

FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL VOLUME

of the

**WATERLOO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



NINETEEN FIFTY-NINE

FORTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL VOLUME

of the

**WATERLOO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



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1960

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the passing of the year 1959 marked the forty-seventh in the history of our Society, a few words pertaining to our accomplishments in that period, and our hopes for the future, might be in order. Largely due to the work of our membership secretary in going out after new members, we now have the largest number of both yearly and paid-up life members in the history of our Society.

The municipal grants and the money received from the sale of memberships have provided our Society with a good surplus which should help considerably in meeting the cost of moving the articles from the Society's Museum in the Kitchener library to the new museum building in the Pioneer Village at Doon.

On Saturday, September 12th, a historical event took place in High Park, Galt, when a plaque commemorating the arrival in Galt of the Hon. William Dickson and Absalom Shade, Galt's founders, was unveiled. Our Society played a prominent part in that event.

For the year 1960, we are looking forward to several interesting events. — A spring meeting in the Community Hall, Ayr, to be addressed by Chief Justice McRuer, a native of the Ayr district, the unveiling of a plaque in memory of John Erb, the founder of Preston, the annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society, to be held in our county on June 23, 24, 25, and last but not least, the official opening of our Museum Building in the Pioneer Village at Doon. We look forward with pleasure to these interesting historical events.

W. C. Barrie.



SCHOOL-HOUSE 1802

As far as is known the first school-house in any inland county of Ontario was built in Waterloo Township. It was on a site that is now part of the village of Blair, on the north side of the highway, at the former George Tilt residence presently called Lambtann Haven Rest Home. (See page 34).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1959

The forty-seventh annual meeting was held in the Kress Hotel at Preston on Thursday, November 12, 1959. Mrs. David Bergey, New Dundee and Dr. Norman High, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, were the guest speakers.

The large attendance at this meeting indicated a keen interest in the work of the Waterloo Historical Society. Of the 369 members, twelve were life members. A great deal of credit for the increased membership was due to the untiring efforts of Mr. R. S. Oberholtzer in promoting interest in our organization.

Our members met with the Ontario Pioneer Community Foundation on October 20, to hear Dr. Louis Jones, Farmers' Museum, Cooperstown, N.Y.

For many years our Society has been affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society. In 1959 Andrew W. Taylor was executive member and past chairman of the Museum Section. W. H. E. Schmalz was also an executive member and Verna B. (Mrs. A. W.) Taylor was appointed editor of the Newsletter of the Museum Section.

In June, Mr. Taylor was selected as one of the representatives from Ontario when seventeen museum workers from all parts of Canada were admitted to the training course of the Canadian Museums Association, at McGill University, Montreal.

We acknowledge with sincere thanks the grants from the various municipalities and the articles donated by individuals to the museum during the year.

We are grateful to those who have helped our organization: Mr. Preston Graham, who provided an excellent place for our meeting; Miss Ruby Fischer, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Dickson and Mr. E. M. Carter, who worked with the publication committee and all who assisted in many ways.

Once again, we express our appreciation for the co-operation of the library staff and for the accommodation provided by the Kitchener Public Library for the museum and archives.

Grace E. Hall.

58 Van Camp Ave., Kitchener, Ont.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1959

Receipts:

Balance on hand January 1st., 1959.....	\$ 1,564.68
Membership Fees	535.00
Sale of Books	7.00
Bank Interest	44.30

Grants:

Galt	\$ 100.00	
Waterloo	100.00	
Preston	50.00	
Hespeler	25.00	
Elmira	25.00	
Ayr	10.00	
Townships:		
N. Dumfries	25.00	
Waterloo	100.00	
Wellesley	35.00	
Wilmot	25.00	
Woolwich	25.00	
County of Waterloo.....	200.00	
	\$ 720.00	
	\$ 2,870.98	

Disbursements:

46th. Annual Volume	\$ 409.09	
Publications Committee	23.36	
Stationery and Printing	16.65	
Annual Meeting	15.00	
Museum Attendants	132.00	
Repairs (Museum articles and sign)	46.00	
Janitor	40.00	
Bookbinding	5.00	
Ontario Historical Society Membership.....	6.15	
Postage	41.50	
Secretary	75.00	
Phone and exchange and miscellaneous.....	14.40	
Advertising	38.69	
	\$ 862.84	
Balance	\$ 2008.14	

Audited and found correct Feb. 12, 1960.

Emily Seibert
31 Madison Ave. S.,
Kitchener.



Kitchener-Waterloo Record

KITCHENER'S OLDEST RESIDENT

Mrs. Margaret Madden, 104, on Saturday, December 5, 1959, placed the cornerstone at the Kitchener Young Men's Club housing project for elderly people.

MRS. MARGARET MADDEN

Waterloo County's oldest resident, Mrs. Margaret Madden, 104, placed the cornerstone of the Kitchener Young Men's housing project for elderly people, on December 5, 1959.

A second generation Canadian, Margaret Ann Hewson was born on September 21, 1855 in Buckingham, Québec, where she married Martin Madden, a gold prospector. After the birth of their fourth child the family moved to Northern Ontario.

Mother of twelve children, five of whom are living, Mrs. Madden now stays with her daughter, Mrs. O'Sullivan in Kitchener.

Good eyesight and hearing, an unusual memory, an agility of step and a fine sense of humour, allow Mrs. Madden to enjoy her hobbies of playing cards and following the races, as well as to assist around the house.

In May 1959, she was the guest of E. P. Taylor at the New Woodbine race track, and presented Mr. Taylor with the Queen's Plate for his winning horse.

Mrs. Madden, congratulated on her age, remarked that there weren't many people of her age who had worked as hard as she had or who had baked as many loaves of bread.

(Mrs. Madden died on April 16, 1960).

THE MENNONITES AND THEIR FAITH

by *Mrs. David D. Bergey*

Mrs. Bergey of New Dundee, spoke at the annual meeting of the Waterloo Historical Society, on November 12, 1959.

Who the Mennonites are is not generally known in our society today. Some people think of the typical Mennonite as being a good farmer usually blessed with a wife who prepares mouth-watering meals three times a day. Her table is famous for such delicacies as "Koch Kase", that gooey stuff that you buy at the market sometimes and spread on fresh bread; "Schmier Kase un Lartvark"—that is cottage cheese and apple butter to you who do not understand the Pennsylvania Dutch; pastry and other good things.

The Mennonites are generally known for their warm hospitality to strangers and their ability to be good neighbours, especially in time of need. Their homes are usually simply and neatly furnished. Another impression some people have was related to me only a few months ago. My brother, whose surname is Shantz, told me of meeting a stranger who, upon hearing the name Shantz, remarked, "That is a good Mennonite name", and then continued, "I don't know much about the Mennonites but I have heard they are a good living people. They keep the Sabbath and everything else they lay their hands on". He apparently had heard of some very shrewd ones. But then I recall, I heard my husband's father once say that if a Pennsylvania Dutch Mennonite and a Scotsman were involved in a business deal his sympathies were with the Scotsman.

To understand who the Mennonites are, it is necessary to become acquainted with the circumstances which provided the setting for the emerging of the Mennonite Faith and Practice. In the presentation of historical facts, other groups will be mentioned, but I shall endeavour to present the facts clearly and justly, with malice toward none.

The historical facts presented in this paper were gathered from several books compiled by Mennonite historians within the last century. The material in these books is based on historical facts recorded by the European historians of those early days and now preserved in archives in Europe. There were no Mennonite historians in those days. Mennonites themselves have generally been more concerned with practical Christian living than with writing histories about themselves. The history of the Mennonite church is associated with that of other Christian bodies which had their rise at the daybreak of the Reformation.

We are well acquainted with the history of the early Christian church as recorded in the New Testament of our Bibles. It was amazing how this movement spread in spite of severe persecution by both religious and civil authorities. By the year 180 A.D. Christianity had surrounded the Mediterranean Sea, being especially strong in the cities. The Roman world was being won for Christ.

When the Roman Emperor, Constantine, professed Christianity, persecution of Christians ceased. Along with the rapid numerical growth of Christianity, however, came also a sad spiritual decline. The Christian church was made a state church. Church and state were united and later the population was compelled to make a profession of Christianity.

In this period the pure gospel as preached and practised by the early Christians was contaminated. Christian ordinances such as baptism and communion, which were ordained as symbols, to remind man of his personal relationship towards God, gradually were accepted as possessing a magical power and therefore were considered the means whereby the forgiveness of sins could be obtained and retained. Many pagan religious practices crept into the life of the church at this time. With the union of state and church, the principles of voluntary church membership and nonresistance were abandoned. All members of the state were forced to become members of the state church, which, through many unscriptural teachings was now recognized as the institution of salvation, rather than the fellowship of regenerated believers.

In the 16th century a movement took place, known in the history of the Christian church as the Reformation. The principal leaders in this movement were Martin Luther (1483-1546), Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) and John Calvin (1509-1564).

It was while Martin Luther was studying for his Doctor of Theology degree that he became conscious that works and religious ceremony could not achieve peace with God, but that Christ had by His atoning death reconciled man to God. Therefore man was justified by his faith in Christ. Coming to this conclusion brought Luther to protest publicly against practices in the church.

After a trial ordered by the Parliament of the German Empire, he was condemned as a heretic. While hiding in a friend's castle for nearly a year, Luther translated the Greek New Testament into German, the language of the people.

On Luther's return to public life he worked hard to reform the state church. He introduced an evangelical worship service which was accepted by princes and rulers in all of Saxony in 1526.

Other German provinces followed with princes and civic authorities serving as heads of the church and ordering the people to accept the new state religion. This was not the church Luther had planned to establish when he first protested the former state church. In the earlier period of his labours, Luther realized the need for organizing a church whose members, from personal choice, took Christianity seriously. Luther proceeded to write and publish many articles of reform literature, which were read by many German speaking people of Europe as was the Bible he finally translated in its entirety to the German language.

In Switzerland at this time another well educated priest, Ulrich Zwingli, took up the study of Greek in order to understand better the New Testament. His preaching was marked by its Biblical content and emphasis. Zwingli was a gifted preacher and audiences thrilled to his preaching. Evidence of this is the fact that he was elected head pastor of the city of Zurich, the principal city in Switzerland. Zwingli began to read Luther's writings and their impression on him was profound. He began to publicly protest the views and practices of the state church there, and became the leader of a reform movement in Switzerland, which was in many ways similar to Luther's in Germany.

Zwingli in his early days of protest had, as Luther, hoped to establish a church which observed doctrines and practices in harmony with the Bible, recognizing the separation of church and state, and voluntary church membership.

He was supported in these views by Jacob Grebel, a high government official in the Council of Zurich. Grebel had a son Conrad, who, after attending the schools of Zurich, became a student in the University of Basel and the University of Vienna in Austria. Another brilliant scholar in Zurich at this time was Felix Manz, who specialized in the study of Hebrew. These two brilliant scholars identified themselves with and were active in Zwingli's reform movement in Switzerland.

There is record that Grebel and Manz with Zwingli's approval held meetings for Bible study in the homes of interested people. Grebel expounded Matthew's Gospel from original Greek and Manz taught from the Hebrew Old Testament. The leaders in these meetings were called readers, since they read and expounded the Scriptures. In some sections of the country, regular attendants of these meetings called each other brothers and were commonly known as the Brethren. It was from these groups the Swiss Brethren originated. These were later called Anabaptists and today are known as Mennonites.

During the reformation period there were public disputations held in principal cities where dissenters of the state church were publicly questioned by church and state officials. The dissenters were given the privilege to present their reasons for differing with the creed of the state church in the application of Biblical doctrine.

It was at such a meeting that Zwingli disagreed with several of his supporters on a certain church practice. He then called upon the civic authorities to decide this church issue. This shocked some of his sympathizers, as at an earlier date he had declared that the government should not be consulted in church matters, for the civil authorities are not ordained to rule over the Word of God and Christian liberty, but only things that are of a secular nature. Conrad Grebel and Felix Manz with several other Swiss Brethren declined to support Zwingli in his collaboration with the civil authorities to reform the state church. A number of passages in Zwingli's own writings note that Grebel and his friends earnestly entreated him to lead out in a movement for establishing a church, independent of the state, and recognize the authority of the Scripture alone,—in matters of faith and practice. They encouraged Zwingli to affirm his earlier plan for a church composed of a voluntary membership, who observed believers' baptism and practised Biblical discipline in their individual lives. They all knew too well that such a movement would not be tolerated by the church authorities. Zwingli, as Luther, felt that he must modify and time his reform, to secure political protection, as in his opinion the people in general did not take their faith seriously enough to endure persecution. The Swiss Brethren in January of 1525, met and under the leadership of Grebel and Manz bravely organized a church which they felt was true to the teachings of the New Testament. They became known as Anabaptists and practised believers' baptism contrary to the decree of the state church. This action set the stage for the terrible struggle for religious liberty.

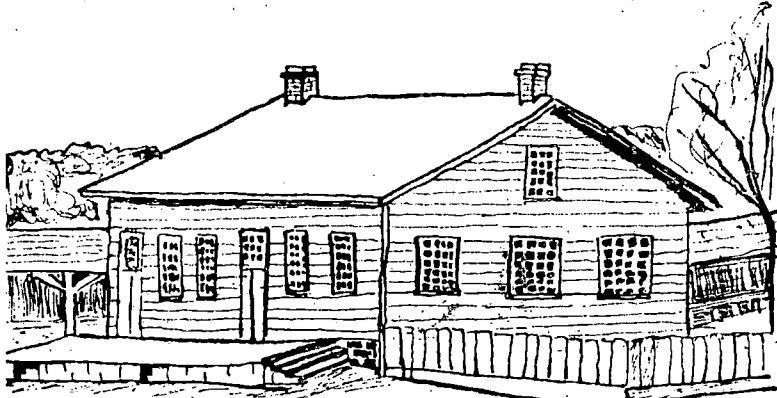
In February 1525 twenty-four members of the Anabaptist congregation in Zurich were imprisoned. They were later released under bond. In March of that year the Council of Zurich published a mandate decreeing that all who should henceforth receive believers' baptism, should be exiled.

Zwingli was tolerating no dissension in his reform movement in the state church. He did not accord the Anabaptists the right to be heard in a fair disputation. Two written petitions of the Anabaptists to the Council are preserved in the archives of Zurich. They were refused permission to defend their doctrine through the medium of the press. There were magistrates in one of the principalities of Zurich who expressed sympathy for the Anabaptists who had the courage of their conviction and never

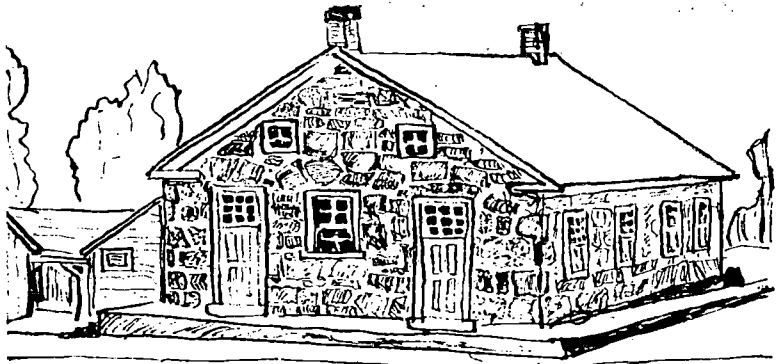
Continued on Page 14



BEN EBY'S OLD CHURCH 1813



BENJAMIN EBY MENNONITE CHURCH BERLIN ONT 1834



SWANTZ CHURCH 1853

E.M. CARTER

BEN EBY'S OLD CHURCH 1813

In 1806 Benjamin Eby from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, with others, settled on lands which became part of the city of Kitchener. Benjamin Eby was called to the ministry in 1809. He at once urged the erection of a building for public worship. A small one-room log cabin was probably used for both school and church purposes for four or five years. In 1813 a log building was erected for church and school purposes and Eby himself taught here for many winters in succession.

BENJAMIN EBY MENNONITE CHURCH, BERLIN, 1834

In 1834 a large frame building was constructed and used until 1902, when a white brick structure was erected. The 1834 doorway is in the W. H. S. Museum. The congregation was known as the "Benjamin Eby" congregation during the lifetime of the bishop of that name. In 1854 Christian Eby succeeded his father Benjamin and the church was called "Christian Eby". Although Christian Eby died in 1859, the name remained in use until 1904 when the Calendar gave the name Berlin. In 1917, when the city changed its name from Berlin to Kitchener the congregation became known as "First Mennonite".

SHANTZ CHURCH 1853

Shantz Church, located north of Baden and about eight miles west of Waterloo, was known locally as the "Upper Street Church". The survey of Wilmot Township is based on three main roads. The centre one of these is now Highway No. 7 and 8 through Petersburg and Baden. In the survey it is referred to as Snider's Road. To the north lies Erb's Road from Waterloo through St. Agatha and Phillipsburg. To the south is Bleam's Road through Mannheim past New Hamburg. Early settlers referred to these as Mittelstrasse, Oberstrasse, and Unterstrasse (Middle Street, Upper Street and Lower Street).

On April 13, 1853, David Y. Shantz and his wife Barbara conveyed to John C. Shantz and other trustees, the land upon which the first building was erected in the same year. It was of stone construction and was remodelled in 1900. In 1929 it was replaced by a red brick building with basement.

had the opportunity of defending their faith publicly. They pressured Zwingli to appear for a public disputation with Grebel and Manz in November 1525, and gave him the privilege to select the questions for debate. The interest of the Swiss people in this Anabaptist movement led by Grebel and Manz was indicated by the large gatherings who attended this disputation held in the largest church in Zurich. Immediately after this hearing three of the Anabaptist leaders were again imprisoned for a short time. They were then released with the threat that if they persisted in their dissent, the most severe punishment would be meted out to them again.

In spite of this threat, many people identified themselves with this new group by requesting believers' baptism. It was difficult for the civil authorities to mete out punishment to these people because it is recorded that those who were of a pious straightforward position were the most susceptible to the teachings of the party led by Grebel and Manz. The Anabaptists had sympathetic friends in high government positions, who, time and time again, exerted their influence to help imprisoned Anabaptists escape. This made the extermination of the Anabaptist faith impossible.

After being released from prison with fourteen other Brethren where the death sentence had been pronounced upon them, Conrad Grebel died of the plague in 1526. A mandate had now been published that anyone who would henceforth perform the act of rebaptism "should be drowned without mercy", without trial, or further hearing. Felix Manz fell into the hands of the authorities in Zurich and was executed by drowning on January 5, 1527. The reason given for pronouncing the death sentence on him was that he believed people of various religious creeds could live under one civil government and should be tolerated by the authorities. Felix Manz was the first martyr executed by the Protestants. Thus it became evident that the persecution of the Anabaptists was instigated by state church leaders who were unwilling to tolerate religious liberty.

This act created a great sensation in the country but was only the beginning of terrible days for the Anabaptists. They were tortured by unmerciful methods, killed with the sword, treated as fugitives, pursued like wild animals for there was a bounty on the head of each Anabaptist; and often exiled from home, families and friends. Even under the threat of persecution, the request for and the practice of believers' baptism gathered momentum in Europe.

Near Witmarsum, Holland, a young priest Menno Simmons, as Luther and Zwingli, was questioning the practice of the state church. Luther's reform literature had spread to the Nether-

lands, followed a few years later by the Anabaptist movement with the teaching and observance of believer's baptism. With the Anabaptist movement came persecution. Menno Simmons was impressed with the fervour these people practised their application of the Scriptures in face of martyrdom. After careful study and deliberation of the position held by the Anabaptists Luther, Zwingli and Calvin, Menno Simmons cast his lot with the Anabaptists in 1536.

About a year later, upon the request of the Anabaptist group, he consented to ordination as a bishop. Menno Simmons was aware, if he accepted this call, the personal dangers to be encountered by him would be multiplied. For seven years he led the life of a fugitive upon earth, being compelled to live as an outlaw. To give him food or lodging was declared a criminal act, punishable by death.

He travelled from place to place in the Netherlands, northern Germany and Denmark, teaching and organizing churches among the Anabaptist believers. There is evidence also of his visits in cities of the North Sea and Baltic Sea territories. Traces of his labours have been found in Lithuania, Livonia, and as far north as Esthonia. His itinerant contacts flourished as a result of his outstanding talents in writing, teaching, and organization. These Anabaptist groups became known then as Mennists.

As in Switzerland, there were sympathizers in the Netherlands, who risked their lives to protect and assist the Anabaptists and their leaders. One of these was a nobleman of great authority, an officer in the Netherlands army. He had witnessed the death of some of the Mennonite martyrs. He was convinced that they were of an entirely harmless character and their persecution unnecessary. This nobleman offered Menno Simmons and his group the privilege to reside on his estate in "Wustenfelde" in Denmark. Here Menno Simmons could leave his family in safety while he continued to visit and admonish the churches he organized, at the risk of his life.

In 1561, at the age of 66 years, Menno Simmons took ill and died from natural causes. After 25 years of affiliation with the Anabaptists, exposed all these years to the dangers of persecution, he was not called upon to die a martyr's death.

You will note the activities of the Anabaptists in Switzerland were taking place simultaneously with those of the Anabaptists in the Netherlands, northern Germany and Denmark. The fact that these scattered groups became known as Mennonites, reveals to us, the wide influence Menno Simmons' ministry and writings had on the Anabaptist believers of his day.

Because the ancestors of many Waterloo County Mennonites came from Berne, Switzerland, it will be of interest to follow the movements of this group from the scene of fierce persecution in Europe to the peaceful Grand River Valley.

Time and time again for nearly one hundred years, the death sentence was pronounced upon these Mennonites, as Switzerland continued taking extreme measures towards anyone who refused to accept the creed of the state church. Because of the meek non-resistant attitude displayed by these Mennonites towards their tormentors and executors, the population secretly sympathized with them.

Public sentiment against putting the Mennonites to death had grown too strong, hence selling them as galley slaves was used instead of the death sentence. The clergy in Berne declared these people did not deserve being sold as galley slaves, which was a sentence far worse than death.

It was evident Switzerland did not wish to tolerate the Mennonite faith. At this time the Palatinate, a large province in South Germany, on both sides of the Rhine River, was in a state of devastation, as a result of the Thirty Years War. The ruler of this province knew of the Mennonites' plight in Switzerland and he also knew their reputation as wonderful tillers and dressers of the soil. He gave them permission to take up residence in the Palatinate, with the stipulation that they restore the fertility of the land. They were permitted to hold worship services but not in public worship houses, and each family paid a special tax as protection money to the authorities. After living under the severe persecutions in Switzerland, this invitation looked tempting to the Swiss Mennonites and a mass immigration came to the Palatinate. They arrived in a destitute condition but when the Mennonites in Holland heard of the plight of their brethren, they extended great assistance in material aid.

The Mennonites, by hard labour and the application of good farming principles to the soil, brought the Rhine Valley back to a high state of productivity. In 1726 the law known as the "Right of Retraction" was imposed upon the Mennonites. This law permitted anyone having sold this devastated land to a Mennonite, the right to buy it back at any time in its improved state, for the same price paid for the devastated land. After many urgent petitions and protests this Right of Retraction was in 1737 limited to three years from the time the real estate had been purchased by a Mennonite. This law was in force as late as the year 1801.

Oppression of the Mennonite people in Europe continued in various ways. Fortunately, for the persecuted Swiss and South German Mennonites, a haven of refuge was opened up for them in the new world. In 1681 William Penn, a leading English Quaker, had secured a large grant of land from the English

crown, on which he decided to establish a new kind of state with perfect liberty of conscience and with freedom from oppression of all kinds. The results of Penn's project was the colony of Pennsylvania. The desire of Penn's life was to bring out of captivity, all those who were oppressed for conscience sake, whatever their creed or belief.

It is estimated that at least five thousand Mennonite immigrants came from Germany and Switzerland to Pennsylvania from 1683 to 1750. They were granted religious liberty in this new land by the authority of enactments of the British Parliament. The Mennonites were enjoying their religious freedom and prospering, until the time of the Revolutionary War. When the colonies declared their independence from England, the Mennonites found themselves embarrassed. To rise against constituted authority, especially against the government that had respected their conscientious scruples, was considered exceedingly wrong. They sympathized with the loyalists but gave no patriotic expression. C. H. Smith in his history of the Mennonites, suggests there were those (Mennonites) not in sympathy with separation from the English Crown. The period of anarchy following the close of the war did not strengthen the confidence of these people in the new government. To all of these the large tracts of cheap land in Ontario, not far from the American border, seemed to offer an opportunity for bettering their material condition and at the same time remaining under the rule of the English king.

From 1799 to 1828 the population of the Mennonite settlement in Ontario reached approximately two thousand. The majority of these Mennonites settled the fertile lands of the Grand River Valley in the area we know as Waterloo County to-day.

Whenever I travel the road from Waterloo County to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, along the Alleghany mountain range, I realize anew that my forefathers prized highly the privilege of religious freedom. The journey must have been treacherous and full of hardships and discouragement at times. Once when travelling through these mountains I was attempting to impress our six year old son that it was these same steep mountains our forefathers crossed with their families and earthly possessions in conestoga wagons drawn by horses. When we stopped at a restaurant for dinner, our four-year-old son enquired whether our forefathers stopped at this place too, on their trip north.

The Mennonites in Canada, to this day, continue to hold the British government in high regard, for the promise of religious liberty given to their forefathers nearly three centuries ago has never been broken.

DETWEILER ENVISIONED ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY IN 1912



D. B. DETWEILER

In 1959 the St. Lawrence Seaway was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth and President Eisenhower. In April ocean vessels docked at Toronto and then progressively at more inland ports, and there was congestion in the Welland Canal. This was the beginning of an era that may see as far-reaching effects as those caused by the building of railways. As far back as 1912, at least one clear-thinking man in Waterloo County foresaw all of this. On January 11 of that year, in the town of Berlin (now Kitchener), the Great Waterways Union of Canada was organized.

Mayor Schmalz of Berlin gave the address of welcome to the officers and citizens of many municipalities. He spoke highly of D. B. Detweiler—"who was largely the organizer of the movement. Mr. Detweiler had been the original mover, also, of the hydro-electric power scheme some years ago and he had followed up that campaign until it was an accomplished fact."

After preliminaries Mr. Detweiler stated: "I thank you for your attendance here today. I feel much gratified at the interest you are taking in this movement. I do not know that an apology is necessary for calling a meeting at Berlin, an inland town, instead of at one of our neighbouring lake ports. We considered that the holding of a meeting here would emphasize the fact that the question is one of great importance to all sections of the country.

"When we took up the matter of Niagara power in 1902, ten years ago, some thought we were painting rainbows, but I think we were justified in the move then made, and I consider this will be of very much greater benefit, as it affects the whole Dominion."

Mr. Detweiler then read his pamphlet which was listened to with great interest. It was believed to have been the most important statement of the case that had been made up to that time.

Excerpts follow:

"The simultaneous construction of the Georgian Bay Canal and the enlargement of the Welland Canal, which logically includes similar navigation in the St. Lawrence from Lake Ontario to Montreal, is at present urged upon the government of Canada.

"The estimated cost of the Georgian Bay Canal is \$100,000,000, an amount which experts say must be doubled or trebled But in the history of Canadian transportation facilities we have as mementoes of expensive and impossible enterprises, the Chignecto Ship Railway, the Trent Valley Canal and more recently the Newmarket Ditch."

At a meeting of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, Henry Holgate, an expert engineer of international repute read a paper "there has been as yet, no satisfactory answer to the question whether the enlargement of the St. Lawrence Canal system, with a system of dams and locks and an improved river channel, would not prove the most economic working out of the transportation problem so that vessels from the Upper Lakes might bring their cargoes direct to Montreal for transfer to ocean steamers."

The pamphlet proceeded to present the arguments of experts from Canada and the United States on a variety of related topics. Then Mr. Detweiler stated the need for immediate action and summarized the proposed movement.

"To secure action at Ottawa would not be difficult. Governments welcome an organized expression of opinion which will relieve them from an embarrassing situation. A movement well concerted and sustained would materially assist the national administration in solving the question of inland navigation purely with a view to the public interest. Even more than was the case with the Hydro-Electric scheme, the importance of the project will lift the supporting movement above politics, for the interests involved are manifold greater in extent and importance than those concerned in the power scheme. The present project, though vastly greater, is in itself much simpler, than the scheme. In that case, opposing private companies were already in the field. They urged that the transmission of power at the proposed high voltage was technically impossible and the project was commercially impracticable. In the face of these objections and of the difficulties of co-operation involving large financial obligations of numerous municipalities, a deputation of 1406 was organized and waited on the Ontario Government in the interests of the scheme, which at that time, was only a sectional or at best a provincial matter. In support of a national proposition such as a large Ocean Waterway, appealing to the entire country, it is clear from the interest already shown and the assistance proffered that a demonstration

many times as large and representing practically all sections, can be organized with comparative ease. The mere fact that such a deputation would be organized, if necessary, should command attention at Ottawa at once, and the Government will be relieved of the pressure manufactured by contractors and others in favour of the impracticable Georgian Bay route.

"No greater question is likely to face Canada for several generations. To men of the nation, east and west, is offered the opportunity of a lifetime. An appeal is made especially to younger citizens. Those who contribute now to a solution, along broad lines, and in keeping with the important interests involved and the needs of our growing country, may expect in future days to look back with permanent and increasing satisfaction on a monumental public work constructed through their interest and exertions."



STEDMAN DEED — 1795

A photographic copy of this deed, the text of which is to be found in the 1914 volume, is in the files of the Waterloo Historical Society. The original, written on parchment fourteen by twenty-three inches, is the property of Colonel R. H. Dickson of Toronto.

The reproduction on the opposite page shows creases where it folds to close. The black markings in the lower left are crimson ribbon three-quarters of an inch wide woven through the parchment and held by sealing wax on the reverse side. This ribbon attaches a large wax seal four and a half inches in diameter and five-eighths of an inch thick.

The signatures are those of "the sachems and chief warriors of the Mohawk, Oghgwaga, Seneka, Onondaga, and Cayuga Tribes or Nations of Indian Americans, living on and inhabiting and owning the lands of the Grand River, or River Ouse, in the Province of Upper Canada."

The price is stated as "ten thousand, two hundred and fifty-five pounds, ten shillings, estimating dollars at eight shillings each".

To the left of his name each warrior drew his totem. The fact that these emblems are shown with legs signifies that the Indians were reserving the right to cross the land. If the figures had been couchant it would signify that the right to camp was reserved as well.

It was a blood bond. Each man pricked the vein in his wrist and used the blood in affixing his thumbprint.

Kamenhorogowagh
 Thaweyagen ragh
 Teyorogowagh
 Bwedagowagh
 Oghawite
 Kagarokwayen

Chamunianamden
 Thawetagegh
 Teyorogowagh
 Teyendadishone
 Tekanogowagh
 Oghawite

James Volant
 Thomas Oake
 George Lusk
 George Lusk

Kayendakhea
 Onagarondugh
 Oghawite
 Thawamendishone
 Teyorogowagh
 Teyorogowagh

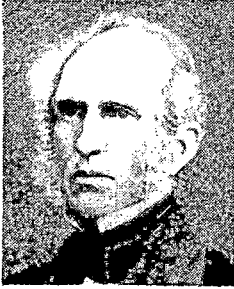
Johnston's (Camp) Minerals of the
 Adirondack and other Indian Minerals
 in Stillwater, Franklin
 County, New York
 1875
 1875
 1875
 1875
 1875
 1875

Kyohorowagh
 Oghawite
 Teyorogowagh
 Teyorogowagh
 Teyorogowagh
 Teyorogowagh
 Teyorogowagh

Handwritten notes on the right side of the page, including names and dates.

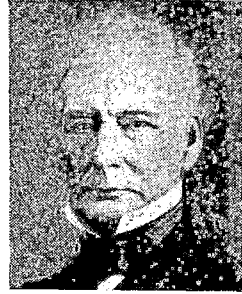
Thawogowagh
 Teyorogowagh
 Thawogowagh
 Kanentagona
 Teyorogowagh
 Teyorogowagh

Handwritten notes on the right side of the page, including names and dates.



ABSALOM SHADE

GALT
FOUNDERS
HONOURED



WILLIAM DICKSON

by Andrew W. Taylor

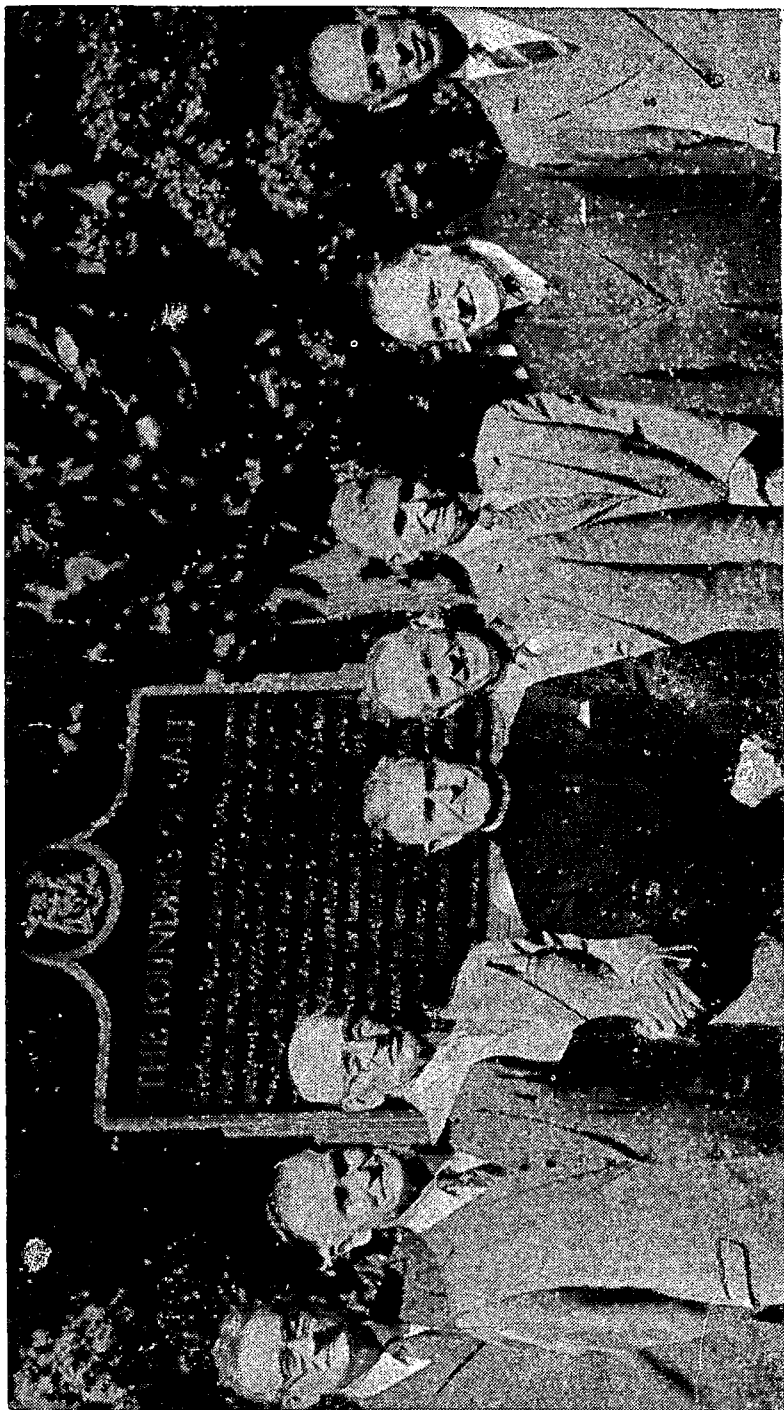
On Saturday afternoon, September 12, 1959, in High Park, Galt, the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario unveiled a plaque commemorating William Dickson and Absalom Shade.

The ceremony was sponsored by the Waterloo Historical Society, Mr. W. C. Barrie presiding. The Historic Sites Board was represented by its chairman, Mr. Wm. H. Cranston of Midland. Other speakers were: His Worship Mayor A. W. A. White of Galt; Mr. Andrew W. Taylor, Vice-President of the Waterloo Historical Society; Mr. R. M. Myers, M.P.P. (Waterloo South); Mr. R. G. Ford, Reeve of the Township of North Dumfries; Colonel R. H. Dickson of Toronto; and Canon A. B. Thomas, Trinity Church, Galt.

An excellent press release prepared by Mr. D. F. McOuat, Director, Historic Branch, Department of Travel and Publicity, dealt with Galt and its historic background. That which follows was compiled from it and from the tape which recorded the speeches at the ceremony. The table used by the speakers was once the property of Absalom Shade. It became the prized possession of Mr. Barrie's grandmother who worked for four years in Mr. Shade's home after she had come from Scotland at the age of seventeen.

Items of local history were brought to light by Mr. Cranston; several of the speakers came of early Dumfries families—Taylors, 1818; Barries, 1829; Cranstons and Fords, 1832. Mr. Ford's is the nearest contact, his father having been an infant when the voyage from Scotland was made.

Mr. Ford, when he spoke, added that his family and that of Township Clerk Hugh C. Elliott had come on the same boat, had lived in the same house for the first winter, and have occupied adjoining farms continuously ever since.



Kitchener-Waterloo Record

A plaque commemorating the founding of Galt was unveiled September 12, 1959 at High Park in Galt. The site is believed to be the one on which Absalom Shade stood when picking the city's location. Taking part in the ceremony were (left to right) William Cranston of Midland, chairman of the Ontario Historic Sites Board; W. C. Barrie of Galt, president of the Waterloo Historical Society; R. H. Dickson of Toronto, grandson of William Dickson, one of the founders; Canon A. B. Thomas, of Galt; R. G. Ford, reeve of North Dumfries Township; R. M. Myers, M.P.P., Waterloo South; Mayor Arthur White, of Galt and Andrew Taylor of Galt; vice-president of the Waterloo Historical Society.

Most of the area now included in the Townships of North and South Dumfries, containing some 90,000 acres, belonged at one time to the Six Nations Iroquois. It formed part of a larger tract along the Grand River and was awarded to the Indians by the Crown in compensation for the loss of their territory in New York State during the American Revolution.

In 1795 the Indians sold the Dumfries area portion of their holdings, known as Block No. 1, to Philip Stedman.

However, neither he nor other persons into whose possession it passed did anything to develop or settle it before 1816.

In that year it was purchased by the Honourable William Dickson. Born in Dumfries-shire, Scotland, in 1769, he later emigrated to Canada and settled at Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake) where he began the practice of law. In 1808 he fought a duel with William Weekes in which the latter was killed. Dickson served as an officer in the Canadian militia during the War of 1812 and was taken prisoner by the Americans.

After the war he became a merchant and successful businessman and was made a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada. Having purchased Dumfries he proceeded energetically to develop and settle it.

In this regard he was fortunate in obtaining as his agent or supervisor, Absalom Shade. The latter was originally from Pennsylvania but was living in Buffalo at the time that Dickson first met him. Shade was an extremely resourceful and capable man, ideally suited to guide the development of a new settlement.

It was decided that the first important step would be to establish a central community on a stream where a sawmill and a grist-mill, the essential pioneer industries, could be constructed. In July, 1816, Dickson and Shade proceeded up the old Governor's Road to the Forks of the Grand and thence up the east bank till they arrived at a point now occupied by the city of Galt. Here they found the remains of a crude mill that had been abandoned by an earlier settler. Struck by the beauty and strategic location of this site, they resolved to make it the headquarters of their new settlement.

Young's History of Galt says that at the Grand River "an Indian guide became necessary. Under this escort they proceeded up the east side of the river by the regular Indian trail, which in many places a single pony and rider had difficulty in making their way along. As they proceeded leisurely northwards, they examined the country from various elevations, and especially the points where streams intersected the river, and which promised to be suitable for commencing operations". Surveyor's field notes from 1828 indicate that, in most places, the Indian trail became the East River Road from Galt to Paris.

At what is now the heart of the City of Galt they found a dense growth of cedars and swampy ground for a considerable distance up along the stream which we know as Mill Creek. On this (between Water Street and Ainslie Street) they found an abandoned grist-mill.

Dealing with conditions about 1802, Ezra Eby in his Biographical History of Waterloo Township relates that "great trouble was experienced in getting to the mill, the nearest one being at Dundas. This great want soon led to the erection of a little grist-mill where Galt is now situated, by one John Miller, who owned a thousand acres of land in that locality. This John Miller resided at Niagara, but gave the contract of building it to "Old Dodge" who was a millwright by trade. After the mill was erected and the necessary machinery placed in it, one by the name of Maas became the miller. The building was a small one, not exceeding 24 x 28 feet in dimensions, and 1½ storey high, yet it was highly appreciated by the early pioneers of this county. Mr. Miller who had this mill erected, took an active part with the Americans in 1813, and consequently forfeited all his property on the Grand River."

Under Shade's direction, a sawmill and grist-mill were completed by 1819 and a distillery shortly afterwards. The tract was surveyed and divided into lots by Adrian Marlett, D. P. S., and settlers encouraged to take up residence. Shade built himself a log cabin and settled by the mill and the little community which grew up was known at first as Shade's Mills. In 1820 it was noted in one account that there were about ten buildings.

According to Young's history, Mr. Shade's house, the first building erected, was on Water Street South where we now have the Dominion Store. Those interested may observe that from Main Street south the pavement is wider until it passes this lot. Construction was of logs "two stories high in front, with a one-storey kitchen attached. The front was enclosed by a log fence. This was deemed quite an ornament in those days, but would hardly be esteemed so highly at the present time. For many years afterwards one end of this building was used as a rude store by Mr. Shade, and the other end as a dwelling for himself and wife."

The grist-mill was replaced by the Galt Armoury. The saw-mill was located near the corner of the present McDougall plant, where the C.N.R. track crosses Mill Creek. The mill pond extended northward from the saw-mill. The C.P.R. office, formerly the Lake Erie and Northern Station, is on filled land in the portion of the pond that was south of Main Street.

It was only natural that Dickson, being of Scottish descent, would encourage his former fellow-countrymen to settle there and about 1825 there was a considerable influx from Roxboroughshire and Selkirkshire. They were followed by others from the land of the heather and the Dumfries area has always been noted for its strong Scottish traditions.

In 1827 the Scottish novelist, John Galt, who had been appointed the first superintendent of the Canada Company, visited Shade's Mills on his way to the adjacent Huron Tract. His friend and admirer, William Dickson, thereupon renamed the village Galt in his honour. Dickson himself resided in Galt from 1827 to 1836, following which, his settlement securely established, he retired to Niagara where he died in 1846.

A testimonial dinner was given in Dickson's honour on the 13th day of July, 1839 with Absalom Shade in the chair. At that time the inhabitants of Dumfries made it abundantly clear that they admired and respected the efforts of the man whose initiative and foresight had established their flourishing settlement. His associate, Shade, remained a resident of the town he had helped to found for the remainder of his life. He represented Galt in the legislature of Upper Canada, 1831-40, was elected Reeve of that town in 1852 and died in 1862.

THE FOUNDERS OF GALT

In 1816 the Hon. William Dickson (1769-1846), a prosperous Niagara merchant and member of the legislative council, purchased some 90,000 acres of land which now comprise the townships of North and South Dumfries. To develop and settle his tract, Dickson employed as his agent Absalom Shade (1793-1862), an industrious and capable Pennsylvanian. Shade established his headquarters here in 1816, and completed a sawmill and grist-mill 1818-19. The community which grew around them, known at first as Shade's Mills, was renamed in honour of Dickson's friend, John Galt, the Scottish novelist and first superintendent of the Canada Company.

Erected by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board

ONTARIO'S LAST COVERED BRIDGE

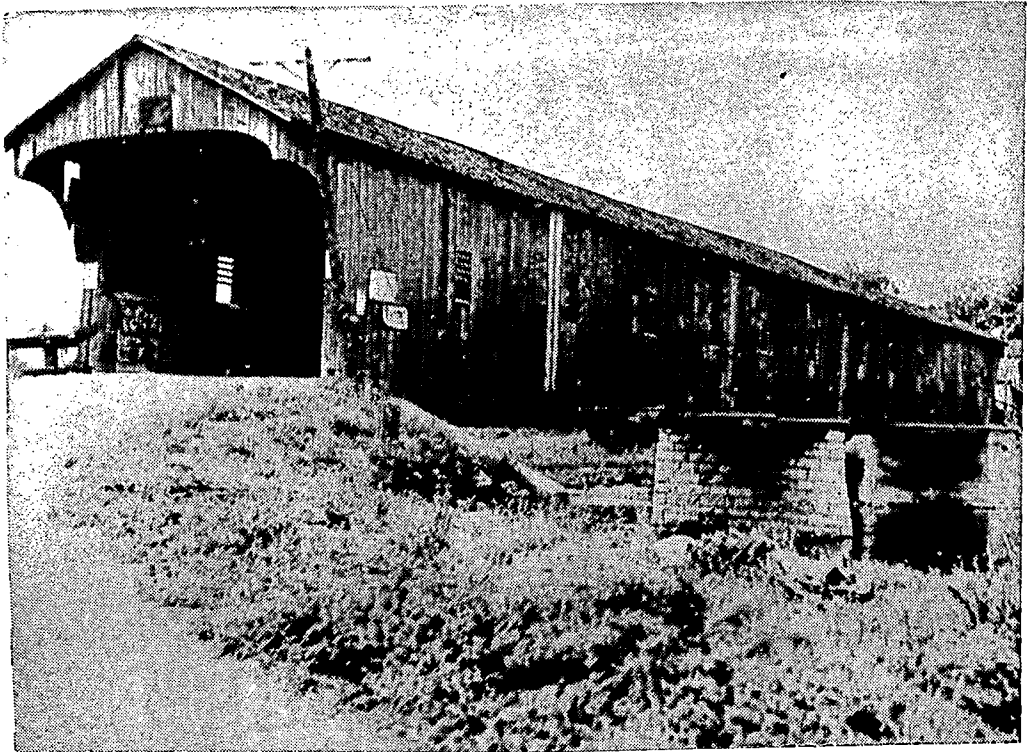
On May 16, 1959, the Ontario Department of Highways opened a new bridge near West Montrose, Waterloo County. This bridge, for which the contract of May, 1958, was \$107,291, will bear the brunt of the traffic on Highway 86 and will relieve the 78-year-old covered bridge.

John and Sam Baer in 1881, which was 74 years after the first settlers had arrived, built the bridge for the Township of Woolwich. Since that time the bridge, said to have been built originally without a roof, has been under two other jurisdictions—County of Waterloo council and the Ontario Department of Highways.

The original piers were cedar cribs filled with stone. Due to the yearly menace of flooding it was necessary to construct concrete wing abutments at each end and a central stone masonry pier. From near Blair and Doon came the white pine timbers, some of which measured 9 x 18 inches and nearly fifty feet long. The 196-foot wooden bridge was 13 feet high and had an inside width of 17 feet.

On two occasions there were extensive repairs. The first floor of three-inch oak planking, as well as a second floor, were replaced in 1954 by longitudinal two-inch planking, a deck of laminated two-by-fours, and a covering of asphalt-bonded crushed stone. On several occasions there had been anxiety concerning the safety of the bridge. Because of the two-ton limit, Elmira District High School students in November 1952, had to leave the buses at the approaches, send ahead a patrol with a red flag to stop traffic, and then walk across. This recalled one of the warning signs of earlier years:— "Any person driving faster than a walk will be prosecuted according to law."

The official reopening of the old covered bridge, spanning the Grand River at West Montrose was a happy occasion for those who had urged the retention of this landmark that has been so attractive to artists and photographers. The structure is reminiscent of the days of the horse and buggy and a slower pace of living. The Department of Highways installed electric lights in old-fashioned lanterns. This recalled an old by-law which provided that lanterns had to be lighted by dusk. In earlier times a contract was awarded each winter for "snowing" the floor so that sleighs could cross over the oak planking without difficulty.



Kitchener-Waterloo Record

THE COVERED BRIDGE

West Montrose, Township of Woolwich, Waterloo County

Years ago there were just two small windows in the superstructure and it has been suggested that it was called the "Kissing Bridge" because the toll for crossing through the dark interior was at least one kiss.

While this is Ontario's last covered bridge, travellers in Canada may see them in Nova Scotia where there are four, or in Quebec or New Brunswick each of which has more than twenty-five. It is to be hoped that our Waterloo County bridge can be retained as it is a link with the past and a valuable tourist attraction.



The reason that history has to repeat itself is that most people were not listening the first time.

TOWNSHIP OF WATERLOO THE FIRST FAR-INLAND SETTLEMENT IN UPPER CANADA

Waterloo Township was block number two of the Indian lands of the Grand River. See the deed to block number one, page 20. Settled by Pennsylvania Germans in 1800, this township was at that time included in the County of York, in the District of Home; then from 1816 to 1842, in the County of Halton, in the District of Gore. For a time, along with twenty-six other townships, it was in the District of Wellington.

At first when roads had to be cleared or obstructions removed, as from the fords of rivers, neighbours would form a bee for the purpose. The first bridge across the Grand at Blair was erected by a series of bees, supplemented by the extra labour of the more skilled artisans who were repaid by the work of others on their farms.

It was in 1822 that the first town meeting was held under authority of the Magistrates of the District of Gore, meeting in Quarter Sessions in Hamilton. At that time, township meetings of freeholders were called to appoint clerk, assessors, collectors, wardens, path-masters, and pound keepers.

Waterloo Township was incorporated in 1850 and became part of the County of Waterloo in 1852. Its story, as published in Parsell's Atlas, 1881, follows:

In point of superficial area, the original Township of Waterloo is one of the most extensive in Western Ontario, as it is also among the most advanced in respect to its fertility of soil, material development, and the wealth of its residents. It occupies an eastern-central place on the map of the county, lying between the Townships of Woolwich and North Dumfries on the north and south respectively, Wilmot on the west, and Guelph and Puslinch in Wellington County on the east. Its territory is well watered by the Grand River, the Speed, and their various and considerable tributaries, the first-named of which traverses the township in a sinuous course throughout its entire extent from north to south, while the Speed enters its eastern border south of the centre, flowing thence through Hespeler and Preston to a junction with Grand River a short distance below the latter place, and near the North Dumfries boundary.

The topography of Waterloo finds expression in a generally rolling plain, with varying degrees of undulation, the scene alternates between broad areas of substantially level surface and sharp ridges which in some instances assume the dignity of cliffs. The latter feature, however, is principally confined to

the southwestern portion of the township, where the soil is comparatively light and the timber principally pine, of which vast amounts have been cut hereabout. Another ridge of some prominence intercepts the view between Berlin and Waterloo, but a short distance further east subsided and gives place to an area of semi-swamp of considerable extent. The eastern and north-eastern portions of the township are of a generally excellent character for agricultural purposes, showing but few defects of surface, and none of them serious. The same may be said of the entire portion of the municipality traversed by the main line of the Grand Trunk Railway, where soil and surface combine to facilitate and reward the efforts of the husbandman. Nor does this fine feature relax as we approach the north-western frontier, while in the opposite south-east corner may be seen as fine agricultural prospects as ever delighted the eye and enchained the admiration of the beholder. There are some approaches to roughness however, in the land skirting the two rivers first named, whose banks vary greatly in height at different points, in some localities approaching what may be described as bluffs, while in others they rise but little above high water mark.

Waterloo was the earliest settled of any inland township of the western peninsula, the circumstances, immediate and remote, which led to that result being substantially as follows: Its pioneers belonged to a sect whose inception was witnessed in Germany early in the sixteenth century, and whose chief point of distinction from the Lutherans was a Quaker-like sentiment of objection to military service and abhorrence of warfare and military life, as well as to the taking of judicial oaths and the baptism of infants. The period named was not favorable for the development of creeds which in any manner clashed with what the magnates chose to consider the interests of the State; nor were the governments of continental Europe then conspicuous for their liberality and tolerance towards any movement which threatened the efficiency of their military systems. The peculiar views above outlined of course invited and attracted the sneers of society, the persecutions of the bigoted, and the oppression of Government; but in spite of all counter influences, the sect gathered strength in the number and courage of its adherents, and extended its scope with each succeeding year, until the movement had penetrated all the realms of Central Europe, and its devotees assumed or were accorded the names of Mennonites.

There was no abatement of either social or State persecution of the new sect; however; and ere the dawn of the seventeenth century it was determined by numbers of them to remove to a clime where a more perfect form of religious liberty might be expected to prevail. As the Puritan pilgrims quitted England for the wilderness beyond the Western main in hope

of finding the liberty of conscience which was denied them at home, so, following their example, came the vanguard of the Mennonites to the New World, and settled in the colony where they found a people professing almost similar sentiments, in the persons of the revered William Penn and his fellow Quakers, or Friends. The first settlement of this class in America was formed in the year 1700, in the vicinity of Germantown, Pa.; and during the following score of years the movement of Mennonites from Germany, the Low Countries and Switzerland, to Pennsylvania, swelled to extensive proportions, and resulted in populating large sections of Berks, Bucks, Lancaster and Montgomery Counties in the State named, almost, if not exclusively, by the class of whom we write. Their descendants have since come to be known, from one end of this continent to the other, as the "Pennsylvania Dutch"—a term applied as a distinction rather than one of disrespect, as is by some people erroneously supposed; and henceforth, let it be understood, the reference in these pages to the Pennsylvania Dutch is to be construed as alluding to their origin merely. These people branched out over the adjoining counties, and even colonies, states and territories, as the population of their first adopted localities became too dense for further agricultural settlement, still retaining, however, their peculiar theories as stated above, and maintaining a considerable degree of exclusiveness from other society. The outbreak of the American Revolution, however, marked the development of some modifications in their sentiments respecting a participation in warfare, as well as lack of harmony among themselves as to which side of that controversy was most deserving of support. While some of the American-born representatives of the sect subordinated their horror of war to their hatred of British oppression, and shouldered the flintlock for the defence of colonial honour and freedom, others, actuated no doubt by sincere opinions of the right, enlisted in the support of foreign tyranny, which undoubtedly their crude judgment clothed in the garb of virtuous authority.

The struggle was probably the indirect cause of the migration to Canada of the first representatives of the class of which we now write. In 1798 the pioneers of the movement crossed the border, and settled, some near Niagara, and others along Yonge Street, back of Toronto; but the first to penetrate the wilds of Waterloo County left Pennsylvania in the year following. The vanguard of the movement hither was formed by Joseph Sherk and Samuel Betzner, from Franklin County of that state, whose preference for British institutions is credited with having inspired their design, though they had not borne arms in the recent hostilities. Being in moderate circumstances, they could not afford the expense of a preliminary prospecting tour, so they brought their families with them at the time. Arrived on this side of the border, the former spent the follow-

ing winter in the vicinity of the Falls, while the latter sojourned in the locality of where Ancaster now stands. Being dissatisfied with those sections as permanent places of location, they pressed onward about thirty miles beyond the then limit of civilization, their particular impulse being a desire to discover and locate upon the bank of a fine river of which they had heard as traversing this region.

No white settlers had as yet penetrated the depths of these forests, but a few "Yankee" traders in furs had established themselves in temporary quarters at intervals throughout that part of the wilderness bordering on civilization, and of these, three, of the names respectively of Dodge, Preston and Woodward, held forth along the Grand River within the present County of Waterloo. The two last named left this locality upon the approach of the pioneer, but Dodge remained and became a permanent and prominent landmark of the community, and was noted for his eccentricities of character and sentiment. It is explained that the word "Yankee" as above applied, was in those days used as a distinguishing term between the English-speaking people and the Pennsylvanians, who still cling—as they now cling—to their mother tongue, though a century had elapsed since the settlement of their ancestors in America.

About the time of the advent of Sherk and Betzner, two other "Yankees", named respectively Ward and Smith, were engaged in "slashing" the way for a road which Government contemplated building from Dundas toward where Waterloo now stands.

Having satisfied themselves, from a thorough examination of soil, surface, timber, etc., of the eligibility of this section (along the Grand River) as the scene of future agricultural operations, Messrs. Sherk and Betzner returned to the Niagara frontier, determined to remove hither with their families the following spring, and definitely locate in the woods. The township had already been granted by its original grantees, the Six Nation Indians, to Richard Beasley and two others, who had placed a mortgage upon it; but this latter fact remained unknown for some years thereafter, in so far as concerned the pioneers. Sherk and Betzner purchased directly of Beasley, paying his price, and suffering the consequences of his dishonesty later, as the sequel will show. Sherk exchanged his horse for the land so purchased, but still had means left to purchase a yoke of oxen and a sled, by which means he transported his family to Waterloo in the early spring of 1800, and located the farm on the river bank, directly opposite Doon of the present; while Betzner took up what has since been known as the B. B. Bowman farm, adjoining the village of Blair.

Later in the spring of the same year, the second contingent of settlers from Pennsylvania arrived in Waterloo, consisting of Samuel Betzner, Sr., and Christian and John Reichart, who came in fairly equipped for the battle with the forest, among the possessions of each being included a four-horse team and "emigrant" wagon, containing such utensils as could be most conveniently carried and utilized in their new home. The parties named came from Lancaster County, at a time when no white settlement had been formed where Buffalo now stands; the site of Hamilton was an impassable swamp; and the only "symptom" of a village where is now Dundas, consisted of a small mill and smaller store, owned by a Mr. Hatt. They left their families at "the mountain", back of Hamilton, where a settlement had already begun, while they personally came forward to prospect, making preparations to move in the autumn following. Betzner Sr., located beside Sherk, opposite Doon; and the Reicharts further up the stream, at what is now called Freeport, but which locality was for many years referred to as the "Toll Bridge", the origin of which appellation is obvious.

Several parties from Montgomery County, Pa., came to the township in 1801, among whom were George, John and Abram Bechtel, Dilman Kinsey, Benjamin Rosenburger, John Bean and his father's family, and George Clemmens. Most of those named had families, but Clemmens was at that date unmarried. He afterwards earned great prominence and popularity in the community by his creditable participation in public affairs, and lived up to within the recollection of many now in early manhood. The "wagon train" by which the party alluded to reached this township was drawn by nine four-horse teams, while a considerable herd of cattle was driven by members of the party. And thus they made the slow and wearisome ascent of the Alleghanies, and, after ten weeks of "life on the road", they reached the goal toward which they had so perseveringly pressed. Of the party named, Bechtel settled a short distance west of Blair; Rosenburger a little above Preston; Kinsey just west of Doon; and George Clemmens, to whom is accorded the distinction of having driven the first team through the Beverley Swamp, about a mile east of Preston. On the homesteads so located have their respective descendants remained up to the present, with one or two exceptions.

1—On the minute books of the Township of Waterloo, the name Freeport occurs for the first time in 1865. Up to then it is referred to as the Toll Bridge. In June, 1864, the minutes speak of "the bridge usually called the toll bridge". The last references are that on April 15, 1865, the toll bridge was carried away by flood; on May 13th of that year, the council paid Elias B. Snyder \$8.12 for hauling the remains of its plank and timber off the flats. At one time, the Toll Bridge, originally known as Reichart's Ford, was the most important hamlet in the township. A.W.T.

The pioneers of Waterloo were generally well-to-do, and brought with them to their new homes not only sufficient money to pay for their land but also to leave, in many instances, a neat surplus, and a goodly list of such easily transported implements as are peculiarly adapted to service in the woods. While thus placed above the reach of want (in which respect they were much more favored than the pioneers of most other Canadian townships) they had still to grapple with the manifold hardships and inconveniences of bush life, from which even gold would not purchase their exemption. The nearest mill, for some years, was where Dundas now stands, to reach which it was necessary to traverse almost impassable swamps during the greater number of the twenty-five intervening miles; and at the same distant point was located the only apology for a store to which they had access.

The summer of 1802 witnessed the arrival of reinforcements from beyond the Alleghanies, among whom were the Saratus, Shupe, Livergood, Wisner, Ringler, and Cornell families, and Joseph Bechtel, who subsequently became the first to preach the Mennonite creed in the new settlement. Also included among the arrivals of that year were John and Samuel Bricker, the last named of whom became the leading spirit, somewhat later, in the formation of the Dutch Company, to which reference will anon be made. It is worthy of note in this place (while considering the acquisitions to the material status of Waterloo during 1802), that in that year the first school-house in the community was built—it being also the first, so far as the knowledge of the writer extends, in any inland county of the Province—and in the edifice alluded to one Rittenhaus was the first to teach.

With the influx of the Pennsylvania Dutch in such large numbers, what few Yankee hunters and squatters had located along the Grand River disposed of or abandoned their interests and removed, with one or two prominent exceptions. The result of persevering toil began meanwhile to be displayed in the expanding limits of the clearings surrounding the cabins of the settlers; and soon the original habitations themselves began to be demolished and better ones erected in their stead. All these parties had purchased their farms from Richard Beasley, supposing of course, they were receiving a good title to the property for which they had paid. They were soon undeceived on that point, however, by one of their number, Samuel Bricker, having accidentally heard the status of the land deal discussed by a couple of strangers in Little York. Reporting the conversation in the settlement, Jacob Bechtel and Samuel Betzner were appointed to investigate the rumour at Government headquarters, where they learned that Beasley shared the grant (94,012 acres), including their homes, in common with James Wilson and John B. Rosseau, and that a joint mortgage from them had been

recorded against the tract. This information spread consternation among the pioneers, who had expended their all, in most cases, in the improvement of their Canadian homes, and were now apparently placed in a position of dependence upon the generosity of tricksters, who might, by a nominal transfer of the land to the mortgagee, reduce the Pennsylvanians to the position of tenants at sufferance.

The fraud of Beasley having become known, paralyzed all further development, to at least the extent of preventing further immigration for some time. This had a good effect on Beasley, however, in kindling his apprehension lest he should be unable to realize further sums from his grant, and elicited overtures for the sale of the block entire to the settlers or their friends, and a proposition that they should form a company of Pennsylvanians to effect the purchase—offering as an inducement five hundred acres of land to him who should organize such company. The pioneers decided to send Samuel Bricker and Joseph Sherk back to Pennsylvania, to make an effort toward that end; and so, in the summer of 1804, the two men named started for their former distant homes on horseback to prosecute the design alluded to. Arrived in Cumberland County, Pa., their proposals were so coldly received that Sherk started back to Canada in despair, leaving Bricker to succeed or fail alone thereafter. The latter was fortunately “made of sterner stuff”, and so far from allowing one rebuff to dishearten him, gathered fresh zest from the circumstances which discouraged his colleague. Proceeding to Lancaster County, he outlined his scheme to John Eby (brother of the Rev. Benjamin Eby), who then occupied a position of influence in the county named. At a meeting held later at his house it was finally arranged to organize a company for the purpose named, whose stock should consist of eight shares, one of which should be the maximum, and one-eighth of a share the minimum, which any member could possess. All the stock was at once subscribed, and Bricker was appointed agent of the new organization with one-half a share as his compensation during such period as the Company should claim his services in that connection. Daniel Erb was appointed Bricker’s assistant, and, with \$20,000 in their possession, they started for Waterloo soon after. Through Erb’s unsophisticated “verdancy”, the intentions of the company reached Beasley’s ears, who then assumed an attitude of indifference (?) to the overtures of the agents, and thereby succeeded in wringing from the company a higher price than he had previously asked or ever expected.

The price finally agreed upon was \$40,000 for a tract of 60,000 acres; and after some more narrow escapes from disaster through the treachery and dishonesty of Beasley, the deed was formally executed in March 1805. The grant was made

Continued on Page 38

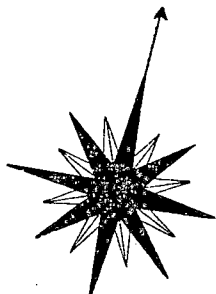
TOWNSHIP OF WATERLOO

RANSFORD WATSON.....PROPRIETOR OF WOOLLEN FACTORY, SAW MILL, TUB & PAIL FACTORY, OREGON
 KONRAD SCHMITT.....CARRIAGE & WAGON MAKER & HOTEL-KEEPER
 JOSEPH B. WEBER.....SCHOOL TEACHER, LEXINGTON
 JOSEPH SHANTZ.....PROPRIETOR OF SAW MILL
 JACOB M. CLEMENS.....CARPENTER & BUILDER
 CLIFF BROS.....WOOLLEN MANUFACTURERS
 DAVID B. WEBER.....PROPRIETOR OF SAW MILL
 JOHN GARDNER.....FARMER, LOT 7, CONCESSION 3
 ABRAHAM OBERHOLTZER.....FARMER
 SAMUEL D. MARTIN.....CARPENTER
 A. EBY.....FARMER

WATERLOO TOWNSHIP
 OF THE
 COUNTY OF WATERLOO
 CANADA WEST
 1861

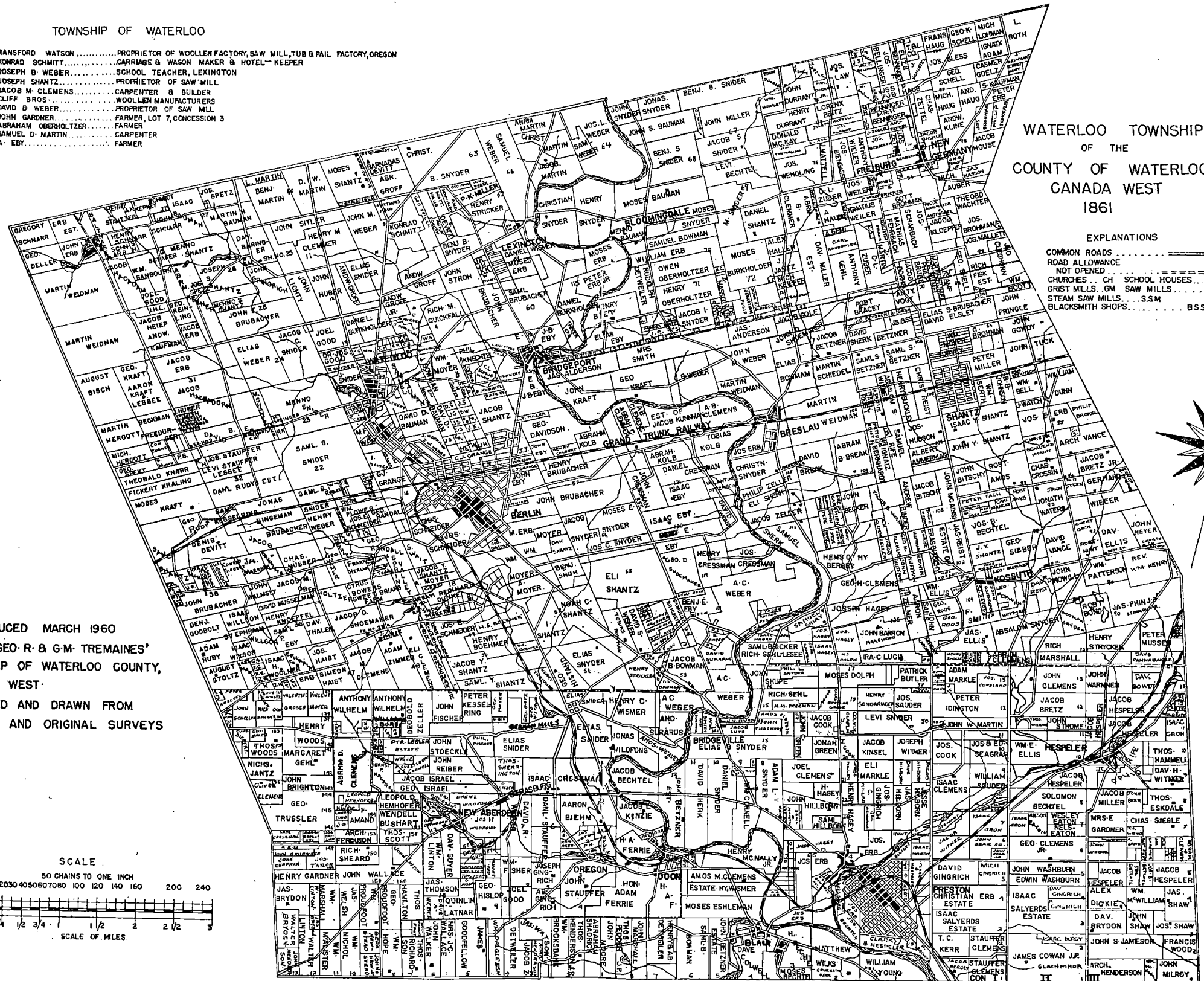
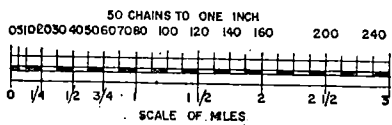
EXPLANATIONS

COMMON ROADS
 ROAD ALLOWANCE
 NOT OPENED
 CHURCHES .. CH .. SCHOOL HOUSES .. SH ..
 GRIST MILLS .. GM .. SAW MILLS S.M
 STEAM SAW MILLS S.S.M
 BLACKSMITH SHOPS B.S.S



REPRODUCED MARCH 1960
 FROM GEO. R. & G.M. TREMAINES'
 1861 MAP OF WATERLOO COUNTY,
 CANADA WEST.
 COMPILED AND DRAWN FROM
 ACTUAL AND ORIGINAL SURVEYS

SCALE



to Daniel and Jacob Erb, for the Company, the latter having taken the place of Bricker, who was allowed to retire. The company so formed has ever since been referred to as the "Dutch Company", whose new possessions were then located in "the County of York, and Home District."

In 1804 Michael Groh, grandfather of the present Reeve of the township (Isaac Groh, 1880-1883), selected a location near where Preston now stands, and returned to Pennsylvania for his family. On the way back to Canada, the same year, he died; but his family, including his son John, then seventeen years old, continued their journey, and finally possessed the farm which their father had located.

Upon the completion of the deed between Beasley and the Dutch Company, a new impetus was given to the settlement of Waterloo by the redirection hither of the current of Pennsylvanian immigration, which had been temporarily suspended during the prevalence of the uncertainties attending the status of affairs previously existing. The incoming settlers had farms assigned them without the slightest regard to uniformity of geographical outline; and ere long the possibility of laying out highways at right angles and uniform distances from each other, without invading very seriously the rights of numerous owners, entirely vanished. An apology for a survey of the tract was, however effected, and areas of almost every variety of size and shape were laid out under the name of lots, which were duly numbered; but a glance at the map of the township will show that in some cases these "lots" are situated partially on one side of the township and partially on the opposite side. A system of the most regular irregularity was observed not only in the laying out of the lot but the location of the highways, thus necessitating the aid of a map or an animated guide by strangers making a tour of the township.

The influx of locatees during the year 1805 was much more considerable than in any previous year, if not more numerous than the aggregate of all preceding ones, included among them being the Erb, Stauffer, Carrell, Knaft, Hammacher, Schneider, Eby and Bowman families. The previous year, John Erb, Abram Stauffer (above alluded to), and one Weber, had come hither on horseback from Lancaster, Pa. Arriving near the site of Galt, they came upon an Indian Camp, where some of the Six Nations were indulging in a frolic, a "brave" named "Old Jack" being first in authority. The latter worthy accused the travellers of the crime of being "Yankees", and threatened to shoot them unless they should forthwith make themselves "scarce" thereabout. Finding they could avail nothing by denial and parley, and noting "Lo's" intent to execute his threat, the young men "stood not upon the order of their

going, but went at once", though ere they passed beyond range a bullet from "Old Jack's" rifle took effect in Stauffer's arm; but the wound soon healed under the care received at the home of John Bricker.

Some of this year's arrivals became leading actors in the drama of subsequent events in the community, and maintained a high degree of prominence for many years thereafter—notably the Erb, Eby and Bowman families and their descendants, who will be more minutely referred to in connection with those portions of the township where their influence was most active. In 1806 there came in from Franklin County another contingent of Pennsylvanians, among whom were the Cress, Brech and Schneider families. The latter family have since become very numerous throughout the entire northern part of the county, though the later generations have altered the orthography of the name to "Snyder" and "Snider", the silent, idiomatic German letters having been sacrificed to common sense. Jacob Snyder, who arrived in that year, became the pioneer of what has since been known as the "Snyder Corner" of the township. The same year witnessed a visitation of a serious calamity to the little community along the Grand River, in the form of a forest fire, originating in the "slash" areas of some of the settlers, and which destroyed their houses and barns, and left destitute a considerable number of those mentioned as having settled along that stream. With characteristic courage and industry, however, they soon reversed the tide of fortune, and from the ashes of their humble homes sprang others of a better type and more commodious proportions.

From this time onward each season contributed numerous residents to this township, the settlement of which, in the locality of the Grand River and the Speed, had now become quite general. In 1807 Peter Erb settled on the right bank of the former stream, a mile above Bridgeport of the present—the first settler to penetrate so far north along that stream. Several representatives of the Shantz families came during 1809, and the following year witnessed the settlement, near Hespeler, of William Ellis, an Irishman, who had resided in Pennsylvania some years. He was, later, a pioneer magistrate of that locality, a colleague in the same section being John Erb, of Preston; but the harmony prevailing among the residents during that early period rendered the office rather a sinecure.

During the Anglo-American War of 1812-15 there was a suspension of immigration to this region, but the impulse revived upon the adjustment of the differences which caused the hostilities in question, and again the succeeding seasons witnessed the acquisition by this township of new settlers, the expansion of the clearings of those whose locations were of earlier date, and an onward march toward the goal of material com-

fort and prosperity on the part of all. This march of material events was somewhat impeded, however, by the elements during 1816, which is remembered by old men in Canada as having been "the year without a summer," during which no vegetation reached perfection, and birds were (in some parts of Canada) frozen to death upon their perches; frosts of varying severity occurred during each week, and of course paralyzed for the time being agriculture and its dependent branches of trade. The reaction from this abnormal status was prompt and decisive, recouping the husbandman for the loss and privations entailed by the freaks of nature during the year referred to.

By this time the settlement was nearly two decades in age, and had reached a stage beyond which it would scarce be interesting to note the individual arrivals of subsequent locaters. By that date, also, the foundation of some of the trade centres which dot the township today was laid.



The assessment rolls show the development of Waterloo Township. Information for 1833 and 1840 is from the Journal of the Legislative Assembly, aggregate account of rateable property in the District of Gore. That for 1848 is from Consolidated By-Laws of the Township of Waterloo, 1913.

	1833	1840	1848
Unoccupied land (acres)	53170	49486	47232¼
Cultivated, Meadows, etc. (acres)	15886	23601	37131¾

HOUSES

Squared or hewed on two sides	70	66	57
One storey			
Additional fireplaces	—	—	2

Squared or hewed timber	51	59	58
Two storey			
Additional fireplaces	—	—	4

Framed, under two storey	64	140	222
Additional fireplaces	—	—	7

Brick or stone, one storey	—	4	26
Frame, brick, or stone, two storey	67	145	188
Additional fireplaces	—	2	13

LIVESTOCK

Horses, four years and over	430	791	1285
Oxen, fours years and over	569	736	820
Milch cows	1049	1760	2537

Shanties and houses of round logs were not taxable and so were not listed. The assessment of improved houses only was one of the contributing factors that held up the development of the Province.

At the time of these rolls, Berlin, Waterloo, Preston, and Hespeler were still embraced within the limits of the township. The one for 1848 shows 11 grist-mills, 27 saw-mills, 21 merchant shops. There was one closed carriage with four wheels (George Roos of Preston).

The 1848 assessor was William Koplin. On his roll, assessment was made equal on all parties on the different classes of property, no matter whether the property was of equal value or not. The following rates were levied under the different heads, calculated in York currency, \$4 to the £: On squared or hewed log house, under two storeys, £20; on each additional fireplace more than one, £4; framed house, under two storeys, £35, each extra fireplace £5. Grist-mill wrought by water, with one run of stones, £150; each additional run of stones, £50; Saw-mill, £100; Merchant shop £200; milch cow £3; closed carriage with four weels £100; open carriage with four wheels £25.

The first reeve of the Township of Waterloo was Jonathan B. Bowman in 1850, and his successors were:

1851	Elias Snider	1900-01	Frederic K. Schafer
1852-53	John Scott	1902-03	Louis Koehler
1854-60	Isaac Clemens	1904-05	John Amos
1861	Wendell Bowman	1906-07	Owen Reist
1862	Cyrus Bowers	1908-09	Samuel E. Shantz
1863	Samuel D. Martin	1910-11	Josiah S. Stauffer
1864-69	Ephraim Erb	1912-13	Joseph Abra
1870-71	Henry McNally	1914-15	W. C. Shaw
1872	Joel Clemens	1916-17	A. C. Hallman
1873-74	Jacob Betzner	1918-20	August Janzen
1875	Henry McNally	1921-25	Simon Kinsie
1876	Lewis Kribs	1926	Robert J. Veitch
1877-78	Henry McNally	1927-29	Allen Shoemaker
1879	Edward Halter	1930-31	Irvin C. Hallman
1880-83	Isaac Groh	1932-33	C. T. Groh
1884-85	Tilman S. Snider	1934-37	Simon Kinsie
1886	Josiah Snider	1938-44	Lorne B. Weber
1887-90	James P. Phin	1945-48	Carl Ellis
1891	Isaac Groh	1949-51	Edward Schnarr
1892	Tilman S. Shantz	1952-53	James Johannes
1893-95	John N. Sipes	1954-55	Clayton Rickert
1896	Tilman S. Shantz	1956-58	James Johannes
1897-98	Joseph B. Hagey	1959-60	Leonard Burton
1899	Noah Weber		

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS BY ABRAHAM SHERK

Mr. Sherk was born at Blair on February 13, 1853 and died July 14, 1945. He was a son of Abraham Sherk and Lucy Buckler. As a young man he went west and spent the greater part of his life at Victoria.

Victoria, B.C.
November 1941

. . . . Now about the Sherk family and their settling in Waterloo County.

. . . . In writing about the history of Waterloo County, W. H. Breithaupt mentions that when Sherk and Betzner arrived at Niagara, someone told them about good land on a fine river. This induced them to explore and settle where they did. But neither Mr. Breithaupt nor anyone else ever was careful enough to mention who that person was. It was Jacob Bechtel. When I was last East in 1934 I saw Bill Breithaupt on that matter and he told me that they knew it all as rumour but no one ever could establish it as fact. Well — no one thought it important enough to look up the original Bechtel deed given by Beasley to Jacob Bechtel.

Just like the Beverly Swamp affair. Everyone mentioned the Beverly Swamp for sensational purposes. Clemens and Brickers are said to have taken the short and direct route from Dundas to Waterloo through the Beverly Swamp. The settlers coming up the Grand River Valley also are reported as coming through it. Nobody ever did go through it or could go through it until it was drained. In my younger days it was still infested with bear.

In 1799 my grandmother's father, Jacob Bechtel, came to Niagara with a caravan of settlers and carried a letter from a man in Pennsylvania to some one in the Niagara district living in the vicinity of St. Catharines. The man asked Mr. Bechtel whether he came to look for a new home. Mr. B. replied that he had. The man had been long enough in Niagara to know its merits and demerits, one of which was a lack of spring water. To get that he would have to go inland. So this man told Bechtel of Waterloo Township having been purchased from the Indians by Mr. Beasley and was being opened for settling. So Bechtel went to Beasley, who supplied him with an Indian guide and a surveyor. Bechtel told the guide what he wanted: a place with good water, good timber and good land. The guide took them to the little creek below Blair and told him here is the best water in Canada, here is good timber and good level land. They stayed a few months exploring the Bowman Creek entering the river just above Blair. It was very much

larger, short, only a few miles long, rising in a very soft springy swamp. But the land along it was either swampy or had high banks. Not so attractive then for settling. Then at Doon there is the Schneider Creek which drains a very large section of country. But the land at its mouth was not so attractive. So Bechtel located on the small creek below Blair, went back to Niagara, bought the land and got his deed. There he met Sherk and Betzner and told them where he had located and why. Sherk and Betzner also went to Beasley.

He supplied them with a guide who took them to the same creek, and Sherk located on the same ground that Bechtel had located. Betzner skipped the adjoining 100 acres as not so desirable as it was cut up with this creek and some swamp, and located on the next 200 acres—high and pretty level. For a few months they were close together. Then Bechtel arrived with a caravan and finding Sherk located on the same farm that he had bought, produced his deed proving his ownership. Sherk quit and found a new location. This all explains why Sherk and Betzner located so far apart.

As to that barn with the date 1797, I don't think it is justified. All first barns were log barns as were the houses. It might have been a Sam Bricker trick. . . . In 1797 the land was not open for settlement, although trappers were in the country before farm settlers and they may have located as trappers do, put up cabins and trap in the same locality year after year. A trapper may have settled there as early as 1797 but did not take up the land as a homestead until later. A man, evidently a trapper, had cleared a small patch of ground on the 100 acres adjoining the Bechtel estate on the east side of the river and planted potatoes and never returned. Bechtel, his guide and surveyor got some spuds there and roasted them in the ashes. . . .

kindest regards,

Your Uncle Abram,

Victoria, B.C.
Dec. 26, 1944

. . . . About Miss Dunham's books — I read only the first two, but somewhere read a good deal about the tussle between Berlin and Galt for the title of county town. Must see if the two books you refer to are in the library here. Of her book, "The Trail of the Conestoga", while it is well written there is much that does not agree with what I was told.

One thing, all the historians have everyone coming to Waterloo through the notorious Beverly Swamp, all evidently for sensation—when not a man of them came through that swamp. The direct trail that Geo. Clemens and the Brickers

followed was roughly one side of a triangle and the Indian trails the others followed were the other two sides of a good sized triangle and the swamp was in the middle so to speak. Then about securing the money to pay the mortgage and bringing it in one light weggalie or buggy! They have one of them in the basement of the library (W.H.S. Museum), but to me it looked much heavier than the ones I used to see. Old John Detweiler had one—and old Solomon Gehmans—and they were very light and very neatly made. They were very durable and were made of the best of wood, and iron and steel. Yet \$20,000 weighed half a ton and Sam Bricker was not man enough to toss half a ton of silver around in a box as if it were half a dozen loaves of bread. Another thing, none of those light buggies was strong enough to carry half a ton of metal over a smooth road, much less through the woods on a trail where a four horse wagon could not take more than four barrels of flour or 784 lbs. and it took four horses to haul it along the trails they then had and avoid as many swamps as possible to say nothing of the Beverly Swamp. Another thing to consider—Sam Bricker rode on the buggy, his wife rode on horseback—where did they pack their grub, their clothing, their horse feed, their camping outfit—all necessary things needed.

Jacob Bechtel, the original spirit in the colony, is entirely neglected—why I could never understand. But he was the delegate to Pennsylvania that secured the money and it was brought over in a four horse wagon, not in a little box, but in barrels with a good guard on the wagon and a good guard of four men on horseback and they did not bring it up to Waterloo either, but got rid of it as quickly as possible.

When we lived back of Blair we had a neighbour named Sipes. He was born and raised in Beverly alongside of that notorious swamp. I was acquainted with his father and uncle. The uncle used to keep lots of bees so he was known as Honey Sipes. Late one fall I happened to meet him in Galt. He had a few bear traps and I asked him about them. He told me that there were still plenty of bear in Beverly Swamp. I asked him—how come as there were none elsewhere. He told me that the nature of the swamp was such that nobody would attempt to venture into it—much less to get through it. The bear were not molested—hence stayed. When men tried to gather a little boneset even at its edges they would put on hip gum boots. I was told by men who tried it.

Perhaps I wrote you a lot of this stuff before about how it came about that great-grandfather Joseph Sherk settled finally where he did—across the Grand River from Doon. Jacob Bechtel was up in the summer of 1799 and selected the Bechtel homestead below Blair and paid for it and got the deed. Met

Concluded on Page 50

HESPELER

Incorporated in 1859

On December 23, 1818, Abraham Clemens' was deeded 515 acres of former Indian lands by Richard Beasley. This deed was not registered until more than three years later since means of communication were slow and Hespeler did not have a post office until 1848. In 1830 Joseph Oberholtzer, a Pennsylvanian, secured possession of a large tract of land across the Speed River from the Clemens' property. Oberholtzer's sister was married to Michael Bergey and when they arrived in 1831, they were deeded land by Oberholtzer. This property on the south-east bank of the Speed River, now in the south-east corner of Waterloo Township became the site of "Bergeytown".

Michael Bergey built a log cabin in 1831 and it is said that this was the first dwelling built in what became the business section of the municipality. Bergey was the first to build a saw-mill and later he built a second mill which he sold to Clemens.

In 1835 Bergeytown or Bergeyville was renamed New Hope. About 1840, the third saw-mill was erected by Cornelius Pannebecker² and Joseph Oberholtzer. Mills of various types were essential to the early settlers.

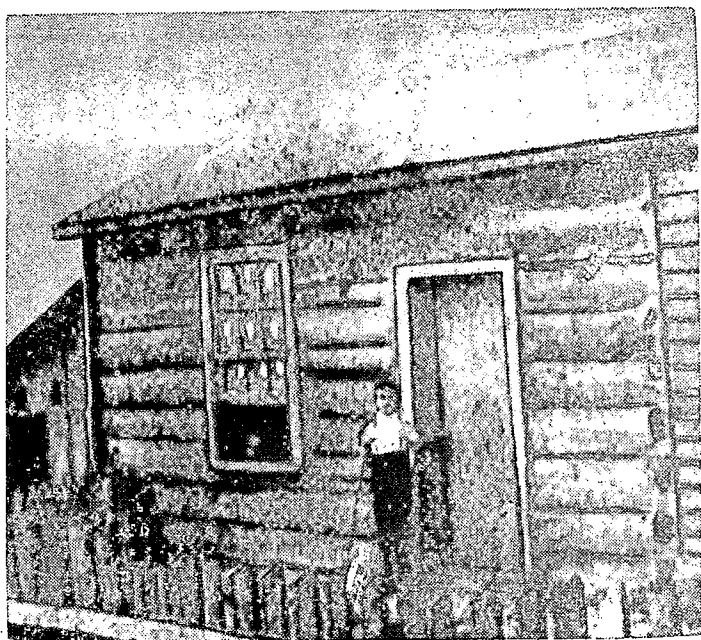
In the 1840's New Hope had a population of 100, grist-mill, saw-mill, tannery, tavern, store, pail factory, two smithies, two tailors and two shoemakers. The first store was operated by John Gingrich and it was no longer necessary for local residents to travel to Galt or Preston for supplies.

Jacob Hespeler³, native of Germany, came to America in his youth and for some years was in the fur trade in the employ of John Jacob Astor and the Hudson Bay Company. Returning to civilization he engaged in the mercantile and manufacturing business in Preston and in 1845 secured business interests in New Hope. In that year he purchased the Clemens' saw-mill. This mill was replaced in 1847 by a grist and flour mill, with a distillery and saw-mill being added. Still later he built Hespeler's first woollen-mill. The 1861 map of Waterloo Township shows the extensive holdings of Jacob Hespeler.

1. W. H. S. Ninth Volume, 1921: 161-170 "Historical sketch of the Clemens Family" by D. N. Panabaker. Clemens ancestry traced back to sixteenth century to Clement of Toft, Lincolnshire, England. Later when James Clement moved to Holland, the name was changed to the Dutch form, "Clemens". D. N. Panabaker—great-grandson of Abraham Clemens.

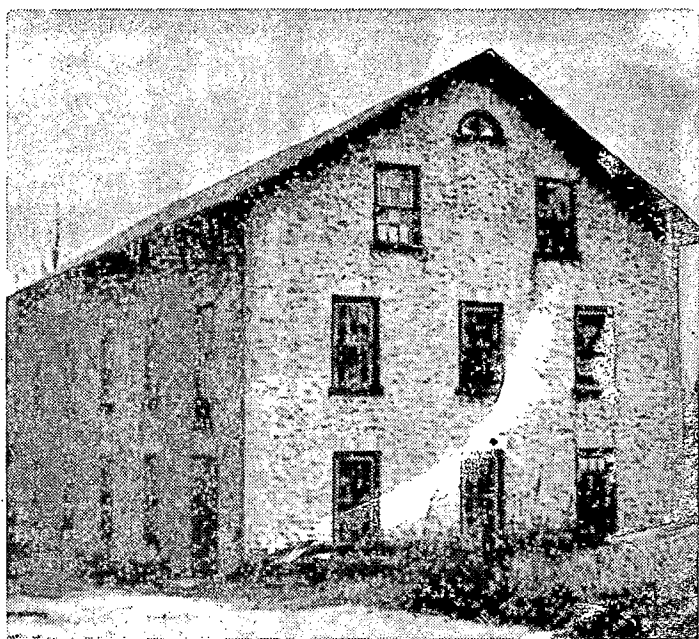
2. Tenth Volume W. H. S., 1922: 213-224, "The Town of Hespeler" by Mayor D. N. Panabaker.

3. See W. H. S. Volumes of 1913, 1922 and 1925.



Kitchener-Waterloo Record

Log Cabin — First Hespeler Home



Kitchener-Waterloo Record

One of the first industries occupied this building

In 1863, Randall Brothers and Herbert Farr purchased the Oberholtzer mill and used it to saw lumber for a new woollen-mill. The two stone structures erected in 1864 later became the beginning of Dominion Woollen and Worsteds Company, Limited. Textiles contributed greatly to the development of the municipality and the closing of this large plant in 1958 was a real blow to the community. However, the town struggled back and showed its spirit by celebrating in 1959 its 100th anniversary of incorporation.

VILLAGE PROCLAMATION

From the Evening Reporter, Galt
Hespeler Centennial Edition — Volume 2

Following is part of the official proclamation, read in the Province of Canada Legislature in 1858, which incorporated the present town of Hespeler as a village. Not included here is a lengthy preamble to the document which sets forth the reasons for granting the incorporation, and its boundaries. The document was issued by Her Majesty Queen Victoria's Government of the Province of Canada:

"Now, know ye, that having taken the premises into Our Royal consideration, and approving of the erecting and setting apart of the said Village as an incorporated Village by the name and with the boundaries aforesaid, and of the incorporation of the inhabitants accordingly. We DO, by this, Our Royal Proclamation, and in the exercise of the powers in US vested in this behalf, as well as by the said recited Act, and the Upper Canada Municipal Corporations Acts of Our said Province as by Our Royal prerogative or otherwise (howsoever, grant, ordain, proclaim and appoint that the said Village of New Hope shall upon, from after the First day of January next, after the end of one Calendar month from the text of this Our proclamation, become an Incorporated Village, apart from the said Township of Waterloo, and that the inhabitants of the said Village and their successors by the name of the Municipality of the Village of Hespeler, in the County of Waterloo, shall from and after the said First day of January, become incorporated as an Incorporated Village, with perpetual accession and a common seal, and all and singular other rights, powers, privileges, franchises and immunities, to such Incorporated Village and the inhabitants thereof—generally either at Common Law or by Statute in anywise belonging, appertaining."

This proclamation dated on the Twelfth day of July, 1858, was signed by T. J. J. Loranger, Secretary for Her Majesty, and was witnessed by "Our Right Trusty and Well Beloved the Right Honourable Sir Edmund Walker Head, Baronet, and one

of our most Honorable Privy Council, Governor-General of British North America, and Chaplain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over Our Province of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, etc., etc.”

The Village of Hespeler was incorporated as a town in 1901. The town of Hespeler has a unique name. As far as is known it is not possessed by any other municipality in the world. Other Waterloo County places are not as fortunate since Galt has six namesakes and there are eighteen Prestons. Not only is Waterloo the name locally of a county, a township and a city but it also occurs as a place name in Belgium, Quebec and the states of New York, Illinois and Iowa.

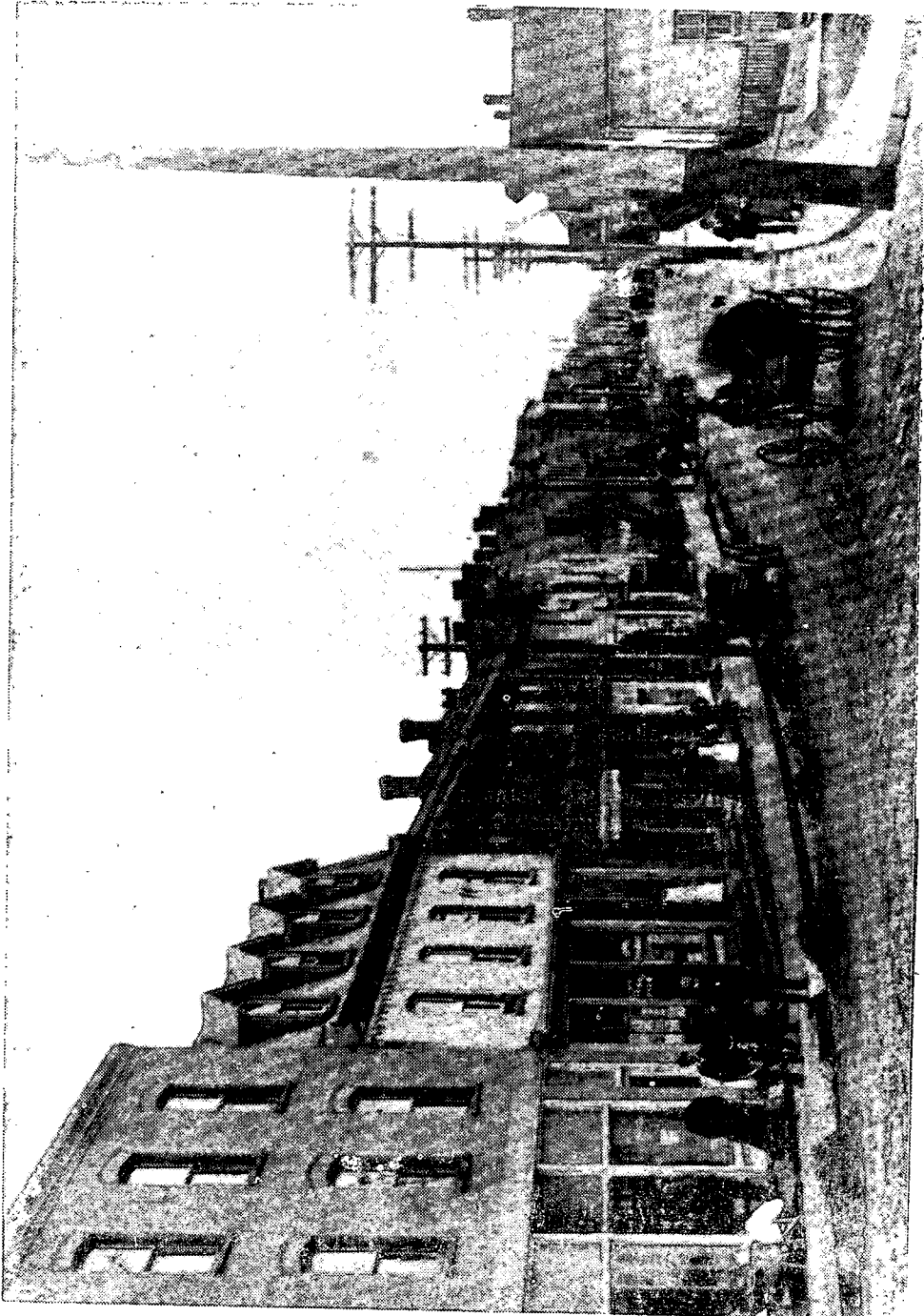
The first Hespeler council meeting took place on January 19, 1859 and produced the following minutes:

“The members of the Municipal Council for the village of Hespeler held their first meeting in accordance with the 130th section of the Act Victoria 22nd, Chapter 99, that is the third Monday in January at noon. Members present were Jacob Hespeler, Adam Shaw, Conrad Nahrgang, David Rife, and Charles Karch Esq. After subscribing and making the declaration of office, Adam Shaw was appointed chairman. Moved by C. Nahrgang and seconded by C. Karch that Lewis Kribs be clerk. Carried.” After other business it was—“Moved by C. Karch and seconded by C. Nahrgang that this council do now adjourn and meet again for transaction of business the first Monday in February and thereafter the first Monday in each month at the hour of two o’clock. Adjourned.”

From Tuesday midnight, June 30 to Sunday, July 5, 1959, Hespeler celebrated the centennial of its incorporation. Many former residents participated in the official opening on July 1. Under general chairman, Richard D. Duff, twenty-four organizations worked together from March to prepare a carefully planned programme with something for all groups on each day. On Thursday, July 2, the Royal Train carrying Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, slowed down as it passed through the town. After busy days on Friday and Saturday the programme was concluded with a community church service, conducted by the Hespeler Ministerial Association at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Centennial Officials
Honourary Chairmen

G. Alex Forbes	A. Cameron McNab
Karl Gruetzner	Alex. B. Jardine
Dr. R. F. Slater	Wm. S. McVittie
L. E. Weaver	Elmer W. Goebel
John N. Courtney	Howard McKellar
Allan R. Wilford	W. Morrison Day



Taken after the turn of the century, this picture shows Queen Street looking west from Johnston's corner Kitchener-Waterloo Record

Honourary Secretary
Winfield Brewster

General Chairman
Richard D. Duff

Assistant Chairman
Wm. S. McVittie

Secretary
C. H. Craig

Treasurer
Claude Alderson

Editor Duff compiled a historical edition of The Hespeler Herald—South Waterloo County's oldest weekly. Some 1350 extra copies were published for free distribution to Hespeler Old Girls and Old Boys. Other newspapers carried stories about the celebration.

There was considerable satisfaction in the fact that many individuals had participated in making the Centennial a huge success. All of this was accomplished at the very low cost of \$850.56 to the town of Hespeler—"The Beehive of Industry—A Honey of a Town to Live in." Thankful for the benefits of the past this town with a population of 4,109 (750 in 1859) looks forward with confidence to the promise of the future.



SHERK LETTERS CONCLUDED

Sherk and Betzner, told them about it and went back to Pennsylvania to fetch his family. Sherk and Betzner were given a guide who took them to the same place where Sherk located. Sherk located on the same homestead Bechtel had taken and Betzner located on the second farm west. When Bechtel arrived in Waterloo in 1800 with his family he found Sherk on his place and upon showing his deed Sherk moved to the place known as the Sherk homestead. But the affair was so seldom mentioned that even Sherk's children knew little or nothing about it. If our grandmother had not told us about it we would not have known either.

Must close now—11 o'clock, and I am straining my eyes to do even so little.

Good night. Many thanks for your letters.

Uncle Abram.



In preparation for Highway 401, work has proceeded across Waterloo County in 1959. Bridges under construction include those at the Wellington-Waterloo County line, Back Hespeler Road, Highway 24, Speed River, Speedsville, Highway 8, Grand River, Roseville Road, Highway 97, and the Ayr-Waterloo Road. Some filling of roadbed is under way. Widening and grading of Highway 97, west of Galt, is also in progress.

ONTARIO PIONEER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Dr. Louis C. Jones of Cooperstown, N.Y., U.S.A., at the invitation of the Board of The Ontario Pioneer Community Foundation spoke to the members of the Foundation and of the Waterloo Historical Society. His address was delivered October 20, 1959, in the Waterloo County Court House, Kitchener.

Dr. Jones is very active in the American Association of Museums and a member of the Executive Committee of its Council. He was for several years Chairman of the National Awards Committee and Vice-President of the American Association of State and Local History. As Director of the New York State Historical Association since 1946, under his guiding hand its Farmers' Museum at Cooperstown has attained a reputation as a leading folk museum in America, famous as a dynamic recreation of life on the New York frontier with early crafts and processes carried on as they were one hundred and fifty years ago.

The Farmers' Museum and its companion museum, Fenimore House, had 175,000 paid admissions in the past year.

The following is Dr. Jones' address as recorded on tape.

Mr. Chairman, Dr. Broome, ladies and gentlemen: I first became interested in the Ontario Pioneer Community in 1953, I think, when a group from the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario came to Cooperstown, and, after visiting our Farmers' Museum, sat down with me for some time and talked about how our project had developed and about the hopes they had for Ontario.

Then in the next year or so it was my pleasure to meet Dr. and Mrs. Broome, as he has told you. About that time I first met Andrew Taylor at one of the meetings of the Museum Section of the Ontario Historical Society with which I was meeting in Jordan. We've all been going back and forth across the border ever since.

I've been very fortunate and very proud in my friendships with Canadian museum people. I have a good many friends on this side and so I am over here, every once in a while. I appreciate very much the invitation to come and look at your project and talk with you about it. I have not come as an expert. Down in our country we say an expert is just a darn fool a long way from home. Well, I'm a long way from home but I hope I haven't been a darn fool. What I do think I bring to you is the experience of a museum director who has faced the same kind of problems that you people are faced with and I have also been

so fortunate as to be called into consultation with a good many other outdoor museums when they were at about the same stage as you are, sometimes a little earlier, sometimes a little later. I've seen most of the headaches that this business can create, either first-hand or second-hand, but I always learn something. It doesn't matter how many of these consultations one goes on, the patient always has some special quirks of his own that teach you something.

Let me say right now that there is no one set of answers; there is no one desirable way of doing the thing that you want to do. There are any number of ways of doing it and any number of them might well work out beautifully. The only thing is you have to come to a decision. You have to marry one girl or another when a certain time comes or else you are going to be a bachelor all the rest of your life. And so it is, that in talking hereabout since Sunday with Mr. Taylor and with members of the Board, we've been trying to see which girl we ought to marry.

I got here Sunday evening with Mrs. Jones. We had a delightful supper at the Taylor home and then we saw these pictures which you saw tonight. We must have spent a couple of hours looking at pictures and talking about them, comparing reactions and ideas. Monday morning we went out to the grounds and looked over the museum building and then started tramping over the landscape.

During the two days we've been the length and breadth of it. We've driven around it; we've walked the length of it; we've communed with the deer on it; we haven't fallen in the creek; but we have seen it pretty thoroughly. Yesterday afternoon we had more or less in mind the problem of the collections. We had seen the buildings there; we knew what they represented. We saw Mr. Page, and we saw Mr. Barrie, and we talked to them about their collections. We drove about the countryside and saw some of the typical buildings that are characteristic of what you might want ultimately to add. Today we went back out to the property. We spent the morning there, going over the various plans that had been proposed; did some more hiking up and down the landscape; met your president this afternoon; and here we are. I think I have a fair notion of what the picture is.

First of all let me point out some of the remarkable assets which from my experience you can be proud of. In the first place you are planning this development in a very accessible area. It's right on a historic road, the Huron Road, but it also will be very close to a modern highway (401)—a highway which, as near as I can discover, is going to have a nearby exit by which people can leave it and come to the Huron Road and the museum property.

It's in a kind of happy no-man's-land, as I observe it, betwixt and between various communities. It's about a mile from the Kitchener city line, but it's not in Kitchener. It's betwixt Galt and Kitchener-Waterloo, and yet it isn't so closely allied with any one of these cities that the loyalties of others are going to get in the way. This is a great advantage where people feel strongly about the home team.

You are also lucky in that the neighbourhood has a cultural twang. The Doon School of Fine Arts sets a standard; your direction wants to be cultural rather than recreational, I think. It will be recreational to a certain degree, but there are great advantages in having the cultural complex of an art museum or an art gallery and a historical museum within the same mile.

From the point of view of the landscape itself, I find it charming. The fact that you have for a background that wonderful growth of trees is in itself a tremendous asset. They were beautiful today as they must be in spring and summer. The trees offer ultimately all sorts of interesting possibilities. You probably will want to develop a picnic area just this side of them. Just leave them alone and work little paths through them.

Then I spent considerable time looking with Mr. Taylor at the museum building and I want to emphasize how very successful this is. The laminated arches are impressive and I understand they are remarkably strong. It's an uncluttered building. It leaves to the museum man the opportunity to develop colorful, stimulating, exciting exhibits with plenty of space to move his exhibits around, to develop any kind of imaginative statement that he wants. There are plenty of light outlets. There is plenty of light. I think it is a good job; I think it is a first-rate job. One of the best things about it is that it has a complete cellar for storage or for the study collections, whatever you want to call them. If you only knew how few museums have the sense to make that much storage space you would be very pleased. It is so hard to persuade architects and building committees that this is almost of as much importance as display area. They always say, "Well that's the sort of thing you can eliminate". It isn't! A museum should be about one quarter above ground, just the way an iceberg is. In other words you want to have a great deal more material than you ever show at one time so that you can change your exhibits; so that you can draw on different materials at different times. Storage is a tremendously important aspect of a museum building and I am delighted to see that you moved so wisely in that respect.

I talked at great length with Mr. Taylor about these buildings that you're bringing in. I think they are going to be very attractive and I think they are well chosen. They're a sensible selection for your purpose and there's variety and range in

them. You now have five buildings and three barns, not counting your museum building. That's a good start. We had been operating the Farmers' Museum from 1945 to 1953 before we had that many buildings—eight or nine years. We had, as you have, the advantage of a contemporary building in which to show exhibits, in which to develop museum displays. But you have a building more suitable than ours was for developing interesting displays. We had to take the cow stanchions out before we had a museum.

And we've been looking over the collections. One of the things I've observed (and I call it to the attention of the ladies present), is that this is an unusually man-directed collection of objects: There are things of primary interest to men, so far. Some of you women, I think, before you get through, are going to have to get on the ball and start finding examples of furniture and especially the decorative arts: the wonderful weaving that we think of now as characteristic of Southern Ontario; and more of the type of furniture that Mr. Taylor showed you tonight. There is so far very little furniture in evidence and yet you are going to have a tavern and other buildings to furnish. When it comes to farm tools, implements and craft tools, you're in very good shape—or at least Mr. Barrie is in good shape. You could develop an exciting set of exhibits in the modern methods, where you aren't concerned with hundreds of items but with carefully selected items, well-labelled, with illustrative material. You can do a grand job with what's here.

You will find this, I think, my friends, that as soon as your first building is open, stuff will come pouring in and your problem will not be material to display. It will be how to be eternally polite to the people who offer you things you don't want. This is what tries museum men's souls and makes such confounded liars out of them sometimes. You get so used to being polite and—oh well! There are occupational hazards no matter what you're doing!

Now let me say one other thing about the assets that it seems to me you have. If you don't have the right kind of people taking the responsibility it doesn't matter what else you have. If you haven't got a good board and if you don't have a good reliable director—or as I guess you call it, administrator—then it doesn't matter what else you have. That is the key, as it always is in any human experience. And I think you are very fortunate again.

The members of the Board that I have had the pleasure to meet have been my kind of men. And the longer I work with Andrew Taylor the more I respect him, not only as a man but as a museum professional. He is one of the leaders in the museum profession in the Province of Ontario

and he is canny. He's got a kind of bull-dog quality that I like. You duck one question and you think you've got away with it and he comes back about twenty minutes later and puts it another way as though he had never said it before. You think you're pretty good at dodging and so you change the subject and he comes back with it an hour later, and ultimately you have to answer. Well this is just the brand of doggedness that this job requires. But most of all, I think—I know—there's good judgment here. I know there's good judgment here because I agreed with him almost all of the time, and that's the test of good judgment, isn't it? If you agree with a person, he must be right. But what I'm actually saying is that the kind of conclusion he has come to out of his experience jibes with the kind of experience we've had over the last thirteen years developing our program.

This business of the relationship between a board and the executive director of a project like this, or in any museum development, is tremendously important. It's the key. I've seen my share of the museums where there is trouble between a board and the director—the administrator in this case—and this almost always comes about when there is not a clear-cut understanding between the two, an understanding of function. And it seems to me you have solved that problem here remarkably well—a recognition of the fact that it's a board's job to determine policy and then hire a man that can carry the policy out. If he doesn't like the policy he resigns, and if they don't like the way he carries it out they fire him. It's as simple as that. But what is necessary is that the policy be understood on both sides. I have served for many years as the chairman of the committee on trustee professional relations in the American Association of Museums and I have been intensely interested in how it is this kind of clear-cut understanding between the board and the director—the administrator—that makes for good relations and great constructive results.

One of the ways a project of this type moves forward is to have and to follow a master plan. A master plan is a kind of flexible pattern agreed upon by the board and the person they hire to carry out their policy. It tells us what kind of museum we're dealing with; what its scope is; what its physical layout should be; what its terminal dates are—that is at what point does it stop its interpretation of the past. In other words it's the blueprint—the blueprint for the total idea, not just the physical layout of the buildings but the blueprint which the museum, in being developed, is to follow. There are many different kinds of museums. There are even many different kinds of outdoor museums and if you don't get this statement clear-cut and generally understood I think you increase your possibilities for misunderstanding. You, in a way, have solved many of these

problems from time to time. For example when you chose the name Ontario Pioneer Community you set up certain major tenets in your master plan. When you use the word Ontario you say this will not be just a local museum; this is going to be a museum that tells the larger story of rural life in Southern Ontario. It's a broader area than just this immediate community if it's the Ontario Pioneer Museum. And then when you chose the word Pioneer you implied a setting of dates didn't you, because if it's telling the story of pioneers then there is a point when we stop being pioneers and are followers of pioneers. Now I think this is a kind of dating that has to be arbitrary. Mr. Taylor has suggested about 1860 and I think this makes very good sense. The Railway had just come in.

I might also call to your attention that 1860 is a date that lets you keep with a clear conscience all the buildings that you have already acquired. It means that your little toll-house will probably be the youngest building you have, that is 1857. But if you're telling the story of pioneer Ontario you don't want to go any later than that, And this gives you a basis for selection of objects as well as the selection of buildings—but you must have a terminal date. There will be moments, I suppose, when you will accept things for your storage area, your study collections, that are later than that. And there will be times when that's a very wise thing to do, but you've got to have a stopper—you've got to have a cork in the bottle—otherwise you get a hodge-podge. You get a confusion and you aren't telling any one story, you're trying to tell twenty stories and no museum can do that. You are trying to tell one single story, actually a complex single story, and that's the story of what it was like to live in Ontario in the early years of its settlement. And that's it!

You might be interested that we chose 1840 at the Farmers' Museum as our terminal date. Unfortunately it hadn't occurred to anyone we needed a terminal date until after we'd been in business about five years. And we're still suffering from some of the errors made before we got ourselves that date. Practically everything in our country store, for example ought to be thrown out because it is too late and sometime we've got to re-do that part of the museum.

One of the advantages you have here is that you have had a little more time. Somebody, maybe it was Dr. Broome or maybe it was your president, mentioned the fact that having had a little more time you are in a position to eliminate some of the mistakes before they get made, and a chance to learn from the mistakes the rest of us have made.

I think that you're agreed that your buildings should be either significant of the early history of Ontario—like the Priory for example, which was a kind of funnel through which

the pioneers poured into the province; or the McArthur house, where your great humorist interpreted and laughed about this same pioneer life that you are interpreting. It's a wonderful thing that you have the home of a humorist. Museums need as much laughter as they can get.

If you have agreed that you're going to tell the story of this part of Ontario and you're going to tell this story up to, but not after, 1860, then you've got your track laid and you can run your very good train on it.

We've kicked around many different ideas in the last few days and what I would like to speak about now in a minute or two is the concept of the area as Mr. Taylor and I have visualized it. I want to assure you that this is the result of much thinking on his part over a matter of years, and a consideration of the various plans that have been brought to light, many of them very thoughtful and very interesting. And there are all sorts of pros and cons. But I think you've got a start and the suggestions that we would make tonight are as follows:

You start with the museum building which you have. I would think that the next step might well be the making of a mill-pond at the north end of the property. This is involved with a number of factors. One is that it's going to give you fill so that the buildings that you put in the area within the oxbow directly opposite the museum building will be on a little higher ground. We have discussed, as I know a great many of you have, the question of whether that ground is high enough to be safe in case of flood. I am willing to accept, as Mr. Taylor is, the advice of the flood control engineers that it is. And I think if you put in a mill-pond up above and use your fill to raise the land a little more you are going to be in a perfectly safe situation there. I think perhaps the next step is a bridge and a toll-house directly in front of the museum building as it now stands. That is a toll-house, and then a bridge over the creek leading up to the Priory which is Ontario's Ellis Island and Plymouth Rock all poured into one. It's the place your people came before they dispersed. I hope that you can make a good deal of that building, even though part of it has to be a reconstruction.

The store you have—and not only do you have it—but you have money in escrow to put it up. You will unquestionably want to start construction very soon. If you have the money and it's tabbed for one thing you might better do that and get it up and have it. I hope you visualize this with me. We're looking down from the steps of the museum. We're looking east over the creek. To our extreme right will be the little

McArthur house which combines a log cabin and the home of one of your very popular writers who clarified the life of the pioneers. In front of you over the bridge is the Priory and back of that, on one of a group of potential streets that go off as sun's rays, is the store, and presumably after that, the inn. This completes what you are in possession of. Then I think you are going to want, assuming that this is growing and popular, and I am convinced it will be, you are going to want to think in terms of a Pennsylvania type farm house to go with your Pennsylvania type barns. You are going to want to think in terms of a grist-mill and a saw-mill. This gives you a kind of loop.

One of the things I am very much concerned about here is the traffic pattern—that is the route the visitor follows. Does he have a comfortable, reasonable walk? I've come to feel very strongly that you cannot spread these outdoor museums too far. People resent it. They get what we call "museum feet". They get tired. They don't want to see it all. They want to go home. They want to take their shoes off. I have watched this at every outdoor museum in the East, and a number of them in the West. I think it's very important to keep your museum layout compact; keep it within easy walking distance. We walked this today, and we walked it yesterday. The plan as outlined makes a reasonable walk for older people, for a young mother carrying a child, a father and mother with three or four children. These are the things that you have to think about: what's it going to be like to walk it with a babe in arms, or if you've got arthritis?

The plan that Mr. Taylor has thought through and which he and I have talked about so much is practicable. Unless you see twenty million dollars in the offing and we looked under every bush out there and we didn't find a single dollar, you must think in terms of something that is reasonable, that is interesting, that is within the realm of possibility. Then if good things come your way, if the industries begin saying this is a wonderful thing for our part of the country and start putting real money into it, fine. You've got the kind of plan that can expand very easily, both in distance and in depth—that is, in doing more things in your buildings, but you're not going to attract funds and you're not going to attract admission fees or parking lot fees until you've got something going. Opening your museum building next year is entirely feasible if you can get some heat in there this winter so that Mr. Taylor can work. You can then have exhibits around these same themes—exhibits that tell what the Pioneer Community is going to be about, exhibits about McArthur and the story that he told, exhibits about travel, taverns, toll-gates, inns, covered bridges—

just the things that you yourselves are going to have on that land in a very short time, in a matter of a couple of years. You can have a section on land development, making the focus of interest again the Priory and how people moving through the Priory went out into the province and settled it and made the great agricultural province that Ontario became. I think this is a feasible first step and one that Mr. Taylor is convinced can be done. We know from the sort of work that he was doing in the agricultural exhibits a couple of years ago, and his remarkably clear-cut understanding of what the most modern techniques that these will be good in museum presentation are, and they'll be interesting. Having that building open will start you on your way. In due time you will add other buildings to your plan, undoubtedly you will want to add a grist-mill and a saw-mill, and a church, and a school, and certainly one of these little Scottish stone houses, and who knows what all else.

But you will want to add buildings that come within your terminal date, that is before 1860, that are characteristic of Ontario and that tell the story you are designed and determined to tell.

Now I want to close by asking you the only question that really matters. Is it worth your doing? Is it worth your spending the Authority's money and municipal money and individual funds to do? Is it worth taking the time of a good farmer who has left his farm to do it?

Well I wouldn't be in this business if I didn't think so. I think it's important that in a very confusing and fast-moving period we make clear to young people, to young couples with growing families, and to the sometimes querulous older people, the importance of knowing what our community roots are.

A community that knows where it has been has a better sense of where it is going, just as an individual who understands himself knows better where he fits in our society.

I believe with all my heart in the tremendous importance and value of this kind of intelligent patriotism and this kind of historical teaching. I have listened too long and to too many of our visitors not to be convinced beyond all peradventure that you will reap, in Ontario and in your own immediate communities, values in citizenship, values in understanding of what Ontario is and has been and will be, from this kind of project. And this means good citizens. It means more good citizens than if you don't have it. And there is, I am convinced, no better investment than the investment in citizens.

OXEN AT THE INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH

A Radio Interview

Edna May, CBC Morning Commentator, CBL, Toronto

Theme music:

Announcer: Now it's time for Edna May, and to wind up her visit to the country, this week she has two rather unusual interviews, one with a pair of oxen, the other with a princess plow woman.

Edna May: Hello everybody! Well I'm back in the studio today so I don't have the layers of clothing or the wide open spaces to broadcast from that I had on the stage set up at the International Plowing Match now going into its last day near Peter's Corners, Ontario. But my interviewees today just couldn't go up on that stage so I had to go to them yesterday with a tape recorder. First the oxen. They're getting so much attention at the match because they're the only oxen there and they've had their pictures taken constantly. When I went to see them they just stood and stared at first, but then as you will hear they came in as if to sign off the interview, right on cue.

The oxen are owned by Andrew Taylor who has a farm near Galt. After the broadcast yesterday Mr. Taylor and his teen-aged son Neil took me over to where the oxen were resting up. This barn was really a storage place for hay and quite a small area so we were standing practically on top of them, their big eyelashes almost brushing my coat. Here is our conversation.

Well we've never interviewed oxen before and we don't know whether they are going to say anything or not, but anyway here are the two that are performing every day here at the plowing match.

We're right in the barn with them and we are about to talk to Mr. Andrew Taylor who owns them. Mr. Taylor, what made you keep these oxen to plow?

Mr. Taylor: Well we are building an outdoor museum of pioneer life at Doon, Ontario, and we want oxen to hitch to an ox cart and ride people around on the property. These were two calves on my own farm and two years ago my son Neil who is now fifteen put a horse collar on one of them and put him in shafts and started hauling a democrat around the farm. He hauled in one hundred and sixty bales of straw with him. The Wentworth County Committee wanted oxen for their plowing match. They wanted to know if we had these oxen in captivity and so Neil and I have been trying to get them into captivity ever since.

Edna May: Are they the only oxen that actually work at the plow now in Ontario? Oxen have really completely disappeared, haven't they?



OXEN AT INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH, OCTOBER, 1959

Neil Taylor at the plow, Alec Taylor with a stick and Andrew Taylor leading

Andrew Taylor: As far as I know there are no other oxen in Ontario, although after I have said this over the CBC I may hear of other ones.

Edna May (laughing): Well, Neil, could you tell us something about how you did train these oxen to plow. Was it very difficult?

Neil Taylor: Well, it's not too difficult. You just have to make sure they lead, and then that they don't want to run away too much.

Edna May: Are they in the habit of moving very fast? They are standing very close to us and I see the one sort of pointing his horns at us. The other is chewing away. They look as though they are understanding every word we say. But I guess they're pretty docile, are they?

Neil Taylor: W-e-l-l! Usually they are.

Edna May: He says that as though we had better get out of the way fast. Are they very fast at their work at the plow or are they traditionally slow? We think of the oxen as being slow.

Neil Taylor: Well they're better at getting their pictures taken.

Edna May: Have they had their pictures taken very often?

Neil Taylor: Oh, quite a bit.

Buckie: M-oo-oo-oo!

Edna May: Well, there, that's a goodbye for you. I think maybe now we'll leave the oxen—

Buckie: M-oo-oo-a!

Edna May:—and let them go back to their work at the plow.

Buckie: M-mm-mm-mm-mm.

BERLINER JOURNAL

The Berliner Journal, one of the ancestors of the 1959 Kitchener-Waterloo Record, was first published on December 29, 1859. Its centennial brought to light not only much of its own history but that of other County newspapers¹ as well. Papers provide interesting historical data and show that many of the men who were publishers or editors were held in high esteem and quite frequently held positions of considerable importance.

The first newspaper in Waterloo County was the German weekly, Canada Museum. The first issue appeared in Berlin, Canada West, on Thursday, August 27, 1835. Publication office was in a small storey-and-a-half, plaster-covered building at the corner of King and Scott Streets. Editor and proprietor was Henry William Peterson. The Museum continued until 1841 when its proprietor moved to Guelph to be registrar of Wellington District out of which emerged the counties of Wellington, Waterloo and Grey.

Another important early paper produced in Berlin as successor of the Museum and including the Morganstern was the Deutsche Canadier². The publisher and proprietor was Henry Eby, son of Bishop Eby and the first editor was Christian Enslin. In January 1852 Peter Eby, brother of Henry, became publisher. After 1853 the Canadier and a new paper, the Telegraph, were published by the same printers. In 1856 Friedrich Rittinger became manager of the printing office. The location of the office of the Deutsche Canadier was at 163 King Street East, west of Eby Street. After 1858 the joint office of the two papers was on Queen Street North, in an old Colonial type building with projecting roof that was supported by columns.

On December 29, 1859, Friedrich Rittinger and John Motz issued the first number of the Berliner Journal, a modest weekly which in time became the principal German newspaper in Canada. In 1904 William J. Motz was publisher and John Rittinger served as editor. The Ontario Glocke which Rittinger had published for 26 years in Walkerton joined the Journal in 1904. Later the Stratford Kolonist and the Waterloo Bauernfreund which had purchased the Volksblatt of New Hamburg and the Deutsche Zeitung of Berlin were absorbed by the Journal. In 1917 the name was changed to The Ontario Journal and in October, 1918, it was printed in English. In 1919 the Journal joined forces with the Record and gave up its separate publishing office on Queen Street South.

1. Ninth W. H. S. Volume 1921, 152-159. "Waterloo County Newspapers" by W. H. Breithaupt.

THE

“**Berliner Journal!**”

IS

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BY

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and at moderate prices.

The Dumfries Courier was the first English weekly in Waterloo County. It appeared in Galt in 1844 and continued for three years. It was followed by the Galt Reporter in November 1846 with Peter Jaffray as editor and proprietor. After December 1, 1896, the Reporter was both weekly and daily. The Galt Reformer, 1849-1912, provided opposition to the Reporter. Its files are in the Waterloo Historical Society Museum in which may be found an extensive collection of early Waterloo County newspapers.

The first daily newspaper in Waterloo County was the Daily News, first published on February 4, 1878, by P. E. W. Moyer. After the death of Mr. Moyer The News was purchased by the German Printing and Publishing Company in January, 1897, after there had been three daily papers in Berlin for eight months. On February 1, 1897, the name became Daily News and continued for nearly 23 years under the editorship of W. V. Uttley. In October 1919, W. J. Motz became manager and the paper reverted to its name of 1893-97, The Daily Record.

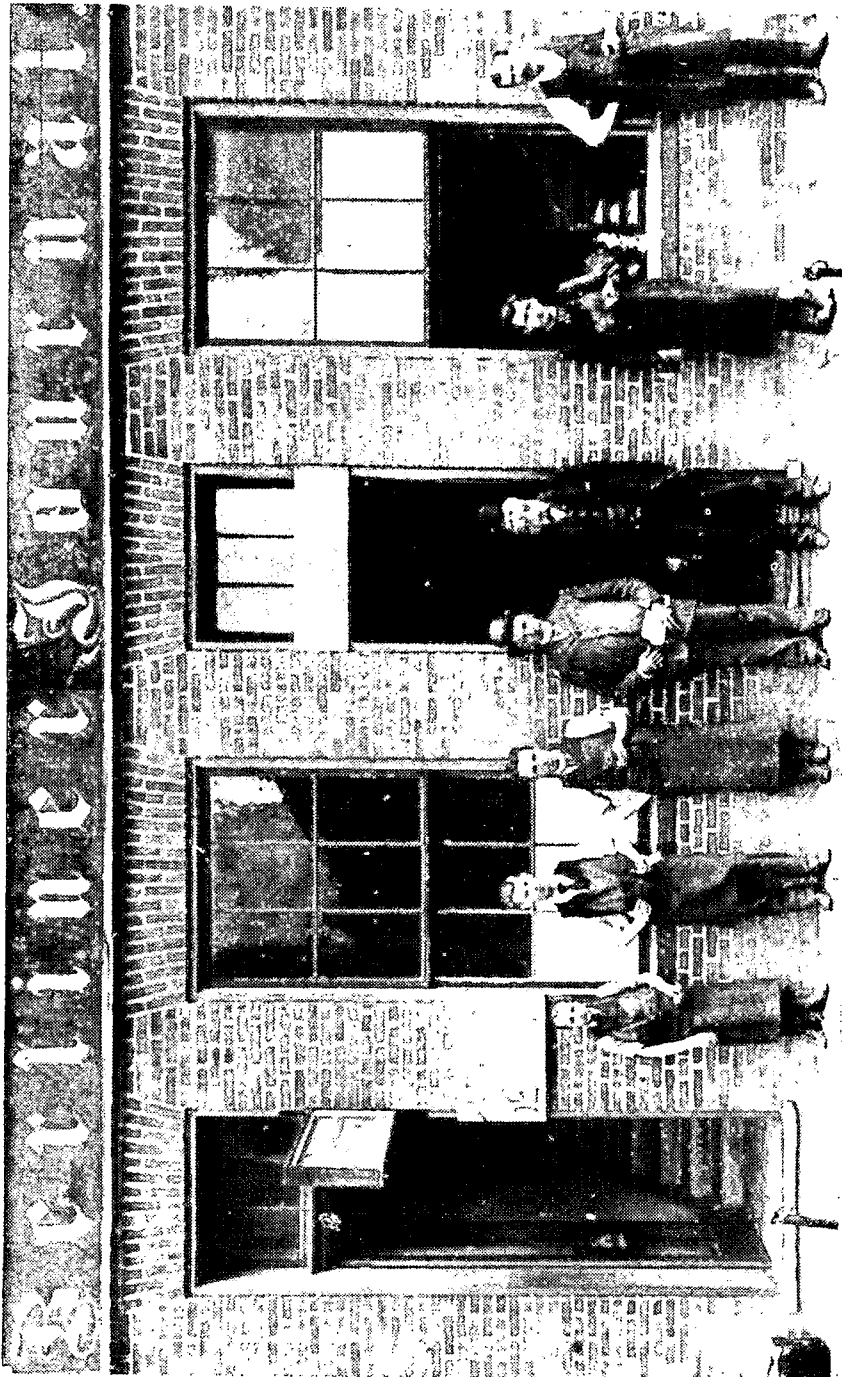
The Berliner Journal's first issue in 1859 had four pages. It appeared each Thursday and the annual subscription was \$2.00.

The Journal's contents during its first six months have been reviewed by Herbert Karl Kalbfleisch², professor of German at the University of Western Ontario. He notes that the founders, in their initial statement, said they would attempt to give a summary, week by week, of the most important events. Being basically a German community, news of Germany in particular and Europe in general would be featured. Local, provincial and American news would also find a place and there would be emphasis on everything pertaining to the activities, growth and prosperity of Canada.

Since religion and politics were particularly contentious subjects in a population of mixed religious and political affiliations, the attitude of the Berliner Journal was made especially clear. As far as religion was concerned, the principle of tolerance was to be adhered to. The discussion of religious questions was relegated to the church papers, the editors feeling that a secular organ was no place to air religious polemics.

In politics, an independent position was to be taken. Each of the Canadian political parties at the time, the Conservative and the Reform, had shortcomings which tended to make a choice between them difficult.

2. Fortieth W. H. S. Volume 1952, 18-29, "German or Canadian?" by Herbert K. Kalbfleisch.



The Berliner Journal was located in the late 1880's on King Street West, above Jaime's book store location in 1959. King Street, Berlin, had wooden sidewalks and hitching posts. The Journal staff included (left to right) Leo J. Kiefer, Herman Rittinger, William J. Motz, later publisher of The Record; his father, John Motz, one of the Journal's founders; Friedrich Rittinger, another founder; John Treusch and William Rittinger.



Kitchener-Waterloo Record

In the early 1900's, Rittinger and Motz, publishers of the Berliner Journal, moved to 25 Queen Street South, in 1959 the location of the Fountain Flower Shop. This was directly across the street from where the Journal was started.

The paper had problems of distribution. At that time, when the small paper was produced, the printer got on his horse, rode into the country and distributed the papers to subscribers who were widely separated. The Journal was meticulously printed on a hand press and was punctual in production. Each of the four pages consisted of eight columns, and of the 32 columns nine were devoted to advertising.



Kitchener-Waterloo Record

FIRST ISSUE OF BERLINER JOURNAL DECEMBER 29, 1859

A fairly wide circulation was expected, as agents were designated at the following centres: Aldborough, Bridgeport, Breslau, Baden, Conestogo, Elmira, Freiburg, New Hamburg, Hamilton (two agents), Hawkesville, Heidelberg, Hespeler, Lisbon, Neustadt, Phillipsburg, Petersburg, Preston, St. Agatha, St. Clements, St. Jacobs, Waterdown, Weimar, and Wellesley.

The paper was proud of the fact that the citizens of Waterloo County were law abiding. Prison statistics quoted in the issue of January 19, 1860, indicated that law infractions for the local county were fewer than for other counties. Interest in education was evident and Dr. Egerton Ryerson's regular visits to the district were reported in detail. The Journal stood for strict discipline in the schools. Parents and guardians were

cautioned to give their charges the best possible training, and also to support the schools.

Road improvement in the county was also advocated. At that time Wellington County was building gravel roads, and the Journal urged that Waterloo County do likewise. The observations of a traveller on his first visit to the community was reported. The article featured his surprise at the number of businesses and manufacturing establishments to be found, even in private homes. These businesses were listed as furniture builders, carpet and linen weavers, gunsmiths, watch and instrument makers, carpenters, shoemakers, blacksmiths, who formed an industrial class the like of which was to be found nowhere else in Canada. Nor did the people lack facilities for entertainment. The Township of Waterloo had two theatrical troupes.

While there was considerable lag in the first years between the incidence of foreign events and the recording of them—the submarine cable between Europe and America was not in operation until 1866—the latest dispatches gleaned from newspaper sources in the United States and Europe were recorded in the Journal.

The chief German political problem of the day was the lack of German unity. This lack was deplored again and again in articles. The arrogance of Prussia and its soldiers was emphasized. There was evidence of bad feeling between Hesse and Prussia. However, under the rising threat of Louis Napoleon, whose imperialistic arms threatened to engulf Europe in war, the feeling seemed to be widespread that only by close collaboration with Prussia on the part of the other German states could France be successfully resisted in her attempt to dominate her neighbour.

News from England was always given prominent space. England's attitude toward the continental situation and her relations with the continental powers, as well as to other countries was always carefully reported. The death of Thomas Babington Macauley in January 1860, the defeat of the secret ballot in April 1860, and the illness of Florence Nightingale were included.

American news consisted of articles of major importance interspersed with many miscellaneous minor items, as well as rumour and hearsay. The Negro problem occupied a conspicuous space. There was an account of an incident on a New York ferry in which a Negro occupied a seat in the women's lounge and refused to be ejected. When the ship's crew attempted to do the ejecting, the crowd was on the side of the Negro. There was also the decision of the Supreme Court of Ohio not to admit Negro children to the free public schools of the state.

Short biographical sketches of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican candidate for the presidency and his running mate, Hannibal Hamblin, were given. Fires, accidents, murders, hangings, tarrings and featherings, strikes, hurricanes, floods, droughts, counterfeiting, as they occurred in widely separated areas rounded out the news of that country. While lurid details were not scorned, the whole effect was one of deferential propriety in reporting news.

News about Canada as a whole was not so frequent as that which referred to the province or the immediate constituency. The Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) was to visit Canada in June 1860, and the Journal hoped that he would make his temporary residence in Berlin while he was in Canada.

The deliberations of Parliament were always reported in detail. George Brown and D'Arcy McGee and many others figured prominently in these reports. The Parliament buildings were at this time under construction in Ottawa. Fifteen thousand tons of stone were being imported from Cleveland, whereas it was assumed when construction started that only local materials would be used to keep the costs low. The Journal was unalterably for economy in government. A bit of sarcasm appeared in an item which stated that Canada would soon be a great nation since the country had debts amounting to \$90,000,000.

An editorial of national significance entitled "Was wird unser Parlament thun?" (What will our Parliament do?) preceded the opening of Parliament in March 1860. The opposition advocated the division of Canada into two parts. The Journal did not agree that division was a solution of Canada's problem and pointed to Germany as a case in point—divided into 34 states—its balkanization was its greatest single difficulty, Canada was not too big nor had too many people for one government, and not rich enough to support two or more extravagant ministries.

In concluding his study, Professor Kalbfleisch writes: "The editors gave ample evidence in the first six months of publication that they viewed their task as being one of public service to the best of their ability.

"Good judgment was employed both in the presentation of the news as well as in the expression of editorial opinion.

"At the same time, an effort was made to provide some reading matter of a literary nature in a constituency which lacked books and magazines. Interest in education, in the useful as well as the artistic, was ever present.

"And throughout, an attempt was made to cater to the better instincts of the community."

DIED IN 1959

January 12. Rev. MacFarlane Bell Davidson, M.A., D.D., spent 38 years of his 44 in the ministry at Central Presbyterian Church, Galt. He was loved as a pastor for the gentle virtues of kindness and sympathetic concern for others. Being endowed with a keen literary taste, he conducted a thoughtful and evangelical pulpit ministry, and was considered one of the outstanding preachers of his generation in the Presbyterian Church. In addition to the claims of his own congregation he gave his talented services to "The Teacher" for the Board of Christian Education, contributing monthly under the caption "Linking the Lesson to Life". He was also for some years a devoted member of the General Assembly's Committee on Home Religion, on the Senate of Knox College, chairman of the Galt Library Board and a charter member of the Galt Kiwanis Club.

R.W.M.

March 17. Mrs. S. A. Detweiler, 90, widow of the late D. B. Detweiler was born near Vineland, Ontario. She was a member of Trinity United Church and was buried in First Mennonite Cemetery, Kitchener.

August 29. Louis Blake Duff, 81, was a scholar, historian, orator, humorist, financier, book and art lover, and a collector of antiques. He served four years on The Evening Reporter, Galt, and because of his sunny disposition and friendliness he was well and favourably known. His local association with athletics increased his circle of friends. Years ago he presented the city of Galt with an oil painting of John Galt, after whom the city was named. The portrait by Alex. M. Galt, which hangs in the Galt city hall, is a copy of the original by John Fleming which was presented to John Galt in the year of his death, and is now hanging in the public library of Greenock, Scotland. The Galt Public Library received a number of books from Mr. Duff's collection.

May 1. Gordon C. G. Fleming, 55, noted composer and organist had a distinguished career as a virtuoso, and had some of his symphonic compositions played by the Detroit Symphony and the Chicago Philharmonic. He composed music for the Canadian Broadcasting Company and National Film Board. Some of his choral works were performed by the St. Mary's Boys' Choir during the Royal visit to Windsor. Mr. Fleming was a former resident of Galt where he received his primary and secondary education. Mr. Fleming, who had been in Windsor for over 30 years, was a brother of Canada's finance minister, Donald M. Fleming, and a son of L. C. Fleming of the famous Galt Maple Leaf Quartette. (See W.H.S. 1949, 18-22).

April 28. Harry L. Guy, 55, president of the Mutual Life Assurance Company, joined the actuarial staff in 1927. In recognition of his services as assistant chairman of the national war finance committee he was named a Commander of the Order of the British Empire. He served as elder and chairman of the finance committee of Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, and was associated with numerous organizations.

December 14, Alex. F. Hahn, 76, before his retirement in 1946 was associated with his father and brother George, in the Hahn Brass Company which was established at New Hamburg in 1901. Mr. Hahn was interested in crippled children, active in the Kitchener-Waterloo Rotary Club, and a good supporter of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, New Hamburg.

January 23. Charles Keith Henderson, 83, was one of Hespeler's outstanding citizens and practised dentistry there for 56 years. Dr. Henderson served as elder and Sunday School superintendent at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Not only was he a 50-year member of New Hope Masonic Lodge, but he was also a 50-year past-master, a rare achievement. He was also a member of the Hespeler Odd Fellow's Lodge.

January 5. Miss Kate Fleury Jaffray was a granddaughter of Peter Jaffray who founded The Galt Reporter and General Advertiser, November 13, 1846. She was the last link in a family that had been identified with Galt for over a century. Miss Jaffray was secretary for over 25 years at the Galt Collegiate Institute, and later in the office of the Board of Education.

January 15. Louis Kaiser of Roseville, a printer for 73 of his 89 years, was believed to be the oldest active printer in Canada. He began work when he was 16 with the Weekly Reporter, Galt. Later he attended business college and returned to Roseville to start his own business as a job printer in an office on the farm on which he was born, and where he spent his life. (See W.H.S. 1957, 52).

June 7. John Alexander Martin, 79, former vice-president of the Dominion Rubber Company, Limited, received a British Empire award for his work as rubber controller for the Dominion Government in 1945-47. Mr. Martin was president of the Ontario Society for Crippled Children, 1932-33; president K-W Charities 1953-4; president Kitchener Red Cross Society 1931-33; and president K-W Rotary Club 1933-34. He was an honorary lieutenant-colonel of the 54th Regiment, Scots Fusiliers of Canada and an elder of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kitchener.

November 4. Mrs. Fred H. Schneider was a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener and served as president and secretary of the Ladies' Auxiliary. She was a past president of the Y.W.C.A. and of the Kitchener-Waterloo Y.M.C.A. Ladies' Auxiliary.



County of Waterloo Gazetteer for 1864, compiled by J. Sutherland, gave different spellings for many of the names on the 1861 map. In the Gazetteer all Schneiders, Sniders and Snyders were Snyder, Hergott was Hergoot, and Willson was Wilson. In the Gazetteer there were additional names that were not common to Waterloo Township. Some of these were: Bobzean, Boetcha, Brieg, Bussing, Centgroff, Deffge, Doll, Hanchkie, Hotel, Idle, Kinsey, Lepricon, Monhuke, Nevezeran, Shatz, Streeker, Swass, Voice, Weast, Wile and Yonkey.

In the preparation of the 1861 map of the Township of Waterloo the names were copied, even though several errors seemed to be evident.



OLD ELMIRA BUILDING DEMOLISHED IN 1959

Throughout its long history, the building, known as the Snyder Furniture warehouse, has been associated with furniture and lumber. Prior to occupation by Snyder, it was a furniture factory owned by Heimbecker and Jung. Before that it was the property of Klinck and Heimbecker. The original small building was believed to have been almost 100 years old. At one time a bell was used to call the workers.



OLDSTER STILL AT JOB AFTER 71 YEARS

On April 8, 1959, Miss Susan Scharlach began her 72nd year of work at A. and C. Boehmer Box Company in Kitchener. Miss Scharlach, 83 years old, has been taking a taxi to work, working eight hours and going home by bus. She has made one concession—sitting down at work.

For her first week of work Miss Scharlach received no pay, then \$1 and for some time \$1.25 per week of ten-hour work days. Beginning with the period when time clocks were not in use, Miss Scharlach has witnessed many changes including the shortening of the work-week and extensive use of machines.