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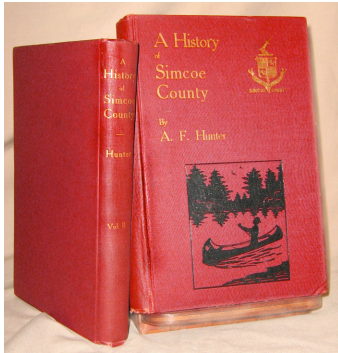
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About this CD.

Quite aside from being a well researched and fascinating history of this important county of (now) Ontario the work itself has an interesting history. The author Andrew. F. Hunter published its first incarnation as a series of weekly articles, in the Barrie Examiner, between October, 1889 and February 1891. This first public airing brought forth a number of "*criticisms and corrections*" but the author had no immediate plans to republish so the history remained uncorrected. Some 17 years later The County Council resolved to sponsor the production of a history of the county and agreed to take the Author's original work as its core. What is contained in this 2 volume book is the direct result of the project, with the earlier corrections made, some parts of the original expunged and "*the remainder expanded by some five times.*" It occupies a total of 658 pages including 97 pages of engraved illustrations which were first added in this edition.

Published as two volumes the history divides naturally into main topics, these being "Public Affairs" and "A Record of Pioneers." We are only offering this digital republication as a single CD in the combined 2 volume format on the principal that the story of the County results from the combination of both histories.

Volume 1 starts the history before the presence of European interlopers was seen and rapidly progresses through the era of the fur trappers and missionaries. It gets into more detailed, during the 1812 war, when military based expeditions were made into the territory in a effort to forestall US forces from "sneaking up" on the settlement at York from the rear by landing their forces from Georgian Bay. The combination of the military traffic and the observation of the agricultural potential of the territory initiated a rapid settlement and soon townships are being planned and farming and town lots are being settled.

Along with the increase in population came all the trappings of civilization and Hunter takes careful note of the formation of such institutions as Local Government, Postal Service, Railways, Schools, Churches, Industry, etc.

Thus Volume 1 tells the history of the County in terms of the development of its structure and infrastructure. In this volume little attention has been paid to the individual settlers except in as much as they are an integral part of this structural development.

Volume 2 retells the history concentrating on the individuals, recounting their stories in an order based on their place of first settlement and giving extra attention to those who made contributions to public service, such as serving on the local council, etc. In addition to these countless individual histories the author has undertaken to provide an appendix in which he constructs a list - effectively a directory - of the names of all the "Patent Grantees," the actual pioneers who took part in the county's settlement, before 1837. This list alone accounts for some 1,800 settler's names and identifies their settlement property by area, lot and concession.

This is a comprehensive and detailed account of the history of the County and is a "must have" for anyone researching their heritage in Simcoe. The entire text has been carefully processed to make it fully computer searchable and the search speed has been enhanced by our FastFind technology.

NOTE: Since both volumes were published in the original hardcopy with page numbers starting at page 1, in this digital edition we have included the volume number with the electronic page number for every page as in: 1 - 1 to 2 - 323.

A History
of
Simcoe County

By
ANDREW F. HUNTER

IN TWO VOLUMES

Volume I.—Its Public Affairs

BARRIE, ONT.
PUBLISHED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL
1909

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C.E., to complete the plans and specifications, and to take tenders for the construction. The contract was let to W. P. Christie, and the bridge was rebuilt the same season at a cost of \$1,300, this cost being divided between the counties of Ontario and Simcoe, and Muskoka District.

Finally in 1903, a new steel bridge was erected here, Simcoe's share of the cost being about \$3,000. As in the case of all the other steel bridges built in recent years, heavy steel was used, so that the bridge may be covered at any time with a cement covering if it should be deemed advisable.

To rebuild three bridges on the road between North Orillia and Morrison, the County Council granted \$150 in November, 1887, the bridges having all been burned down by the late fires of the summer.

BRIDGES OVER THE SEVERN NEAR SPARROW LAKE (BENNETT'S BRIDGE).

The County Council, in January, 1881, granted \$600 to aid in building a bridge across the Severn at Sparrow Lake, and plans were prepared by Engineer Armstrong. In the minutes of the following June, (p. 25), we find that the \$600 granted in January was applied to build a pontoon bridge over the river at this locality for the accommodation of the public.

Again, in 1882, the proposed bridge received grants from the County Council (\$400 in January, and \$100 in November). The site chosen was near the old bridge site, viz., at or near the 3rd and 4th concession line of Morrison, and opposite lot 18, North Orillia, although there was some difference of opinion as to where it should be placed. By November, 1883, the new bridge had been completed; it was sometimes known as Bennett's Bridge. And in January, 1884, the County Council passed a By-law appointing H. H. Bennett caretaker of the new construction.

In June, 1886, Christie, Kerr & Co. made a proposition to the Council to raise the bridge from five to ten feet higher for greater convenience in lumbering and navigation. The Council accepted their offer and granted \$250 for the work, which was completed in July of that year. Again, in 1893, the bridge being in a dangerous condition, according to the caretaker, a portion of it was rebuilt at a cost of \$264.

A new steel bridge was erected here in 1904-5 at a cost of about \$6,800, of which the Ontario Government paid one-half, and Simcoe County the other.

desirable and in the public interest that a permanent Railway Commission should be established by the Government.

Again, in January, 1887, the council invited the Commissioners who were making the investigation to extend their enquiries to points on the Northern & North-Western Railway System, and to hold meetings at prominent places on the system to get testimony. On considering the best means of procuring evidence and bringing it before the Railway Commissioners, the council at its next session recommended that the Reeves of the various municipalities furnish the warden with the names of one or more persons who can give valuable evidence, before June 25, 1887. This course was pursued, and much evidence obtained by the Commissioners.

The Railway Act of 1888 was the outcome of the Commissioners' report, but the Act did not satisfy the advocates of a permanent Commission, and another memorial was sent by the County Council to the House of Commons in June, 1889. It pointed out that the same objections and difficulties still existed which existed before the Railway Act of 1888 was passed. The work of the Commissioners had not resulted in forming a permanent, independent tribunal, but the Privy Council Committee still continued to deal with railway complaints, and this petition asked for the appointment of a commission independent of the Privy Council Committee.

Various other efforts at re-opening the question were made from time to time, but without success. It was not until 1903, (five years after Mr. McCarthy's death), that the Railway Commission was appointed along the lines he had been advocating, and which had their origin in his experience of the ups and downs of railway amalgamation in this county.

A SPECIAL ATTEMPT TO CONTROL RAILWAYS.

It was not long after the public indignation over the railway amalgamation had subsided, and the fervent resolve had been made by many persons to make railways generally "come to time," till an opportunity arose of testing the new doctrine. Yet it shows how helpless the public were in those days in any contest with the railways, when it is recalled that it was not until after eight years of agitation that success was achieved in the particular case referred to. The matter arose in the following way.

Early in the year 1882, the subject of dangerous crossings received some attention from the County Council. The railway track

COUNTY SOLICITORS.

From the large amount of business of the County, it appeared wise to the Council in January, 1873, to have a solicitor appointed, who could be called upon at short notice to act in behalf of the County. A By-law was at that time passed appointing McCarthy & McCarthy, solicitors for the county.

On the death of Mr. Pepler, Messrs. Hewson & Creswicke were appointed, and on the removal of Mr. C. E. Hewson from the County to become Judge in Manitoulin, Mr. A. E. H. Creswicke was appointed County Solicitor in January, 1909.

THE COUNCIL FROM 1843 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

For a while the new municipal system did not work well. A new source of power had been created, viz., the voice of the people; whereas, before 1841, the ruling power in local affairs was the Magistrates' Court of Quarter Sessions. The existence of two powers in each district resulted, as might be expected, in friction between the two, and in various writings of that period we actually find references to the clashing of the two sources of authority. Thus in the *Life* (p. 264) of Wm. Hamilton Merritt, who was one of the members of the Canadian Parliament at that period, he writes, under date of November 11, 1843, of the municipal institutions not working well in consequence of the two opposing powers. Once in a while, throughout the printed proceedings of the Simcoe District Council, we get glimpses of the clash of authority between the two, but in one instance, (October, 1846) the District Council went so far in the other direction as to complain to the Government that there was a scarcity of magistrates.

The County Buildings (Jail and Court House) were erected, or at least the contract for them had been let by the magistrates, as we have seen in the preceding chapter, before the District Council came into existence or had any control over the expenditure for them. But the Council was created in time enough to have the exquisite pleasure of paying for them, and they paid very dearly too. One of the first troubles that arose for the new Simcoe District Council to settle in 1843 was the building contract, the full particulars of which appear in the Council Minutes printed for the first time in 1895. In the end the Council had a lawsuit with the contractor, Charles Thompson, and

8 of the Documentary History, which contains his reminiscences of the Bradford school.

Patience Varcoe was one of the first female teachers in this county, having come from England with her parents in 1842 and settled in West Gwillimbury in the following year. She afterward became the wife of a Mr. Courtney of Lloydtown. Mrs. Courtney gave some reminiscences of her early school-teaching experiences in West Gwillimbury, Innisfil and Tecumseth, from 1843 onward, in the Documentary History, Vol. 6, p. 306.

About the year 1834 or 1835, John Macaulay was the first teacher at Fisher's Corner, on the 9th line of West Gwillimbury, (lot 5). Joseph Booth succeeded him at this school.

Up to the year 1843, six schools had been established in West Gwillimbury, so far as can be ascertained, and in August of that year the District Council passed a By-law to raise taxes for building five more school houses in the township, and another in Adjala.

Thomas Doyle was the first teacher at Mount Pleasant in West Gwillimbury on the establishment of a school there in 1844, and remained a year or two longer as teacher at the place.

By the year 1843 ten schools were in operation in the Township of Tecumseth, and the District Council made provision in February, 1844, for the erection of five others.

The first schools in Tecumseth were in the southeast quarter of the township, where the earliest settlements were made. In the further parts of the township, which, about the year 1836, were still on the outskirts of the settlements, one of the first schools was on lot 10, con. 5, and there is a school at the place to this day. In early years it was known as Martin's school.

About the year 1845, Henry King was the first teacher at Ham-mill's schoolhouse, two miles west of Beeton of the present day. Mr. King's son helped him with the teaching, while here. In the same school, during the early years, other teachers were Pywell, Sigsworth, McMahan, and O'Leary.

In Adjala, one of the most prominent of the pioneer teachers was Patrick Downey. He taught in that township in 1842, or earlier, and also in 1843. Later (in 1845) he began teaching in Eramosa, Wellington County, and contributed some of his experiences of the pioneer days to Volume 5 of the Documentary History of Education.

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a cotton weaver in Carlops, Peeblesshire, following this branch of the arts of peace for fourteen years, when he sold his household goods and left for Canada. His sons, James and John, may also be named as among the first settlers of Tosorontio, the latter coming in 1837, and his grandson, E. J. Reid, has been postmaster at Everett for some years.

Another pioneer in this locality was John Cody, who settled upon the east half of lot 8, concession 7. Peter Cody was the District Councillor for the township in 1846-7-8.

John Graham, a native of Co. Fermanagh, Ireland, settled on lot 9, concession 6, quite early. There was a pioneer Methodist



Victoria Street, Alliston, looking East.

Church at this place, and beside it a cemetery is the resting place of several early settlers.

In 1833 and 1834, "The Hills" of Tosorontio began to receive settlers in greater numbers than before. Also, about the same time, along the south of the township facing Adjala, several settlers "located."

In the first mentioned locality, the Latimer family were early residents, James Latimer having been the District Councillor for the township in 1849. Wm. Latimer belonged to the same neighbourhood, and Thomas died January 6, 1904, aged 95 years, having been an early settler on lot 10, concession 7.

“Beechwood Hill,” in the same township. He soon encountered some experience of pioneer life in the thinly settled district to which he had come, as some sheep which he had brought from near Toronto were destroyed by wolves. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1847, and as a magistrate was a peacemaker, doing his best to heal differences. In May, 1852, he was appointed reeve of the township. At the beginning of 1853 he became warden of Simcoe County and held the office for four years. In 1854 he contested North Simcoe against Angus Morrison during the heat of the Clergy Reserves controversy, but was not successful. Shortly after he held the wardenship he moved into the Town of Orillia, where he resided at “Melville Lodge,” and where he died April 12, 1874, aged 81 years. His wife, Mary Laing, who was a sister of David Laing, the celebrated author and antiquarian, of Edinburgh, also died within a few hours of his death, both being buried at the same time.

Of this family, the Rev. Canon (Alex.) Sanson had the charge of Little Trinity Church, Toronto, for about fifty years. And David L. Sanson was in mercantile business in Orillia for some time, and was twice mayor of the town; he died in October, 1893.

Andrew Moffatt, the Indian teacher and interpreter, was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1843, and was a resident from the time of his arrival early in the thirties until his death in 1873. His wife was a Miss Manwaring, a native of Connecticut, who came to Orillia also as a teacher of the Indians in 1832, and was married to Mr. Moffatt in 1834. They continued teaching the Indians until the removal of the band to Rama five years later, after which Mr. Moffatt went into business in Orillia. She survived her husband until October 12, 1891, passing away at the advanced age of 82 years.

One of the prominent men of Orillia in the early days was James Dallas, who was born in the City of Edinburgh in 1797, and emigrated direct to Orillia in 1835, taking up at this time the property upon which he resided up to the time of his death, on June 9, 1872. In his native city he had been a baillie or alderman, and always took an active interest in public affairs. W. Chambers, in his “Memoirs,” speaks of a man, afterward settled at Orillia, Canada, (referring to Mr. Dallas), who had given him, in the early days of his publishing enterprise, an order for bookbinding. Mr. Dallas was the representative to the Home District Council in Toronto in 1842 from Orillia, a municipal body which met four times that year; and was also the representative from Orillia in the Simcoe District Council the following

Chapter XVIII.

TINY.

THE LAFONTAINE SETTLEMENT.

This settlement began soon after the migration from Drummond Island in 1828, when the contingent of French-Canadians who had been connected with the post at that place was transferred to the vicinity of Penetanguishene, and each one given a small grant of land. About the time to which the sketches of the pioneers in this history mostly refer, viz., 1836, when the French-Canadian settlers just referred to were living chiefly in Penetanguishene, some of them began to take up larger farms in the fertile valley in concessions 15 and 16 of Tiny, in what is now known as the Lafontaine settlement. This contingent of French-Canadians, who settled at Penetanguishene, and some of them afterward around Lafontaine, have left their impress upon the localities and their surroundings.

Louis DesCheneaux settled about the year 1830 and built the first house near Lafontaine, on lot 16, concession 16. He was born

THE SIMCOE COUNTY COUNCIL, 1908.

Top row, left to right :—J. T. Simpson, Wm. Matthews, A. Jackel, A. W. Beardsley (county messenger), Wm. Leach, F. H. Ball, Robert Bell, J. H. Mitchell, W. R. McLean, A. E. Scanlon, T. B. Cramp, A. A. Cunningham, Jas. Dundas, E. A. Little (Surrogate Registrar).

Second row, left to right :—John McCosh, (Court Clerk), Jas. Stafford, Joseph Caldwell, J. J. Mitchell, Joseph Pierson, Thos. Shaw, Thos. Goodeve, Geo. Copeland, A. C. Garden, Jas. Moore, G. E. J. Brown, J. R. Harvie, C. J. Picotte, W. M. Harvey (Sheriff), Jonathan Sissons (Jailer).

Third row, left to right :—J. R. Cotter (Crown Attorney), H. Grose, E. T. McConkey, Wm. Wood, W. B. Sanders, D. C. Barr (Warden), Walter Lawson, Jas. Vair, A. P. Potter, Jas. McDermott, Alex. Ingram.

Fourth row (sitting), left to right :—R. J. Fletcher (County Clerk), W. F. Toner, C. G. Millard, M. Clark, W. C. Goffatt, Alex. Woodrow, Jas. Jardine, Richard Bell, Daniel Quinlan (County Treasurer).

Inserted on the left :—R. H. Jupp, Supervisor of County Roads.

Inserted on the right :—John J. Coffey (deceased).

HOLLAND LANDING.—*Concluded.*

<i>Settler.</i>	<i>No. Lot on Yonge Street.</i>
Phillips, Wm.....	111, E.
Phelps, Francis.....	105, E.
Playter, George.....	107, W.
Povey, Wm.....	105, E.
Shaw, Thomas.....	108, E.
Sloan, William.....	105, E.
Squire, Philemon.....	111, E.
Stewart, Robert.....	105, E.
Sweezy, Peter.....	108, E.
Tyson, Isaiah.....	107, E.
West, Amos.....	108, W.
Wiggins, S.....	105, E.
Wilson, Alfred.....	108, E.
Wilson, Cornelius.....	108, E.
Wright, George.....	103, E.

BRADFORD.

<i>Settler.</i>	<i>Con.</i>	<i>Lot.</i>	<i>Occupation.</i>
Campbell, James.....	6	15	Shoemaker.
Dewson, John.....	7	16	Magistrate.
Driffel, Thomas.....	6	15	Blacksmith.
Drury, James.....	6	15	Merchant.
Edmondson, John.....	6	16	Innkeeper.
Evans, James.....	7	16	Constable.
Gordon, John.....	6	15	Waggonmaker.
Hill, Joseph.....	6	15	
McGee, Letitia.....	7	15	
Peacock, John.....	7	16	Storekeeper.

BARRIE.

<i>Settler.</i>	<i>Occupation.</i>
Algeo, R. N.....	Half-pay officer (Captain), Allandale.
Boyington, Lucius.....	
Bingham, John.....	Innkeeper.
Caldwell, Leslie.....	Merchant.
Campbell, Dugald.....	Tailor.