart of some virtuous and charitable lady to



CHAPTER II.

THE BUILDING OF YONGE STREET.—ORIGIN OF ITS NAME.—DUNDAS STREET.—EARLY TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS OF UPPER CANADA.—EXTENT OF THE COUNTY OF YORK.—DEPARTURE AND DEATH OF GOVERNOR SIMCOE.—INTEREST ATTACHING TO HIS NAME.—AN UNPUBLISHED LETTER OF HIS.—SELFISH AND UNPATRIOTIC POLICY OF OTHER LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORS.—PRESIDENT RUSSELL AND HIS SUCCESSORS.—PEN-PICTURES BY ROBERT GOURLAY.



ORK and its neighbourhood soon began to present an appearance of energetic settlement and civilization. The harbour was surveyed by Joseph Bouchette, who, in a paragraph which has been quoted by every subsequent writer on the subject, describes "the untamed aspect which the country exhibited." The troops were well employed by Governor Simcoe in building operations, and in making roads. Mr. W. H. Smith, author of "Canada, Past, Present, and Future," writing in 1851, and commenting upon this utilitarian employment of the Provincial troops by our first Governor, remarks: "It would be well for the Province, and equally beneficial to the troops, if other Governors employed them as usefully. The Province would then derive some benefit from the troops being stationed here, and the men themselves would be more healthy, and from being actively employed would be less likely to be led themselves, or to lead others, into dissipation."

The most important highway surveyed and laid out under the Governor's auspices was Yonge Street, extending all the way from York to Lake Simcoe, thirty miles distant in the northern wilderness. The name of "Yonge Street" was bestowed upon it by the Governor in honour of his friend Sir George Yonge, who was Secretary of War in the Imperial Cabinet during the early part of Governor Simcoe's residence in Upper Canada. It may also be mentioned that Lake Simcoe, just mentioned,



THE TOWNSHIP OF YORK.



ORK is by far the most populous and important township in the county from which it takes its name. It is situated in the centre of the front tier of townships bordering upon the lake, having Scarborough on the west, Etobicoke on the east, and Vaughan and Markham on the north. It is divided for purposes of Parliamentary representation into East and West York, Yonge street being the dividing line. The concessions, which run north and south, are numbered east and west from Yonge street. East York comprises four and West York seven concessions, two or three of the latter being small and broken, owing to the course of the Humber, which forms the western boundary. The city of Toronto occupies the greater portion of the water front, which would otherwise be embraced within the limits of this township, and within a radius of several miles there are numerous suburban villages within the territory of the township proper, giving it a different character from the other divisions of the county, owing to the overflow of the suburban population.

The history of York township as a distinct territorial division commences in 1791, in which year the work of survey was undertaken. Eleven townships extending along the lake front, from the Humber river to the Bay Quinté and the river Trent, were marked out, York being at the western end of the line. The name at that time bestowed upon it was Dublin. All that was then done in the way of survey was to run the dividing lines between these townships. Mr. Augustus Jones, who had charge of the work, completed it, as far as "Dublin" was concerned, on September 15th, 1791. The name was shortly afterwards changed to that which it now bears, though it seems to have also borne for a while the designation of "Toronto," as is shown by the following entry in the official records having reference to the laying out of the townships:



THE VILLAGE OF WESTON.



ABOUT eight miles from Toronto, in a north-westerly direction, is the picturesque and busy Village of Weston, which lies in a valley formed by the Humber River. The larger portion of the village is in York Township, that on the west side of the river being in Etobicoke. The village stretches for some distance along the main street, which is a portion of one of the oldest roads of the county, and diverges from the Dundas Road near Carleton. At Weston it runs parallel to and within a stone's throw of the river. The fall in the river at this point is sixteen feet and a-half, the excellent water power being available for the mill and other industries pursued here. The banks are largely composed of thin horizontal layers of limestone, suitable for some of the purposes for which stone is required other than building, with clay interposed, and a surface soil of sandy loam.

Weston has a population of about 1,200. It was incorporated as a village in 1882, when William Tyrrell was elected reeve, and W. J. Conron, clerk and treasurer, which positions they still retain. The other officials for 1884 are as follows:—Councillors, John Barton, Jacob Bull, David Rowntree and James Conron ; assessor, John Gram.

The village has a fine public hall, erected in 1883, which occupies a central position on the west side of the main street, and is a conspicuous feature. It is a handsome building of red brick, two stories in height, surmounted by a tastefully designed mansard roof, with fancy iron work and a dome in front. Here are the council chamber and municipal offices, the library of the Mechanics' Institute, and a large hall for public meetings and entertainments, known as Dufferin Hall. Its erection is justly regarded as a marked improvement, both from the standpoint of practical convenience and architectural taste. There are four churches in or near the village. The Methodist church, a brick building erected in 1849,



THE CITY OF TORONTO: HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

CHAPTER I.

THE TOWN OF YORK FOUNDED.

AT the time of the erection of Upper Canada into a distinct Province, as mentioned elsewhere, a separate government was assigned to it, and an administrator was appointed, with the title of Lieutenant-Governor. The office was conferred upon Lieutenant-Colonel John Graves Simcoe, whose appointment led to his crossing the Atlantic in 1792, and taking up his residence at Newark (now called Niagara), the provisional capital. Newark, at this time, if we except Kingston, at the other end of the lake, was the only place of importance in Upper Canada, and it naturally became the cradle of the Western Province. It had, therefore, some claim to become the permanent capital. Unfortunately for the town, its nearness to United States territory and the dangerous proximity of Fort Niagara dashed the hopes of its inhabitants in this respect. To Governor Simcoe's surprise, he found that the fort at the mouth of the river was shortly to be garrisoned by American soldiery, and that it did not belong to King George. Having made this discovery, and not approving the idea that the chief town of a Province should be placed under the guns of an enemy's fort, he turned his attention to other parts of the Province for the site of a capital. From the *Gazette*, published at Newark, we learn that "On Thursday, the 2nd of May (1793), his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, accompanied by several military gentlemen, set out in boats for Toronto, round the head of Lake Ontario by Burlington Bay." From Burlington Bay he proceeded eastward to the Humber, and thence to



CHAPTER XII.

TORONTO A CAPITAL ONCE MORE.



WHEN the clock struck midnight on the night of the 30th of June, 1867, the joy-bells of St. James's Cathedral rang out. It was the 1st of July, the birthday of the New Dominion; Confederation was accomplished, and Toronto was once more a capital—the capital of a Province only, it is true, but that Province the wealthiest, the most enterprising, and the most populous in the Union. The day was observed by the greatest rejoicings in the city. What with bonfires, fireworks, illuminations, excursions, military displays and musical and other entertainments, the citizens and the thousands of strangers who crowded the streets did not want for amusement. Our allotted space is nearly filled, so it will be impossible to describe the manner in which the new capital celebrated the occasion. Since the visit of the Prince of Wales no such day had been witnessed in Toronto.

On the 27th of December, in the same year, the Lieutenant-Governor, Major-General Stisted, opened the first session of the First Parliament of Ontario in the old buildings which had seen so many administrative changes. The approaches to the buildings were thronged with people, eager to witness a ceremony familiar to most Toronto people of to-day. The procedure differed in no important particular from that observed on such occasions, and the usual postponement was made—to allow of the election of a Speaker—until the next day, when the formal opening took place. This was the only ceremony of the kind at which General Stisted presided, as he was succeeded in the following July by the Honourable William Pearce Howland, the well-known merchant prince of Toronto.

In 1869 the city was once more honoured by the presence of royalty, in the person of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, who had been attached to a corps then stationed in Montreal, and who visited the Provincial

F. B. STEPHENS, 53 Oxford Street, family butcher, established in 1883, keeps all kinds of fresh and salt meats, vegetables and poultry in season.

R. STONE, meat market, 379 Parliament Street, established on Yonge Street in 1871, and moved to his present location in 1883. He runs two waggons, and keeps poultry and vegetables in season.

JOHN SYMONS, meat market, 231 Yonge Street, occupies an old stand established as early as 1859, having come into possession in 1877. He purchases at the market, and runs two waggons.

THOMAS TAYLOR, 204 St. Patrick Street, butcher. Established in 1884. Keeps poultry, bacon, etc.

THOMAS WATTS, meat market, 331 King Street East, keeps a general stock of provisions, game, poultry, flowers and vegetables in season. He runs one waggon.

J. & J. WOOLLINGS, McCaul Street Market, at 163 and 165 McCaul Street, established in 1873. They kill all their own stock. Joseph Woollings, the elder brother, lives on a farm at Islington, butchers and comes to town three times a week; he does a wholesale and retail trade. The firm deals in poultry and vegetables in season, also hams, bacon, and pickled meats. They employ ten hands, and run three waggons.

WILLIAM WORDLEY, butcher and pork-packer, corner of Church and Carlton Streets, was established first at 325 Church Street in 1871, and removed to his present location in 1872. He does all his own killing, runs six waggons, and employs eleven men. He first started in a small way and now does fully \$75,000 annually, packs about \$10,000 of pork annually, corns beef extensively, and does a large business in game and poultry in season, etc.

Carpets.

JOHN KAY, importer of carpets and house furnishings, 34 King Street West, first commenced his business in 1847, and located in his present premises in 1880. The building is 205 x 26 feet, and is four storeys high. Fifty hands are employed in a business that amounts to a quarter of a million annually. Mr. Kay's carpet sewing factory is on Queen Street West.

Coal and Wood.

ROBERT ALLINGHAM, coal and wood merchant, 179 and 181 Bathurst Street, was born in Ballyshannon, County Donegal, Ireland, and came to Toronto in 1874 with his parents, both of whom are still living here. He commenced his present business in 1883, and keeps two teams.

HISTORY
OF
TORONTO AND COUNTY OF YORK
ONTARIO;

CONTAINING AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA;
A HISTORY OF THE CITY OF TORONTO AND THE COUNTY OF YORK,
WITH THE TOWNSHIPS, TOWNS, VILLAGES, CHURCHES,
SCHOOLS; GENERAL AND LOCAL STATISTICS;
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, ETC., ETC.

Illustrated.

VOLUME II.

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JAMES BUGG, farmer, and brother of the above, was fourteen years and six months old when he landed in York in 1833. He worked about one year for Mr. Northcott; the following spring he went to Thornhill and worked on a farm for about ten years; then was engaged as manager on a farm in Markham Township. In 1844 he married Rebecca, second daughter of Robert Mason, by whom he has three daughters. In 1850 he was chosen councillor for Markham Township, and in 1870 he received a Magistrate's commission, but did not qualify until ten years later. In politics he is a Reformer, in religion a member of the Primitive Methodist Church. As a result of many years of honest toil, he has a beautiful farm in the Township of King, where he at present resides, and is one of the most substantial citizens in his municipality.

ALEXANDER BURNS was born in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, Ireland, in 1837, and came to Canada in 1853. Previous to coming out he was for a short time in the grocery business, and on his arrival in Toronto continued the same business with his brother in a store at St. Lawrence Market. In 1869 he commenced a soda-water business on the corner of Young and Buchanan Streets, that part of the city being then all bush, which extended without a single break along the front of Yonge and College Avenue to Hayter Street. The trade conducted by Mr. Burns was one of the largest of its kind in the city, and proved very successful. He retired from business in 1881, since which time he has been living a quiet and retired life on the fruits of his former industry. In 1868 he married Miss Martha McDonald, by whom he has a family of three sons and three daughters.

DAVID BURNS, deceased, was born in the County Derry, Ireland, in 1803. He came to Canada in 1823, and engaged in the leather business at Little York, which proved so successful that he retired about twenty years before his death, which occurred in 1872. At the time of his death he owned a considerable quantity of real estate. He left surviving him a wife and three sons. The eldest, David Burns, is a civil engineer; the second, Robert, is studying medicine; and the youngest, Stephen, is engaged in the study of the law.

HORATIO C. BURRITT, M.D., C.M., was born at Smith's Falls, Ontario, in September, 1840. He is the eldest son of Dr. Walter H. Burritt, who was born at Burritt's Rapids, Ontario, in 1809; being the youngest son of Colonel Daniel Burritt and grandson of Daniel Burritt, one of the original United Empire Loyalists, who emigrated to Canada immediately after the



TOWNSHIP OF YORK (EAST).

THOMAS WINSLOW ANDERSON, retired, was born in the Township of York in 1809, being the son of Cornelius and Mary (Snider) Anderson. His father was born in Scotland, and came to America in 1754, when only two years old, in company with his mother and two brothers. In the year 1776 he joined the British Army under Colonel Allen and served through the whole campaign of the Revolutionary War, in which service he remained until disbanded in New Brunswick. He then came to York County in 1804, accompanied by his wife and family, consisting of nine children. He located on lot 11, concession 1, York Township, where he resided until about 1835. During the War of 1812 he lost a horse which the Government had pressed into service, and it was not until some years afterwards that he received any compensation, and then only to the amount of \$13. He died in 1848, aged ninety-six years, leaving a family of twelve children, six sons and six daughters. The subject of this sketch learned the watchmaking business with James McKenzie, with whom he served for four years. In 1832 he began business for himself, and continued it until 1854. In 1835 he married Jane Drummond, daughter of Colin Drummond, a native of Scotland and a member of the first corporation of York, by whom he had ten children. In 1869 he removed to a farm in the Township of York, where he now resides. Mr. Anderson is a Reformer in politics, and a Presbyterian in religion.

W. C. ALISON was born at Pickering, Ontario, and came to York County in 1880, having accepted the position of foreman in the saw-mill of Mr. J. H. Taylor, the working capacity of which is twelve thousand feet of lumber per day, and gives employment to fourteen hands.

on the "boarding out" system, the payment being twenty-five cents per month for each scholar. Mr. Rae was married in the year 1866 to Selina Honey, who was born in England; they have a family of three children. Mr. Rae, by economy and perseverance, has got together a comfortable home.

ARCHIBALD RIDDELL, lot 8, concession 3, whose birth-place is in the Parish of East Kilbride, Lanarkshire, Scotland, emigrated to Canada in the year 1829. He remained four years in Quebec Province, and then removed to the vicinity of Hamilton and in 1838 settled in Georgina Township. He was married in 1840 to Catharine Munroe; they had twelve children, eight of whom are living. Four of his sons are settled in the township and all in prosperous circumstances.

ROBERT RIDDELL, lot 1, concession 5, is a native of the Parish of East Kilbride, Lanarkshire, Scotland, and to Canada in the year 1829. On his arrival he located in the County of Harlington, Quebec Province, where he remained about ten years, after which he took up his residence in Montreal and worked for the Hon. John Molson. The cholera being very bad, Robert took his departure from Montreal and came west to Dundas, where he stayed until the fall of 1834, when he came to Georgina Township and located on the farm where he now resides. He was married in Toronto in the latter part of 1834, his wife's maiden name being Elizabeth McConachie; they have six children all living. In the early days of settlement they had to carry grain on their backs to Sutton to be ground.

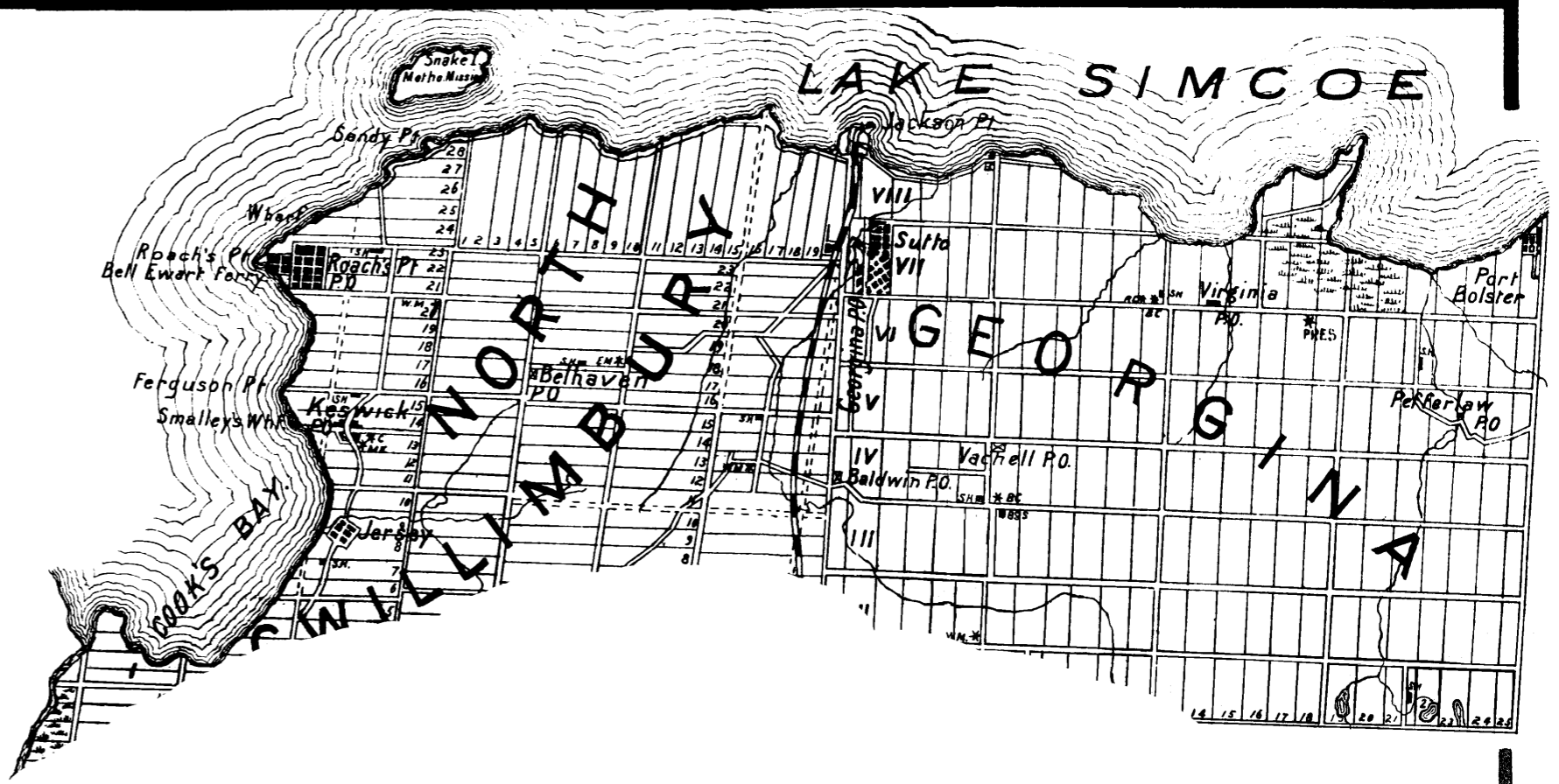
EZRA SHERWOOD, lot 13, concession 5, was born in the Township of North Gwillimbury in the year 1817, being the son of Thomas and Annie (Mitchell) Sherwood. His maternal grandfather was the second settler in North Gwillimbury. When our subject was a boy they had to carry their grain to mill at Sutton, and he remembered when there was only one house in Sutton, besides the store. His grandfather assisted to make the first mill in that village, and came very near losing his life at the time.

THE END.



COUNTY OF YORK.

SCALE 2 MILES TO ONE INCH.



This is a reduced content, black & white, version of the map provided with the CD, specially made to fit in this freely downloadable sampler. The resolution of the map has been maintained so that the level of detail available on the full version on the CD can be reviewed.



Alexander, Clare & Cable, Toronto.

NOTE: The original map was suffering minor paper loss and was faded and worn in places. We have made every effort to faithfully reproduce a true copy of the original but have had to guess at some detail we have also noticed some minor anomalies in the original so the map should be used for general location only. Not necessarily to scale.

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