

Twelfth Annual Report  
of the  
Waterloo Historical  
Society



Nineteen Twenty-Four

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT  
*of the*  
WATERLOO HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



KITCHENER, ONT.  
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

1924

## **Council**

1924

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### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

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MISS K. POTTER

## Contents

Secretary-Treasurer's Report .....	67
Retiring President's Address .....	69
Early Days in Ayr Miss E. D. Watson .....	72
The Trees of Waterloo County Wm. Herriot .....	80
Jacob Y. Shantz and Russian Mennonites H. M. Bowman, Ph. D. ....	85
Reminiscences of Freeport M. G. Sherk .....	101
Biography Thomas Carscadden, M.A. ....	112
David Forsyth, B.A. ....	116
Donations to Museum .....	120
Exchange List .....	121
Illustrations Jacob Y. Shantz. Frontispiece.	
Shantz Homestead .....	87
Shantz Barns .....	88
Freeport Academy .....	109
Group, Teachers and Students .....	110
Thos. Carscadden, M.A. ....	112
David Forsyth, B.A. ....	116



Jacob Y. Shantz

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

The twelfth annual meeting of the Waterloo Historical Society was held in the Museum in the Public Library at 8.00 p.m. on November 7th.

The retiring President, Mr. W. H. Breithaupt, opened the meeting after which the President-elect, Rev. J. E. Lynn, presided. There was a good attendance of members and others who take an interest in the Society's work.

The programme for the meeting consisted of papers and addresses which appear in the printed report.

While the Society's year had not a great deal to distinguish it from other years there yet was one outstanding feature. Through the efforts of the President, Mr. Breithaupt, the annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society was held in Kitchener in June under the auspices of the local Society. Delegates from the sister societies were in attendance. Papers of local and provincial interest were read and discussed. The delegates joined the Waterloo County Pioneers' Association in a programme of addresses held on the original farm of Samuel Betzner, Senior, at a point on the Grand River opposite Doon.

On the second day of the meeting and in recognition of the particular interest taken in the Society's work, Mr. Breithaupt was elected President of the Ontario Historical Society for the ensuing year.

Our 1923 Report received favorable comment for the articles contained in it and forms another chapter in the story of the pioneer settlement of this County.

During the year we have received grants from the Education Department at Toronto, as well as substantial grants from the County of Waterloo and from the cities of Kitchener and Galt. These grants are gratefully acknowledged.

Our thanks are again due the Kitchener Library Board for the use of the room to contain our collection.

A list of donations received by the Society during the year appears in the Report.

**The Officers for 1925 are**

President ..... Rev. J. E. Lynn  
 Vice-President ..... C. A. Boehm  
 Secretary-Treasurer ..... P. Fisher

**Local Vice-Presidents**

Galt ..... J. E. Kerr  
 Hespeler ..... D. N. Panabaker  
 New Hamburg ..... A. R. G. Smith  
 Elmira ..... O. H. Vogt  
 St. Jacobs ..... E. Richmond

**Members of the Council**

W. J. Motz, J. N. MacKendrick, W. H. Breithaupt, Miss  
 B. M. Dunham.

**Museum and Publication Committee**

W. H. Breithaupt, Chairman, W. J. Motz,  
 Miss B. M. Dunham

Curator ..... Miss K. Potter

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1924**

**Receipts:**

Balance on hand, Jan. 1st, 1924 .....	\$236 12
Members' Fees .....	\$ 55 00
Life Membership .....	10 00
Sale of Reports .....	16 77
Grants: Education Department .. \$ 100 00	
County of Waterloo .... 75 00	
City of Kitchener ..... 75 00	
City of Galt ..... 50 00	
	\$300 00
	381 77
	\$617 89

**Disbursements:**

Postage and Stationery .....	\$ 36 64
Printing .....	10 65
Binding .....	43 30
Printing 1923 Report .....	168 79
Curator .....	30 00
Secretary .....	40 00
Sundries .....	46 25
	375 63
	\$242.26

Audited and found correct.

J. H. WUEST, Auditor.

## Retiring President's Address

We are glad to note continued interest in the work of the Waterloo Historical Society.

The Society has again had a prosperous year. We duly, as regularly since the formation of the Society, issued our publication for 1923. Financial support has been forthcoming this year as before, from the Province of Ontario and from other sources still to be completed. Perhaps the most permanent effect of the Waterloo Historical Society's work is our addition, from year to year, to the recorded history of the County and the dissemination of this record generally throughout the country. We may well say that this has already had the effect of giving the County settlement mention in general Canadian History, and this is no more than due.

As evidence of appreciation of the work of the Waterloo Historical Society the Annual Session of the Provincial Society, the Ontario Historical Society, was this year held in Kitchener, under the auspices of our local Society. I shall not go into full details of this session. It took place on June 24th and 25th, headquarters being the Court House, the use of which was kindly given by the County Council. Mayor L. O. Breithaupt gave the Address of Welcome, appreciating the distinguished visitors and dwelling on points of interest and on achievements of the City of Kitchener.

As pertaining to effort originated by this Society I want to speak of one particular event of the Session. The Waterloo County Pioneers' Memorial Association, duly organized last year, purchased on May 22nd, after securing option late last fall, an acre of ground, on the high bank of the Grand River, opposite Doon, containing the little cemetery where are the graves of Joseph Schoerg and other pioneers, on the original farm of Samuel Betzner Sr., adjoining that of Joseph Schoerg. To this ground, now a public park, handsomely fenced and in trim order, the Ontario Society made an excursion on the afternoon of June 24th, in beautiful weather, the first day of the session, and there held a very interesting and largely attended public meeting. The meeting was opened by prayer by Rev. J. E. Lynn, Vice-President of the Waterloo Historical Society. Mayor D. N. Panabaker of Hespeler, President of the Pioneers' Association, who presided, welcomed the visitors and gave an interesting address on the early settlers and the object of the Association. A glowing tribute to Pioneers



of Waterloo was given in his address by Brig.-Gen. E. A. Cruikshank of Ottawa, Chairman of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. In recognition of the national importance of the settlement of Waterloo Township as the first larger colony in the then far interior of Upper Canada the Monuments Board had shortly before granted its official bronze tablet duly to be affixed to the monument to be erected. Other speakers were Mr. M. G. Sherk of Toronto, who gave from personal recollection very interesting local historical "Reminiscences of Freeport, Waterloo County, from 1867 to 1873"\* and myself on the history of the first settlers of Waterloo Township.

The first sod in excavation for the foundation of the monument was then turned by Dr. Rowland B. Orr, President of the Ontario Historical Society, assisted by Brig.-Gen. Cruikshank, with the spade used by the Duke of Connaught on his visit to the County Town in May, 1914, in planting an oak in Victoria Park.

The large company then proceeded to Victoria Park where a collation was provided by the Kitchener City Council and by ladies of the Waterloo Historical Society and their friends.

The Kitchener City Park Board very obligingly provided platform and seating for the meeting at Memorial Park and facilities for enjoyment of the occasion at Victoria Park.

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At the end of the period of years during which you have continuously elected me president of the Waterloo Historical Society, I cannot but express my deep feeling of appreciation of this distinction. I trust that you will support my successor as generously as you have seconded my efforts.

The Society has now become well established and will, we trust, be enabled to continue with renewed vigor in its interesting and useful work. We trust that the financial support it has had and for which we have endeavored, and I think with fair success, to show results, will continue. The annual grant from the Provincial Government which, in common with other local societies, our society has received.

\* Printed in this Report. See p. 101. Ed.

and which has been the most substantial item of our financial means, has for the coming year been discontinued. We earnestly hope that on demonstration of what has been accomplished with its assistance this grant may again be forthcoming, and toward such end we must exert every effort.

We are favored with three very interesting papers for this evening; a paper by Miss Watson on "Early Days in Ayr," a paper by Mr. Herriot, of Galt, on "Trees of Waterloo County," and one by Dr. Bowman on Jacob Y. Shantz and his work.



## Early Days in Ayr

By Elizabeth Dolman Watson

It seems especially fitting that something of Ayr's early days should be told this year, when the village has just celebrated its hundredth anniversary, and that some one should try, even if with but faint success, to picture the village life and those who laid its foundation.

Too little emphasis has been placed, I think, on the part played in the early days by the small villages and their country sides in the religious, educational and political life of this Province.

Just one hundred years ago Abel Mudge made the first settlement in Ayr, building in 1824, at the junction of Smith's Creek and Cedar Creek, a sawmill, to which were added stones for grinding flour.

Then, and for many years after, rafts floated down Smith's Creek to the Grand River at Paris, and on to Dunnville.

Curiously enough the first settler came not from the East as most of the settlers of Dumfries came, but from the Southwest.

In 1790 a water privilege was granted to one Mudge, on Smith's Creek, about three and a half miles west of Paris. A dam and mill were built shortly after and in 1810 the present mill, still in use, was built. The place now called Canning, was known as Mudge Hollow, and from here Abel Mudge came.

Tradition has woven varied and exacting tales about the Mudges. They came from the United States, but were of English descent, and judging from the Biblical names, Elijah, Jeremiah, Abel, must have come of God-fearing stock.

Louis Mudge, a son of Abel, has left an interesting trail through the southern part of this county, particularly during the American war in '65, but the family seems nearly to have died out.

Smith's Creek, now known as the Nith, twists and curves, doubles and re-doubles so many times on its way to Paris, that it seems almost certain that Abel Mudge followed a rough trail to Ayr over what is now the township

line between Brant and Oxford, along which settlements had been made at an early date.

He was only a squatter, but apparently had some recognized rights, for there is a record of dealings between him and James Jackson, who in 1835 received a deed of the land and water right from the Hon. Wm. Dickson. In 1845 Jackson sold to a Mr. Andrews, who in turn sold to Daniel Manley in 1847, and in 1868 it passed into the hands of John Watson.

Amongst the earliest settlers in the neighborhood were the Dobkins, Marlatts, Lucas and Kirkwalls, names which have disappeared.

From 1832 the tide of immigration was fairly on, and by 1840 the neighboring lands were taken. Halls, Edgars, Blacks, Mortons, Guthries, Mansons, Hopes, Curries, Wyllies, Howells, Robsons and Mitchells were settled.

Smith, in a Gazetteer of 1846, speaks of the village having been laid out in 1839 but I find no other record of this. The land on which it now stands seems in the original deeds to have belonged to John Robson, James Colquhoun, John Hall, W. Gladstone and James Jackson. The township of Dumfries was part of the County of Halton until 1852 when it was attached to Waterloo and Dr. McGeorge of Ayr made first reeve of the new township, North Dumfries.

Though the incorporation of the village was discussed as far back as 1855 it was not finally done until 1884 when John Watson was appointed first reeve.

Jedburgh and Nithvale, both part of Ayr, seem to have started as separate settlements.

John Hall came to Jedburgh in 1832 and established both a flour mill and distillery. Later Mr. Colcleugh established a second distillery and Mr. James Piper a woollen mill. There was also a peg factory, a store and a blacksmith shop. Now only a few dwelling houses remain.

Nithvale had two sawmills and a flour mill. The latter remains, but Nithvale's claim on history will be that in 1837 it was a meeting and drilling place for MacKenzie's followers, and that it was there Capt. Rich and Capt. Wilson were sent with Galt and Guelph volunteers to arrest the supposed ring leaders, Hill, Webster, Kenny, Foster and Church.

There was a bitter struggle for supremacy between Mudge's Mills and Jedburgh, only ended in 1840 when Robert Wyllie succeeded in having a post office established and Mudge's Mills re-named Ayr.

James Jackson was first post master but was succeeded four years later by Robert Wyllie, who, with his son, held the office for over half a century.

Rumor gives Mr. Wyllie's wife the credit of helping in a choice of a name, but it is more probable that it was chosen because of the large number of Ayrshire people in the neighborhood, amongst whom were Blacks, Edgars, Goldies, Wyllies and Guthries.

From then on we have a fairly accurate record of the village.

In 1846-47 Mr. Daniel Manley's mill was built. Wm. Baker's store established and John Watson's foundry begun. Dr. McGeorge came about 1841.

At first the only outlet seems to have been by way of Galt, walking there, and then by stage to Hamilton.

After 1847 when mills, distilleries and foundry were fully established, teams drove to Galt, then on to Hamilton, taking out goods, bringing back supplies and raw material. It took three days for the round trip, and an old account says the cost of bringing back a ton of pig iron was \$4.00.

Somewhere about 1848 a toll road was built between Ayr and Paris, mostly with Ayr capital. After the opening of the Great Western railroad in 1855 the teams went to Paris.

Not until 1879 did a railroad go through Ayr. That year a freight service was opened between Ayr and Ingersoll on the old Credit Valley. The Galt bridge was finished the next year, making through traffic to Toronto.

The township of North Dumfries, including Galt and Ayr, gave to that railroad \$110,000.

The promoters of the road had little money but it was through a district in dire need of better transportation, and bonused from end to end, built around hills instead of through to save money, and often with not even the men's wages in sight.

A story is told of one Scotch settlement which had decided to vote down a bonus. Mr. Laidlaw, who was one

of the leading promoters, was sent for in hot haste. Mr. Laidlaw could speak the Gaelic, and speak it he did with such force at a little country school house, that every good Scotch vote went in favor of the bonus.

There are old church records dating back to 1834. I wish there was time to tell you of the beginning of the first churches, to follow from barn to log church, from log church to the old frame churches of Stanley and Knox. I wish I could picture for you the hard wooden seats, the steep galleries, the high panelled pulpits, the precentor's box below, the great box stoves which only took the edge off the cold; that I could make you see the men wearing plaids, the women in tartan shawls, walking first through the woods to church, then driving on lumber wagons, and later on the old high democrats.

I could tell you of the lighting of the church with candles, and of the buying of the first lamp.

Let me give you out of the records, one resolution passed by the church session in the days of the Indian Mutiny:

"The session in appointing the observance of a day of fasting and humiliation consider the causes for such an observance must be obvious to every thinking mind. The judgments of God are general in the earth, and though all are not punished with equal severity, yet none are altogether exempt.

In the eastern and largest portion of the British Empire they are most severe and alarming. There mutiny and rebellion have been attended by scenes of blood, cruelty, lust and rapine, that are without a parallel in history, causing lamentation, mourning and woe through every dependency of the Empire.

In addition to this dreadful calamity commercial distress is general throughout the whole civilized world. In some places pestilence is devastating the land, and a partial failure of the fruits of the earth in others, even to some extent in our own land.

It becomes us in the day of adversity to consider the causes of these afflictions—"God does not afflict willingly"—when He does whet His sword and His hand lays hold on judgment, it shows us that our sins are so great that they can not go unpunished. While the Lord is displaying His power to punish, it certainly becomes us to be deeply

humbled before His awful majesty, and with deep contrition of heart, to approach the throne of mercy, making confession of our sins, as a nation, as a church, as a congregation, and as individuals, and everyone feeling the plague of his own heart supplicate mercy through the Saviour, with that humility and earnestness that will give proof of the sincerity of our hearts, and the repentance of sins, and hoping in faith that the Lord will avert His judgments, and not execute on us the fierceness of His indignation."

They were so sure in those days that they knew the reasons of the Lord's judgments, and that His opinion coincided with their own.

Many years later a good old uncle who lived near the village at this time told me with much earnestness that he believed that God would visit this country with an awful punishment for the way it had supported Sir John A. Macdonald.

The village always took an active interest in politics.

As far back as 1852 the Hon. George Brown was given a public dinner in Ayr, a fact to which he alluded in his second visit in 1867, the year of the famous Young-Cowan election and the coalition government struggle.

The Hon. Wm. McDougal and John Sandfield Macdonald also spoke in Ayr that year, the latter winding up his speech at a meeting with the query "What under Heaven more do you want?" Village legend reports the query in somewhat stronger terms.

The meeting closed with the following resolution. Moved by Thos. Chisholm, ex-warden of the County, seconded by John Watson and adopted, only four hands held up against: "Resolved, that this meeting has no confidence in the new Coalition Government formed by Messrs. Macdonald, Cartier and Galt, and also regards the Coalition formed by Mr. John Sandfield Macdonald as an insult to the Province of Ontario; that it deplores and condemns the political recreancy of Mr. Cowan in his recent shameful desertion from the Reform ranks, and it takes this opportunity to express its confidence in Messrs. Young and Clemens, and will use all fair means to secure their election."

Very cheerful for Mr. MacDonald on the platform.

Our first newspaper was in 1854 and was started by Mr. James Somerville, afterwards editor of the Dundas Banner, and for many years member for the Dominion House of Parliament.

Very fortunately a number of these papers have been preserved and give much insight as to what was going on. There are accounts of school board meetings, of examinations, lectures, debates, the selling of two small fire engines in 1856, and the buying of a larger one.

I must not forget to tell you of the old fire company. You had to be nominated and elected to membership, then you had to pay a fee of two shillings and sixpence, and finally you had to buy your own uniform. But it was a gorgeous one and well worth the money. The coat was a brilliant scarlet flannel Prince Albert with brass buttons.

Truly the company must have been a festive sight when in 1860 they went to Paris to see the Prince of Wales go through on the old Great Western.

That they were decent and law-abiding citizens is proved by the fact that any member swearing was fined 12½ cents. Also any member smoking at any meeting of the company was fined 12½c.

They, with the Mechanics' Institute, were responsible for many years for the proper celebration of the Queen's Birthday.

The first Library was founded in 1849 or 1850, becoming a Mechanics' Institute in 1856 and for three-quarters of a century it has been a great factor in the village.

It is interesting to find that from 1854 down well on to the seventies the four great English Reviews were taken. There are still in the Library bound copies of the Edinburgh Review, the Westminster, the London Quarterly, dating back to 1854.

In 1857-58 the books were bought in Buffalo, someone being sent over for that purpose. In 1858, \$130 was spent, a large sum for a village of seven or eight hundred people.

They even had a heresy hunt in 1858 when a special meeting was called on the request of the Rev. Duncan McRuer and others, desiring that requisite steps be taken to exclude the Westminster Review on account of a recent article with skeptical tendencies.

Alas! that time forbids the telling of that story.



The Library held lectures, entertainments, night classes, and had a debating society.

Dearly those old Scotch men loved to argue. A story is told of one man being met walking on a country road one stormy winter day, who, on being asked why he was out and where he was going, replied, "In to the nomination meeting to argue."

Mr. Dent, afterward the author of a History of Canada, and a well known editorial writer, was for some years a member of the Library Board, as was also Dr. Bingham, for many years in Waterloo.

The schools deserve a special chapter. There were many private ones as well as the public school.

I must only copy from an old letter book, the following, written in 1853 to Mr. Donald McLean, who was evidently asking an assistant.

Mr. Donald McLean.

Sir.—Your favor of the 25th came duly to hand. In answer I would beg to state that I laid your letter before the Trustees. They thought it would not be prudent in us to employ a female teacher without consulting some of the ratepayers on the subject, therefore I can not give you a direct answer till Monday next.

In the meantime, believe me to be

Yours truly,

Sometimes one could wish that our present school boards would exercise the same discretion.

In closing it is pleasant to note the wholesome village and country pride. Community spirit is not the recent discovery so many social workers would have us believe.

Ayr seems always to have had it. Of course there have been many family quarrels, bitter and long. Jedburgh versus Ayr, upper village against lower, church and school fights—but they were always united against the world.

Two funny illustrations come to mind. The first back in the fifties, when two leading citizens were busy quarrelling over some thing now forgotten. The editor of the Galt Reformer advises they stop, whereupon another irate citizen writes to the Galt Reporter that while he too deeply deplores the quarrel, it is none of the editor of the Galt Reformer's business, and that he had better look after his own affairs.

Another, more recent. For many years Galt and Ayr held a Fall Fair alternately. Finally Galt acquired more votes on the directorate and the Fair was taken permanently to Galt.

Ayr sniffed contemptuously, put its head in the air, and as one man, one woman, one child, attended Drumbo Fair in the County of Oxford, and for thirty long years Ayr school children got a holiday for Drumbo Fair and went to school on the day of Galt. Even today there is a disposition on the part of the older people to regard a rainy day for Galt as a wise dispensation of Providence.

I have only gossiped. Some day I hope someone will do justice to the men who went before. Strong, well balanced men, of good sound judgment, shrewd, kindly, honorable men with many interests, and each one made from a different mould.



# The Trees of Waterloo County

By W. Herriot

What is a tree? This is a question to which it is not easy to give a short and well defined answer. The same species may assume a tree like habit or may remain shrubby according to the climatic conditions, soil and other circumstances.

Trees surpass all other organic beings in height, magnitude and longevity. The greatest height known has been reached by the Eucalyptus of Australia, which attains a height of 470 feet, and the age attributed to many of the tallest trees is rather startling, although based more or less on speculation, opinions differing widely, varying from 4000 to 6000 years. Some of the giant trees of the Pacific slope existed before the Christian era, and of all living things on earth, trees are by far the oldest.

In listing the trees of Waterloo County I have confined the list to those species only that attain a trunk diameter of a foot or more, of which there are at least 45 indigenous to the County; but to include the smaller trees as Hawthorns, Dogwoods and Willows, the list would perhaps be double this number.

As far as I have travelled, I have found the Ontario woods vastly more picturesque and interesting owing to the great diversity of species. The forests of the Pacific slope although wonderful from the immensity of the trees, I found gloomy and almost appalling owing to the predominance of evergreens, their dense shade having rather a depressing effect on me, and I found it quite a relief to be back again in the company of cheerful Maples, Elms and Oaks.

There is a rapid change in the character of the flora between Galt and Paris, as trees and plants, that are fairly common a few miles below Galt, disappear a few miles farther north. The Skunk Cabbage, so common around Galt in swamps and low grounds, is extremely rare in the vicinity of Puslinch Lake, which is hard to explain. The Chestnut and Sassafras are both common below Galt but I have never seen either north of the city, and throughout this chestnut country many plants grow that are confined to this area and never seen to the north of Galt, showing that marked climatic or geological changes must occur

within comparatively few miles of country below Galt, that would cause the termination of so many forms within so limited an area. Modern science has been very busy unravelling the many intricate forms of Hawthorns (*Crataegus*), and Central Ontario is considered the region where they have attained their highest development. When I started plant study in 1889 Gray's Manual of Botany, 6th edition, published the same year, contained ten species of *Crataegus*. The 7th edition published 1908 contains 65 species distributed throughout Central and Northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. I have often hoped to, but have never found time to work out the Ontario species according to the modern revision. It would prove a most interesting study. Owing to our rapidly disappearing forests the Waterloo County Grand River Park will, before long, be regarded as a veritable shrine in the way of a relic of our native forests. It contains trees of magnificent proportions to the number of 25.

The native trees of the County are as follows:

- Sugar Maple, (*Acer saccharum* L.) rich woods, common.
- Black Sugar Maple. (*Avar. nigrum* Michx. f.) Britton. Frequent, growing with the type.
- Red Maple, (*Acer rubrum* L.) Common in woods and swamps.
- Silver Maple, (*Acer saccharinum* L.) Frequent in swamps and along streams.
- White Elm, (*Ulmus americana* L.) Common in swamps and along streams.
- Slippery Elm, (*Ulmus fulva* Michx.) Low woods and river banks, frequent.
- Cork Elm, (*Ulmus racemosa* Thomas). Banks of streams and moist woods, common.
- Sugarberry, (*Celtis occidentalis* L.). Perhaps the least known of our native trees, as it is likely to be passed for an elm, which it resembles in general aspect. It is sparingly found along the valley of the Grand River, two fine specimens standing at the east end of the bridge at Blair.
- Basswood, (*Tilia americana* L.). Rich woods and along streams, common.

- White Ash, (*Fraxinus americana* L). Rich and moist woods and fields, common.
- Black Ash, (*Fraxinus nigra* Marsh). Swamps and low grounds, common.
- Sassafras, (*Sassafras varifolium* (Salisb) Ktze). Frequent in rich woods south of Galt, growing with the chestnut.
- Sycamore, (*Platanus accidentalis* L). This large and magnificent tree has its eastern limit in the valley of the Don at Toronto, and from thence is confined to Southwestern Ontario. A few trees grow along the river above and below Galt, and it is frequent along the Nith at Ayr.
- White Hickory, (*Carya alba* (L) (K. Koch). Common on rich uplands and along the river valley.
- Shell-bark Hickory, (*Carya ovata* (Mill) K. Koch). Common with the former.
- Pig-nut Hickory, (*Carya glabra* (Mill) Spach). Woods and thickets, common.
- Bitter-nut Hickory, (*Carya cordiformis* (Wang) K. Koch). Rich woods and swamps, common.
- Butternut, (*Juglans cinerea* L). Open woods and hillsides, common.
- Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra* L). The distribution of this fine tree is limited to that part of Ontario west of Toronto, and no doubt existed here previous to the clearing of the country. One fine large tree grows in the gully north of the golf links on the Galt-Preston road, which, judging from its size, is, I think, a native. In the vicinity of Paris it is still found in some quantity.
- Beech (*Fagus grandifolia* Ehrh). Rich woods, common.
- Chestnut (*Castanea dentata* (Marsh) Borkh). Confined mostly to the southern part of the county, below Galt.
- Red Oak (*Quercus rubra* L). Common in both rich and poor soils.
- White Oak (*Quercus alba* L). Common, mostly in poor soils.

Mossy-cup Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa* Michx). Rich woods and fields, frequent.

Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea* Moench). Dry woods and fields, frequent.

Black Oak (*Quercus velutina* Lam). Dry woods and fields, frequent.

Chestnut Oak (*Quercus Prinus* L). A rare tree in Waterloo County. One fine specimen grows on a lot on South Ainslie St., Galt, a relic of the forest. In the vicinity of Dundas it becomes fairly common.

Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana* (Mill) K. Koch). Rich and low woods, common.

Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana* Walt). Woods and along streams, common.

Paper Birch (*Betula papyrifera* Marsh). Low woods and rocky banks, common.

Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta* L). Rich woods, frequent.

Yellow Birch (*Betula lutea* Michx f). Rich and low woods, the largest of our birches.

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina* Ehrh). High woods and fields, common.

Juneberry (*Amelanchier canadensis* (L) Medic). Rich woods and thickets, common.

Balsam Poplar (*Populus balsamifera* L). Woods and swamps, common.

Cotton-wood (*Populus deltoides* Marsh). Rather rare, a few trees growing south of Galt.

American Aspen (*Populus tremuloides* Michx). Woods and thickets, common.

Large-toothed Aspen (*Populus grandidentata* Michx). Rich woods and along streams, common.

Black Willow (*Salix nigra* Marsh). Banks of ponds and streams, the common willow on river flats.

Peach-leaved Willow (*Salix amygdaloides* Anders). Low woods and around ponds, frequent.

NOTE.—The White Willow (*Salix alba*), the large willow with yellow branches, now thoroughly naturalized, is a native of Europe.

**White Pine (*Pinus Strobus* L).** Common, mostly on high lands.

**Balsam (*Abies balsamea* (L) Mill).** Occasional in damp woods.

**Black Spruce (*Picea mariana* (Mill) B S P).** Cold bogs and swamps, common.

**Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis* (L) Carr).** Frequent in elevated woods and rocky banks.

**Tamarack (*Larix laricina* (Du Roi) Koch).** Bogs and cold swamps, common.

**White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis* L).** Swamps and rocky banks, common.

**Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana* L).** Although found along most rocky river banks and elevated woods throughout Ontario, I have never seen an indigenous tree growing in the county. That it did exist at one time, I have no doubt, as several fence rails were found around Galt many years ago.



## Jacob Y. Shantz\*

Pioneer of Russian Mennonite Immigration to Manitoba

H. M. Bowman, Ph. D.

The chief original settlers on the area which in 1854 was incorporated into the village of Berlin were the Ebys (1805-6) on King street east, Joseph Schneider (1807) on Queen street south, Abraham Weber (1807) on King street west, and John Brubacher (1815-6, Frederick street, limits) in the East ward. None of these families are now represented in the city in a large agricultural way except the Brubachers. Samuel Brubacher, a grandson of the original settler, still runs a considerable farm at Lydia street in the East Ward. The first to disappear was the Weber family. The Grand Trunk railway was laid obliquely through their farm in 1855. There is nothing a farmer dislikes much more than an oblique right of way through his rectangular fields, which is a chronic vexation in ploughing. The Weber of that day, a son of the original settler, sold out and moved to the site of the sanatorium at Freeport. On the site of the Weber home the purchaser, Ward H. Bowlby, K.C., built the residence now serving as the office of the Ames Holden Company.

In 1808 Barbara (Reiff) Shantz (1753-1820), the widow of Isaac Shantz (1748-1802), came to Canada with her fourth and fifth sons, Isaac and David, from Pottstown, Montgomery County, Pa., and settled on the north-east side of the Preston road about one and a half miles from Berlin. Two years later she was followed by her third son, Jacob, (1781-1867), (who became the father of Jacob Y. Shantz) and his wife, Mary Yost, (1784-1869), whom he had married in 1805. Jacob Shantz in 1810 bought of Joseph Eby 136 acres and 125 perches on King street east, including the site of the family homestead, which was owned by him and his descendants for 101 years until sold in 1911 by his grandson Jacob B. Shantz, now living at 24 Chapel Street in the East Ward.

### Jacob Yost Shantz (1822-1909)

Jacob Y. Shantz, the son of the original settler Jacob Shantz, was born May 2, 1822, on the family homestead in the South ward, and died October 28, 1909, at 105 Queen Street north, now the residence of his daughter Miss Ida Shantz. He was the sixth son and eighth child in a family of eight sons and two daughters. He outlived all his brothers

\* Portrait see frontispiece.



and sisters, and was well till within an hour of his death. He was thrice married, in 1843 to Barbara Biehn (1819-1853), in 1853 to Nancy Brubacher (1832-1870), and in 1871 to Sarah Shuh (1823-1893). He had issue twelve children, two sons and three daughters by the first wife, and by the second, three sons and four daughters. He was survived by five sons and four daughters, of whom there still live Moses, of Rochester, N.Y.; Dilman, of Buffalo, N.Y.; Jacob and Miss Ida Shantz above named; and Mrs. N. B. Detwiler, 50 Ahrens Street west.

John, his youngest son, died on September 24th last at Rochester, N.Y., and was brought thence for burial at the East End Mennonite cemetery where Mr. Shantz himself was buried in 1909.

### The Family Homestead

The family residence still stands at the south east corner of South and Maurice Streets. South Street, until it was opened to Courtland and Mill Streets, was the entrance lane for the homestead from King Street or Preston Road. The barn which stood west of the house and west of the lane, gave place to an industrial plant about ten years ago. The house is a good specimen of the rural architecture of its locality and time. It consisted of two complete dwellings, having access to each other within, but otherwise independently arranged. A wide verandah with an entrance to each dwelling extends along the entire south front. Two roofed porches on the north front (facing Maurice Street recently opened) were the kitchen entrances. On the west kitchen porch is painted clearly, in figures about eight inches high, the date 1856. In the upper half of the west gable, facing South Street, was painted the same date in figures about two feet high, since painted over, but still legible through the covering coat. The principal entrance to the west dwelling was by a verandah on this front, from South Street. The eastern dwelling, an earlier structure of frame, was built by Mr. Shantz's father and occupied by the father and his widow until their deaths in 1867 and 1869. The western and larger dwelling, erected by Mr. Shantz in 1856 is of brick and was occupied by him until the marriage in 1877, of his son, Jacob B. Shantz. To him the father gave place, and occupied the eastern dwelling, of which the lower story was renewed at that time. Here he lived from 1878 until his purchase of 105 Queen street north in 1884.

Habitations are like people. They breathe the spirit of their origin and former associations. An occupant of the



**The Family Homestead**

homestead, who knew not Mr. Shantz or his people, and scarcely knew his name, but years after he and they were gone from it, dwelt in the home, said, "I like this old house. There is in it a feeling of peace."

The residence stands on the original Lot No. 1 (448 acres) in Block No. 2 of the German Company Tract. The recorded descent of title of the part of the Shantz lands in this lot, containing the family homestead, is as follows from the beginning until the farm and residence passed from the family's possession:

Lot No. 1. 448 acres. Daniel and Jacob Erb (Trustees of the German Company) to George Eby. July 20, 1805.

Lot No. 1. 373 acres. George Eby to Joseph Eby, April 7, 1808.

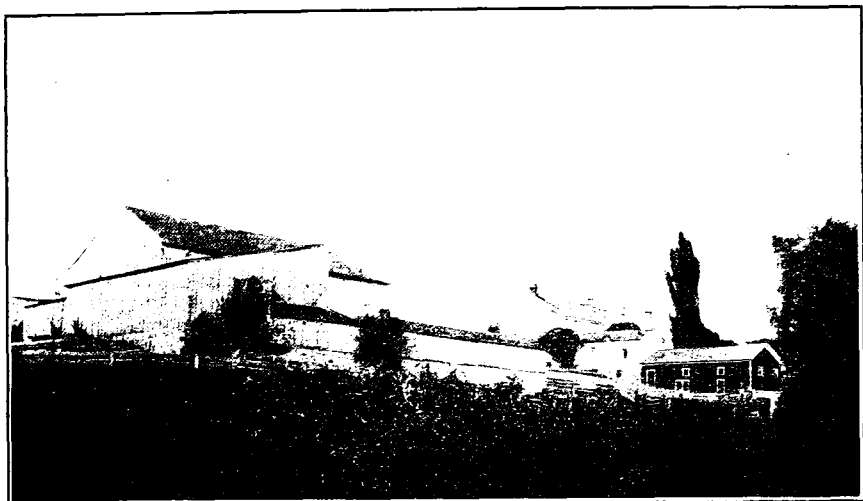
.....136 acres and 125 perches. Joseph Eby to Jacob Shantz, June 1, 1810.

.....Heirs of Jacob Shantz to Jacob Y. Shantz, December 7, 1867.

.....Jacob Y. Shantz to Jacob B. Shantz, Dec. 4, 1883.

.....Jacob B. Shantz to Eugene Lang, Dec. 26, 1911.

The present owner of the residence (61 South street) is Henry Nyberg.



J. Y. Shantz Barns

#### Farmer, Builder Industrialist

Mr. Shantz operated the homestead farm from shortly after his first marriage (1843) till the sale of the place to his son in 1883. Besides the extensive farm buildings, there was on the place a saw mill south-east of the house, with power supplied by Shantz's dam, a landmark of this locality well remembered by older citizens and especially by the younger generation of that day. While the dam was in existence, Schneider's creek, which flowed into it, was a wider and deeper stream than at present and afforded, with the dam itself, opportunities for swimming, bathing and other amusements at various points along its course through the woods and flats of the South ward.

The saw mill was first operated by Mr. Shantz's father. It formed a natural introduction to Mr. Shantz's activity as a builder and contractor. He was the builder and owner of the Canadian Block at the corner at King and Ontario (Foundry) streets. Mr. Shantz built also the four room

addition to the Suddaby School, which is the only part of the old school now remaining. He was one of the earliest of the extensive builders of private residences in the town. He entered the industrial field through the solicitation of those needing money to float infant industries. His first venture in this way was the wind-mill for grinding flour, chopping grain, etc., that stood formerly on Mecklenburg Hill. Its exact site was a little south of Church street and about midway between Cedar and Albert streets. This historic and quaint feature in the landscape of the South ward was a losing business venture to the extent of several thousand dollars. For years after operation ceased the deserted mill with its great wings appeared above the surrounding trees on the hillside. It was removed somewhere about 1870 or a little later.

Mr. Shantz assisted also in starting a felt boot and shoe factory, and the Maude Foundry, later I. E. Shantz & Co., at the north-east corner of King and College streets. His chief and most permanent industrial venture was in the ivory button industry first introduced into Canada and into this community by Emil Vogelsang in 1866. Mr. Shantz soon became a partner in this business, and later took it over and continued it independently for many years. The Shantz Button Factory, formerly at the north-west corner of King and College streets, was the genesis of the present Dominion Button Manufacturers Limited, on Water street north, and three of Mr. Shantz's sons, Moses, Dilman and John, followed this industry in Rochester and Buffalo, N.Y.

### An Impressive Figure

Mr. Shantz, in connection with his large real estate holdings and transactions, had frequent need of the services of a surveyor. Upwards of thirty such transactions appear in my father's description book. The only person in whose case this number is exceeded is Samuel B. Schneider, with some forty-five. Mr. Schneider subdivided and gradually sold nearly all of his large farm on Queen street south; while a large part of Mr. Shantz's, being farther from the business centre, was continued as a farm by his son Jacob. My first recollections of Mr. Shantz are from seeing him in my father's office in connection with the above transactions in the eighties, when Mr. Shantz was about sixty years of age and I a boy in my teens. He was an impressive figure physically and in every other way.

His height was six feet; and this was emphasized by an erect carriage and massive frame, with no spare flesh.

A key to character is the voice; and Mr. Shantz's voice was one that could not fail to attract notice. I have a better memory for voices than for faces, and, while the lineaments of his face are still clearly in my mind, and I expect always will be, his voice decidedly was a case of once heard and never forgotten. I am sure that blindfolded, any time, anywhere, I could have recognized that deep, organ-like note: and I judge that he, as a young man, was an excellent singer, or might have been if he wished.

### His Practical Wisdom

An instance of Mr. Shantz's practical wisdom became accidentally known to me many years ago. It sometimes happens that a very good man and effective worker from the business stand-point is not careful enough in business records to fill satisfactorily an administrative position in a philanthropic or religious organization. Exactness in such a case is indispensable, and the official must be retired, not because he is dishonest, or fails in business generalship, but because he has not the bookkeeper's capacity to keep his accounts in balance. In a case that came within my knowledge such an official was retired and a committee was appointed to go over the books with him. In this committee a great contention arose as to whether the accounts were intentionally wrong or innocently so, and a split of the entire organization almost followed in the vain effort of the opponent groups to establish their own conclusion. A friend, discussing with me this situation, remarked upon a similar case where Mr. Shantz served on the examining committee and by his advice, which was adopted, brought about a happier result. Mr. Shantz, speaking as one of the committee, reported that he was sure from the state of the books that the retired official in some cases had money that should have gone to the organization, but he was equally sure that in other cases the organization had money that should have gone to the official, and he suggested as the best course that they should let the matter rest at that and not attempt to settle the difficult question which of the two had the greater advantage.

### The Mayoralty of 1882

Mr. Shantz served for twenty-five years or more as a common or public school trustee, but he was never desirous

of office. An interesting feature in his career was his brief term in the mayoralty at the opening of the year 1882. At that time it was not unusual for this office to be conferred without a contest on prominent citizens who had no previous experience in the lower offices of the council. In this way the citizens brought the mayoralty on a silver platter, as it were, to Mr. Shantz, who had never been a member of council but was chosen unanimously as head of the town for the year 1882. The soliciting citizens assured him that they wished to see him mayor, if only for a brief period, and then, if he preferred, he should feel at liberty to resign.

Mr. Shantz in this office may have found himself in the same position as another well known citizen, still living, who was induced, against his will, to act as councillor. He was one of the best the city ever had, independent, fearless, and a keen debater, who at times swung the entire council from an intended course into another channel. This citizen, after quitting office, told me that in his municipal career he had two surprises. The first was on the evening of polling day, when he unexpectedly found that he had run well and was in. The next was at the close of his first session of council, when he was so bored that he devoutly wished he were out. In his own words, he 'felt like a fool for having listened to his friends, and if it hadn't looked so silly, he would have resigned on the spot.' Instead, he served out his year, but never again listened to the voice of the tempter (or tempters). Mr. Shantz obliged his friends to the extent requested, and soon withdrew from the post which he had not sought nor ever cared for. The remainder of his term was filled by William Jaffray, who held the office also for the following year, 1883.

### The Market Hall of 1869

Mr. Shantz was the builder of the town (or village) hall of 1869 which has just given place to the city hall of 1924. It was long and widely believed that when the older hall was built, chiefly as a market house, as it was then called, the council of that day simply gave instructions for the building to Mr. Shantz without a contract price, and he, after its completion, rendered a bill of \$4,000. Mr. Breithaupt, in the president's address for 1922, found that there was a contract with Mr. Shantz for \$3,818, \* and that the traditional view on this point was an error. The fact that the tradition was incorrect, however, does not lessen its

\* See W. H. S. Report, 1922, p. 209. Ed.

significance, but in a way rather heightens it. The growth and final acceptance of such a tradition, contrary to the fact, shows the complete confidence inspired by Mr. Shantz throughout his long business career—a confidence so universal that as the years passed and the real facts as to the contract were forgotten, the popular conviction of his absolute integrity expressed itself in this invention which every one believed.

The personal honor of Mr. Shantz in all his dealings was, in fact, beyond question.

### Russian Mennonite Immigration

As a pioneer of Russian Mennonite Immigration to Manitoba in 1874 to 1880 Mr. Shantz shared in events of more than local significance. That movement caused a great development in the Canadian West and it may cause now another and greater. Russian Mennonites were originally Hollanders. In the period of early Mennonite persecution, when Holland was intolerant of religious dissent, these people took refuge in West Prussia, then a province of Poland which was liberal with respect to religious belief. In West Prussia the Mennonites lived for two centuries, before the removal to Russia, in the vicinity of Marienburg, south of Danzig. Russian Mennonites and the Mennonites still remaining in West Prussia use High German exclusively in school and church; but in the home their ordinary language is Platt-Deutsch or Low German, so called because it is the language of the lowlands next to the Baltic and North seas, as opposed to the High German spoken in the more elevated interior.

In the first division of Poland (1772) West Prussia passed to Frederick the Great of Prussia. In 1786 and 1803 and in later years, many Mennonites in West Prussia, uneasy as to military service, accepted the standing invitation of the Empress Catharine and her successors to settle on the waste lands of South Russia, with a guarantee of military exemption. In Russia, they, with several million Lutheran and Catholic immigrants from Germany, were still recognized as German subjects with German protection; but this political guardianship was cancelled in 1870 by agreement between Germany and Russia during the Franco-Prussian War. This change and the introduction in Russia of universal military service led 15,000 Russian Mennonites to leave for America. In order to end this movement, the Tsar's government compromised with these people on a modified

military exemption. 80,000 Mennonites remaining in Russia at the outbreak of the recent war are now reduced to 50,000 most of them looking for another home. As an agricultural people they are most desirable citizens for a country with vacant lands in need of development. The districts of Russia in which they settled a century ago were then empty prairie like our Canadian West; yet an American traveller visiting these districts in 1874 remarked of their villages that they were certainly the best appointed farming communities that he had seen anywhere.

### The Red River Settlements

Of the 15,000 Russian Mennonites who came to America in the seventies of the last century, one half, by the exertions of Mr. Shantz, chose Manitoba as their home. They settled in two colonies southward of Winnipeg, east and west of the Red River. Large overflow colonies were founded in the nineties at Swift Current, Osler and Rosthern. Saskatchewan. The Mennonite Board of Colonization conducting the present immigration from Russia operates at Rosthern. The Red River settlements of 1874 and following years were based on an exploration in 1872 by Mr. Shantz on behalf of the Canadian government, in company with Bernard Warkentin of Russia. Together they left Berlin on November 5, 1872, and travelled by rail and stage, via Detroit, Chicago, Duluth and Pembina, to Winnipeg. In connection with the Mennonite settlements, Mr. Shantz made twenty seven journeys to Manitoba, the last time in his 85th year. He gave freely of his means as well as of his time. In acknowledgment of his services the Red River Mennonites named after him one of their villages, Shantzenfeld. The individual service which he himself rated most highly was his part in preventing a near-disaster. On returning from one of his first trips to the west he found at Toronto a party of Mennonites whom the Ottawa government was sending to Manitoba via the Dawson route from Port Arthur to Winnipeg. This lake and river route west of Port Arthur is feasible for trappers, hunters and Canadian voyageurs; but to send over it a party of inexperienced Europeans was to court death by starvation. Mr. Shantz protested to the official in charge at Toronto. The official pled higher orders, but finally referred the point to the government in the shape of a telegram from Mr. Shantz. The reply from Ottawa to Mr. Shantz soon followed, "Do as you see fit." To Mr. Shantz it was always a keen satisfaction that he was privileged thus, by timely intervention, to forestall a fatal disaster.



The "Narrative of a Journey to Manitoba". and Mr. Shantz's  
Literary Powers

Mr. Shantz left few literary remains. The only product of his pen, in manuscript or print, available to me, is a copy of his "Narrative of a Journey to Manitoba". This is an official report of his exploration tour with Mr. Warkentin in 1872. This narrative was printed by the Dominion government in April 1873, and distributed freely as an inducement for immigration by Russian Mennonites and other Europeans, as well as from the United States. It is now a rare document. Inquiry at Ottawa about eighteen years ago brought the reply that no copy was to be had there. Local parties named at Ottawa as likely to have a copy had in fact none. But in 1909 a list issued by an antiquarian book dealer at Albany, N.Y., offered a single copy of this narrative. I have received such lists almost weekly for almost 20 years and the offer was never repeated. The price of the 32 page, unbound, pamphlet was three dollars. An ordinary octave volume of 300 or 400 pages, at a corresponding rate, would cost \$30 to \$40. Mr. Shantz thus holds the record as the highest priced author which this locality has produced.

The quality of his style, and also, to a certain extent, his character, is illustrated by his letter of transmittal to the government, printed at the opening of his narrative, and reprinted here. Mr. Shantz had only a common school education; but men unschooled if they be saturated with Scripture, may develop a better style than the stylists themselves. No mere stylist surpassed or approached Lincoln, whose only school in English was the Bible. Mr. Shantz was also a man of the Bible. In the following letter a trained stylist might be tempted to suggest one change. Where Mr. Shantz says of the fish, "Even these must be caught before they can be cooked and eaten," it might have been a little better to say, "Even these must be caught and cooked before they can be eaten." Tastes differ, as Mr. Shantz says, and this change may not appeal to everyone. In any case, beyond that slight detail, the letter of this man born on a frontier, and taught in a log house by primitive teachers, appears to be above improvement:

Berlin, Ontario, 28th February, 1873.

To the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa:  
Sir,

I herewith enclose to you a brief narrative of my journey to Manitoba, and my opinion respecting that Province. The readers of this report may rest assured that it

contains a true and impartial statement of what I saw and learned there. Tastes differ—some may like what others dislike, and some persons are so constituted that they can be content nowhere. Fish and game are abundant in the Province but even these must be caught before they can be cooked and eaten. Of this one fact, however, I am certain, that Manitoba affords a splendid field for immigration, not only from Europe and Canada, but also from the United States, for those desirous of acquiring a good and cheap homestead for themselves and their family. Such are sure of becoming independent, if they are only willing to go to work, to be industrious, and to live temperately.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) Jacob Y. Shantz.

### Appendix

#### Some Russian Mennonite Institutions and Customs: Mother and Daughter Colonies

The first Mennonite colony established in Russia (1786) was on the west side of the Dnieper. It extended through an area of about 25 by 30 miles. It has two names, the "Old Colony" on account of its priority in time, and the "Cortitz Colony" after the name of its principal village. The Old Colony was more conservative than the subsequent colonies. Most of the Russian Mennonites of the first immigration to America were from this colony. The second, founded in 1803, and called Molotschna, was about 100 miles south of the first, on the west bank of the Molotschna river and next to the sea of Azov. It extended about 20 by 40 miles. A colony of Lutheran and Catholic Germans, much greater in number, is in the same vicinity, west of the Molotschna. The Molotschna colony was settled from West Prussia throughout 50 years. The last village was founded in 1856. Thereafter single families still came, but no villages were founded. After 1870-1871 no military exemption or like privileges were allowed to such comers.

Cortitz, Molotschna and "Old Samara", established in 1856-1860 in the province of Samara, were the three "Mother Colonies", so called; they were founded directly by immigration. But these mother colonies established many overflow colonies, called "Daughter Colonies", in other prov-

inces of Russia, more or less remote, including Siberia. Mennonite villages always had an undivided area, from which they drew rentals, sometimes from Russian neighbors in adjoining areas. From the accumulation of these revenues the villages founded daughter colonies. Land for them was bought in a block, and the arrangement conformed in every way to the mother colony in simplified form. In this way an outlet was found for landless people and a division into rich and poor largely avoided; and there being no landless Mennonites, communism, at the revolution, found among them no adherents.

### John Cornies

The most historic figure among Russian Mennonites was John Cornies, a "Bauer" or farmer of Ohrloff in the Molotschna colony. The German term "Bauer", like its English counterpart, has a wide range of meanings, from a poor peasant to a very rich land-owner and tiller of the soil. Cornies, whose name shows the earlier origin of his family in Holland, was chosen by the Tsar as the ruler of the Molotschna colony, with the title of "Organisator" or "Organizer". He had throughout the colony the same authority as the governor of a Russian province. This authority under the bureaucratic despotism of the Tsar was great and far reaching. Cornies regulated the affairs of Molotschna in fine detail; and his regulations being propagated automatically throughout the daughter colonies and imitated in other settlements, he fixed largely the development of Mennonite life and institutions throughout Russia and even in Manitoba.

### The Mennonite Village and House

Russian Mennonite villages and houses as established by Cornies are uniformly arranged. The form of the house and barn was not, on the part of Cornies, a pure invention. It was more or less typical of farm house and building as found in West Prussia; but this, with his own improvements, he required throughout the colony, uniformity, even as to interior arrangement. In the house the plan of the rooms and their special uses were all fixed; and in the barn the quarters for the various kinds of animals, their stalls, and even the directions in which the horses and cows should stand, were exactly prescribed. The house and barn formed together an oblong structure under one roof, with the gable end toward the street. The house was the part nearer to the street, then came a dividing wall with door, and beyond the wall the accommodation for domestic animals. The house

was set at a certain distance from the street, and in the intervening space Cornies required a flower garden. Behind the house and barn was the vegetable garden, and further back the orchard and about an acre of woods which, the country being treeless, Cornies required each householder to plant. Everything about the house, garden and orchard, etc., had to be kept in immaculate order. Even the woods had to be kept free of weeds. Mennonite villages, despite their uniformity, were thus extremely picturesque, especially when the log-house and straw thatch of earlier times gave way to brick with a tile roof. The brick was red, and of good quality and the tile colored, usually green, which harmonized with the red wall.

Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, (Correspondent of the  
London Times at St. Petersburg)

"To the wearied traveller who has been living for some time in Russian villages, a Mennonite colony seems an earthly paradise. In a little hollow, perhaps by the side of a water-course, he suddenly comes on a long row of high roofed houses half concealed in trees. The trees may be found on closer inspection to be little better than mere saplings; but after a long journey on the bare steppe, where there is neither tree nor bush of any kind, the foliage, scant as it is, appears singularly inviting. The houses are large, well arranged, and kept in such thoroughly good repair that they always appear to be newly built. The rooms are plainly furnished, without any pretensions to elegance, but scrupulously clean. Adjoining the house are the stable and byre, which would not disgrace a model farm in Germany nor England. In front is a spacious courtyard, which has the appearance of being swept several times a day, and behind there is a garden well stocked with vegetables."

"The object of the Government in inviting them to settle in the country was that they should till the unoccupied land and thereby increase the national wealth, and that they should at the same time exercise a civilizing influence on the Russian peasantry in their vicinity. In the latter respect they totally failed to fulfill their mission. The Russian peasant looks on Germans almost as beings of a different world—To him it seems in the nature of things that Germans should live in large, clean, well-built houses, in the same way as it is in the nature of things that birds should build nests; and as it has probably never occurred to a human being to build a nest for himself and his family, so it never occurs to a

Russian peasant to build a house on the German model. Germans are Germans, and Russians are Russians—and there is nothing more to be said on the subject.”

(Wallace, “Russia”, ii, pp. 309, 306, 1905).

The Tsar Alexander II, (the “Tsar Liberator”) valued Wallace’s work on Russia (first edition, 1877) as “the best that ever was or ever could be written”.

(Gallenga, “Summer Tour in Russia,” p. ix. 1882)

### Village Farms and Larger Landholders

A village consists of 20, 30, 40 or more “Wirthschafts” or farms, each of about 175 acres (in Russia). The number is restricted in general because the farms are cultivated from the village, and with too great a number, they would be too distant. In general each householder has one wirthschaft; he may, however, purchase or rent additional wirthschafts. It is not a practice to subdivide a wirthschaft.

The larger landholders, called “owners of estates” lived not in the villages, but on their own lands. Some had as much as five or ten thousand acres, and in one instance 18,000 acres. The soil is fertile and stoneless. Their owners were wealthy Mennonites who had acquired large tracts of land by private purchase. Under the Soviet the villagers and larger landholders met a common ruin.

### Anthracite

An interesting if homely practice among Russian Mennonites is the use of ordinary stable manure, made into brick, for fuel. The practice prevails not only among Mennonites but also among Russians throughout the Ukraine and South Russia generally, where there are no forests and therefore no wood for fuel. In North Russia, which is wooded, the custom is not found.

The manure, after wetting, is trodden by oxen until thoroughly pulverized. It is then pressed by a stamper into a box or mould about 6 by 8 by 16 inches, and the bricks are set up to dry, so arranged that the air can get between them. This is the principal occupation after seeding.

In Russia machinery was invented to replace the oxen for the pulverizing process. This machine and improvements were a Mennonite invention. Factories had sprung up to manufacture them, but the revolution ended this, as it did all other industrial life. The factories are now falling to pieces.

In Russia this fuel is used in stoves, but in Manitoba mostly in open fireplaces. It lasts quite a while, about like good soft coal, and makes a cheerful, glowing fire, much like peat. It is a sufficient fuel to combat the cold of Western Canada. The only disadvantage in its use is the odor. Two recent immigrants differed as to an odor from stoves. One held there was none, if the stove is in order, and the other that there was an odor in any case, but that some persons were less sensitive to it than others. My Manitoba informant (not a Mennonite) said that when the brick are used in an open fireplace, there is an odor; but he added jocularly, "who knows whether it is from the fireplace or from the neighboring barn? Anyway it is much better than the smell of 40 below."

### The "Waisenamt"

In every Mennonite community, both in Russia and Manitoba, there is a "Waisenamt" or Orphan's Board, and a "Waisenvorsteher" or "Waisenaelteste," i. e. a superintendent of orphans.

When a wife dies, the Waisenamt reserves a half of all the estate (land, chattels, and money in bank) for the children, before the church will allow the husband to remarry, and vice versa on the death of a husband. If the man was extra rich, worth, e. g., \$150,000, the Waisenamt may say that a half is more than necessary for the widow, and gives her a lesser amount, e. g., \$50,000, and divides the rest at once among all his children.

Men usually remarry; and by the death of successive wives they may remarry several times. In each case a half of the estate, as it stands at the wife's decease, is set aside for the children of the deceased wife.

When a man dies, a half of the estate goes to the last wife, if one survives him, and the rest is divided among all his children.

When a widow dies, her estate is divided among her children.

This rule for the division of estates is the same in Manitoba and in Russia. Usually Mennonites in Russia made no will at all, unless they wished to alter the usual arrangement of the Waisenamt. Under the Tsars, the Mennonite custom in this respect as in all others had official

recognition. Under the Soviet this recognition ceased. There was then no private property.

In Manitoba there is no official recognition, as in Russia under the Tsars; but nearly all Russian Mennonite wills in Manitoba are written thus: "All my estate is bequeathed to be divided according to the rules of the Waisenamt."

Alex Macleod, K.C., of Winnipeg (formerly of Morden, near the Mennonite settlement), says: "The distribution of estates by the Waisenamt is one of the most equitable in my experience, and is worthy of copying."

Mr. Macleod thinks highly of Mennonites, and they in turn, think highly of him. In general they have pretty strenuous and exact views about the other life and salvation, but they make an exception of Mr. Macleod. They believe that he, in spite of being a lawyer, will get to heaven.



# Reminiscences of Freeport---Waterloo County

From 1867 to 1873\*

By M. G. Sherk

I was five years of age when my parents moved to Freeport. My father, Abraham B. Sherk, \*\* was at that time a minister in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, and being a great exponent of the higher education for the rising generation he insisted on the Conference starting a school. They purchased an old hotel building, remodelled and added to it, and established the Freeport Academy. On account of lack of funds, the Academy continued in existence only a few years. My father was given three or four appointments in the county. He located at Freeport so as to be near the school, with the idea of educating his children there. Although the existence of the school was short (it was closed in 1874) it was eventful and no doubt many look back with pleasure to the time spent within its walls. Quite a few young men and women from different parts of the province came to Freeport and their presence in the village during the school term made the place a great deal livelier than usual. The late Mr. I. L. Bowman was the first principal.

Among its first students I remember John W. Groh, who was for many years a minister in the United Brethren Church, Dr. Chas. Shupe, Menno S. Bowman, Ephraim Snyder, Titus Snyder, Harriet Shupe, Abraham Bowman, Moses Weaver, Jacob Weaver, Mary Snyder, Mina Gonder and Albert Gonder. I attended a preparatory class in the Academy the last year we lived in Freeport. The school was at that time under the principalship of George Scott, who married a Miss Erb of Blair, a step-daughter of Mr. Moses Eshleman, a highly respected man, who lived retired in Kitchener for years. Geo. Scott afterwards became a leading professor in one of the universities of the United States.

The farmers in the vicinity of Freeport at the time we lived there were mostly of Pennsylvania German stock. Many of them afterwards moved away—some of them to

\* Read at the Ontario Historical Society meeting at Waterloo Pioneers' Memorial Park, June 24th, 1924.

\*\* See 1916 Annual Report, W. H. S. Ed.



the United States—and were supplanted by the children and grandchildren of Germans from the old country, many of whom, when they first came to Canada, were employed as laborers on the farms.

On the hill towards Preston, in a red brick house with a bell on top, lived Mr. Elias Snyder, a well-to-do farmer. As a child I enjoyed going to his place, for the table was always plentifully supplied with the good things that only a Pennsylvania dutch housewife can prepare.

At that time Mr. Snyder's aged father and mother were alive and had a few rooms to themselves in part of the house. Mr. David Snyder, the older, was born in Pennsylvania in 1799 and came with his parents to Canada in 1806, when they settled near Doon. He resided most of his life at Freeport, where he owned a large farm, and where he died in 1875. His wife, Leah (Baumann) Snyder, was born in Pennsylvania in 1804 and came with her parents to Canada in 1816, when they settled at Blair. She died at Freeport in 1876. She was a very stout woman—so bulky that when at one time she fell out of bed and hurt herself they had to call four or five men who rolled her onto a blanket and so lifted her back into bed, and then had some difficulty in telling whether any bones were broken or not.

The mail and passengers between Preston and Berlin (now Kitchener) were carried by stage coach. The stage line was for a number of years operated by Christopher Kress who was for a long time owner of a hotel near the foot of the hill on the road leading into Preston from the north and west. He made the place a great resort for seekers after health, on account of the mineral springs nearby; but it is a question which was the most popular, the mineral water or the cool lager beer for which the hotel bar was famous. There is no doubt, however, that many were benefitted by the baths.

It was at the red brick school house at Cornell's Corners, one mile from Freeport and two miles from Preston, where I first attended school. Of course we had to take our dinner with us, but we enjoyed it, even if it did consist largely of bread and butter with a sprinkling of brown sugar on top. I imagine I can taste it now. The school-house at that time had been in use a generation or more. It has since been replaced by a more elaborate building.

Mr. Pearce, of Berlin, well known to the children of Waterloo Township years ago, was the Inspector. When we saw him arriving and tying his horse near the gate, we were filled with awe and dread, for he was very dignified looking. We found, however, that, unless we deserved it, we had nothing to fear, for he was a very kindly disposed man. I think perhaps the teacher feared him as much as we did, for the teachers in the country schools at that time did not always bring scholars on as uniformly as they do now. If the scholars were good readers and spellers, they would push them along in reading and spelling and neglect some of the other studies. Now the scholars must be so far advanced in each branch of knowledge before they can be promoted.

The closing day of a school term was always quite an affair, for the parents of the children would come to see what progress their children had made. The programme consisted of dialogues, singing and the awarding of prizes as well as the calling up of a few classes to exhibit the proficiency of the scholars in the different subjects. Eatables were brought by the visitors living farthest away and luncheon served.

Cornell's Corners was so called after a man by the name of Cornell, who, before my time, owned a farm on the corner, but who had sold out and moved down into Beverly Township. He at one time had been a hotel keeper but had been converted and established a church society of his own, commonly known as the Cornellite. He and his followers afterwards went in with the United Brethren in Christ.

It is one mile from Cornell's Corners, on the banks of the Grand River, that the Sherk homestead, one of the two first in Waterloo County, is situated, and where the monument to the early Mennonite settlers is to be erected. As a boy I visited there a number of times with my parents, when David Sherk, my grandfather's brother, a minister of the (old) Mennonite Church, and son of Joseph Schoerg, one of the two first pioneer settlers, was alive. He lived there all his life. The old people in their quaint attire looked very impressive to me as a child. My father, who was accustomed to speak the German language, or rather the Pennsylvania dutch dialect, in the home of his childhood, would converse with his uncle and aunt in that language. Strange to say although Joseph Schoerg's family was brought up to speak the German language according to Pennsylvania German customs and usages, most of them married into

English speaking families. Three married Thorntons, one an Adams, one a Wood, one a Thompson, one a Codling—no doubt against the wish of their parents—so you see there is some romance attached to this old homestead. One of David Sherk's daughters married Jacob Gingerich who also became a minister in the Mennonite Church. He bought the Sherk homestead and lived there most of his life.

The bridge crossing the Grand River at Freeport, when we moved there, was directly at the end of the road on the Preston side, but while we were living in the village it was carried away by the spring floods. The breaking up of the ice in the spring always caused excitement in the neighborhood, for the Grand River is a long river and there is a great deal of ice to come down. When the flow started and the news got around that the ice was running, many of the folks nearby would hurry down to the river. It was a great sight, at this point, to see the water covering the flats and the cakes of ice tearing along and bringing debris of all kinds with them from up country.

Freeport bridge at one time, but previous to our living there, was a toll bridge. One of the toll keepers was Henry Hilker, a young Prussian, who besides collecting toll also did shoe cobbling there for the neighborhood. When the village of Port Elgin, Bruce County, was laid out by the Government, a number of people from Waterloo County located there, among them being Mr. Hilker, who, to my knowledge, for I knew him personally, became quite wealthy, owned farms, a grain elevator and a general store. He was elected the first reeve of the village. Like many others he made considerable money during the Russian War by the advance in the price of wheat.

After the bridge at Freeport, which I have mentioned, was taken away by the flood, another bridge was built, a little farther down the stream where there was less danger of its being carried away. The contractor, Mr. Baer, was killed during its construction. This bridge has been replaced by a steel structure.

There not being a railroad from Kitchener (then Berlin) to Galt, the travelling circus occasionally passed through the village and left never-to-be-forgotten memories in the minds of the children. On one of these occasions by stepping too close to one of the carriages being drawn by Shetland ponies, in which I was greatly interested, I lost the nail of one of my big toes. That taught me to be a little more cautious and not to get too easily excited.

The only church in the village was the United Brethren Church at the foot of the hill on the Preston side. Most of the members in my time were of Pennsylvania stock, although the service was in English. One custom they observed in this particular church was to have the men sit on one side and the women on the other, a custom which they brought from the Mennonite Church. This church was the scene of a good many old fashioned revivals, and they changed the lives of a great many persons. Most people do not approve of that style of revival now, but it was a valuable means to an end in those days when people did perhaps live more sincere lives than they do now, and when perhaps they were truer to their convictions. It is true, the seed often fell on poor ground, as many afterwards fell away.

Just across the bridge on the west side of the river, in a large stone house with a verandah running along the side, lived Bishop Weaver, a Mennonite, who died while we were living in the village. The Freeport Sanatorium is nearly opposite the place where he lived, in a picturesque location.

On one of the east corners of the road near the river lived Rev. George Plowman, a minister of the United Brethren Church, who owned a few acres of land, and did a little farming as well as preaching at a time when an itinerant preacher did not get more than three or at the most four hundred dollars a year salary—and part of that perhaps in provisions. Mr. Plowman and his wife were sturdy Scotch people from Edinburgh where he had been a minister in the Evangelical Union (Morrisonian) Church. He came to this country to preach for that denomination—I believe among the Scotch people at Ayr where there was a Morrisonian Church, but as it did not prosper as he expected, he joined the United Brethren and was highly respected in the Conference. Every one loved Father Plowman. Mrs. Plowman, who survived Mr. Plowman for some years, lived to be over ninety. She latterly made her home with Mr. Samuel S. Detweiler who lived on the David Sararus farm towards Kitchener. I visited her there once, and I remember her showing me how she could read her Bible without spectacles.

Across the road from Mr. Plowman's for many years lived Mr. Wesley Merriam, a retired farmer from Beverly. He bought the Adam Shupe home and a small farm in connection therewith. The Shupe family lived in Freeport for

a time after we moved there. Mr. Adam Shupe's father, the progenitor of the Shupes of Waterloo, came from Pennsylvania and settled in the vicinity of Freeport in 1801. Mr. Ephraim Shupe lived on the corner of the road leading to Hespeler, but moved from there to Fonthill, Ontario. His oldest son, Charles, became a doctor, and his oldest daughter, Harriet (Hattie) taught school a number of years and then married Mr. Aaron Sherk near Sherkston, Ontario, where she had been teaching school, and where she was highly respected both in the church in which she was a great worker and socially, as I remember, for I met her in after years. Dr. Shupe's son, Stanley, is now City Engineer of the City of Kitchener. Old Mrs. Adam Shupe's services were sometimes in demand as a midwife. I remember my sister and I, when we were quite small children, going down to the old lady with a basket for a baby. We were quite disappointed when she told us we would have to wait until the ice came down the river.

A Mr. Allison had a blacksmith shop in the village. His second wife was a Mrs. Green who before her first marriage was a Miss Shupe. The Allisons kept the Freeport Post Office after it was given up by Mr. J. W. Schlichter, who lived near the Academy. Mr. Schlichter moved to Kansas where he became a minister in the Congregational Church. He sold his place to Mr. Amos Weaver, who lived previously on a farm on the opposite side of the river. Mr. Weaver finally settled in Kitchener. Mr. Daniel Snyder, a brother of Elias Snyder, lived on the road to the Sherk homestead, on part of the large farm that had previously belonged to his father.

Our home which we owned in Freeport was the second house up from the Preston road, on the road leading to Hespeler. The house is still standing (1924). It must have been built years before we bought it, but it was at that time a good house, the frame being made of large square timbers. We sold our house to Daniel Snyder, who lived in it a number of years after he had retired from farm life.

Between our place and the corner stood an old unoccupied frame school house which, I believe remained there until it was removed to make way for the electric railway. I know nothing of its history previous to our time. Above our place on the hillside lived a German weaver by the name of Krampien. A short distance farther up the road lived a German farmer by the name of Gimbel. One of his daughters married Henry Lutz, a carpenter, who lived near the present site of the bridge.

Not being quite twelve years of age when we left Freeport, my recollections are only those of a child, and yet the impressions made on my mind at that time are quite vivid. I frequently accompanied my father on his circuit, so I not only had the privilege of becoming acquainted with the localities in which he preached, and the striking characters of some of the old fashioned folk who were members of his church, but was also given an opportunity of seeing quite a few of the towns and villages in the county.

My father's chief preaching places were at Bloomingdale (in the old Ebenezer log church), Breslau, West Montrose and Hawkesville, but I also have recollections of Berlin, Waterloo, Galt, Preston, Hespeler, Elmira, Conestoga, Winterbourne, etc. I remember the old town hall in Berlin when it was quite new. The county poor house seemed quite a distance away from the town then. Some of our family trading we did at Guggisberg's in Galt, and at Erb's in Preston. We occasionally bought furniture at Guggisberg's furniture factory in Preston. When going down into Galt I remember we had to pass by the old grammar school on the hill.

My father having relatives among the Pennsylvania German people of Waterloo, we visited among them occasionally. In this way and by association while living at Freeport, I learned something of their character and habits, and I can truly say that they are a people to be proud of. By their integrity, industry and business ability they have left a great impression on the country and have been a considerable factor in the development of both Canada and the United States over which they are widely scattered.

Their loyalty cannot be doubted either. for they left their comfortable homes and pleasant surroundings in Pennsylvania, where many of them had accumulated considerable property and came to the Canadian wilderness, where they had to endure all the hardships and privations of the early settlers. They had learned to respect the flag under which they enjoyed a liberty their fathers did not get in Europe and they felt that by coming to Canada this same liberty would be assured them. We have to admire them for their allegiance to the British Crown.

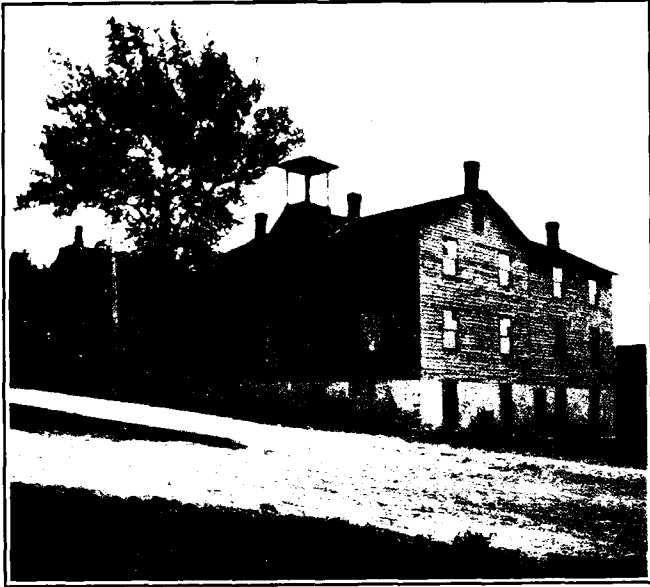
Twenty-four years ago, (1900) this summer, I attended the Sherk Centennial at the old homestead, when more than three hundred descendants of Joseph Schoerg, many of whom have since passed to the great beyond, were present. That event was historical from a family standpoint, but I consider

this occasion even more historical, for it will help to show the Canadian people who are descendants of other races, the part the humble Mennonite people from Pennsylvania, who are rapidly becoming merged with other people into a race, we can now, I think, call Canadian, played in the formation of this great commonwealth.

In conclusion I may say that I consider Freeport romantically situated, and when I look back over the years that have elapsed since 1873, my life there seems like a dream; yet it was part of the drama, and it left impressions of life and character that can never be effaced, many of which I would not wish to be effaced, for they are mingled with personal associations which in moments of reverie, it is a pleasure to recall.



## Notes on Freeport Academy



Started in January 1867 as a "select school" in an early schoolhouse, later union church in Freeport. In May 1868 the name was changed to Freeport Academy. In the same year the above building previously a hotel, was bought, remodelled and enlarged for the school. Instruction ceased in June 1874. The photograph was taken in 1901; the building was removed some years later. It had been used as a dwelling after close of the academy. The foundation walls still remain on the west side of the village street (Preston Road) opposite its junction with the road leading easterly from Freeport to Hespeler. The union church mentioned, also used later as a dwelling, stood on the north side of the road leading to Hespeler, at the crossing of the Grand River Railway. The railway passes over the church site.





Freeport Academy, Teachers and Students about 1869. Names see opposite page.

First Row, (left to right)—

Rev. John B. Schlichter, Freeport, later Sterling, Kansas, Instructor; Ezra Weber, Wallace Township Perth County; Mary Snyder, (Mrs. Moses Weaver), Freeport. Died at Brutus, Emmet County, Mich., Sept. 18 1877; Harriet Shupe, (Mrs. Aaron Sherk), Freeport, now, Sherkston, Ont.; Mina Gonder Niagara District; Miss Bergey, Hespeler; Samuel S. Moyer, Berlin; Isaac L. Bowman, Freeport. Died at Berlin, Feb. 3 1893. Principal.

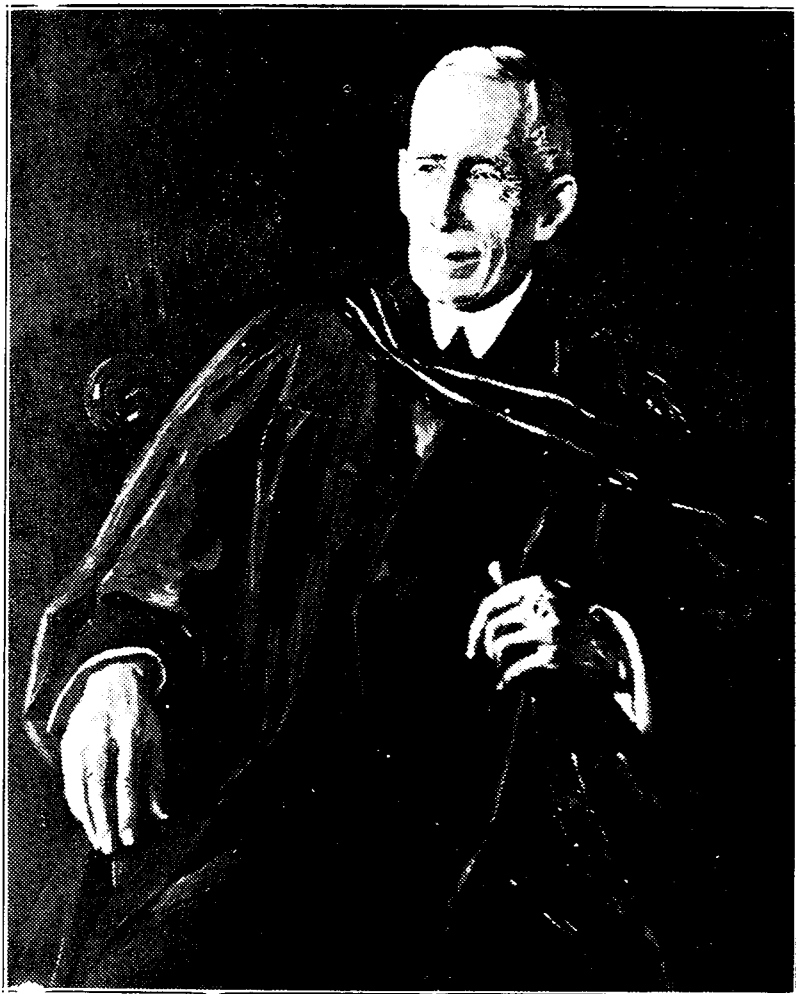
Second Row:

William Simmons, Shakespeare, Perth County, later in Michigan. (dead); Ananias Eby, Wallace Township, Perth County; Ephraim A. Snyder, Freeport now Yankton, S. Dakota; James Peterson, Hawkesville; William Sherk, Blair, later Berlin, (dead); Saruch Eby, St. Jacobs died at Nottawa, Ont., March 21, 1883; Charles Shupe, M.D., Freeport, died at Dunnville, Ont., May, 1915; Abraham M. Snyder, Roseville later of Didsbury, Alberta, (dead).

Third Row:

Benjamin M. Snyder, Roseville, (dead); Moses Weaver, Freeport now Marysville, Wash., U.S.A.; Abram O. Bowman, Freeport, now, Kitchener (Centreville); Titus Snyder, Freeport, later Grand Rapids, Michigan. (dead); Horace Beam Beamsville, Ont.; Horace Smith, Sheffield, Ont.; Jacob B. Weaver, Freeport, now Kitchener; Hiram Hewitt, Freeport, (dead).

## Biography



Thomas Carscadden, M.A.

It would be interesting to know how many men and women there are living today who studied under Thomas Carscadden, ex-principal of the Galt Collegiate Institute, and who can trace success in life in large measure to his influence. The power wielded by this gentle, soft-voiced man as a teacher, for fifty-four years and his constant and untiring devotion to the important duties of his position during all this long period, have exerted a wholesome and lasting influence in the lives of his many pupils. Now after more than half a century of continuous work he is enjoying a well earned rest, and season of leisure; a leisure however that still keeps him active, both in mind and body, for he is a firm believer in the principle of work to keep a man fit.

Thomas Carscadden was born on a farm, in Durham County, Ontario, of Irish parents who came to Canada in the turbulent year of 1837, from Fermanagh County, in the north of Ireland. The elder Carscadden, soon after his arrival in Canada, enlisted in the militia, but did not see active service, during the Mackenzie rebellion.

The boy attended public school in the township of Clarke and from there went, at the age of sixteen, to the Normal School in Toronto where he remained for one year only, and received a first class provincial certificate. Our subject well remembers the announcement, made by Principal Robertson of the Normal School, of the assassination of President Lincoln (April 14th, 1865) on the morning after it occurred.

After Normal School Mr. Carscadden spent three years, 1866-1868, as teacher in country schools and then went as pupil to the Whitby High School for two years when he passed in university matriculation. The Principal of the Whitby High School at that time was Thomas Kirkland, M.A., later Principal of the Toronto Normal School.

The young man having to make his own way in the world now again turned to teaching for a few years, first at the Chatham High School as assistant to S. Arthur Marling, M.A., Principal, and then on the staff of Woodstock College, under Dr. Fyfe as headmaster.

Finally the goal of Toronto University was attained, and here Thomas Carscadden, in due course, after diligent application, graduated in Arts in 1875, thus completing his

academic training for his life work. He at once went to Charlottetown Academy, Prince Edward Island, as Principal for one year; then to Upper Canada College, for six months, as house master, when he was offered and accepted the principalship of Richmond Hill High School, which he retained for four and a half years, until 1881.

The Galt Collegiate Institute, formerly the Galt Grammar School was and is, one of the notable schools of the province. Under the name of "Tassie's School" it had achieved an international reputation. Dr. Tassie was Principal for twenty-eight years, until 1881 when he resigned and was succeeded by Mr. J. E. Bryant.

To this school as second master Thomas Carscadden, giving up his headmastership at Richmond Hill, came in the fall of 1881. Three years later when Mr. Bryant left Galt Mr. Carscadden was appointed Principal, and this position he held with honor and distinction for thirty years, until 1914, during which time the number of pupils increased from less than one hundred to over three hundred, and the school steadily grew in prestige. In addition to his duties and responsibilities as headmaster Principal Carscadden was also secretary of the Galt Collegiate Institute Board for twenty-five years. In 1914, with advancing years, Mr. Carscadden resigned the laborious office of headmaster of the school, continuing however for ten years longer in his original post of Principal Assistant, from which he resigned in July last year, rounding out a period of forty-three years of continuous and faithful service at this institution.

During these forty-three years the old school witnessed many changes, all of them of constant growth and improvement, both in the general character of the school and in its buildings. In the year 1905 it was carried on in the City Hall, during the erection of the addition which is now the middle portion of the building. There is to be said that with the changes and additions made during the past two years the Galt Collegiate Institute buildings may well be called the handsomest and most substantial high school buildings in the province, if not in Canada. Completion of the whole present building scheme will further enhance the general good appearance. A unique element of beauty is the commanding position of the buildings and grounds on the high river bank, overlooking the city and the noble Grand River valley.

Mr. Carscadden is a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, in which he was active for many years, holding office in the quarterly and trustee boards, and as teacher of the senior Bible Class. He was married in 1884 to Nellie E. Ellis of Galt, their union being blessed with three daughters: Frances, Helen and Kathleen.

He is by preference an outdoor man; a lover of nature, a good walker and was up to within recent years a keen trout fisherman. Arrived at the plane of serene tranquility, after a lifetime of arduous and meritorious work may his benign personality continue in bodily evidence among his townsmen for a long span of years more!





David Forsyth, B.A.

David Forsyth, B.A., Principal Emeritus of the Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School, was for forty-six years a member of the staff and Principal of the institution for twenty years. In addition to his achievement in educational work he has an international reputation in athletics, particularly in connection with football.

Born in Perthshire, Scotland, Dec. 15th. 1852, he came to Canada with his parents when an infant but a year old.

In his early years he attended several district schools, one of them of the old time log building type, all situated in the village of Lynden and its neighborhood, in Wentworth County. In the Spring of 1865 he entered Dundas High School, of which J. Howard Hunter was then headmaster. On the removal of his parents to Galt in November, 1867, he entered Tassie's School, the famous Galt Grammar School, from which he matriculated for university entrance in September, 1869, with scholarship standing in mathematics.

In 1875 he graduated from the University of Toronto, taking a silver medal in mathematics. In 1876 he became master of Mathematics and Science in the old Berlin High School, being associated with Principal J. W. Connor, B.A., and the late Adolph Miller. These three masters remained together for 21 years. Forsyth was a pioneer in the introduction of practical laboratory work for each pupil in science in Ontario high schools. He placed in the old Berlin High School one of the first science laboratory tables in such schools in the Province, which table, by the way, was still part of the equipment in 1921. In 1901, on the retirement of Mr. Connor, David Forsyth became Principal of the institution. Under his administration the expansion of the school in its staff, equipment and attendance placed it in the front rank of institutions of its kind in Ontario.

On his retirement as Principal in June, 1921, the faculty had increased, from the three masters of 1876, to fourteen members, with some 18 taking charge of a well organized and successful night school department. He retired from active service a year later with the title of Principal Emeritus.

Mr. Forsyth married in December, 1882, Miss Augusta Mylius, daughter of the late Dr. R. Mylius. Mrs. Forsyth passed away in April, 1912. Mr. Forsyth has one son, Otto, and one daughter, Mrs. Norman Suddaby.

Mr. Forsyth was rated as one of the best association football players in the Dominion. Because of his enthusiasm for the game the City of Kitchener has the honor of being the home of the Canadian game of soccer. Forsyth's brilliant playing secured the Provincial championship for the old Berlin team which later became the Rangers and toured the United States and the British Isles with brilliant success. Forsyth was instrumental also in organizing the Western Ontario Football Association, now the oldest active organization of its kind in Canada or the United States. Of this organization he was President for five years, secretary-treasurer 29 years and Hon. Secretary 11 years. He was secretary-treasurer of the Ontario Football Association for five years.

But football did not monopolize Mr. Forsyth's attention to the exclusion of other athletic games. He was the captain of the Berlin lacrosse team and a prominent member of the Berlin Cricket Club. He was an accomplished bicyclist, having ridden the first high-wheeled bicycle in the



North Riding of the County. In his younger years he was an enthusiastic canoeist, making repeated voyages down the Grand River from Freeport to Lake Erie. He has also taken an active part in bowling and curling, being instrumental as a member of the Bowling Club committee in securing the present bowling green of the Kitchener Lawn Bowling Club.

For 30 years Mr. Forsyth was an active member of the Library Board. During his tenure of office the Public Library moved four times. When he first joined the Board the library was situated in the basement of the old city hall under the police headquarters. It later moved to the rooms afterwards used as the office of the City Clerk, and finally moved to the space used as the recent Council Chamber, before occupying the present handsome building at the corner of Weber and Queen Streets.

Mr. Forsyth was chairman of the Board for four terms and was secretary for many years. He was instrumental, with Adolf Mueller, in spite of much criticism and opposition, in securing the grounds on which the present commodious building stands.

For several years in the early history of the town he was chairman of the Berlin Board of Health, leading an aggressive campaign for the adoption of sanitary measures.

He is one of the oldest members of Grand River Lodge, No. 151, A. F. and A. M., joining in 1883. He was made secretary in 1884, Senior Warden in 1885, and Worshipful Master in 1886 and 1887. In 1889 he was elected D.D.G.M. of Wellington District. As a member of the local Masonic Lodge Mr. Forsyth was instrumental as one of a committee in planning and securing the present commodious quarters of the Lodge.

In July, 1910, Mr. Forsyth was appointed a member of the Royal Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education. As a member of this Commission he was engaged from July, 1910, until December, 1911, during which time he toured Canada and the United States, the British Isles, France, Denmark, Switzerland and Germany, visiting the principal schools and institutions of learning for the purpose of obtaining information. The work of the Commission was no easy task as is evidenced by the thorough report covering five volumes which was submitted to the Canadian Government on May 31, 1911.

Mr. Forsyth is an active member of the following local clubs: Rotary, Craftmans, Lancaster, Lawn Bowling and Twin City Curling.

He is a member of the Waterloo Historical Society, of the Mathematical Association of Canada, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the National Geographic Society and life member of the Royal City Lodge of Perfection, Guelph; Rose Croix Chapter, Hamilton; Royal Arch Chapter, Kitchener; Grand River Lodge A. F. and A. M., Kitchener.



## County Museum

The Museum of the Waterloo Historical Society, in the basement of the Kitchener Public Library, with separate entrance on the south side (toward King St.) of the building, is open, in charge of the curator, every Saturday afternoon, except during the mid-summer months, from four to six p.m.

### Donations 1924

Threshing flail, used in Bridgeport, about 1840. Donated by Emil Birnstihl. Bridgeport.

Large photograph, by request, of Clive T. Jaffray, President, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Sault Ste. Marie Railway, son of Wm. Jaffray, former Postmaster and Mayor of Berlin (now Kitchener).

Ready Reckoner. 1854. Donated by Mrs. Hayward, Kitchener.

Flint arrow heads, Indian artefacts, found on Conestoga River, near St. Jacobs. Donated by Alvin L. Menger, St. Jacobs.

Sword of Capt. Jacob Gonder, ensign in war of 1812; migrated from Pennsylvania to Canada 1789, settled on Niagara River above Falls, ancestor of Canadian Branch of Gonder family.

Papers and records of Rev. A. B. Sherk.

Crown grant deed, 1801, of Wellesley, John Winger, heavy pendant seal.

Donated by Michael Gonder Sherk. Toronto.

Painter's maul for grinding pigment on a slab, used by early Waterloo settlers. Donated by Chas. Moogk, Sr., Waterloo.

Reeve and Mayor's chair from old City Hall. 1870. Donated by City of Kitchener, per J. J. A. Weir, Police Magistrate.

Sundry historical papers of Otto Klotz and large map of Preston, 1866, drawn by him. Donated by Miss Klotz, Kitchener.

Photograph of old log school house, Concession Road. Wellington County. Donated by Roswell Goldie, Guelph.

Photographs of old and new City Hall, Kitchener. Donated by Geo. Turnbull, Kitchener.

"The Trail of the Conestoga," the story of Waterloo Township Settlers. Donated by the author, Miss B. Mabel Dunham, B.A., Kitchener.

Photographs of John A. Mackie, Jr., Wm. Wesley Moore, Hugh Edwin Moore, L. VanCamp and Andrew Nicolaus. Donated by Geo. O. Stanton, Montreal.

Original model of breech loading musket by Dr. R. G. Mylius. Donated by his grandson, Otto R. Forsyth, Kitchener.

### Exchange List

Brant Historical Society.  
Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library.  
Canadian Historical Association.  
Commission of Conservation, (Reports), Ottawa.  
Elgin Historical and Scientific Institute.  
Essex Historical Society.  
Huron Institute.  
Library of Congress (Reports), Washington, D.C.  
London and Middlesex Historical Society.  
Minnesota Historical Society.  
Niagara Historical Society.  
Ontario Historical Society.  
Ontario Land Surveyors' Association.  
Thunder Bay Historical Society.  
United Empire Loyalists' Association.  
Wentworth Historical Society.  
Women's Canadian Historical Society, Ottawa.  
York Pioneer and Historical Society.



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