

**First Annual Report**  
of the  
**Waterloo Historical**  
**Society**



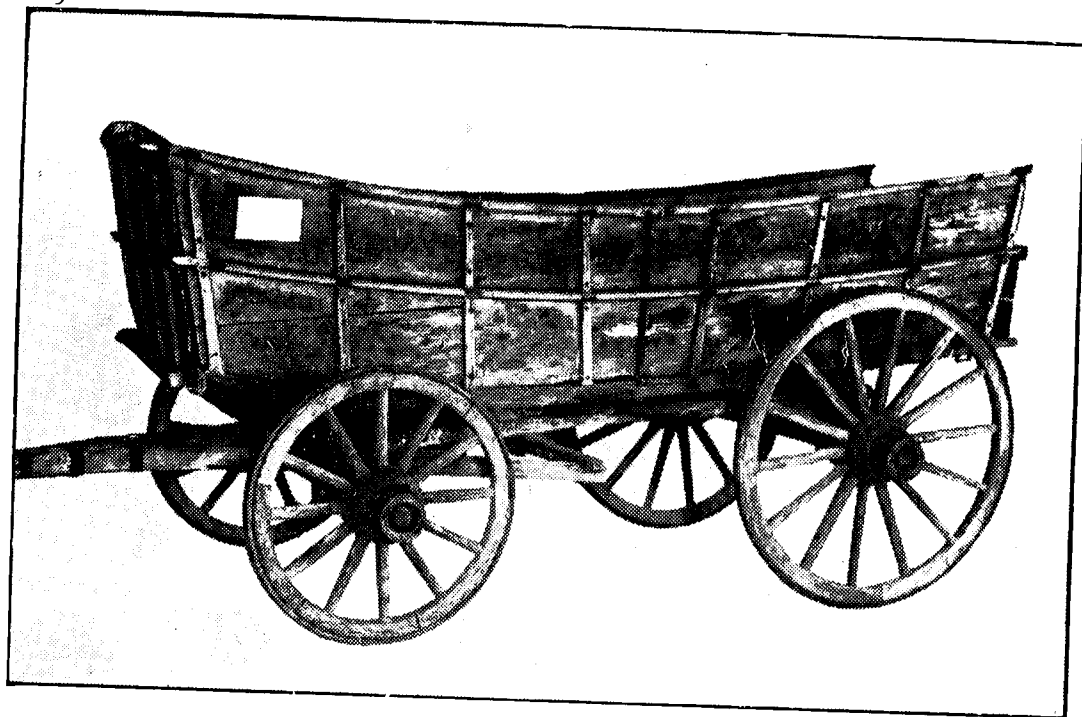
**Nineteen - Thirteen**

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT  
*of the*  
WATERLOO HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



BERLIN, CANADA  
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY  
1913

REPRINT  
WITH SLIGHT EMENDATION  
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SETTLERS' WAGGON 1807. See page 19.

## **Executive Committee**

### *President*

W. H. BREITHAAPT

### *Vice-President*

REV. THEO. SPETZ. C. R.

### *Secretary-Treasurer*

P. FISCHER

C. H. MILLS, M.P.P.

H. J. BOWMAN

W. J. MOTZ, B.A.

G. H. BOWLBY, M.D.

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## *Prefatory Note*

The first active step looking toward the organization of the Waterloo Historical Society was taken on April 11th, 1912, at a meeting of the Berlin Library Board, when, on motion of Messrs. W. H. Breithaupt and H. W. Brown, a committee consisting of Chairman W. J. Motz, Rev. F. E. Oberlander and the Librarian was appointed to communicate with President Williams of the Ontario Historical Society, of Collingwood, and secure, if possible, his presence for some evening for a general public meeting.

The first public meeting was held on Friday evening, April 26th, 1912, when about fifty citizens were present. Mr. Williams addressed the meeting, giving an outline of the activities of the Huron Institute and of the Ontario Historical Society and affiliated societies. There was a general discussion. A motion to take the initial steps of organization was carried and a committee was appointed to arrange the details of organization for a local society and then report to a second general meeting.

This committee held several meetings throughout the summer and reported to the second general meeting at the Library Hall, on November 13th, 1912, with recommendation that a historical society for the County of Waterloo be organized with general features as follows:—

(a) Name, The Waterloo Historical Society.

(b) Officers—A President, a Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer; an Executive Committee consisting of the above three and four others.

(c) Membership Fee, One Dollar annually.

This general meeting proved to be the real organization meeting, and the following business was transacted, with Mr. W. H. Breithaupt acting as chairman:—

(a) The committee's report was adopted as basis of Constitution.

(b) Date of Annual Meeting was fixed for October of each year.

(c) Officers were elected:

President—W. H. Breithaupt.

Vice-President—Rev. Theo. Spetz.

Secretary-Treasurer—R. G. Wood.

Other members of the Executive—Dr. G. H. Bowlby, W. J. Motz, C. H. Mills, M. P. P., H. J. Bowman.

(d) The President was authorized to secure quarters for the Society.

At the first meeting of the Executive on November 26th, 1912, the following business was transacted:—

(a) H. W. Brown was appointed Secretary pro tem in place of R. G. Wood, resigned.

(b) Membership fee for ladies was fixed at 50 cents.

(c) It was resolved that the Waterloo Historical Society affiliate with the Ontario Historical Society as soon as membership reaches 40.

(d) The President and Secretary were authorized to prepare a news item and have the same published in all the County papers. This was duly published as follows:—

### **A Historical Society for the County of Waterloo.**

The possession and occupation of the territory of Waterloo County by the Indians, its settlement by the white man extending over quite a period in the early part of the nineteenth century, and its subsequent progress and development, all have an interesting history. The compilation of such history in its details, and the preservation of all articles of historic interest, are part of the work of a historical society, the formation of which for the County of Waterloo has for some time been under contemplation, and is now an accomplished fact.

The name of the newly-formed society is the Waterloo Historical Society. Its objects are the collection and preservation of records of all kinds, such as more or less complete files of newspapers of the county, early publications of all kinds, manuscripts, family histories, old documents, and so forth, relating to the history of the county; also mementos of the early settlers, old photographs, and Indian objects of any sort, all to form a permanent collection. It is the ambition of the Society to acquire at an early date, a substantial fireproof county building in which to preserve permanently all such records and general objects of historic interest.

Many documents and mementos relating to the early history of the county, which could have been obtained some years ago, have been dispersed or lost; many are still available, and such are particularly sought by the Historical Society. Authentic historical documents, or objects relating to the history of Canada generally, will also be gladly received. The local histories of the various religious denominations or of churches are of great interest, as are also histories of schools and other institutions. Other directions of usefulness for an historical society will suggest themselves to earnest and resourceful members.

It is the desire of the Executive that all local centers of the County be represented in the Waterloo Society by members, and as soon as possible by members on the Executive. The annual membership fee is one dollar for gentlemen and fifty cents for ladies. The fees, together with whatever grants may be made to the Society, will be used to provide substantial cases for the exhibits now on hand, and for those which shall be placed in the



Society's keeping from time to time. The Berlin Public Library Board has granted the free use of one of its rooms as a repository until more permanent quarters are secured. In the meantime it is earnestly desired that citizens in all parts of the County, whether members of the Society or not, will aid, either by securing interesting historic matter, or by intimating where such may be secured, by addressing either the President or Secretary. The Society will welcome either gifts or loans, and will undertake to make every effort to preserve them from injury of any kind.

W. H. BREITHAUPT, President.

H. W. BROWN, Sec'y-Treas.

The President and the Secretary-Treasurer applied on December 14th, 1912, for affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society, remitting at the same time \$4.00 or 10 cents per member for each of forty members. This fee was intended to apply for the year 1913.

On April 7th, 1913, on motion of Rev. Theo. Spetz and Dr. G. H. Bowlby, it was decided to invite Dr. Alexander Fraser, Secretary of the Ontario Historical Society, and chief of the Bureau of Archives, to address an open meeting of the Society on April 25th.

Mr. Peter Fischer was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the Society by the Executive on April 2nd, 1913.

A grant of \$250 was received from the County, a large room 20 ft. by 25 ft. has been secured on longer lease at nominal rental, in the basement of the Berlin Public Library, and the room has been fitted for its use. There is a good beginning of a collection, in files of County newspapers, a valuable collection of old maps, memoirs, etc.

The present membership is 54, residing in Berlin, Galt, Waterloo, Conestogo and Elmira.

P. FISCHER,

Secretary.

Berlin, Ontario, Dec. 31, 1913.

## *Early History of the County of Waterloo*

At the meeting of April 25th the President gave a brief outline of the early history of the County of Waterloo, of which the following is a synopsis:

There have been several local historians in Waterloo County. The late Ezra Eby published in 1895 two large volumes, the result of exhaustive and painstaking work, on the Pennsylvania Germans, containing some general history but the bulk being biographical records of 8495 individuals; a good paper on the Germans of Waterloo County, by the Rev. A. B. Sherk, appears in Vol. VII. of the Ontario Historical Society's publications; the late Hon. James Young, of Galt, published in 1880 an excellent book on the history of Galt and North Dumfries; Mr. Gottlieb Bettschen, of New Dundee, a member of this Society, has published a book containing some of the early history of the Township of Wilmot; and there have been three or four good histories of local churches in the county.

The settlement of Waterloo County was begun by German Mennonite farmers from Pennsylvania in the year 1800, and was practically the first interior settlement in Upper Canada, a distinction, for this County, on which historians of Canada are silent. There had been settlers for a number of years before, United Empire Loyalists and others, but these had all been along the frontier or the lake shore.

In the fall of 1799, Joseph Schoerg and Samuel Betzner, brothers-in-law, from Franklin County, Pennsylvania, came with their families to Upper Canada, crossing the Niagara River at Black Rock. Schoerg remained for the winter at the border while Betzner pushed on to Ancaster. They heard of good lands along a fine river. Early in 1800 they set out to explore, and proceeded to what is now Waterloo Township. Their visit was satisfactory and they at once returned, brought in their families and located, Schoerg along the high ground opposite Doon, and Betzner below Blair on the west bank of the river. These were the first farms in Waterloo County.

Later, in 1800, more settlers came, and for the next two years this continued. The first comers bought their land from one Richard Beasley. It was not until 1803 that one of the settlers, Samuel Bricker, discovered that the titles to their farms were not valid, by reason of an existing mortgage. To pay off this mortgage and to purchase a definite area a company was formed in Pennsylvania and a tract in Waterloo Township, 60,000 acres, called the German Company tract, was purchased and distributed among the shareholders, in blocks of 448 acres, by lot, the purchase money, £10,000, Canadian currency, being transported in silver coin from Pennsylvania. After this the stream of settlers continued with renewed vigor until interrupted by the war of 1812.

Benjamin Eby, after a visit of inspection the year before, came with a large party in 1807. This remarkable man, made a

Mennonite preacher in 1809 and bishop in 1812, was for about forty years the leading figure in Waterloo Township. His land comprised a large part of what is now the City of Berlin and he may be said to be the founder of Berlin, to which he, with others, is said to have given its name in 1826. This latter item appears, however, on good authority, to be somewhat in doubt.

After the war of 1812, Mennonite settlers continued to come and were practically the only settlers north of the Township of North Dumfries until about 1820, when Germans, directly from Europe, as also Irishmen, Scotchmen and others began to come.

In 1816, 94,305 acres, comprising the present entire Township of North Dumfries and some adjoining territory, was purchased for £24,000 by the Hon. William Dickson, of Niagara, whose agent, Mr. Absalom Shade, a Pennsylvania German, at once established himself on the Grand River, at the place which became the Town of Galt, and started a grist mill, saw mill, and trading centre. Settlers, largely from Scotland, were soon attracted. Galt as a village and later a town outdistanced every other place in the County, and was for many years, until comparatively recently, the chief manufacturing and trading centre for a large district.

The Townships of Woolwich, Wilmot and Wellesley were taken up after Waterloo and North Dumfries; Woolwich largely by later Pennsylvania Germans, Wilmot by European Germans, among them a large body of a religious sect known as the Amish for whom one of their number, Jacob Nachtsinger, had obtained a grant from the Government, and Wellesley by Scotchmen and others.

The first church in Waterloo County was built in 1813 by Bishop Eby on his own property; up to that time church service had been held in private houses. This first church of the County is the Mennonite Church, now in its third building, at the east end of King Street, Berlin. A school was started, near Blair, as early as 1802, almost at the beginning of the settlement, with a Rittenhaus, a name noted in the educational history of Pennsylvania, for teacher.

## *Annual Meeting*

Berlin, Oct. 31st, 1913.

The first Annual Meeting of the Waterloo Historical Society was held in the Free Library Hall on the above date, the President, W. H. Breithaupt, in the chair.

The minutes of the meeting of organization were read by the Secretary and on motion of Rev. Theo. Spetz, seconded by J. E. Klotz, the minutes were adopted.

### **Election of Officers.**

On motion of Alex. Millar, K. C., seconded by Thos. Pearce, the officers of 1913 were re-elected to office for the year 1914.

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report.

Berlin, Oct. 31st, 1913.

I have the honor to present to you, the President, officers and members of the Waterloo Historical Society a short resume of the work and standing of the Society for the first year ending October 31st, 1913.

I am pleased to report that after the Free Library Board granted the Society the use of the room, a number of needed improvements were undertaken, viz., the laying of a new cement floor, painting and tinting the walls and ceiling and installing large cases for newspaper files.

Your President and Secretary have been active in promoting the best interests of the Society. We are striving to extend our operations as rapidly as possible with the view of covering points of historical interest in this County.

We hope to enlist the active interest of the pioneers of the County and their descendants in the work of collecting and placing in the Society's care for preservation records of all kinds, old documents, family histories, newspaper files, old photographs, Indian objects, etc.

Many valuable documents of the early history of the County, available only a few years ago, have been dispersed or lost, but many are still to be had and are particularly sought by the Society.

### Lecture.

On April 25th, Dr. Alexander Fraser, F. R. S. C., M. A., Provincial Archivist for Ontario, delivered a lecture on "The Jesuit Missions to the Hurons." On this question Dr. Fraser is among the foremost authorities. His comprehensive lecture was illustrated with lantern views of the men connected with these missions.

### Financial Statement, 1913.

#### RECEIPTS

Members' Fees.....	\$ 53.50	
Waterloo County Grant.....	250.00	
		\$303 50

#### EXPENDITURES

Postage, Printing, Stationery.....	\$ 32.55	
Cases, Repairs.....	109.59	
Affiliation Fee, O. H. S.....	4.00	
Expenses at Lecture.....	6.75	
		\$152 89
Balance on hand.....		\$150 61

All of which is respectfully submitted.

P. FISCHER,

Secretary-Treasurer Waterloo Historical Society.

The report was duly received and adopted.

Memorandum: The balance shown in the financial statement will be required for the payment of outstanding accounts and for expenses of the immediate future.

## *President's Address*

Mr. W. H. Breithaupt delivered his address as President on the subject, "Some German Settlers of Waterloo County."

Who were the first white men to visit this territory? Parkman in his volumes on the Jesuits in North America gives an extended account of the Huron Mission and other Missions projected from that one. Parkman drew from the Jesuit relations, the reports sent by the missionaries to the Superior of the Order. These Relations were originally published by Cramoisy, in Paris. The Province of Quebec re-published a large part of them, the bulk of those pertaining to Canada, in 1858. The first Jesuit Mission to the Hurons went from Quebec, along the indirect Indian trading route of that time, via the St. Lawrence, Ottawa and French rivers, and Georgian Bay, to the Huron country, at the south end of Georgian Bay, in 1634. Their chief place in the Huron country was St. Marie, not far from what is now Waubesaushene. Among other missions from St. Marie one went to what was known as the Neutral Nation of Indians, whose territory, along the north shore of Lake Erie, extended eastward to and beyond the Niagara River. In Father Lalement's relation of 1641 appears the account of how Fathers Brebeuf and Chaumonot left St. Marie on the second of November, 1640, proceeded to St. Joseph, about ten miles southwest of what is now Orillia, obtained an Indian guide there and then journeyed, for five days, to the first villages of the Neutral Nation, probably somewhere in the vicinity of Dundas or thereabouts. From here they proceeded to eighteen more villages, meeting everywhere hostile reception, and accomplishing very little of their purpose. After four months, by which time they had proceeded well toward the west, they decided to return to St. Marie. Not until on their way back did they encounter friendly natives. They were entertained for two weeks of needed rest and recuperation by a friendly Neutral woman and her father. Here they made a vocabulary of the Neutral dialect. On the way out it is likely that their course was along the lower ground, about the route of the present Grand Trunk Railway line from Allendale to Georgetown and Hamilton; but on the return journey there is little doubt that they must have passed through this territory, along its Indian highway, the Grand River, so that it can be assumed, with fair certainty, that Father Brebeuf, of a noble family of Normandy, of heroic mind and physical stature, who died a martyr at the stake, and Father Chaumonot, Jesuit missionaries, were the first white men to traverse this vicinity, and this was toward the spring of 1641. Fourteen years before, in 1626, a Recollet Father, La Roche Daillon, had visited the Neutral Nation, attracted by accounts of an explorer, Brulé, who had preceded him. It appears likely that fur traders had also penetrated into the Neutral country, but of this there is no authentic account.

The Pennsylvania Germans were the founders of Waterloo County and their energy, perseverance and patriotism deserve record in the History of Canada much more than has appeared. Locally, they have, however, been fairly written of. The Scotchmen and others of the southern part of the County have also had their local historian. My purpose this evening is to give a brief account of some of the first Germans of European birth, as distinguished from Pennsylvania Germans, who came here, and to whom the County so largely owes its trading and manufacturing development.

About eighty years ago, in the thirties of the last century, the village of Preston was a very active centre of trade and industry. The first comer to Preston appears to have been George Clemens, who drove a four-horse team up from Pennsylvania in 1800. John Erb, who came from Lancaster County,

Pennsylvania, in 1805, was, however, the founder of Preston. He erected a saw mill in 1806, and the first grist mill in 1807, where still are the Preston Flour Mills. All this was years before the first settlers came from Germany. Of these there were a number who bore a large part in the development of the County, in trade and manufactures; such men as Jacob Hespeler, Jacob Beck, John Clare, Otto Klotz, John and Fred Guggisberg and others. The Village of Preston was named, however, not by the Pennsylvania Germans, nor by the European Germans, but by an Englishman, William Scollick, the first surveyor, who named it after his native place.

Among the earliest storekeepers were Adam Ferrie, Jr., son of the Hon. Adam Ferrie, of Montreal, and Samuel Liebschuetz, a German Jew. Liebschuetz erected several stores and carried on a rapidly-increasing business. He left Preston on buying a small mill, which he enlarged, at what is now known as German Mills, better known among old residents as Jewsbury, from its founder.

Jacob Hespeler came to Preston about 1835. He was born in Ehningen, Wuerttemberg, in 1809, and educated in Nancy, France. Of an adventurous and enterprising spirit he left home at an early age and spent a number of years in the United States, in various occupations, among others that of fur-trading in what was then far western territory, the State of Illinois, where he was active at Chicago, then just beginning in importance. In Preston, Hespeler was first in a general store business with one Yoeste, a Jew, who apparently was a fugitive from Philadelphia, and was pursued and arrested. Later Yoeste was again in business in Preston. Hespeler continued alone, soon built a larger store, and a dwelling house, and considerably extended his business, having also later a mill, a distillery and a vinegar factory in Preston. He tried to procure from John Erb a mill site near the Grand River and had come to an agreement of purchase with Erb, whose wife would, however, not sign the deed, except on conditions not acceptable to Hespeler, who decided to pursue opportunities elsewhere. He at one time tried to get a foothold in Bridgeport, but also without success. In 1845 he secured a water privilege in the Village of New Hope from Abraham C. Clemens and soon proceeded to build a grist mill and began other manufactures, which all thrived greatly. Hespeler continued in business both in Preston and New Hope for some time. In Mackay's Canadian Directory, published by John Lovell in Montreal in 1851, he is given in Preston as storekeeper, proprietor of the grist mill, distillery and vinegar works, postmaster and magistrate, and in New Hope as proprietor of grist and saw mills and cooperage. About 1857 the name of New Hope was changed to Hespeler, as we know it now. Mr. Hespeler died in 1881, having practically retired from business years before.

Otto Klotz, a native of Kiel, on the Baltic, born 1817, came to Upper Canada at the early age of 20 years. He was of a family of grain dealers and shipping men and came to New York, without definite intention to remain in America, on a sailing vessel, belonging to one of his uncles, carrying a cargo of wheat to supply a shortage on this side, and taking eleven weeks for the voyage. He went first with an acquaintance to the then flourishing village of Harpurhey, not far from Seaforth, now not even a post office, here intending to take up land and pursue farming. He remained only two months, by which time he concluded that he was better fitted for some other occupation. Hearing of Preston as a German settlement he without loss of time went there, and soon decided to remain. He purchased a small brewery, which it appears had been abandoned, and carried on a brewing business for some time, with a Dr. Ebert, a chemist. In 1839 he began erection of a building, afterwards enlarged from time to time, and soon started in the hotel business, his house being known as Klotz's Hotel, which he carried on for over forty years, and which may be said to have been the principal hotel in Preston for most of that time. In 1862 he started a starch factory, which, however, was not successful, and was soon discontinued. Mr. Klotz was a leading figure in the community, especially among the Germans, and in educational matters and civic interests generally. He was appointed School Commissioner for the District of Wellington about 1841, and Clerk of the Division Court in 1848. He was connected

with educational matters all the rest of his life, as School Trustee or in some other capacity. In 1865 he, assisted by two teachers of the Preston School, was largely instrumental in having the ill-adapted readers used in Canadian schools at that time superseded by a Canadian series of readers. In 1867 he compiled and himself published a German Grammar used in the German schools of the County, notably in Preston and Berlin. Klotz founded the Preston Mechanics' Institute with books from his own library in 1871, and was instrumental in bringing this, practically a Public Library, to a flourishing condition. The first fire department was organized as a Hook and Ladder Company in 1844, with Jacob Hespeler as President and Klotz as Secretary. A regular fire company followed in 1850, with Hespeler again President and Klotz Secretary-Treasurer, and an engine and other apparatus were procured by voluntary subscription. Klotz leased his hotel premises in 1882 and retired to private life, continuing only his offices as Division Court Clerk and other offices, as also a number of offices of trust without fee or emolument. He was for many years identified with Grand River Lodge, A. F. & A. M., and was Grand Master for the district. Mr. Klotz died in 1892.

Two brothers, John and Frederick Guggisberg, arrived in Preston about 1834 and soon established themselves. The older, John, erected a hotel known as the Black Bear. Frederick, in 1841, started a chair factory, which soon flourished and grew to large dimensions in later years.

Jacob Beck (born Grand Duchy of Baden, 1816), an enterprising young German, came to Waterloo Township in 1837 from Schenectady, N. Y., having come from Germany the year before. He had invented a peculiar water wheel, described as of small size and large power, which soon gave him an enviable reputation. Starting a small foundry in the Village of New Hope he soon transferred to Preston and built a foundry on the premises later owned by Peter E. Shantz, where he did a rapidly increasing business. Unfortunately, a fire completely destroyed his foundry and rendered the proprietor penniless, as he had no insurance. Thanks to the liberality of neighbors a sufficient sum was raised by subscription to enable Mr. Beck to start anew and to have a larger plant than that destroyed by the fire. He soon had a large staff selling his stoves, etc., in Western Canada. With increasing success he enlarged his premises and took into partnership two of his assistants, John Clare and Valentine Wahn. For improving the water-power of Robert Hunt, proprietor of the woollen mills in the village, Mr. Beck obtained the privilege to build a saw mill on Hunt's property, which he carried on for some time. Beck evolved a project for a water power canal leading from the Speed River dam and supplying power to mills and factories along it, such was the confidence in those days in the plentiful flow of the river. The scheme for the power canal did not find support. Beck became displeased with Preston, dissolved partnership with Clare and Wahn, Wahn continuing the foundry. He located a good water power in Wilnot Township, at a place he called Baden, where, beginning in 1856, he soon established a foundry and a grist mill and did a flourishing business. Lovell's Canada Directory of 1857 gives Beck as postmaster at Baden, miller, founder and machinist. Mr. Beck died in 1906. One of his sons is the Hon. Adam Beck, Chairman Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, born in Baden, 1857.

A great centre of business in the early days and up to the fifties, to the time of the location of the County Seat at Berlin, and the coming of the Grand Trunk Railway, was Bridgeport, then a flourishing trading centre. The founder of Bridgeport was Jacob S. Shoemaker, who built the Bridgeport dam in 1829, the grist mill in 1830, and established various other industries. Lovell's 1857 Directory gives Bridgeport as having thirty business men, including millers, brick makers, carriage makers, shoemakers, waggon makers and tavern keepers. There were several general stores in Bridgeport, the most important of them being carried on by a German. This was Peter N. Tagge, a native of Holstein, where he was born in 1816. Tagge came to Bridgeport in the early forties and was in business there for about fifteen years. He was post master, general merchant and township auditor. Tagge bought and sold grain and did a semi-wholesale business with blacksmiths and others. At the height of his prosper-

ity he is said to have done a business of about \$100,000 a year, not a bad record for a Berlin merchant to-day.

Early European Germans were Frederick and Emmanuel Gaukel, Jacob Hailer, Christian Enslin, Anselm Wagner, John Nahrgang, Henry Stroh, George Seip and others.

Frederick Gaukel, a native of Hessen, came to Berlin, not so called until 1826 or later, in 1819 or 1820. He is noted as the first considerable hotelkeeper. He built and opened a hotel on the corner of King and Queen streets, where now is the Walper House, in 1835. Later, James Potter was for a long time proprietor of this hotel.

Jacob Hailer (the speaker's grandfather) was born in Wilferdingen, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, in 1804, came to Waterloo Township in 1832, bought his first acre of land in Berlin from Bishop Benjamin Eby in 1833 and at once established himself as proprietor of a chair and spinning wheel shop, in which he did a modest but flourishing business for well over forty years. He was instrumental in establishing in Canada the religious denomination known as the Evangelical Association, whose regular place of worship for some time, until a church was built, was in Hailer's shop. The first church of this denomination in Canada was built in 1841, on Queen street south, opposite the end of Church street, Berlin. This was a frame building, replaced in 1866 by one of brick and moved to Elgin street, where it still exists as a dwelling. The present church on Weber street is the third building of this denomination in Berlin. Jacob Hailer died in 1882.

The first German newspaper in Canada was published in Berlin, by Henry William Peterson, in 1835, the first number appearing on August 27th of that year. The printing office and dwelling of the editor and proprietor was on what is now the southeast corner of King and Scott streets, next to the house of Jacob Hailer. The "Canada Museum" appeared for only five years, its editor being then appointed registrar of Wellington District and moving to Guelph. Mr. Peterson's wife was a sister of the Hon. John M. Clayton of the State of Delaware, Secretary of State for Presidents Taylor and Pierce, 1848-56, and negotiator of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty regarding the great Isthmian Canal. His son, also Henry William Peterson, who spent his early years in Berlin, was for many years County Crown Attorney of Wellington, and died on the 17th of July last.

Anselm Wagner was the first potter in Berlin and had a shop for many years on King street south, which, and the proprietor, I well remember. His advertisement appears in the Canada Museum.

Christian Enslin was the editor of the "Der Deutche Canadier," the first number of which was issued on January 1st, 1841. Henry Eby was the printer and proprietor of this paper. When Waterloo became a separate County, Enslin was the first Clerk of the Surrogate Court, January, 1853.

Henry Stroh, a native of Hessen, was born in 1818 and came to Berlin in 1837. He was by trade a shoemaker and was engaged in various business enterprises in Berlin. He died at the home of his son, Jacob Stroh, in Waterloo, in 1901.

George Seip, a native of Alsfeld, Hessen, came to Berlin in 1844, started first a cooperage, then a brewery, which he carried on for many years, in premises partly still standing on Queen street south and partly taken down to make room for the present auditorium building. He died in 1875.

In 1855 we find Henry Stroh, above mentioned, in business with Carl Kranz, a native of Altenburg, in the Grand Duchy of Hessen, where he was born in 1803, the son of a Lutheran clergyman. Kranz received a thorough education and was for a long time steward of Count von Erbach. He came to America in 1851 and to Berlin in 1855, where he at once started business, as



stated. Kranz's business, later C. Kranz & Son, was for many years in a frame building on King street, in the centre of the block between Queen and Frederick streets, now known as 22-24 King street east. He died in 1875, when his son, Hugo Kranz, was Mayor of Berlin.

Friederich Rittinger and John Motz, then young men, issued on the 29th day of December, 1859, the first number of the "Berliner Journal," a weekly newspaper, which soon became, as it remains to this day, in the second generation of the firm of Rittinger & Motz, the principal German newspaper in Canada.

Friederich Rittinger was born in the Grand Duchy of Baden in 1833. His mother died early. In 1847 he came with his father, two brothers and a sister, to Canada, landing in Quebec, and soon made his way to the German settlement in Berlin, Canada West. Here, when still under fourteen years of age, he became printer's apprentice to Henry Eby, the publisher of the "Deutsche Canadier." For several years part of the boy's work was the delivery of this paper to subscribers in Waterloo and Wilmot townships. As printer and general assistant Rittinger remained with the "Deutsche Canadier" until the "Journal" was begun, this becoming his life work. He died in 1897.

John Motz was a native of Prussia, where he was born in 1830. Having lost his father and mother early in life he decided in 1848 to join his sister and her husband who had emigrated to Canada some years before. He first arrived in Berlin in June, 1848. For three years, from 1850 on, he was apprentice to C. K. Nahrgang, a tailor. Later he was in various places in the county and for a year in Davenport, Ia., and Rock Island, Ill. Returning to Berlin in 1858 he entered the Grammar School with intent to fit himself as teacher. His former acquaintance with Friederich Rittinger was renewed, and the resolution to publish a German newspaper gradually took shape. Messrs. Rittinger and Motz sought at first to buy the "Deutsche Canadier." Not succeeding in this they projected, and duly launched, the "Berliner Journal." Of public spirit, John Motz was Town Councillor, Deputy Reeve, and in 1880 and 1881, Mayor of Berlin. In politics he was active in the Reform party for many years, was Vice-President and later President of the Reform Association of North Waterloo. He was appointed Sheriff of Waterloo County in December, 1900. This office he retained until his death in 1911.

Such are brief sketches of comparatively few of the early Germans who came to Waterloo County and took part in its development. There are many more well worthy of record. One large aim of the Waterloo Historical Society is to obtain and preserve records of individuals active in the early and later progress of every phase of the County's development. It may, with satisfaction, be stated that a fair beginning, for the short time the Society has been active, has been made.

## *Address delivered by Rev. Theo. Spetz, C. R., Berlin*

### **"The Importance of Local History."**

A systematic record of the vicissitudes of the human race as a whole or according to races, countries or nations, or according to individual districts or institutions gives us universal, national, local history and biography.

Our little society of recent origin aims in the first place at gathering and preserving relics, documents, facts, events, etc., connected with the settlement and development of our own immediate neighborhood in Berlin and throughout the County.

It would be a mistake to think that a district like ours, settled only about a hundred years ago, could not furnish material of interest to the student or useless to the historian. On the contrary, the writer of national or universal history needs, above everything, as his foundation and starting point, a clear knowledge of the people, their character and habits, their social and religious life and activity in the various localities.

Much of the so-called history is nothing but a collection of deeds of a few prominent men,—kings, generals and statesmen; of wars, battles and conquests, without deep inquiry into the character and conditions of the people and circumstances which can account for the success or failure of its leaders. As a result such history is necessarily one-sided, imperfect, if not entirely false.

This fact became evident to many in more recent years and brought forth a host of investigations, especially in the older and more civilized communities, where men turn with eager minds and keen attention to the study of single villages, towns or cities, or a single point in the social condition and circumstances of a community. The particulars, thus laboriously gathered by innumerable workers, furnish a wealth of important material for the history of a community, country or nation, on which the writer of universal history must base his work if it is to be thorough and true to life.

For the historian, authentic facts, events and documents are, of course, of prime necessity. But he must also study and weigh carefully many other important data. Least of all is he allowed to brush aside as useless traditions whether they be national, local or concerning single groups of people and families. Tradition concerning important events may be just as important to the historian as any other fountain of knowledge, even though the tradition may have been embellished and possibly somewhat modified in the course of years or ages.

This truth was disregarded by a modern school of historians, who thought it proper to reject every tradition that could not be upheld by contemporary or quasi-contemporary evidence. Hence the failure of this school of hypercritical historians. As a signal example of such a failure you may take Dr. Mommsen, who wrote a history of Rome in four large volumes, which at the time of its appearance, a generation ago, was believed to be the last and up-to-date word on Rome. He disregards tradition almost entirely as unreliable. Hence the early centuries of Rome, from Romulus to about the time of the democratic republic, or close to 400 years of Roman history, he disregarded as fictitious. According to Mommsen, Rome was much younger than we had been taught in our youth.

Now, recent excavations on the site of old Rome, not only show that Rome is really as old as tradition said it was, but under the ruins of early Rome remains were found of a city much older than the Rome of Romulus. Inscript-

tions on stone were found which thus far have baffled the acumen of the best students of ancient languages. Thus Mommsen's history of Rome remains a splendid monument of a great professor, but as a history of ancient Rome it is a huge failure, just because he rejected tradition as unreliable.

Old Troy gives another example. The hypercritical school of historians denied, among many other supposed events, the truth of the Trojan war. Dr. Schliemann, a celebrated German professor of ancient languages, became indignant at the modern historians who tried to do away with the siege of Troy, and endeavored to deny the existence of the city together with Homer, its poetic historian. Supported by influential and wealthy friends, he first endeavored to locate the site of the ancient city which had been entirely forgotten for ages. Having located what he believed to be the site of old Troy he began to excavate there. To his joy and satisfaction he found that the excavated city corresponded exactly in detail with the description of Troy, as given in the immortal Iliad. The same mistake is being made more recently by a new school of writers, who presumptuously call themselves higher critics in dealing with the Book of books. These super-wise gentlemen are endeavoring by various methods to undermine the authenticity and authority of the Bible. But, what one of them asserts as undoubted truth, a dozen others of the same tribe at once tear to tatters and shreds as utterly baseless. This, and much more that could be mentioned, shows that tradition, whether profane or sacred, must be reckoned with. To disregard it is fatal to the historian, be he ever so learned and deep.

As to our little infant historical society we hope to interest some in local historical research. No doubt most of us have our hands full with the labors of our vocation or calling. The leisure class in our county is still small. Nevertheless, where the field is so extensive and withal so little cultivated, something should be done, and the sooner it is done the richer will be the harvest.

Something, however, has already been done. Some years ago, Mr. Ezra Eby, a college classmate of the speaker, published what might be called a Biographical Dictionary of the Mennonite Settlers of Waterloo County. This work in two large volumes is indeed a monument of painstaking and diligent labor of a life time. It is a pity that it does not also cover the religious life of these good people and splendid colonizers. A history of their various churches and meeting houses throughout the County would certainly make most interesting and useful reading and supply a fund of information for the coming historian of the County. Then a history of every other church, school, public and private institution, would furnish a great fund of information. So would a history of every business and industrial establishment. As to churches, the minister of each one could gather the particulars concerning his own church and congregation better than anyone else in his spare time, because they are upon the ground and well acquainted with their people.

Mr. Young, of Galt, also wrote much and well on North Dumfries and Galt.

W. H. Smith published a history of Canada West about 1851. It embraces two large volumes filled with a wealth of most important information. To obtain it Mr. Smith travelled over the then settled parts of Canada and secured his data at first hand from the early pioneers. He describes the various districts as he went from one village to another, gives the nature of the soil, the timber, etc. He also gives the population, industries and churches; the character, nationality and condition of the people, and furnishes a fund of statistics according to municipalities. What struck the speaker most when perusing this wonderful work was the enormous quantities of maple sugar produced all over the province in those years. Where was it consumed?

The speaker a few years ago became interested in the beginning and development of the Catholic Church of the County, especially in the German element thereof.

He spent his leisure hours for about two years in collecting information on this subject and found it a most instructive and edifying study, though any-

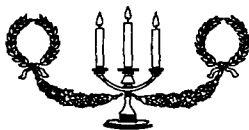
thing but easy. He hopes to find time to digest and write up the Catholic Church of the County and deposit the results of his labors with the Historical Society. Whether he will be able to see it published is another question. His present field of labor leaves him too little time to devote to work outside his vocational duties.

Many of the counties of Ontario have already found their historians, like Perth and Bruce, which are both much younger than Waterloo. May Waterloo soon find its historian also. Though one of the smaller counties it is one of the best and most prosperous and progressive and should not allow itself to lag behind in historical research.

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Mr. Thomas Hilliard, Waterloo, in his opening remarks endorsed the suggestion of Father Spetz, respecting the compiling of historical sketches of the religious denominations, educational institutions and industrial growth of the County of Waterloo. Mr. Hilliard gave an informal sketch of the founding and growth of the Town of Waterloo from 1806.

The address was greatly appreciated.



## *Donations received in 1913*

Complete files of the "Berliner Journal," from December 29th, 1859, to December 25th, 1912. Donated by W. J. Motz, Berlin.

"Der Morgenstern," of 1840-1841. Donated by the J. Motz Estate.

"Deutsche Canadier," of 1848. Donated by Alex. Millar, K. C.

"Deutsche Canadier," of 1856-62, and "Berlin Telegraph," 1857-1864, incomplete files. Donated by W. J. Motz.

"Pilgrim's Progress," third part, in German, published in Berlin, by Henry Eby, in 1850. Donated by Mr. J. Wellein.

German Grammar, by Otto Klotz, dated Preston, 1867. Donated by J. E. Klotz.

History of the Parish of Wilmot, 1828-1913. Donated by Charles James Fox, New Hamburg.

Souvenir History of Trinity Church, Galt. Donated by Canon Ridley.

Biographical Memoir of the late Catharine Breithaupt. Donated by W. H. Breithaupt.

History of the Bettschen Family. Donated by Gottlieb Bettschen, New Dundee.

Tour through Switzerland, by Gottlieb Bettschen.

Portfolio of maps of Berlin, Galt, Guelph, Stratford, etc., many being fifty years old. Donated by F. E. Oberlander, D. D.

Maps of Berlin, 1855; Bridgeport, 1856; New Hamburg, 1854; Waterloo, 1855. Donated by W. M. Cram, Berlin.

Deed bearing date July 20th, 1805, written upon parchment and indented, wherein Daniel Erb and Jacob Erb, of the Home District of Upper Canada, sold to Joseph Eby, of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, two original lots, (of German Company Tract) purchased from Richard Beasley, of the Niagara District. Donated by E. P. Clement, K. C., Berlin.

Four-horse settlers' wagon, driven by Abraham Weber, who came with a large party of settlers from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to the site of Berlin, where he located in 1807. In travelling, this wagon was fitted with a closed canvas top. Donated to the Society by George L. Musselman, of Woolwich Township, near Conestogo, October, 1913.

Side saddle, of fine workmanship, formerly belonging to Nancy Erb, wife of Daniel Schneider, who was for many years postmaster, storekeeper, etc., in Waterloo. Nancy Erb, then eleven years old, came in 1805 with her father, John Erb, the founder of Preston, and family, from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to what became Waterloo Township. Donated to the Society by Mrs. L. J. Breithaupt, Berlin, October, 1913.

A wheel, which was part of the light pleasure wagon presented to Samuel Bricker by the shareholders of the German Company in 1804. In this vehicle in May of the same year, and in care of Samuel Bricker and David Erb, was brought from Pennsylvania to Canada, a distance of 500 miles, the money to pay Richard Beasley for the free title to 60,000 acres in Waterloo Township, "The German Company Tract." Presented to the Society by Allan Huber on behalf of Mrs. Herman Hertel, of Freeport, a great granddaughter of Samuel Bricker.

## *Loan Collection*

The files of the Galt Reformer, from 1853 to 1912, with the exception of those of 1863, '64, '65, '66, '68, '70, '71, '72, '73, '74, '79, '82, '84, 1901, 1902. These files are a bequest of the late Hon. James Young to the Galt Public Library and have been loaned to the Waterloo Historical Society.

## *Annual Members*

Bean, D. A.	Berlin
Beaumont, E. J.	Berlin
Bettschen, Gottlieb	New Dundee
Blake, J. R.	Galt
Bowlby, G. H., M. D.	Berlin
Bowman, H. J.	Berlin
Breithaupt, W. H.	Berlin
Brown, H. W., B. A.	Berlin
Clement, E. P., K. C.	Berlin
Cram, W. M.	Berlin
Dickson, J. A. R., D. D.	Galt
Dunham, Miss B. M., B. A.	Berlin
Eden, J. R.	Berlin
Euler, W. D.	Berlin
Fennell, James P.	Berlin
Fennell, John	Berlin
Fischer, P.	Berlin
Forsyth, D., B. A.	Berlin
Hagedorn, C. K.	Berlin
Hett, J. E., M. D.	Berlin
Houston, D. W.	Berlin
Huber, Allan	Berlin
Klotz, Jacob E.	Berlin
Lang, Louis	Galt
Livingstone, James	Baden
Meilke, E. F.	Conestogo
Millar, Alex, K. C.	Berlin
Mills, C. H., M. P. P.	Berlin
Motz, W. J., B. A.	Berlin
Musselman, George L.	Conestogo
Niehaus, C. F.	Berlin
Oberlander, F. E., D. D.	Berlin
Pearce, Thomas	Berlin
Playford, B. B.	Waterloo
Potter, George E.	Berlin
Richmond, Elliott	Berlin
Schmalz, W. H.	Berlin
Sims, H.	Berlin
Sims, P. H.	Toronto
Smyth, Robert	Berlin
Snider, E. W. B.	Conestogo
Snider, W. W.	Conestogo
Snyder, Alfred	Conestogo
Snyder, William H.	Conestogo
Spetz, Rev. Theo.	Berlin
Staebler, H. L.	Berlin
Uttley, W. V.	Berlin
Vair, Thomas	Galt
Wedd, G. M.	Berlin
Weichel, W. G., M. P.	Waterloo
Werner, A.	Elmira
Wideman, John L.	Conestogo
Williams, S. J.	Berlin
Winkler, W. H.	Conestogo
Witzel, T. A.	Berlin
Zinger, Rev. A. L.	Berlin
Zinger, W. J.	Berlin