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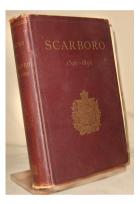
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About this CD.

Written as one of a number of projects undertaken to mark the centenary of the establishment of this early Upper Canada township, the book is designed to capture the memories and experiences of the founders, "while they remained available," and to record for us here in the future, the events and deeds which shaped and influenced the development of the Scarboro township, which we know better today as Scarborough, an eastern district of the great metropolis of Toronto.

The book's chapters are each devoted to specific topics and concentrate on providing factual reports. Several of the chapters were actually authored by assistants to David Boyle, the author of record. Each of these assistants were themselves well qualified in both literary and history skills.

Frequently the authors of area histories of this sort search the archives of local newspapers for content and in this case it seems to have generated two most unusual chapters. One is "Games and Sports, which records the participants, and winners, of many local sporting events. The other, "Odds and Ends," appears to be a collection of brief news articles which caught the researcher's eye as recording the names of locals or giving the details of notable events. Probably unique records now.

Amongst the other topics, and hence chapter headings, to be found in the book are: "The Pioneers," "Domestic Life," "Trades & Tradesmen," "Churches & Ministers," "Schools & Teachers," "Doctors & Lawyers," "Public Houses & Stores," "Villages & Post Offices" and "Militia." From this list of topics one might conclude that the book would mention many of the individuals occupied in these pursuits and indeed such a speculation would be well rewarded. The Author, in his preface, makes clear his intention is to provide a record of the people and local events, rather than to once again reiterate the happenings of the history of Canada as a whole which appear in so many other history texts. Consequently the reader will find mention of many of Scarboro's prior inhabitants together with accounts of those events in their lives which contribute to the local history.

Following on from the main body of the book are a number of informative appendices including one giving the names of the township's original land patentees and the dates on which they took up their grants.

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THE TOWNSHIP

OF

SCARBORO

1796-1896

EDITED BY

DAVID BOYLE

PRINTED FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BY

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

TORONTO.

1896.

PREFACE.

O NE hundred years ago to-day, Robert Burns had but a few weeks to live; Thomas Carlyle had spent only six months of discontent in this world; Napoleon Bonaparte had just assumed command of the army of Italy, and was no doubt even then forming plans for the conquest of Europe; the United States was in its infancy, with General Washington as President; General Prescott was Governor of Canada; Simcoe was at the head of affairs in Upper Canada, Newark being still the capital; and George the Third reigned, King of Great Britain and Ireland.

The year 1795 had proved one of great agricultural depression in the British Islands. Peace prospects were slender; business was unsteady, when not actually stagnant; labor, consequently, was not in much demand, and famine stared thousands in the face. In such circumstances it was but natural that many persons, especially the more adventurous and enterprising, should look abroad for that measure of comfort and success, the prospects of attaining which seemed to be so uncertain and so distant at home. Of this class, as is hereinafter recorded, were the very first settlers in Scarboro.

It is in commemoration of this settlement, and at such a time, that the people of Scarboro have had the present modest volume prepared in connection with their celebration, the object being to bring together

in a handy form the various records of local events and bits of personal reminiscence, many of which, in course of time, would otherwise be lost or forgotten.

The time is past when history was supposed to be merely a record of political events, of campaigns in the field of war, and of great discoveries. Important as these are, they do not by any means constitute the sum total of history; and hence we find considerable attention now being given to sociological features in the growth of nations; and as nations are but aggregations of communities, it would seem that intelligent citizenship implies a knowledge of facts pertaining to the development of institutions and industries in young settlements of modern, as well as of ancient date.

In most townships, the people as a whole, or groups of them, have much in common regarding origin and circumstances; and as time advances, general interests become mingled through marriage, business, and social relations. Such municipalities, therefore, almost naturally suggest themselves as fields for the convenient grouping of local records.

The plan followed in this book is to present the subject under separate heads rather than as a continuous narrative, and no attempt has been made to produce anything but a bare statement of facts, beyond supplying introductions to the chapters, and such connective passages to the information collected as seemed necessary to put the material in tolerably readable form.

When the writer undertook, quite unexpectedly, to perform this work, he feared his ability to complete it in the time at his disposal, and for this reason felt

PREFACE.

himself fortunate in gaining the ready assistance of two well-known literary ladies, both of whom are deeply interested in everything that relates to Canada and Canadian history, local as well as general.

Mrs. S. A. Curzon,* President of the Woman's Canadian Historical Society, has prepared the chapters on "Domestic Life," "Churches and Ministers," "Societies," and the chapter relating to the Centennial proceedings. Miss M. A. FitzGibbon,† Secretary of same organization, has written the chapter devoted to militia matters, and that containing brief references to pioneers and their families. The work of each lady will speak for itself.

Collected as the information was, somewhat hurriedly, by the committees appointed for this purpose, it is quite certain that numerous omissions, and perhaps some errors, will be noticeable. In the face of many difficulties, however, and the expenditure of much time, the committees performed their work well, and it is only fair to state that special thanks are due to the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Rev. D. B. Macdonald, without whose untiring efforts, and excellent organizing ability, it would have been impossible at this juncture to bring together the material required for the memorial volume, now fully twice its originally intended size. To him also the editor is indebted for much of the information contained in several of the chapters, and for valuable assistance rendered in various other ways. Messrs. J. C. Clark, David Martin,

^{*} Mrs. Curzon is the author of "Laura Secord, a Drama, and other Poems," and many short addresses and papers on historical subjects.

⁺ Miss FitzGibbon is the author of "A Veteran of 1812," "Home Work," "A Trip to Manitoba," and several magazine articles.

Dr. O. Sisley, A. W. Forfar, J. C. Cornell, R. Malcolm, and A. J. Reynolds, all supplied admirable epitomes, either of general subjects, or concerning the several districts they represented.

To Mr. Clark also is due the credit of having photographed most of the views that are reproduced in the book.

It should be mentioned that the poems given at length are by natives, or former residents of the township.

It is much to be desired that every other township in the Province should take steps to crystallize in type the knowledge that now exists chiefly in the memories of the oldest people, and to bring together the numerous scattered references to municipalities, as these may exist in writing or in print.

That this embodiment of what relates to Scarboro will in some degree meet with the approval of those for whom it is more particularly intended is the sincere hope of the editor,

DAVID BOYLE.

TORONTO, June 10th, 1896.

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Government. He arrived just at the time this was being removed to York, and was at once employed as head mason in the erection of the new government buildings.

Some of the records speak of his working at the fort, others on the parliament buildings. It is probable he was employed on both.

The residential part of York was that portion of the city of Toronto lying nearest the Don River. The marshy shores of the bay, hemmed in as it then was, by the peninsula of sand which is now our Island, and by the low, often submerged lands, fostered malaria and generated a low fever and ague from which many suf-Mrs. Thomson's health was so affected fered greatly. thus, that they had been only a few months in York when her husband saw that he must look for a healthier locality in which to settle. The township of Scarboro had recently been surveyed and thrown open to settlers, and David Thomson turned his prospecting steps Following the road which was in this direction. then little more than an Indian trail through the woods, he crossed the intervening sand-plains until he struck the better soil in the valley of Highland Creek. Here he found the necessary conditions for success in a new settlement-rich soil, land well drained, and unlimited water power. There was also the advantage of an abundance of valuable pine.

Selecting a spot about two and a half miles from the lake shore, as the crow flies, and adjacent to a clear, running spring, the first white settler in the township struck the first blow towards establishing his home there. The spring had evidently been used and kept open by the Indians who in days gone by had made this spot their resting-place. 66 HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCARBORO.

The first fair was held at Sisley's Hotel, Danforth Road, on October 18th, 1844, when the following premiums were awarded:

Brood mare 1st prize 10s Jas. Patton.
"
Two-year-old mare colt 1st prize Arch. Glendinning.
II II 2nd II Jas. McCowan.
horse 1st John Holmes.
June 19 June 19 John Stobo.
One-year-old mare " 1st " T. Davidson.
June 11 John Holmes.
Aged bull 1st " H. Howell.
One young bull 1st " Robt. McCowan.
Milch cow 1st Jas. Davidson.
"
Two-year-old heifer 1st 🦷 Geo. Auburn.
June 19 John Torrance.
One-year-old " 1st " Robt. Reid.
", ", 2nd ", Robt. Reid.
Aged ram 1st 🧃 Wm. Mason.
\mathbf{J} J. P. Wheler.
Ram lamb 1st " John Lee.
\cdots Geo. Scott.
Aged ewe 1st J. P. Wheler.
"
Ewe lamb 1st , J. P. Wheler.
"
Boar John Lee.
SowJohn Lee.
"

GRAIN.

2 bush	n. fall wl	heat	5	1st p	rize		W. Paterson.
		11		2nd	11		John Holmes.
11	spring	н		1st		••	John Lee.
**	11	11		2nd	п		A. McLean.

CHAPTER VI.

DOMESTIC LIFE.

"At night returning, every labor sped, He sits him down, the monarch of a shed ; Smiles by his cheerful fire, and round surveys His children's looks that brighten at the blaze; While his loved partner, boastful of her hoard, Displays her cleanly platter on the board."

-Goldsmith.

THE "father" and "mother" of Scarboro were not left long in the absolute loneliness referred to elsewhere. Members of his and her families settled around them, but the difficulties of life in the bush were not easily overcome. Perhaps the greatest inconvenience was the absence of mills. Many a makeshift had to be resorted to, of which remembrances still linger. A corn-mill (for Indian corn) in common use is thus described: A long pole was balanced on a forked upright post, well sunk in the ground; to one end of the pole was attached a rope, by which it could be worked up and down; to the other end of the pole was affixed an elongated block of wood, which had its lower end rounded to fit into a hollow in a large and heavy block standing on the ground. In this hollow the corn was put, and the pole, by means of the rope, was worked up and down so that the descent of the upper block crushed the corn in the hollow of the lower.

dining-room. Many houses are heated by means of coal furnaces, and where there is no furnace, coal stoves are used. The large kitchen is always convenient to the dining-room; a supply of soft-water is kept in underground cisterns, the pump being not unfrequently placed in a corner of the kitchen, while the hard-water pump is equally handy.

In the modern house the sleeping apartments are chiefly upstairs, the aim being to have only one on the ground floor, which is used in case of sickness. A hanging-lamp in each supplies light in dining-room and parlor, hand-lamps being used in bedrooms. In most houses of to-day all the rooms are carpeted, with the exception of the kitchen, which is in some instances covered with oilcloth or linoleum. Musical instruments are found in nearly every house, and in many a Scarboro home may be heard the sweet strains of organ or piano produced by no unskilful fingers.



MEMBERS OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL AND THE PRINCIPAL TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCARBORO, FROM THE YEAR 1850 TO THE YEAR 1896 INCLUSIVE.

YEAR.	Reeve.	DEPUTY REEVE.	Councillors.	TREASURER.	Clerk.
1850	Peter Secor	$\mathbf{J. P. Wheler} \left\{ \right.$	Wm. Helliwell Chris. Thomson Ed. Cornell	Jos. H. Smith.	W. Chamberlain.
1851	J. P. Wheler	Thos. Brown \dots	Chris. Thomson Jas. Purvis Wm. Helliwell	Jos. H. Smith.	Stephen Closson.
	J. P. Wheler	Chris. Thomson	Thos. Dowswell		Stephen Closson.
1853	J. P. Wheler	G. Stephenson $\dots \bigg\{$	Isaac Ashbridge Jos. Secor Wm. Clark	Jos. H. Smith.	Stephen Closson.
	John Torrance	(Geo Stephenson		
1855	J. P. Wheler	Wm. Clark $\left\{ \right.$	Jos. H. Smith Jordan Post Jas. Humphrey	James Moyle .	James Moyle.
1856	J. P. Wheler	Wm. Clark $\left\{$	Jos. H. Smith Jordan Post John Crawford	James Moyle	James Moyle.
1857	J. P. Wheler	Wm. Clark $\left\{ \right.$	Thos. Brown Geo. Stephenson John Crawford	James Moyle	James Moyle.
	J. P. Wheler	1			
1859	J. P. Wheler	John Crawford{	Isaac Ashbridge Wm. Helliwell Edwin Snider	James Moyle	James Moyle.

merged into the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, which is now an active missionary society within the congregation. The present officers are:

Hon. President, -	-	Mrs. Macdonald.
President,	-	Miss E. Brown.
1st Vice-President,	-	Mrs. W. Green.
2nd Vice-President,	-	Mrs. Geo. McCowan.
Secretary,	-	Miss Ida Carnaghan.
Treasurer,	-	Miss Jennie A. Thomson.

Last year about \$116 was sent into the General Fund, and \$55 in clothing for the Indians of the Canadian North-West.

Mr. Adam Bell teaches the Bible-class in St. Andrew's Church, and the Sabbath School teachers are :

Miss Elizabeth Brown.
Miss I. Carnaghan.
Miss I. Bell.
Miss M. Glendinning.

The Secretary-Treasurer is Mr. W. Carmichael.

ZION CHURCH (PRESBYTERIAN).

In 1889 Parsonage Church, Primitive Methodist, withdrew from the Methodist body, accepted Presbyterianism, and was united with St. Andrew's in one pastoral charge. It chose Zion for its new name. This congregation has a fine brick edifice, is in a flourishing condition, and the united charge makes one of the strongest country congregations in Canada.

The officers elected at the time of the union were Messrs. David Martin, George Fitzpatrick, and Leslie Armstrong, as members of session. On the Board of seats for the smaller children. The limited space forbade anything in the shape of desks, those luxuries being reserved for pupils in arithmetic and writing. Light was admitted through long windows similar to those common in blacksmith and carpenter shops, and were usually two panes high and ten or twelve panes long, the sashes sliding past each other horizontally, for purposes of ventilation. In winter, fuel was supplied by the parents, who were required to bring a quarter of a cord per pupil. The teacher was promised no stated salary, but received a rate per pupil (commonly 3s. 9d., or 75 cents per quarter), taking his chances of emolument,-the more pupils, of course, the more pay. In the early part of the century it was not uncommon for the teacher to receive his board gratis, staying a few weeks with one and another of the families represented at the school. If unmarried, which was often the case, he sometimes lived in the school, keeping 'bachelor's hall.' The number of teaching hours was alternately thirty and thirty-six per week, each alternate Saturday being a holidav. About 1860 a change was made, the time of teaching being reduced to five days per week.

"It will readily be seen that as long as the teacher was paid as described above, the schools were situated without regard to any kind of system, the first consideration being the desirability of a large attendance. Indeed, this was the chief factor in determining where a school should be placed. This method of locating school-houses continued until 1847, at which date a change took place. The township was then regularly divided into sections, almost exactly as they are at present, new schools being erected in the centre of each section. For the building and maintenance of these schools, trustees were empowered to levy a rate on the section. Among other advantages, this enabled the trustees to engage a teacher at a certain fixed salary. A rate bill, commonly twenty-five cents per month, per pupil, was charged, and if the amount so collected failed to pay the stipulated salary, a tax was levied on the ratable property of the section to supply the deficiency. All the expenses of conducting the school-fuel, repairs, etc.-were provided for by general taxation.

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Now that sons and daughters of the "first families" became the parents of a new generation, they craved for mental food of a quality superior to that supplied by the text-books and by the weekly newspaper. Dr. George Birkbeck, in Great Britain, had shown the practicability of establishing libraries for the use of mechanics, and the movement was in its prime during the first half of this century. It is not unlikely that the yeomen of Scarboro were thus influenced, to some extent; but whatever the moving cause may have been, it is to their infinite credit that, on the 7th of April, 1834, a meeting was held in St. Andrew's Church to organize a public library, which continued to be known as the Scarboro Subscription Library for a period of forty-four years, until, in 1878, it was incorporated as a Mechanics' Institute under the Ontario Act.

The first meeting, which would appear to have been as harmonious as it was well attended, resulted in the election of R. D. Hamilton, M.D., as President; Robert Hamilton, Vice-President; Wm. Elliot, Treasurer; Arch. Glendinning, Secretary, and James A. Besides these, there were en-Thomson, Librarian. rolled as members, the Rev. James George, Thomas Paterson, Andrew Johnston, William Glendinning, Simeon Thomson, Francis Johnston, Wm. D. Thomson, Jon. Thom, John Gibson, S. Cornell, Christopher Thomson, J. Brownlie, Wm. Forfar, jun., Wm. Paterson, George Scott, David Brown, Thomas Brown, Wm. Hood, John Muir, Adam Bell, John Stobo, Dr. D. Graham, J. Davidson, J. Findlay, John Elliot, John Tingle, Alex. Jackson, Andrew Paterson, Thos. Whiteside, John Martin, George Thomson, John

CHAPTER XVI.

VILLAGES AND POST-OFFICES.

"I visit such tranquil spots always with infinite delight."

-Oliver Wendell Holmes.

"The post is the grand connecting link of all transactions, of all negotiations. Those who are absent, by its means become present; it is the consolation of life."—Voltaire.

THE selection of place-names by Euro-Americans is nearly always a matter of caprice, without the remotest reference to topography, hence the curious jumble presented by the names of post-offices in Scarboro, although it is in this respect not so bad as are many other townships.

In Agincourt, Armadale, Ellesmere, and Wexford, there is no *court*, no *dale*, no *mere*, or no *ford* (*fiord*). In the hybrid Bendale, the *ben* is missing. Other postoffices are Brown's Corners, Malvern, Woburn, Danforth, Highland Creek, West Hill, Wexford, Scarboro Junction, and Scarboro. Among all these names are represented England, Scotland, Ireland, and France, without any degree of propriety except in the two instances of West Hill and Highland Creek, although Danforth is allowable.

It is not too much to expect that the General Postoffice authorities may yet see the necessity of exercising some measure of discretion in matters of this kind, and that they will give the preference to Indian MILITIA.

Crosby, James Daniels, William Thomson, John Thomson, James Thomson, Peter Secor, Amariah Rockwell, Isaac Secor, Peter Stoner, Jonathan Gates, John Laing, Stephen Pherrill, John Stoner, Abraham Stoner, Adna Bates.

Scarboro." *

The Scarboro militia met annually for drill on the King's birthday, June 4th, at Sisley's Hotel on the Danforth Road. In 1828, about 120 men assembled.

One of the features of the muster, after salute and roll-call, was treating the men to a drink of beer, which was carried round in a pail.

The men at this time were not very proficient in drill, and it is said that an Irish officer in command of one of the companies often remarked, "It is hard work to get them in order, even to give them a drink of beer."

In 1860 they were drilled at Woburn by the late Colonel R. Denison.

In 1836 the officers in command of the 3rd Regiment of East York or Scarboro militia were: Colonel, A. H. McLean (January 19th, 1836); Lieut.-Colonel, R. D. Hamilton; Major, Wm. Proudfoot; Captains, J. McDonnell, A. Glendinning, Wm. Thomson, J. Torrance, James Gibson, John Taber, G. H. Fitz-Gerald, Joseph Secor (January 9th), John Howell; Lieutenants, D. Graham, J. Willaghan, D. Knowles, David Stobo (or Stoner), Wm. Pherrill, J. B. Street,

^{*} The document is not dated, and there is no record among the papers as to whether this unique petition was granted. It probably was, and a better man than the objectionable captain appointed. The petition of which this is a copy is in the possession of Mrs. W. Carmichael, who kindly permitted us to use it here. Mrs. Carmichael is a granddaughter of the pioneers David and Agnes Thomson.

minister of St. Andrew's, the Rev. Donald Barclav Macdonald, and among the numerous spectators present, were: Mesdames D. R. Thomson, Christine Thomson, Anthony Ionson, Isaac Stobo, Adam Richardson, Robert McCowan, George Chester, Archibald Paterson, Robt. Forfar, Tilmuth Pherrill, Wm. Young. Thos. Weir and Wm. Doherty; Misses E. Hood, V. Forfar, A. Richardson and Nellie Carson: Messrs. Francis Armstrong, David Forfar, Thos. Whiteside. John A. Paterson, David W. Thomson, Isaac Chester, sen., Francis Glendinning, James G. Thomson, James G. Paterson, Robert Thomson, Lyman Kennedy, John C. Clark, Anthony Ionson, James Gibson, William Mason, Joseph Forfar, Francis Mason, Joseph Teeson, sen., William Allenby, Henry Kennedy, Andrew Young, jun., Archibald A. Forfar, Robert Galbraith. James Lev. Alex. McCowan, Archibald W. Forfar, Alex. Baird, William Green, John Marshall, Robert Chapman, Robert Forfar, Wm. W. Walton, Wm. Young, Robt. Rennie, Tilmuth Pherrill. George Chester, Arch. Paterson, Wm. W. Thompson, James Cherry, Thomas Weir, Wm. Doherty, Abner Abraham, Albert Mason, Lawrence Jackson, William Milner, Joseph Teeson, jun., Ernest Forfar, John Glendinning, Robert Mason, David Forfar, jun., John Malcolm, Charles Milner.

After the curlers had taken lunch, they were arranged outside and photographed by J. C. Clark.

A return match was played in the magnificent Victoria Rink, Toronto, on the 20th of March, only three days after the last game, when Scarboro repeated its victory of sixty years ago with considerable improvement on the score, which on this occasion stood exactly 2 to 1 in favor of the township men, thus: poses. The only entertainments of the early settlers were the hoe-down and dance, which generally took place in the evenings after logging-bees, raisings, etc. The celebration of the monarch's birthday was not so enthusiastically observed until the *regime* of our beloved Queen. Long may she reign !"

The Methodist Church at Highland Creek was enlarged in 1868 by building an addition to the front end, thus making it look long and narrow. A jocular minister used to refer to it as "the shooting gallery."

Bunker, or Bunker's Hill, seems to have been whimsically applied to what was formerly known as Sisley's Hill. It has been suggested that the name was bestowed on account of the number of "engagements" that used to take place here in connection with town-meetings, fairs, trainings, etc., John Barleycorn being always an active participant, and often the instigator.

In 1802 the population was 89; in 1820 it had reached 477, and ten years later it was 1,135.

In 1803 the township owned 5 horses, 8 oxen, 27 cows, 7 young cattle, and 15 swine; but as it is credited with only three houses, it is puzzling to know where all the people lived, for they must have numbered nearly a hundred.

In 1842 Scarboro contained 2,750 inhabitants, 1 grist-mill, and 18 saw-mills. In 1850 there were 3,821 inhabitants, 3 grist-mills, and 23 saw-mills.

APPENDIX.

A.

THE "FIRST FAMILIES."

The following list, copied from the books in the Ontario Crown Lands Office, supplies information with regard to the original patentees of the land in Scarboro. The spellings are given just as they occur in the entries.

CONCESSION A.

Lot 27. Sarah Ashbridge (all)		••	May 16, 1799.
11 28. King's College (all 18a)		••	January 3, 1828.
11 29, 30. Capt. Wm. Mayne (all) .	•• ••		May 6, 1796.
" 31. Charles Watkins (N. pt. 47	a)		April 14, 1852.
u 31. Septimus Auburn (S. pt. 40	Da)		April 9, 1874.
11 32, 33. John White (all)			August 24, 1796.
" 34. Rev. H. Addington Simcoe	(front pt.	70a)	November 24, 1840.
🗤 34. Canada Company (N. ½ 100a	a)	• •	July 18, 1831.
11 35. King's College (all)	•• ••		May 16, 1835.

CONCESSION B.

\mathbf{Lot}	19.	Submission Gallaway (all)	••			May 17, 1802.
11	20.	Parshall Terry, jun. (all 25a	a)	• •	• •	May 20, 1801.
11	21.	King's College (all 100a)	•••			January 3, 1828.
	22,	23. David Fleming (all)	••			April 30, 1799.
	24.	Parker Mills (all 132a)	••			May 17, 1802.
11	25.	Stephen Pherrill (all 140a)	••	••	• •	April 11, 1832.
11	26.	Jonathan Ashbridge (front	part 1	.00a)		August 8, 1799.
41	26.	John Adair (N. part 100a)				August 8, 1799.
11	27.	Sarah Ashbridge (all 200a)	•••	• •		May 16, 1799.
11	28.	King's College (200a)	••	••	•••	January 3, 1828.
11	29,	30. Capt. W. Mayne (all)	••	• •		May 6, 1796.
tı.	31.	Thomas Palmer (N. $\frac{1}{2}$ 100a))	• •		July 4, 1839.
"	31.	Thomas Walton (S. $\frac{1}{2}$ 100a)		••	••	May 29, 1847.
11	32.	Andrew Templeton (rear $\frac{1}{2}$))	••	••	June 17, 1799.
0	32.	Richard Thornbeck (N. pt.	of S.	1 37a)	••	October 18, 1842.

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