

TWENTY-FIRST AND TWENTY-SECOND  
ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

WATERLOO HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



NINETEEN THIRTY-THREE  
NINETEEN THIRTY - FOUR

**TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**WATERLOO HISTORICAL**  
**SOCIETY**  
**1933**



**KITCHENER, ONT.**  
**PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY**  
**May 1935**



Showing Grain Cradle.



Old time harvesting and threshing demonstration, near Hespeler, Aug. 24th, 1933. See p. 5.  
Horse Power Unit Thresher.

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1933

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## SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Society was held in the Public Library in the Village of Ayr on the evening of October the 20th. The President, Mr. D. N. Panabaker occupied the chair. There was a good attendance of local citizens and others interested in the Society's work.

In his address the President dealt with business conditions in the County fifty years ago. A history of Woolwich Township by Mr. W. V. Uttley, Elmira, was presented while Mr. W. H. Breithaupt briefly reviewed activities in connection with our Museum. These papers together with others under preparation at the time will be found printed in the report.

Through the good offices of Miss E. D. Watson a large exhibit of historical objects and examples of pioneer handicraft had been arranged and very great interest was taken in the exhibit by all present. Great credit is due Miss Watson and her assistants in arranging the display.

An outstanding contribution of historical interest was the old time harvesting and threshing demonstration arranged in August on the Nelson Bechtel farm near Hespeler by the President assisted by local farmers. Hundreds of people from near and far showed their interest in the demonstration by their attendance though the afternoon was quite warm. So encouraging has been the comment on the undertaking that a similar demonstration on a larger scale may be attempted some time in the near future.

For a number of years the Ontario Government through the Education Department undertook the printing of our annual reports. However, this assistance was not forthcoming and the cost of printing the 1931 and 1932 reports had to be defrayed by the Society out of its own funds.

Several of the municipalities which assisted us with grants since organization failed to do so in 1933 so that our income has been materially reduced.

Our Museum collection continues to grow in volume and interest. A list of accessions made during the year is appended.

The Society deeply appreciates the continued assistance of the Kitchener Public Library Board in providing free quarters for our collection as heretofore.

Grateful acknowledgment is made of the grants from the Town of Hespeler and the County of Waterloo.

A list of the Officers of the Society for 1934 appears elsewhere in the report.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1933

### RECEIPTS:

Balance at January 1st, 1933.....	\$288.73
Members' Fees.....	\$54.00
Sales.....	7.50
Proceeds—Old Time Harvesting and Threshing Demonstration.....	74.00
Grant—County of Waterloo.....	75.00
Grant—Town of Hespeler.....	20.00
Bank Interest.....	5.82
	<hr/>
	\$236.32
	<hr/>
	\$525.05

### DISBURSEMENTS:

Printing.....	\$230.32
Binding of County Newspapers.....	35.40
Caretaking.....	12.00
Display Racks.....	21.12
Photos and Cuts.....	22.96
Affiliation Ontario Society.....	2.00
Postage.....	8.42
	<hr/>
	\$332.22
	<hr/>
Balance.....	\$192.83

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) J. H. WUEST, Auditor.

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Miss Watson and the other citizens of Ayr associated with her are deserving of grateful acknowledgement for the thoughtful preparation which they have made for this Annual Meeting of our Society—preparation so unprecedented in its character and so enterprising in its scope.

I am sure that you who have come from other parts of Waterloo County and who have had the interests of the Historical Society at heart, cannot fail to be thrilled with the animated spirit of local interest in the things which pertained to the activities of those who in days gone by, were connected with the establishment and promotion of civilization in this section of the County, and it would augur well for the future of our Historical Society if all the Municipalities in the County had groups of people who would interest themselves to the same extent, as that evidenced here in Ayr, in the historic lore of their respective communities.

Ayr possibly holds a unique position with regard to some features of its early history, but we all recognize that every one of our communities has a history of its own and any person or group of people in each of our towns, villages or hamlets would be amply repaid for any work of research which they can do in gathering up the rapidly vanishing elements of this historic lore in and peculiar to their respective localities.

I am sure it is also well recognized that the effectiveness of our Society's work must depend almost entirely upon such local effort and I want to make once more a most urgent appeal,—you may call it an S.O.S. if you choose, for such it in reality, is—an emphatic appeal to every municipality in the County to wake up to the fact that with the disappearance of the elder generation of our present time, opportunities to glean these fragments of the history of the early days of development hereabouts, will have forever passed.

We cannot afford to remain inactive if this valuable work is ever going to be done.

We are to be treated to so splendid an exhibition of things associated with the history of Ayr, that our time will be limited for the presentation of addresses and we have requested those who are favoring us with historic papers, to confine themselves to brief outlines of the same at this time. The papers will be published in full in our printed report for the year.

In the interests of brevity, therefore, it is not my desire to prolong my remarks, and I wish only to be permitted to express my appreciation of the work done by all those who have contributed in any way through this year, to the success of our Society, which had we time I should like to speak of in more detail. We must not, however, fail in closing to again gratefully acknowledge what our Vice-President, Miss E. D. Watson has done in arranging this Exhibition for our Annual Meeting.

D. N. PANABAKER.



## EXHIBITION OF PIONEER ARTICLES

Ayr, October 20th, 1934

An exhibition of pioneer things was held in the Ayr Public Library in connection with the annual meeting of the Waterloo Historical Society. It proved most interesting and showed unusual wealth of material in that district.

Because of limited space a general invitation to bring things in could not be given. Also duplication had to be avoided, so all articles were inspected before acceptance.

Very reluctantly furniture was barred for lack of room to display it. There are beautiful old pieces all through the countryside. The only exceptions made, were for three old cradles, and a chair made in the village.

Clothing was excluded, except one man's embroidered waistcoat, and one woman's skirt the wool of which had been grown, spun and woven on the farm from which it came.

Books too were left out except for a dozen which included three old Bibles—one English, one German, one Gaelic.

We might have had many beautiful shawls, but they were limited to six.

We could have had an Exhibition of Quilts alone, but these also were limited to six woven ones.

In all between seven and eight hundred articles were shown with little duplication.

The old tools were especially interesting—axes, hammers, wooden shovels and forks, phlems and phlem knockers, wood trimmers, shingle cutters, spoke-shave, braces, augers, iron and wooden clamps, bellows, blacksmith's tongs, crane, harness-polisher, tree-tapper, tree-trimmer, scythes, cradles, seeders, ox-horn tips, ox-yoke, hog tamer, fire tongs, stove-lifter, iron pots, tea-kettle, griddles, grills, breadpans, scales, chopping knives, curd knives, meat grinder, coffee grinders, apple-parer, cherry-pitter, wooden potato-masher, potato grater for starch-making, trivets, shoe repair stand, hand sewing-machine, spinning wheel, reel, spindle, flax-comb, loom, tape-loom, weather gauges, old apothecary's scale, mortar and pestle, cheese-tester, churn, wooden pails, bread boards, bread trough.

There were old guns, revolvers, powder horns, gun-shot cases, and percussion gun caps. Old brass and iron bolts, wooden and iron locks, and door-knockers.

There were laundry irons of all kinds—brass and iron box-irons with slugs which were heated and put inside, old heavy irons, tailor's irons, Italian irons for doing frills, crimping irons, and an iron for doing up old ladies' and baby's caps, and iron stands some of them quite ornate.

Candle-sticks were limited to about a dozen all different with snuffers and trays and extinguishers. A little iron cruise which burned oil and hung on the wall was there, and many varieties of old lamps and lanterns including street-lamps, lanterns of perforated tin with candles, or iron or tin with glass sides and candles, candle-molds of tin and of lead.

The collection of brass and copper pots and kettles was large, and there was one beautiful copper warming-pan.

Much more glass, silver jewellery and china could have been collected, and was generously offered, but the supply of locked glass cases was limited. As it was, there were fine old decanters, silver decanter-labels, wooden and silver toddy-ladles, an ale-muller, copper cork-screw and whiskey-flask, pewter and copper beer-mugs, a pinch-bottle, painted trays, a wooden porringer. The snuff-boxes were very good, sixteen in all, horn wood and silver. Some unusually fine tea caddies, and writing-desks. China included many good bits including handleless cups and fine pieces of silver and copper lustre. The old jewelry included many watches, chain and fobs, rings, brooches, bracelets, etc. and was very attractive.

There were steel knives and three-tined forks with horn and ivory handles from the days before celluloid was invented, horn spoons, and some very fine old silver spoons and pewter tea-pots. There were samplers and several curious old pictures and maps, old church collection ladles, spectacles and cases, creels and cap baskets, bootjacks and door scrapers, wooden skates, and curling stones of wood and field stone.

Too much cannot be said of the kindness and enthusiasm of the exhibitors. The whole community was interested, as evidenced by the crowds which filled the hall all day, and it is hoped the exhibit will result in the increased interest in and preservation of these old things.

Elizabeth Dolman Watson.



## WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP — ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT

W. V. Uttley, Elmira

Woolwich Township is one of the two northernmost divisions of Waterloo County and in outline approximates a triangle. Originally it was part of a land grant made to the Indians for their services to the British armies in the American War of Independence. A memorandum given by Joseph Brant, Mohawk chief, to the Hon. Peter Russell, acting for Lieut.-Governor Simcoe while on leave of absence, attests that on July 22, 1797, the Five Nations Indians sold Block No. 3, on the Grand River to William Wallace, carpenter, of Newark (Niagara). Block No. 3 was a tract twelve miles square, called a township, and contained 92,160 acres. Its price per acre was six shillings, one pence, amounting to 28,032 pounds. Broadly, the block includes Woolwich and the Township of Pilkington (Wellington County).

That part of Block No. 3 lying in Waterloo County was first settled by groups of Mennonites from Pennsylvania. As is generally known, their co-religionists organized the German Company in 1804 and purchased 60,000 acres in Block No. 2 (Waterloo Township) from Richard Beasley. A second, or an extension of the first German Company was later formed to

buy lands from William Wallace. On July 24, 1807, he "bargained, sold, granted, released, and confirmed" unto Augustus Jones, surveyor, of Saltfleet, Lincoln County, or John Erb, of Block No. 2 on the Grand River, yeoman, and Jacob Erb, of the same place, yeoman, a tract situated on the Grand River, in the County of York and Home District in the Province of Upper Canada, containing 45,195 acres, being part of Block No. 3 on the said river. The price is not mentioned, but they, their heirs, and assigns were to hold the land forever. The memorial was signed and duly witnessed on August 1st, 1807.

Hills, valleys, and plains compose the picturesque tract. When the Mennonites came the area was covered with primeval forest in which maple, beech, and pine predominated. The soil is mostly a loam, frequently with a gravel bottom, and is one of the most fertile regions in Ontario. The township is watered by the Grand River and its tributaries the Conestoga River, the Canagagigue Creek, and Cox's Creek. The Conestoga and the Canagagigue were named by George Eby and Benjamin Eby, of Block No. 2, in 1806, after streams in their Pennsylvanian homeland.

Mennonite settlers in numbers came over in 1808 and bought lands in the Germany Company's tract. Their purchases ran from 350 acres, and multiples of 350 to 1,400 acres. That year 26,600 acres were taken up. Among the first pioneers were: John, Daniel, Joseph, Christian, and Abraham Bowman; John Sr. and John Jr., and Jacob Brubacher; Peter, Christian, and Abraham Martin; John and Adam Reist; Samuel and Joseph Weaver; John Mayer, Martin Oberholtzer, Christian Stouffer, Peter Sherek, Martin and Christian Shenk; Ben, Dan, Abraham, John, Joseph, and Christian Eby; John and Daniel Erb, Chris Stolzfoos, David Hurst, Chris Koenig, Joseph Wenger, John Schaeffer, and John Gresman. During the next decade or two the influx of Pennsylvanians continued until their purchase was homesteaded.

The pioneers were honest, peaceful, and industrious. In appreciation of their strength and endurance they were called "Hickories." They at first lived in log houses, made their own furniture, cleared off the giant trees with the axe, and broke the virgin land with the plow and yoke of oxen, cut the grain with the sickle, and threshed it with the flail. Their nearest market was at Dundas. Owing to a lack of dependable wagonways they hauled their surplus grain to market on sleds in the winter. At Dundas they exchanged wheat for store-goods. The Pennsylvania-Dutch "Mammi" was an excellent cook and homemaker. Before their young apple orchard bore fruit,

she gathered the wild plum, cherry, crab-apple, and grape, and cooked them in maple syrup. Those wild fruits were found in the beaver meadows, then numerous. The Hausfrau was spinner, weaver, and sempstress, and before her sons were old enough she helped her husband to bind the grain in the fields. They were the first daylight savers, rising before the sun at the stroke of the grandfather's clock.

### DIE ALT HEEMET

A Kitchener resident of Pennsylvania-German extraction, name not available, wrote a poem in dialect about those old homes. Four of his verses are annexed,

“Wie scheh hen mir dort gelebt  
In selem alte haus;  
Wie ruhig g'schloffte manche nacht  
Wans g'reget hot ufs alte dach,  
Uns feier un licht war aus.  
Un es hot em nix so schloffte g'macht  
Wie reege droppe uf'm dach.

Es war die ganz familie noch  
Daheem beim alte Heerd;  
Die Med hen Woll un Flachs g'schpunne  
Un schene Lieder dazu g'sunge,  
Die Engel hens gehert.  
Der Daade hot beim Offe g'hokt  
Sei Welch-korn-grutze Peif g'schmokt.

Was guckt doch alles annerscht nau  
Als in der alte Zeit.  
Mer sehnt nix meh fum alte gebaeu,  
'S is alles fort, 's alles neu;  
M'r sehnt es schon von weit:  
En schene Heemet is es jah  
Doch heemelts mich gar nimme ah.

Der “Wallo” sitzt ah nimme dort  
Im hof for'm alte haus,  
Er guckt ah nimme dorch die behm,  
Er gautzt mer nimme welcome hehm,  
Un's feier am Heerd is aus.  
'S guckt alles sche, sel wees ich woll,  
Doch warum is mei Herz so foll?”

Today the township is noted for its substantial brick homes, fruitful farms, fine draft horses, and well-bred cattle.

These, however, represent a century's growth, while the reader's interest is focussed on beginnings.

The first industries in the township were sawmills, operated by water-power. Timber was plentiful and the demand for lumber urgent. Then, according to an early writer, "water-power flour-mills received early attention for grinding wheat into flour on millstones and chopping coarse grain. Next came woollen mills for carding wool into rolls, ready for spinning them into yarn; and later on woodenware factories, small foundries, etc."

### OTHER TRACTS

Besides the large tract sold to the Pennsylvanians two other holdings are recorded. On the same day on which the German Company made their purchase, William Wallace sold Richard Beasley (of Block No. 2) a tract of 3,000 acres in Block No. 3. It is now known as Lot I, Concession A. Beasley sold the whole parcel and after passing through various hands intact it was purchased in 1845 by the Rev. James Hitchings. It is still known as Hitchings' Tract. It is in the Montrose district.

William Wallace, five years later still owned 7,048 acres in Woolwich Township. The land lay east of the Grand River, in the Winterbourne-Montrose district. During the War of 1812-'14 Wallace disappeared from his home in Niagara and was said to have cast in his lot with the Americans. At the close of the war the Canadian Government passed a law to punish Canadians who had sided with the United States. All persons claiming to be Canadian citizens but who were or had been citizens of the United States were declared outlaws and incapable of holding lands or tenements in Canada. Under that act Wallace's seven thousand acres were escheated by the Commissioners of Forfeited Estates.

The Commissioners sold the triangular tract in 1821 to William Crooks, and it is still known as Crooks' Tract. In the same year Crooks sold 7,000 acres to the Hon. Thomas Allan. The latter thereafter sold the division off in smaller parcels. Among the purchasers were David Chalmers, who in 1835 bought 1,078 acres; James Bessett, Thomas Crooks, John Smith, John Pirie, James Burnett, John Gerrie, James McConachie, George Logie, Alexander Scroggie, John Davidson, Wm. Ruxton, Henry Puddicombe, Mary Gordon, Wm. Dows, Wm. Ross, Alexander Meldrum, John Gordon, Alexander Mackie, John Millard, Thomas Lamphier, Samuel Sugg, Stephen Webster, George Dolman, George Davidson, Wm.

Veitch, Henry Snider, Emanuel Gaukel, Hugh Moore, Wm. Stork, and Jacob S. Bowman. In most instances the settlers did not receive their deeds for about twenty years from the Government. They settled mostly in the Winterbourne district, and for the greatest part came from Scotland.

## WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP

Woolwich was erected into a township in 1816 and formed part of Halton County. Public business was supervised by a bench of magistrates sitting at Hamilton. Locally the land-owners met periodically at "town" meetings. They appointed a clerk, assessor, tax collector, etc. The government levied only a light land tax. After obtaining the assent of the magistrates the local authorities built roads and possibly bridges. In 1842 the township became part of the Wellington District, with Guelph as its district centre. Woolwich sent John Meyer as its first councillor to Guelph. He held the seat until 1852, when Waterloo was erected into a county. In 1844 a second councillor, David Musselman, was sent to Guelph. He held office for three years. In 1847 William Reynolds was Mr. Meyer's seatmate and continued till the close of 1849. Edward Passmore replaced Mr. Reynolds in 1850-'1, and in 1852 was succeeded by Peter Wenger.

## THE WOOLWICH COUNCIL

A Woolwich Township Council was organized on January 21st, 1850. The councillors were: John Meyer, Edward Passmore, Peter Wenger, Peter Hay, and Wm. Veitch. They met "at Conestoga, in Kurtz's tavern." The members chose John Meyer as reeve and named James Dow as clerk and treasurer; Moses Springer as assessor on the east side of the Grand River and Christian Hurst on the west wide, each at 6 pounds (\$24) a year; and Wm. Reynolds as collector, with a salary of five and a half per cent. of his collections. Charles Hendry was appointed auditor.

The council ordered a seal and studied a plan for building a bridge across the Conestoga River; appointed a road surveyor and considered the advisability of appointing a local superintendent of schools. For a number of years schools, bridges, roads, and the regulation of taverns were the chief items of business.

Waterloo County's provisional municipal council met in Berlin on May 3rd, 1852. Woolwich was represented by Reeve John Meyer and Deputy-Reeve Peter Wenger.

James Dow gave up his position as clerk and treasurer at the end of 1853 and was succeeded by Benjamin Bowman Bemis Jr. in 1854. Thereafter the Woolwich Council met at St. Jacobs in Joseph Eby's tavern. One or more meetings, however, were held at Winterbourne, in 1856. Mr. Bemis then resigned his office and was followed by I. E. Bowman of St. Jacobs. The meetings were held in St. Jacobs. In 1862 Mr. Bowman was also appointed postmaster of St. Jacobs. In 1873 he gave up his situation as clerk of the township and had as his successor the late John L. Wideman. The latter was also postmaster and a merchant. The council meetings were held in a hall above his store. Mr. Wideman gave up the clerkship in 1905. His successor was Walter J. Snider of Conestoga. The township seat was then removed to Conestoga. After Mr. Snider's death Noah Stroh was appointed clerk.

### THE FIRST SCHOOLS

From the earliest times the residents of Woolwich desired to give their children a practical education. The pioneers, however, limited instruction to what their children could use in adult life, generally the "three R's". Classes were held in vacant buildings, in meeting houses, and later in log schools. The teachers were bright men but were not required to undergo an examination nor possess a certificate. A school was kept open only during the winter months and a parent paid the teacher a certain sum for each child sent to him.

Between the years 1820 and 1842, when the Common School Act was passed, there were only three schools in Woolwich. The first log school in the township was built near Martin's church on the Waterloo Township boundary. The second, probably, was built near Conestoga, and the third probably near St. Jacobs. Of the early teachers the names of William Veitch and John Bowman, father of I. E. Bowman, are the only ones handed down.

Woolwich was divided into school districts (later sections) in 1843. Trustees were elected, school rates levied, teachers licensed, and governmental grants received by rural schools. In 1844 local superintendents were appointed by the townships. Woolwich named James Dow. A county inspector replaced the superintendents in 1871, with Thomas Pearce at the helm. Thereafter attendance on the part of children was made compulsory. Gradually the scholarship of teachers and pupils was raised to a high standard, while brick schools replaced the earlier buildings.

## THE FIRST CHURCH

In their first years in the township the Pennsylvania settlers are said to have attended "Ben Eby's Church" at Berlin, after its erection in 1813. A decade or more later they built a frame church at the Three Bridges, near Conestoga. The name of their first preacher was Ludwig Koch. In 1894 the congregation built a second frame church one-half mile south of the original one. Subsequently there was a division of the body. What is generally known as the Old Mennonites continued to worship at Conestoga, while the New Mennonites in 1916 built a brick church at St. Jacobs.

## CONESTOGA

A pioneer named David Musselman is credited with having founded Conestoga. He first purchased 700 acres of forest in the vicinity. In 1830 he bought a parcel of land where the village stands from Abram Martin. It was watered by the Conestoga River and Spring Creek, on which he built a sawmill. In 1844 he built a dam across the Conestoga River and erected another sawmill and a flourmill. A hamlet sprang up. Among the first buyers of lots in Musselman's survey were: John Miller, Adam Heller, Stephen Washburn, John B. Eby, Christian Stuernagel, James Merrilees, H. von Trilera, Theodore Spetz, Henry Snider, Jacob Grosz, Philip Oswald, Joseph S. Weaver, George Davidson, Peter Eby, S. B. Eby, Peter Buchanan, Michael Oswald, Jacob Kuntz, Charles Hendry, Solomon Kaufman, and Jacob Lippert.

After their advent a cooper shop, blacksmithshop, a store, an hotel, and a post office followed. In time a brickyard, a school, and a church were added, and the place was called Musselman's Mills. Later Perine Brothers built a flaxmill on Spring Creek, while on the same stream Goodworth & Sills constructed a paint mill.

The hamlet was known as Musselman's Mills until 1852, when it was renamed Conestoga, after the Conestoga River or the town of Conestoga in Lancaster County, Pa., from which county many of the pioneers had come. David Musselman operated his mills until 1856 and then sold them to Henry Snider, who carried on the milling till his death in 1885. His executors sold the mills to Menno Snider, who operated the flourmill until his own death in 1916. During his closing years he was assisted by his son Walter J. Snider, who succeeded to the property. Walter Snider afterward purchased the flourmill at St. Jacobs from W. W. Snider and operated the two mills as the Snider Flour Milling Company, Limited. After his decease, his son Russell became head of the industries.

Charles Hendry in the eighteen-fifties was the owner of a flaxmill and general store. Later he had as a partner his brother William, afterward appointed manager of the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada at Waterloo. In those times Conestoga had a respected teacher named George McIntyre under whom a number of Waterloo County business and professional men sat, including the Hon. W. D. Euler.

Conestoga is situated near the confluence of the Conestoga and Grand Rivers. In a township noted for near urban municipalities it is one of the neatest and most picturesque. In the summer a colony of Toronto artists come to portray its beauty spots, while city folk spend the long vacation there.

### SNIDER'S WOODS

Conestoga has another thing to its credit, namely, Snider's Woods. As is known and often deplored the slashes of the woodman's axe to feed the sawmills have almost denuded a once well-timbered township and dried up its spring creeks. Observing these results the late Walter J. Snider determined to preserve one wooded tract for posterity. His purpose is set forth in a letter addressed to the Provincial Minister of Lands, Forests, and Mines, and reads,

Conestoga, Ontario,  
July 15th, 1918.

Dear Sir:

In settlement of my father's estate several years ago, I came into ownership of a mill and water power situated in the village of Conestoga, as well as of about forty acres of wooded river flats, lying at the confluence of the Grand and Conestoga Rivers. This property has been in the possession of our family since about 1850.

Many of the trees in this wood are of great age, and majestic in size and beauty. As my purpose is to refrain from cutting any sound and growing trees during my lifetime, it would be a great satisfaction to me if some arrangement could be effected whereby the conservation of this woodland could be assured in perpetuity.

I beg, therefore, to inquire whether this object could not be attained through entailing the property with cutting rights through your department? The plain that has suggested itself to me is that neither I nor my successors be permitted to cut any trees except such as shall be designated for removal by the Chief Provincial Forester; and that upon removal of any trees a proper number of trees be planted.

There is considerable room for tree planting in the grounds and my desire is to have it scientifically reforested under the supervision of your department. This would provide a forestry and reforestation demonstration on a small scale right in the heart of the older portion of Western Ontario.

Should this meet with your approval I shall be very glad to proceed toward a final arrangement.

Yours very truly,  
Walter J. Snider.

The minister acted upon Mr. Snider's suggestion and provided legislation to carry out his purpose. At a largely attended function, whereat mayors and members of parliament, the Ontario Government, and the Dominion Commission of Conservation were represented, the woodland was set aside for the benefit of future generations on August 8th, 1918. The legislation here referred to enables other owners of woodlands to emulate Mr. Snider's example.

#### WINTERBOURNE

One of the earliest settlers in Winterbourne was Captain Thomas Smith of Vermont State. He arrived about 1807, and from 1835 until 1850 operated a stage between the hamlet and Preston, via Berlin. Another firstcomer was a blacksmith named Cox. The creek running through the village was named after him and the place called Cox's Creek. In 1814 Benjamin Bowman Bemis of New Hampshire bought an adjacent farm and opened an hotel. A Scot, John Davidson, came in 1834, purchased land, and built a home that in part was used as a post office. The place was then called "Lower Woolwich P.O."

Numerous Scotch families came in 1835-'36 and '37. Among them are Wm. Mitchell and George Davidson, later sheriff of the County. An Englishman, Thomas Lamphier, was also an early arrival. His brother, Captain W. H. Lamphier, arrived in 1854 and bought the two farms on which the village stands. He built the first dam across Cox's Creek, the first saw-mill, the first flour-mill, and the Presbyterian manse. He renamed the place "Winterbourne," after his ancestral home in England.

The settlers' first school stood at Norman Snyder's gate and was a log building. A Mr. Saxton was the first teacher. In the beginning the settlers met for religious worship in the homes and in the log school. In 1837 the Presbyterians bought a lot from Luman Woodward and erected Chalmers Church.

The first Presbyterian minister in Woolwich was the Rev. Alexander Ross, M.A., of Scotland. The first Methodist Church owed its rise to John Durant, an English settler, who came in 1833. The first Methodist minister was the Rev. Matthew Holtby who preached his initial sermon in Mr. Durant's house. The congregation built a church in 1843-'4, and in 1856 replaced it with a stone structure.

#### WEST MONTROSE

West Montrose lies on the western bank of the Grand River in the upper part of Crooks' Tract. The district was settled by Scottish and English families. A. L. Anderson, a native of Montrose, Scotland, bought a tract of land in the eighteenth-fifties and named the place after his native town. Since there was then a Montrose in Welland County the post office was named West Montrose. The village is a station on the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1858 John Benner erected a woollen mill on the Grand River.

#### FLORADALE

Floradale was first called "Musselman," after Joseph Musselman, a Mennonite settler, from Pennsylvania. In 1860 Thomas Quickfall, built a flour-mill and saw-mill on the Canagagigue Creek. In 1863 the name of the community was changed to "Flora." Then because letters addressed to Flora often were mis-sent to Elora, the post-office department in 1876 added the word "dale," making it Floradale. The village had later a flax-mill, a store, a blacksmith shop, an hotel, a school, and a Mennonite and a Lutheran church. For many years the late A. J. Ruggle was an enterprising merchant.

#### HEIDELBERG

Heidelberg was named after the university town of Heidelberg, Germany, in 1854. It was named either by John Meyer, who plotted the southeastern side of the village, or by John Kressler, the first postmaster. Among other early landowners were: Christian Kiguter, Conrad Woehrl, George and John Hunergart, John Hahn, Isaac Miller, Yost Jacobi, Adam Kunkelmann, George Weis, Joseph Lenninger, and Jacob Becker. Homes were built, shops opened, stores launched, hotels erected, and a school and a Lutheran Church founded. For many years Heidelberg, in the time of Adam Steiss, was famous for its Limburger cheese. Part of the village lies in Wellesley township.

#### WEISSENBURG

Weissenburg is a hamlet in Woolwich on the Wellington County border. It has a post office, a blacksmith shop, a tavern,

and nearby a school. In the days when Woolwich traded at Guelph, teamsters watered their horses and their whistles at Weissenburg.

## ST. JACOBS

St. Jacobs is noted for its flour mill, its felt works, and shoe factory. It was the first place in the county to lay a cement pavement on its main street, and was the home of the industrialist who first suggested that the towns of the district unite to procure Niagara power.

It is one of the oldest places in the township. Among the firstcomers were: George W. Eby, George Menger, Joel Good, Henry B. Eby, George Scheifly, Karl Gottfried, John Gabel, Tobias Yost, Philip Winkler, John Buehler, Valentine Herres, N. B. Wolfe, John Wideman, George Gleiser, George Dechert, Valentine Ratz, Andrew Mader, Adam Seibert, August Riehle, Daniel Ruettinger, Louis Wanner, Matthias Stricker, David Eby, Peter Cress, Andrew Voelker, and John S. Smith.

Valentine Ratz, the forebear of numerous millers, built a sawmill west of the village on the Conestoga River in 1844. Jacob C. Snider, in 1848, bought a farm on the south side of the Conestoga and after constructing a dam across the river, erected a saw-mill, a flour-mill, and a woollen-mill. Those industries attracted more mechanics and stores. In 1852 the village was named St. Jacobs after Mr. Snider. The "Saint" was added to his first name "for the sake of euphony." He sold the mills to his son Jacob in 1855. From 1856 until 1870 there were five different owners. In December of 1870 E. W. B. Snider purchased the flour-mill and operated it till 1917, when he sold the enterprise to W. W. Snider, who incorporated the business as the Snider Flour Milling Company. The latter later sold the business to Walter J. Snider of Conestoga, whose heirs still operate it.

In the eighteen-forties, or earlier, George W. Eby owned a general store in the young place. In 1857 he was owner of the Snider flour-mill and operated also a large furniture factory. Shortly afterward he died, when his estate was wound up by John L. Wideman. Mr. Wideman played an interesting role in the village. He was the grandson of the Rev. Henry Wideman who settled in Markham Township, northeast of Toronto, in 1803. His grandfather was the second Mennonite preacher in Canada; the first having been Valentine Kratz, who was appointed minister at Moyer's meeting house in Lincoln County in 1801. John Wideman was born in York County,

and when sixteen started to learn the drug and mercantile business with John W. Eby in Berlin. In the fall of 1854 he came to St. Jacobs and became a member of the mercantile house of Yost, Winkler & Wideman. The same year he was married to Miss Margaret Winkler. The firm discontinued business whereupon, as has been mentioned Mr. Wideman wound up the Eby estate. For three years he was tax collector for Woolwich, and conducted a general store, later a drug, book, and stationery store. For a number of years he was member of the township council, and subsequently was appointed township clerk, serving for thirty-two years. He was likewise Clerk of the Division Court for twenty-seven years and postmaster of St. Jacobs for forty-four years. His successor as Clerk of the Division Court, Postmaster and merchant was W. H. Winkler. Mr. Winkler gave up the Division Court clerkship, a number of years ago and was succeeded by Oscar Huehn of Conestogo. Mr. Wideman died in 1917.

### I. E. BOWMAN

I. E. Bowman of St. Jacobs was one of the leading citizens of Woolwich and rose to prominence in Canadian affairs. He was born on the north bank of the Conestogo at St. Jacobs. In 1850, when in his eighteenth year, he began teaching school and continued for ten years. In 1856 he was appointed township clerk and acted till 1873. Meanwhile in 1862 he was appointed postmaster of the village, holding the post for three years. In 1864 he was nominated by the Liberal party to contest the federal seat against the Hon. Michael Hamilton Foley, Postmaster-General, defeating his opponent. Mr. Bowman retained the seat until 1878, when Hugo Kranz, Independent Conservative, was elected. Mr. Bowman re-entered the field in 1887 and was returned. He sat at Ottawa until 1896, when he voluntarily withdrew.

At St. Jacobs Mr. Bowman built a tannery in association with Mr. Zinkan and another at Port Elgin and assisted his son Charles to build still another at Southampton. In 1886 he removed to Waterloo and assisted in 1869 in the organization of the Ontario Mutual Life, now the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada. He was elected President of the company in 1870 and retained the position until his death in 1897. From 1876 on he was also President of the Mercantile Fire Insurance Company.

### ELIAS W. B. SNIDER

A prominent Canadian who made his home for many years in St. Jacobs was Elias W. B. Snider, miller, manufacturer, and the father of "Hydro Power." As a youth he

learned the flour-milling business in his father's mill at German Mills. In 1871 he bought the flour-mill at St. Jacobs from Benjamin D. Snider, and was one of the first millers on the continent to introduce the roller process of manufacturing flour. Years afterward he promoted the construction of the Waterloo Junction Railway, now a branch of the Canadian National, running to Elmira, to obviate the necessity of hauling flour to the Waterloo station.

Before the railway arrived, he purchased in 1884 the Bricker foundry in Waterloo and entered into partnership with Levi Bricker. Their partnership continued till 1894 when he, Absalom Merner and others amalgamated the Bricker foundry and the Merner foundries in Elmira and Waterloo as the Waterloo Manufacturing Company, specializing in threshers and farm engines. Later the business was concentrated in Waterloo. Mr. Snider had other interests and was a shareholder and the President of the Anthes Foundry Co. of Toronto; the President of the Snider Lumber Co. of Gravenhurst; and a director of the Peninsula Power & Gas Co. of St. Catharines.

Mr. Snider was elected to the Provincial Parliament by the Liberals of North Waterloo in 1881 and held the seat till 1894. He then withdrew and in 1896 unsuccessfully contested the federal seat against Joseph E. Seagram. While a member of the provincial legislature, Mr. Snider chiefly gave his time to the promotion of a Municipal Fire Insurance Bill, to an amendment of the Assessment Act and to Forest Reservation and Preservation. Although markedly successful as a business man "E.W.B." will be longest remembered as the parent of the Niagara Power movement. At a Board of Trade banquet in Waterloo on February 11th, 1902, he urged the appointment of a committee drawn from Berlin, Waterloo, Guelph, and Galt to investigate the question of bringing in electric current from Niagara Falls. His suggestion was implemented. He was appointed a member and the chairman of the Ontario Power Commission to study and report on the feasibility of a group of municipalities uniting and procuring electrical energy from the Falls. The commission reported favorably to the Ontario Government in 1906. Their report was made the basis of action by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission, appointed on June 7th, 1906. Mr. Snider served through without remuneration.

### ELMIRA—ITS EARLY DAYS

Elmira is a thriving town in upper Woolwich. Its industries produce felt footwear, furniture, shoes, machinery, radio cabinets, etc. It is also the market town for a large district,

with two railways, and is noted for its attractive brick homes, good schools, and the cultivation of music.

The town is based on Lots No. 88 and 89, German Company Tract. For the most part it was settled by German families, including many from Hesse. Two Englishmen, John and Edward Bristow, and families, came here in 1835. Edward Bristow's grandson, Frank Bristow, relates that when they arrived at the town site there was a row of Indian tepees along one bank of Canagagigue Creek. Both bought forested land. John's lay on the east bank of the creek, now owned by Will Auman; and Edward's on the west side of Arthur Street, including the exhibition grounds. He purchased the lands from David Musselman and the deed is dated August 3rd, 1846. His log house rested on the site of Simon Moyer's home. Soon afterward James Kenning, a Scot, bought a tract east of the creek, now owned in part by George Klinck.

John and Edward Bristow paid for their lands with moneys earned in a Conestogo saw-mill. They walked five miles, each way, daily. On their first outgoing, they blazed the trees so as not to be lost in the woods on their return. After building a house, Edward Bristow opened a store, a hotel, and an ashery; while near the corner of Hampton and Park Streets he built a blacksmith shop. The place was then called Bristow's Corners. When a post office was opened here the hamlet was named West Woolwich, and Mr. Bristow was appointed post-master.

In the meantime, families from Germany and the township came in. Among the first comers were: George Isenhauer, Balzer Bracht, Wm. Leis, John Ott, Hiram Martin, Abraham Bowman, Samuel S. Weaver, Peter and Isaac Wenger, Peter Beisel, John Seip, Joel Good, Philip Winkler, A. R. Strome, Fred Koerber, Casper Ruppel, Adam Klinck, Jacob Brehler, Peter Martin, John Reising, Henry Christmann, Adam Zilliax, Balthasar Erdmann, Cosmos Specker, J. F. Metzger, and John Streeter.

Included with those who procured deeds in the eighteenthies were: Eckhart Ries, Henry Voelker, John Ruppel, Carl Ruppel, John Weis, Nicholas Gies, Wm. Moyer, Conrad Rau, Jacob Wenz, Peter Dunke, George Baetz, Casper Hergert, Jonathan Uttley, Charles Klinck, Christian Huehn, George Girling, August Blatz, Nicholas Weitzel, George Vogt, Wm. Wachsmuth, Michael Weichel, the Walker brothers, the Stuarts, the Cavanaghs, and numerous others.

Jacob Brehler, who was married to Jacob Heiler's daughter (Berlin) opened the first wagon-shop on the present post office site. Peter Levan had a tin-shop where the Bank of Nova Scotia stands; and Detweiler and Shantz established a small foundry where the public library rests.

S. S. Weaver and Peter Winger opened a general store quite early and later founded a woollen-mill and saw-mill, where the Elmira planing-mill stands. Henry Christmann, who arrived in 1851, was a blacksmith and built the Anglo-American hotel on the corner occupied by the Royal Bank. The post-office was then removed to his building. About the same time Adam Zilliax opened a house of public entertainment in a building where now is Klinck's jewelry store. Subsequently his son Henry erected the Zilliax House on the Royal Bank corner, which hotel was one of the best hostelryes in the County.

Henry Winger, son of Peter Winger, afterward purchased the woollen-mill and saw-mill. Later he admitted to partnership his brother J. B. Winger. For a number of years their woollen-mill was the largest employer of labor. Their father was appointed postmaster and had as an assistant his daughter Marie. For more than fifty years Henry Stuernagel carried the mail in a stage coach between Elmira and Berlin and on to Glenallen.

A joint stock company was organized by the villagers and farmers to build and operate a flour-mill. In 1869 the shares were purchased by John and Jacob Ratz, sons of Valentine Ratz of St. Jacobs. Elsewhere Isaac Winger, tailor, and John Ruppel, brick-maker, had founded a general store and built what was long known as the Dunke block. Afterward they dissolved partnership and individually carried on as merchants. Mr. Ruppel introduced his sons John H., Henry, George, and Oscar into mercantile life, and with the exception of John the sons have been merchants ever since. Their father was later appointed postmaster, and had as his successor Philip Christmann.

Previously in 1871 Isaac Winger had bought Jacob Ratz's interest in the flour-mill, trading as Ratz & Winger. Four years afterward Mr. Winger sold his share to Mr. Ratz and moved to Ayton. Mr. Ratz was an enterprising citizen and operated a saw-mill, stave and heading factory and cooper-shop as well as the flour-mill. When Elmira (so named in 1853) was incorporated as a village in 1886, John Ratz was chosen as its first reeve. After his death his sons Simon, Daniel, and George operated the mills.

A short time before the flour-mill was opened Hiram Martin built a sash and door factory. It was the forerunner of Carl Ruppel's and Heimbacher & Jung's furniture factories. In 1886 Peter Jansen, plow-maker, and Absolem Merner of Waterloo started a foundry for making agricultural machinery. Later Mr. Merner bought Mr. Jansen's interest. Still later the foundry was amalgamated with the Merner-Bricker foundries of Waterloo and functioned as the Waterloo Manufacturing Company. For a number of years S. Laschinger was manager of the Elmira foundry.

In addition to the merchants already mentioned as catering to the public of earlier years were: Wm. Wachsmuth, hardware; James Nichol, dry goods; Joshua Bowman, general merchant; Jacob Dunke, Henry Dunke, his son A. K. Dunke, and son-in-law, A. W. Feick, general merchandise; Menno Weber and A. H. Erb, and on their staff, Will Behrens, general merchants; Jonathan Uttley, shipper of grain, pork, and produce; Michael Weichel, hardware, with his son John S., son-in-law, Oscar Ruppel, and sons H. O., and W. G. Weichel. Mr. Weichel opened also a hardware store in Waterloo and placed its management in the hands of his son, W. G. Weichel. The latter was elected to a seat in the House of Commons and subsequently to the Ontario Legislature.

## CHURCHES

Elmira is a church-going community and has a number of denominational bodies. St. James' Lutheran Church is the oldest. The congregation erected a log church on the site of the present edifice in 1851. Among the first ministers were the Reverends Kaesman, Rau, Sallinger, and Warnke, while the Rev. A. R. Schultz was pastor of the church for twenty-five years. A brick church was afterward built, which was the predecessor of the present handsome structure erected in 1914. For a number of years the St. Jacobs and Conestogo Lutheran Churches were affiliated with St. James.

The Berlin Methodist Church opened a mission in Elmira in 1848 and charged Charles Fish with the work. In 1855 the congregation built a small brick church on the Link Belt Company's grounds. In 1875 the members erected the present church on Arthur Street, now the United Church.

The Old Mennonite Church was built in 1854 on West Church Street. It is a white frame building. The oldest stone in the churchyard bears the date of 1855. Peter Martin was the first preacher. The congregation follows the precepts of the founder, Menno Simons, who laid the foundation of the society in 1556.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a branch of the original St. James' congregation, was organized in 1862, and is a unit of the Missouri Synod. Their first pastor was the Rev. Mr. Wiegman. Later the Rev. A. Ernst followed and served the church for about nineteen years. He ministered also to congregations in Floradale, Salem, and Linwood. His immediate successor was the Rev. Mr. Dupernill. Both Lutheran congregations are strong in numbers and noted for their church choirs.

A branch of the Evangelical Association was formed in 1854. At first the members met in the homes and a vacant store. They progressed and in 1869 built a church. Among the first ministers were: the Revs. Brandt, Finkbeiner, Dippel, Thomas, Rieder, Leibold.

Gale Presbyterian Church was erected in 1868. Before it was built the members attended services in Presbyterian Churches in other villages. After the church was opened the Rev. A. M. Hamilton, of Winterbourne long ministered to the congregation.

When the village was small the members of the Roman Catholic faith attended the services in a frame church several miles north of Elmira. With the growth of the village their numbers increased and in 1888 the congregation erected a brick church on the corner of Water and Center Streets. For a number of years the Rev. Father Foerster of New Germany officiated. Later St. Theresa Church, as it is named, was in charge of priests from St. Jerome's College. Of late years it has had a resident clergyman.

## SCHOOLS

Elmira's first school was a log building set at the intersection of Arthur and Church Streets. The first teacher was J. F. Metzger. Instruction was confined to the "three Rs". Some of his pupils came long distances through the woods and along the primitive roads, carrying their books and lunches. When school sections were organized Elmira and part of Woolwich adjacent to it comprised S. S. No. 4. To this day that union has continued.

The second school was a brick cottage that stood on the Link Belt property. Afterward the brick building that now is the company's machine shop was built for the higher grades. Subsequently the old Methodist Church on the same lot was utilized for the fourth classes. From about 1861 to 1876 George W. Woodward was principal and an excellent teacher. He was succeeded by David Bean who not only maintained the high

standard set but widened it. The present public school was erected in 1883, with Mr. Bean as principal. Besides preparing pupils for the entrance examination he introduced classes in junior High School work. He gave up his position in 1888 and moved to Waterloo where he purchased the "Chronicle" newspaper, and later the "Berlin Daily Telegraph." A number of years ago a High School was opened. Of the many deeply interested trustees of the early years were Peter Janzen, A. W. Werner, and S. Laschinger.

## MUSIC

From the time of their incoming the German families' innate love of music found expression in their homes, churches, and public entertainments. Orchestras were organized, Glee Clubs and Maennerchors formed. Even an early Turnverein sang joyful choruses, while the singing of the church choirs has ever been of a high order.

A brass band was organized in 1873. One of the first leaders was Henry Glebe of Berlin. Afterward John H. Ruppel served for a long period as bandmaster and leader of the Maennerchor. Some of the members played in the band for more than forty years. Before Elmira boys were old enough to join the adult band they formed a tin-whistle band.

George Vogt was a builder of church or pipe organs and outstandingly musical. He came in 1864 with his wife and family, including a three-year old son named Augustus S., who became a great musician. In his twelfth year he was engaged as organist of St. James' Church; at sixteen he was studying the organ at Hamilton; subsequently was appointed organist by a Methodist Church in St. Thomas; spent a year at the Boston Conservatory of Music; in 1885 was enrolled as a student at a Conservatory of Music in Leipzig, Germany; on returning to Canada was retained by the Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, as organist and choirmaster; in 1894 organized the Mendelssohn Choir which attained international renown, and which competent critics pronounced to be the best in Canada. Later the University of Toronto conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Music. (See Biography 1926 Annual Report W. H. S.)

## LIBRARY

Time was when there were no books in general circulation in Elmira and the nearest bookstore at Berlin. Youths with well-to-do parents subscribed for Boys' Magazines and lent copies to their friends. In 1885 a score of young men made an effort to overcome the dearth of reading matter. They

formed a society whose object was the study of German and English literature, while each member handed over his own private collection of books. George Klinck was the first President; Wm. Weidenhammer, Vice-President; and Henry Delion, Secretary. The members held public entertainments and with the proceeds bought additional books. That society developed into a Mechanics' Institute in 1888. Today it is a public library, well-stocked, and housed in a fine building.

## NEWSPAPERS

Elmira has the only newspaper published in Woolwich. It is named the "Signet" and is owned and edited by George Reeves. The Signet is the outgrowth of several publishing ventures. The first weekly printed in Elmira was the "Maple Leaf," by Thomas Hilliard, founder of the Dominion Life Assurance Company, Waterloo. His printing plant was bought in 1869 by David Wittig and Philip Pfaff. They founded a German weekly and named it the "Elmira Anzeiger." In the same year they sold their paper to Fred and Wm. Delion, who published it for thirteen years. In 1882 Delion brothers issued an English edition called the "Elmira Advertiser," which they afterward sold to George Beavers. Subsequent owners of the Advertiser were: C. C. Delion, Henry Delion and Casper Ziegler, and C. W. Schierholtz.

George Klinck and Arnold Jansen founded the "Signet," in 1893. In 1913 the Signet and Advertiser were amalgamated, with Mr. Schierholtz and Mr. Klinck as proprietors, the united papers becoming the Signet. In 1918 Mr. Klinck purchased his partner's interest.

## OTHER SERVICES

Elmira procured a branch of the Traders Bank in 1885, with James Nichol as manager. In 1891 the Elmira-Waterloo branch of the Grand Trunk Railway was constructed, and later a branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

A Board of Trade was organized in 1895, which may be said to have made a town out of a village. Dr. H. Ulyott was the first President; George Klinck, Vice-President; and L. P. Snyder, Secretary.

Elmira, which was incorporated as a village in 1866, was erected a town in 1922. From its first incorporation until the present, John H. Ruppel has filled the position of clerk, a period of nearly fifty years.

The people of Elmira are industrious, thrifty, and home-loving. There was a period when more than ninety per cent.

of its residents owned their own homes. For a considerable time, when the late Jacob Dunke was treasurer, there was never a year when a single cent of taxes went unpaid when due. Among the men who invested freely in industrial enterprises in earlier years were Michael Weichel, Menno Weber, and A. J. Kimmel.

## THE WALLACE CLAIMS

It has been seen that William Wallace of Niagara once owned the German Company Tract and the Crooks Tract in Woolwich. The latter was escheated by the Commissioners of Forfeited Estates after the War of 1812-'14. His son, John Washington Wallace of New York, entered a claim to all the lands in Woolwich Township and to part of Waterloo Township in 1859. In Woolwich his claim included the oldest settled farms and flourishing villages. The son denied his father's signature on the deed of the German Company Tract and the legality of the Crooks Tract escheatment.

Ejectment suits were entered in May of 1859 against Elisha Hewitt of the Crooks Tract and against John Groff and Andrew Groff Sr. of the Germany Company Tract. Those were test cases. Fifty other farmers received letters from Wallace's lawyers ordering them to go down to Toronto and settle with Wallace for his claim. The suits alarmed the residents of both townships. Public meetings were held to consider what had best be done. The upshot was that it was determined to defend the suits and to assist the three threatened farmers. Shortly afterward John Wallace gave his version of the claims in the "Toronto Leader," saying,

### John W. Wallace's Story

My father, William Wallace, was born a British subject and never took the oath of allegiance to any government. He came to Canada about 1773 or 1774, while the British Government held both sides of the Niagara River and when New York State was a wilderness from the Mohawk Valley to the Niagara River. He married the daughter of a British subject and all his children were born British subjects.

In the year 1797 my father purchased of the Six Nations Indians 86,078 acres of land on the Grand River; the Townships of Woolwich and Pilkington comprising the block. He gave the requisite securities for the same, and in 1798 the Government gave him a crown grant in confirmation of the Indian deed.

He sold a portion of this land to a Mr. Pilkington, but there is no deed to show that he sold any to the German Company. That company cannot show a deed for it, and the memorial they show is an illegal instrument. In addition to which, in 1830, that company, or their successors, represented to a committee of the legislative council, of whom, I think, Chief Justice Robinson was one, that they had purchased the land direct from the Indians, though the committee could not find a particle of evidence that the company had ever paid a cent for the land. This was done while they were selling under a pretended title from my father.

My father was taken a prisoner by the American forces in May 1813, before the law was passed declaring that all parties who had been citizens of the United States but claimed to be citizens of Canada, were incapable of holding land in Canada. He was forcibly carried out of Canada and detained a prisoner until peace was declared. This can be proved by a number of witnesses, among whom are U. S. officers. Owing to causes over which he had no control it was impossible for him to return and so under a legal construction of the law of 1814 it cannot be made to embrace my father. Besides the commission issued against my father under the law has so many radical defects that it will destroy itself.

Thus wrote John Wallace.

With regard to the German Company Tract the memorial of sale given by Wm. Wallace to John and Jacob Erb is still in existence. It contains the statements that he had sold the land to them and that they, their heirs, and assigns were to hold it forever. These assertions imply that he received payment for the tract. Furthermore, anyone acquainted with the Pennsylvania-Germans knows that they are punctilious in the payment of their debts and in fulfilling either verbal or written contracts. On the other hand John Wallace did not claim in his letter that his father ever paid the Indians for Block No. 3; instead of that "he gave the requisite securities." There is evidence to show that the only benefits the Indians ever received from their crown grant of 144 square miles on the Grand River was from the purchases made by the German Company.

In relation to the Crooks Tract of 7,048 acres which the commissioners escheated, the question naturally arises, is it not likely that they examined also the title of the German Company's tract to ascertain whether its members had rightfully procured it from Wm. Wallace. Had they found that the

Mennonites had not bought and paid for their 45,000 acres, they would have also declared it forfeit.

John Wallace's suits, however, caused a deal of dread, notwithstanding that he had waited fifty-two years after the German Company Tract had been sold and forty-five years after the Crooks Tract had been escheated before entering an action at law. Why did his father, if the son's claims were valid, not enter suit after his liberation by the Americans in 1814? A Niagara newspaper in 1859 remarked that the son's claim that his father had been forcibly carried off was the first intimation that William Wallace had not gone willingly. The case was heard at Berlin and subsequently at Stratford. The jury found that Wm. Wallace had been an outlaw and thus incapable of holding land or tenements in Canada. John W. Wallace vanished and was never heard of again. Later Michael Hamilton Foley, M.P. for North Waterloo, had an Act passed by the government of Canada confirming the land-owners of Woolwich and Waterloo townships in the possession of their farms and urban lots.

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**Isaac Erb Bowman.** 1932. By W. H. Breithaupt, C. E. Waterloo Historical Society.

**Enterprising Elmira.** 1903. George Klinck. Courtesy of H. O. Weichel.

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## GLIMPSES OF THE INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES OF WATERLOO COUNTY ABOUT FIFTY YEARS AGO

D. N. Panabaker

The Eighth decade of the 19th Century, witnessed in this part of Canada, as undoubtedly in other parts also, the introduction of new types of agricultural machinery and the development and improvement of those machines which had made their advent earlier, most of which had been more or less cumbersome and were lacking the features necessary for quick and convenient operation, which in "the seventies" and later became, so to speak, regular equipment.

No doubt the same could be said of the machinery for other purposes than agriculture, and also in the sphere of carriage and waggon making, that decade brought about considerable refinement in all classes of vehicles for the road.

In the latter connection might be mentioned single horse buggies and democrats of lighter construction than formerly and some of the buggies with covers or tops which could be turned back in fine weather, if desired, and which only came generally in use toward the end of the decade mentioned or early in the eighties.

No doubt the more general use of steel, following the reduction in its cost which resulted from improved methods of production by the Bessemer and other processes, was fundamentally responsible for the lighter and improved machinery here spoken of and the same explanation, in addition to better

roads, may be given for the refinements mentioned in carriage construction.

In any event, so far as Waterloo County is concerned, one finds on reference to directories issued at that time, evidence of much activity hereabouts in the manufacture of all sorts of machinery and equipment generally in use and particularly in use among farmers.

From the widespread diffusion of these many small manufacturing plants and shops throughout the County and its environs, in the hamlets, villages, and towns, and by the study of the variety and scope of the occupations by which employment was given to so many men, particularly in the production of machinery and equipment for those engaged in farming, one sees considerable justification for the idea which has been promulgated so generally, that agriculture should be considered as a basic, if not the basic industry.

Perhaps in the period to which we are devoting our attention, agriculture was more actually basic in its relative position to industry than it is at present, in the sense that other industries were engaged so largely in supplying the necessities of those on the farms and employed in farm work.

Be this as it may, and we will have to look to our economists to reach a decision on the point, we must here content ourselves with the presentation of data available to us, concerning the industries in the various centres of the county, as found in a Gazetteer and Directory published in 1878.

It should be noted that this list of industries is compiled mainly from those who appear as advertisers in the Directory referred to and is not a complete list by any means of the manufacturing plants and shops in existence at the time, in this County.

For example, in the woollen industry, some of the important factories are not found among the advertisers, and in other trades, the foundries among them, we also find prominent names omitted. We must not conclude that all those who failed to become advertisers were of Scotch descent but it is true that several of them were, and we must leave it to our readers to determine whether their non-appearance among those who were spending money on advertising at the time was prompted by Scotch canniness or something seated more deeply. Native modesty may have been the cause, but this is not borne out by the superlatives found in the description of the products manufactured by others of their countrymen.

Whatever the reason, it is to be regretted that our list could not have been more complete; however it will serve to illustrate with sufficient emphasis the extensive activity throughout the County in a great variety of enterprises.

From the following memo, we have purposely omitted the names of millers, which has been covered for a slightly earlier period by a previous article (pages 104 to 105) in our Annual Report for the year 1929.

### LIST OF THOSE ADVERTISING IN ARMSTRONG & CO'S. GAZETTEER AND DIRECTORY FOR WATERLOO COUNTY FOR 1878

#### 1. Makers of Carriages, Waggons, etc., Cutters, Sleighs:

Louis Huehnergard,	near Bamberg. (Also made plows).
Chas. Klemmer,	Bloomingtondale.
J. D. Miller & Sons,	Bridgeport. (Also made tools).
Stricker & Huck,	Berlin. (now Kitchener).
Emanuel P. Bowman,	Conestoga.
John S. Miller,	Elmira.
B. G. Wahl,	Elmira.
Henry C. Bartlett,	Linwood.
James Anderson,	Hespeler.
Robert Beger,	New Hamburg.
Frederick Merner,	New Hamburg.
Hamacher & Simpson,	Preston. (Brewster buggy).
John Wellein,	Strasburg.
John Starr,	St. Clements.
Moses P. Bowman,	St. Jacobs.
Hy. Ortwein,	St. Jacobs.
F. Merner & Co.	Waterloo.
Dunch & Biggs,	Waterloo.
Wm. Doersam,	Wellesley.
John J. Fleischman,	Wellesley.
Wm. Smith,	Winterbourne.

#### 2. Makers of Children's Carriages, etc.:

These were probably of the two wheel variety then common, sometimes made with a third small wheel in front, under the tongue, to support the carriage when standing still.

H. A. Ziegler,	Berlin, King St. East,
Alex Morton,	Ayr.



Typical old wagon shop about 1880. Puslinch Township.

3. Lumber Mills, Lath, Shingles, Heading and Stave:

Reid Brothers,	Ayr, (N. Dumfries Lot 31 Con. 10)
Erb & Oberholtzer,	Bloomingtondale.
I. E. Shantz,	Bridgeport.
Shirk & Snider,	Bridgeport.
Ratz & Kaufman,	Berlin.
Chas. Kreuzinger,	Erbsville, 5 miles N. W. of Waterloo.
Ruppel & Fenner,	Elmira.
John Ratz,	Elmira.
Walter K. Dryden,	Drydensville, (N. Dumfries, 9th. Con. Lot 23)
A. & J. Clemens,	Fishers Mills.
Holm's Mills,	North of Hespeler.
John Bisch,	Linwood.
D. L. Knechtel & Co.,	Mannheim.
James Barton,	Roseville
Louis Kribs,	Hespeler.

4. Makers of Sash, Doors, Blinds and Mouldings:

Wm. Henderson,	Ayr. (Also made wooden eavestroughs and cisterns.)
Alex. Matheson,	Ayr.
Ratz & Kaufman,	Berlin.
Hy. Wiederhold,	New Hamburg.
Louis Kribs,	Hespeler.
Fred Guggisberg,	Preston.
Hoffman, Wegenast & Co.,	Waterloo.

5. Makers of Picture Frames, etc.:

Jos. Gillespie,	Ayr.
E. Radigan,	Galt.

6. Makers of wooden taps, bench and hand screws, bungs, vents and pumps:

Note:—Screws made of wood, were used in a variety of ways in addition to that commonly made of them for vices on carpenter's work benches.

Chas. Guenzler,	Elmira.
Robert Knox,	Ayr (Wooden pumps for hotels, schools and farmers)
Simpson, Anthes & Co.,	Berlin. (A steam factory)
Louis Miller,	Linwood. (Pumps)
Edward Panabaker,	Hespeler. (Pumps)

7. Makers of wooden rakes, fork handles, etc.:  
M. S. Wegenest, Waterloo.
8. Makers of barrels, kegs, etc.:  
J. H. Roos, Doon.
9. Makers of Furniture:  
Fred Guggisberg, Preston. (Established 1838.)  
Henry Heise, Preston. (Chairs, bedsteads,  
sofas, bureaux, tables, stands.)  
Hoffman, Wegenast & Co., Waterloo.
10. Makers of tin, copper and sheet-iron ware:  
C. E. Moyer, Berlin. (Moffatt and Draper  
old stand).  
Peter Levan, Elmira.  
J. W. Oaks, Hawkesville.  
John Zryd, Hespeler.  
Peter F. Schummer, St. Clements.
11. Makers of Plows:  
B. Bell & Son, St. George.  
Made Hill's Patent plow, gardeners' one horse plow,  
double mould or drill plows, imported steel mould  
boards and shares.  
John Watson, Ayr.  
Made gang, subsoil, side-hill, double mould board  
and jointer plows. Exhibited at Phila. Centennial,  
Australia and New York State, Buffalo Inter-  
national, etc.  
Louis Huehnergard, Near Bamberg.  
A. Merner, Waterloo.  
Gang plows, wrought iron, and cast iron beam plows.  
Detwiler & Shantz, Preston.  
Wrought iron beam plows with steel or cast mould  
boards.  
N. Killer, Son & Co., Waterloo. (GEM plows.)  
Thos. Bell, Wellesley.  
(Wrought and cast iron beams.)  
Knechtel & Schaub, Wellesley.
12. Harrows:  
Louis Huehnergard, Near Bamberg.  
Michael McDermott, New Hamburg.  
Detwiler & Shantz, Preston.  
N. Killer, Son & Co., Waterloo.  
Knechtel & Schaub, Wellesley.

13. Makers of cultivators:

- (a) B. Bell & Son, St. George.  
(Wrought iron axles, largest wheels in use, bored pipe box in hub, narrow wrought teeth, wide steel shares for thistles). Introduced in 1870. Also corn cultivators.
- (b) John Watson, Ayr.  
(cultivators and scufflers.)
- (c) Detwiler & Shantz, Preston.  
(cultivators and scarifiers.)
- (d) N. Killer, Son & Co., Waterloo.
- (e) Thos. Bell, Wellesley.
- (f) Knechtel & Schaub, Wellesley.

14. Makers of land rollers:

- (a) (b) (c) and (f) named above.

15. Makers of seed-drills, and turnip drills:

- B. Bell & Son, St. George.  
Fred Merner, New Hamburg.  
(Celebrated Folding Seed Drill exhibited at Philadelphia Centennial in 1876.)
- Detwiler & Shantz, Preston.  
A. Merner, Waterloo.

16. Makers of mowers:

- B. Bell & Son, St. George.  
(New Model Canadian mower-front cut. All steel shafting, "lightest draft in Dominion".)
- Detwiler & Shantz, Preston.  
(Celebrated Johnston mower-back cut, also Dufferin front cut.)

17. Makers of reapers:

- B. Bell & Son, St. George.  
("The Old St. George, for a number of years unrivalled for durability and ease of management. Also the New Victor — 700 lbs. a medium machine superior to any of the light reapers. Driver has complete control, by levers to raise cutter to pass over obstacles while in motion".)
- Detwiler & Shantz, Preston.  
(The Maxwell Reaper.)

18. Makers of horse-rakes:

- Detwiler & Shantz, Preston.  
(Sharp's sulky hay rake, with self regulating dumper.)

A. Merner, Waterloo.  
 (Merner's famous horse rake and self dump.)  
 Thos. Bell, Wellesley.

Note—No mention is made of the old fashioned wooden drag rake commonly used 60 years ago, behind which the operator walked, and held the rake (barring accidents) with a handle, also used to dump at the windrow. A boy usually rode the horse to guide the work from the 'forecastle'. He had 'sea-legs' when the day's work closed.

19. Makers of hay forks for unloading:  
 Andrew White, Galt. (White patent.)
20. Makers of threshing machines:  
 John Watson, Ayr.  
 Detwiler & Shantz, Preston.  
 (Celebrated combination.)  
 A. Merner, Waterloo.  
 (A two wheel (cart) machine called Merner's celebrated self regulating separator, with single and double horse power.)
21. Makers of straw cutters and root cutters:  
 A. Bell & Son, St. George.  
 A. Merner, Waterloo.  
 N. Killer, Son & Co., Waterloo.
22. Makers of grain choppers:  
 N. Killer, Son & Co., Waterloo.
23. Makers of corn shellers:  
 John Watson, Ayr.
24. Makers of machine saws:  
 B. Bell & Son, St. George.  
 (Drag and circular saws.)  
 John Watson, Ayr.  
 (Drag and circular saws.)  
 A. Merner, Waterloo.
25. Makers of road making machinery:  
 B. Bell & Son, St. George.  
 (Advertised descriptive Catalogue.)
26. Makers of blacksmiths' machinery:  
 Andrew Jardine, Hespeler.  
 Drilling machines, taps and dies (Best in the Dominion.)

27. Makers of axes, tools, knives, etc.:
- |                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| J. D. Miller & Sons, | Bridgeport. |
|----------------------|-------------|
- (Axes and edge tools, gun and locksmiths, butchers utensils, choppers, cleavers, knives and sausage machines, pump-augers, drills, etc., also stamp cutting.)
28. Makers of engines, boilers, etc.:
- |             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Jacob Beck, | Baden. |
|-------------|--------|
- (Horizontal engines 'Beck's Corliss'.)
29. Makers of bricks, tiles, etc.:
- |            |       |
|------------|-------|
| John Tilt, | Doon. |
|------------|-------|
30. Makers of saddles, harness and collars:
- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| John P. Luckhardt, | Elmira.      |
| Gottlieb Pommer,   | Linwood.     |
| C. Schildroth,     | New Hamburg. |
| Ed. C. Hardy,      | New Hamburg. |
| G. Bellingers,     | Wellesley.   |
| Chas. F. Ottmann,  | Wellesley.   |
| Wm. Klein,         | Wellesley.   |
31. Tanneries:
- |                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Louis Breithaupt,    | Berlin.      |
| Reinhold Lang,       | Berlin.      |
| Wm. & John Otto,     | New Hamburg. |
| Forler & Niebergall, | Philipsburg. |
32. Makers of boots and shoes:
- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| John Schnurr,       | Linwood.     |
| Michael Huber,      | Linwood.     |
| Henry Peine,        | New Hamburg. |
| Christian Reinhart, | Preston.     |
| Jacob S. Roos,      | Waterloo.    |
- (Also agent for Wanzer Sewing machines.)
33. Woollen mills:
- (a) McNally & Clemens, Blair.  
Tweeds, full cloths, plain and fancy flannels, shirt-ings, blankets, stocking yarns, etc. Custom carding, spinning, weaving, finishing.
- (b) M. B. & J. S. Perine, Doon.  
(Woollen socks and horse blankets.)
- (c) Henry Winger, Elmira.  
(Same class of products as (a). Took many prizes at Phila. Centennial in 1876.)

- (d) Ellis & Hunt, Speedville.  
 (Same type of products as (a) and (c). Output  
 10,000 yds. cloth annually.)
- (e) Afholder & St. Jacobs.  
 Greyerbiehl, (Products as (a) (c) (d).)
34. Wool pullers:  
 J. Wagner & Co., Galt.
35. Makers of brushes:  
 G. Gress, Preston.  
 Scrub, stove, shoe, cloth, horse, fancy brushes,  
 and machine brushes.
36. Makers of matches:  
 George Timanus, Branchton.  
 (Celebrated lightning matches.)  
 Brown & Devitt, Berlin.
37. Makers of buttons:  
 E. Vogelsang & Co., Berlin.  
 (Ivory buttons, wholesale only.)
38. Makers of sewing machines:  
 Wilkie & Osborn, Guelph.  
 Awarded diplomas at Philadelphia, 1876, also at  
 Sydney, New South Wales and at leading Canadian  
 Exhibitions.
39. Makers of glue and gelatines:  
 Fischer & Co., Berlin.
40. Makers of cider, vinegar, etc.:  
 Wm. Asmus, New Hamburg.  
 J. D. Miller & Sons, Bridgeport.
41. Makers of linseed oil and flax products:  
 J. & J. Livingstone, Baden.  
 Alex. Livingstone, Linwood.
42. Makers of twines, ropes, etc.:  
 M. B. & J. S. Perine, Doon.
43. Makers of bells:  
 Knechtel & Schaub, Wellesley. (up to 1,000 lbs.)
44. Organ builders:  
 George Vogt, Elmira.

45. Brewers and distillers:

Peter Ernst,	Baden.	
(By latest Chicago ice house system.)		
J. & J. Rau,	New Hamburg.	
	(Brewery and malt house.)	
H. Bernhardt,	Preston.	
Geo. Roos,	Preston.	
Christ. Huether,	Waterloo.	
Geo. Randall & Co. (2),	Waterloo.	(Distillers.)

46. Nurseries:

Fred Moyer,	Bridgeport.
Fruit and ornamental trees, apples, pears, plums, shrubs, berries, etc.	

Note—In the foregoing list which covers all lines of manufacture advertised in the directory mentioned (including two firms outside of Waterloo County — St. George and Guelph) no mention is found of stove makers, or makers of iron kettles, chains and other lines which might be mentioned.

Continuing with an analysis of occupations for men in the County and the number in the respective occupations in the different hamlets, villages and towns throughout the County of Waterloo in the year 1878 the reader is referred to the schedule which is appended hereto.

The then population of the County including all its municipalities, rural and urban, is given in Armstrong's Directory as 46,300, distributed as follows:

Municipality	Number of heads of families named in Directory, including widows	Total Population
Waterloo Township—		
Located in hamlets.....	111	630
Rural.....	784	about 7,370
North Dumfries—		
In hamlets.....	47	400
Rural.....	445	about 3,600
Wellesley Township—		
In hamlets including Wellesley village.....	213	2,410
Rural.....	621	about 2,600
Wilmot Township—		
In hamlets.....	217	1,500
Rural.....	748	about 4,500

Woolwich Township—			
In hamlets.....		119	850
Rural.....	532		about 5,150
	<u>3,130</u>	<u>707</u>	<u>29,000</u>
(now)			
Town of Berlin (Kitchener).....	434		about 4,000
Town of Galt.....	447		about 5,000
Village of Hespeler.....	80		about 900
Village of Elmira.....	81		about 1,200
Village of New Hamburg.....	181		about 1,400
Village of Preston.....	132		about 1,500
Village of Waterloo.....	245		about 3,000
Village of Ayr.....	119		about 900
	<u>1,719</u>		<u>17,900</u>
Total names in Directory—			
(Heads of families living)			
In Townships.....		3,130	
In Township hamlets.....	707		
In Towns and Villages.....	<u>1,719</u>	2,426	
		<u>2,426</u>	
		5,556	
Total population.....			46,900

Average of about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  persons to each family.

### Classification of occupations of heads of families in Waterloo County in 1878—from Armstrong's Directory.

- Note:—1. No attempt is here made to distinguish the occupations of families in the townships, except those whose names appear in the directory as living in the hamlets. All residents outside the towns, villages and hamlets are included in the unspecified totals, which will largely represent those engaged on the farms.
2. Only the heads of families are included in the following analysis of occupations; it would be safe to assume that in many cases the young men were following or assisting in the work of their fathers' occupations. Also due to the common practice then of apprenticeship in the trades, the numbers given in the various occupations would be subject to considerable increase, due to those employed as apprentices, but unclassified in the directory.

Occupations	of residents of incorporated Towns & Villages	Rural Hamlets	Totals
Carpenters.....	110	45	155
Masons.....	58	13	71
Builders (not specified).....	6	2	8
Painters.....	24	9	33
Brick and tile makers.....	6	4	10
Lime burners.....	2	1	3
Saw millers and employees.....	13	12	25
Furniture and cabinet makers	38	8	46
Flour millers and employees....	18	31	49
Bakers.....	15	2	17
Blacksmiths.....	47	38	85
Tinsmiths.....	15	9	24
Gunsmiths.....	1	0	1
Watch makers and jewellers ...	18	2	20
Foundry and machine shop men	67	14	81
Engineers.....	3	6	9
Firemen.....	5	0	5
Draughtsmen.....	1	0	1
Pump makers (wooden pumps)	10	4	14
Well diggers.....	2	2	4
Waggon makers.....	32	35	67
Shoe makers.....	56	32	88
Tanners.....	7	10	17
Saddlers and harness makers..	20	16	36
Tailors.....	31	22	53
Woolen, flax and other textile men—			
General (not specified)....	11	17	28
Carders.....	1	1	2
Spinners.....	4	0	4
Dyers.....	2	0	2
Finishers.....	20	5	25
Knitters.....	2	0	2
Rope makers.....	0	3	3
Weavers (mostly hand loom)...	15	15	30
Broom makers.....	2	0	2
Brush makers.....	1	1	2
Button makers.....	1	0	1
Printers.....	21	0	21
Bookbinders.....	3	0	3
Cheese makers.....	0	3	3
Soap makers and ash gatherers	2	2	4
Glue makers.....	2	1	3
Chandlers.....	1	0	1
Butchers and drovers.....	25	9	34
Livery men.....	9	2	11

Bus drivers.....	2	0	2
Mail carriers.....	2	3	5
Railway men.....	6	12	18
Teamsters.....	13	14	27
Potters.....	6	0	6
Marble cutters.....	5	0	5
Coopers.....	32	15	47
Basket makers.....	2	1	3
Cigar makers.....	4	0	4
Barbers.....	6	3	9
Billiard-room proprietor.....	1	0	1
Hotel keepers.....	40	36	76
Brewers and distillers.....	17	3	20
Vinegar and cider makers.....	2	1	3
Manufacturers (Proprietors) several included in the re- spective headings above.....	36	13	49
Agents.....	16	4	20
Pedlars.....	3	5	8
Auctioneers.....	3	0	3
Insurance Co. (men and agents)	7	3	10
Merchants (including druggists)	121	51	172
Clerks and bookkeepers.....	41	6	47
Postmasters (not otherwise employed)	5	10	15
Bankers.....	10	0	10
Lawyers.....	7	7	14
Doctors.....	26	9	35
Veterinary surgeons.....	3	5	8
Dentists.....	5	1	6
Surveyors.....	4	0	4
Clergymen.....	26	11	37
Teachers and school officials.....	15	5	20
Government and municipal officers	38	7	45
Music teachers.....	3	0	3
Organ builder.....	1	0	1
Artists.....	6	0	6
Photographers.....	3	0	3
Gardeners.....	4	1	5
Nurserymen.....	2	1	3
Laborers.....	131	28	159
Retired men.....	79	35	114
Occupations not specified (including widows).....	259	41	300
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,719	707	2,426
Occupations not specified of those living in the Town- ships (mostly engaged on the farms).....			3,130
			<hr/>
			5,556

## **PIONEER WOOLLEN MILLS IN PRESTON, HESPELER AND VICINITY**

Waterloo County - Ontario  
And their connection with later Textile Industries

**D. N. Panabaker**

Less than one hundred years ago, the making of woollens in this district was still almost entirely an enterprise of the homes of the pioneer residents.

The settlement of the County of Waterloo which began in 1800, by the Pennsylvania Dutch, from the Counties of Lancaster, Montgomery, Chester and adjoining sections of Pennsylvania, the Quaker State, had within two decades, included quite a number of immigrants from European countries, particularly Great Britain and Germany.

A large number of the early settlers brought with them, spinning wheels and a number also had hand looms, or possibly improvised them after they took up their homes in this new country.

The necessity for this equipment is quite obvious, since these people found woollens (clothing, blankets, etc.) of prime importance in the winter months in this latitude.

The prevalence of this equipment among the pioneers of this County is also not surprising in another respect, for the majority of the Pennsylvanian emigrants were Mennonites and while for generations these people had been generally speaking, husbandmen, many of them were artisans and so many of them were weavers that we are told by Roosen, a reliable Mennonite historian, certain woven and also knitted fabrics were known in the countries in which they had lived, as Mennonite goods. Also tracing these Mennonites back to their sources, there is no doubt that a number of the families descended from the Waldenses, who are said to have carried the art of weaving from Flanders into Holland and to have so generally followed that trade as in many localities to have gone by the name of tisserands, or weavers.

The pioneer settlers in this district of which we are particularly speaking, while largely farmer folk, had a good representation of tradesmen, blacksmiths, carpenters, shoemakers, etc., among them; and the artisans themselves in many instances carried on farming operations as well as their respective trades

and in the majority of the farm homes, members of the families, especially the women, did the spinning and other processes in connection with the making of woollen cloths and knitted articles such as socks, mittens, etc.; the carding of the wool was also largely the work of the women, after the wool had been clipped from the sheep, which usually were washed in the local running streams previous to clipping.

This was the general situation until some time after 1830, as there is no record of a carding or spinning mill in these parts previous to that time.

There is in the family records of some of these early settlers, evidence that some of the men also were identified with the trade of weaving, for instance one George Shoemaker who had served his apprenticeship as a weaver in a small textile plant in Upper Salford, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, before coming to this County in 1825, had the first year of his arrival here set up a small weaving shop a little north of Preston. However the records indicate that he found this unprofitable, for within a year he had engaged himself to a farmer and presently took up farming as his main pursuit.

#### THE BEGINNING OF WOOLLEN FACTORIES IN WATERLOO COUNTY

The records of Waterloo County pioneer families, would indicate that Jacob S. Shoemaker who was connected with the Montgomery County Woollen Mill, in Pennsylvania, referred to previously, was one of the earliest to bring a woollen mill into operation in this County.

Mr. Shoemaker immigrated to this County in 1820 and about nine years later became the founder of the Village of Bridgeport, now a suburb of Kitchener. He erected saw-mills at Bridgeport in 1829, flour-mills in 1830, and distillery and woollen factory within a few years later.

However to devote our attention to the development of this industry in the immediate vicinity of Preston and Hespeler, which is our purpose, we find that to a German blacksmith by the name of Charles Wiffler, is credited the idea of starting the first carding shop in Preston.

This man is said to have acquired a water power privilege on the Speed River at the east end of Preston about the year 1832. It appears however that he did not succeed very well in his effort to operate his small carding shop and after ten years he sold his premises to one Hiram Kinsman, who was more successful.

Mr. Kinsman erected, near the site of the present George Pattinson Co. Limited Mills, a two-storey frame building and for a few years did custom carding for the farmers in the vicinity. In 1845 one Robert Hunt purchased the premises and added a stone factory building to the earlier plant and did a thriving business which necessitated additions to his plant at frequent intervals, but unfortunately a fire destroyed his entire plant. In 1885 Mr. Hunt formed a partnership with Mr. Andrew Elliott and they proceeded to enlarge the equipment and extend the business. Mr. Hunt's sons later succeeded him as partners with Mr. Elliott and although fire again caused the destruction of the main buildings and machinery they were at once replaced.

Tracing the connection of this plant with the present modern and extensive enterprise conducted by the Pattinson Co. after several changes in ownership, the property in 1875-76 came into possession of Messrs. Robinson, Hoswell & Co. who carried on the business until 1881. Then upon the death of Mr. Wm. Robinson, Mr. George Pattinson, now deceased, and the late Honorable John Ferguson acquired his interest in the premises. Eight years later, on Mr. Hoswell's death, entire possession of the property came to Messrs. Ferguson and Pattinson and June 13th, 1898, Mr. George Pattinson himself succeeded to the sole ownership and conducted the business under the name of George Pattinson & Company until Sept. 1st, 1920 when incorporation was granted the firm, under its present title.

Since the death of Mr. George Pattinson, May 10th, 1931 and for some years previously, the active management of the business has been in the hands of his son, Mr. Frank Pattinson.

For several decades (since 1881) this Preston industry, has, in its connection with Mr. Pattinson and his son and their associates, enjoyed an enviable reputation, for stability, integrity, and honorable principles in the conduct of their business and in the attitude of the firm to its customers and employees, and the products of this long established industry are still recognized as leaders in their respective lines.

Too great a tribute could not be paid to the honor of the late Mr. George Pattinson, who, born in Haltwhistle, Northumberland, England, July 17th, 1854, came in his 16th year to Canada, and at the age of 17, settled in Preston, taking up work in connection with this plant with which he was associated until his death 60 years later. His father and grand-

father were in the woollen manufacturing business in England, so that with his and his son's continuance in this line of industry, four generations have been identified therewith.

### OTHER EARLY DEVELOPMENTS

Alongside of the Preston Woollen Mills, a little farther up stream, on the Speed River, a smaller woollen manufacturing unit took form.

In the "Seventies" this woollen factory at Speedsville was still doing considerable custom work for the local farmers, in carding wool into rolls, for those farmer matrons who still had a preference to do their own spinning. The little plant also had its own spinning equipment also a number of looms which produced a line of flannels, tweeds, etc., which had good wearing quality as well as some features not so desirable. The equipment for the removal of burry and other vegetable matter from the native wool was conspicuously absent in this plant, and the flannel shirting produced in the early days out of local coarse and medium quality wools, worked up in this and other similar little woollen mills located on the streams, tributary to the Grand River, had inherent tendencies to impart what might be termed "school-girl-complexions" to the skin of the wearers. The Speedsville Mill dates from about 1860 and is still in operation in a small way.

Other such small woollen plants as the one at Speedsville serving the local farmers in their modest way in the early years of settlement of this district, might be mentioned. There was one at West Montrose, established by another enterprising blacksmith, named Jacob Bonner, about 1839. There was also one at Chicopee, on the Grand River, from an early date, doing similar service. The Chicopee Mill is no longer operating as a textile plant, nor is the West Montrose plant.

### HESPELER—AN EARLY WOOLLEN MANUFACTURING CENTRE

Jacob Hespeler came in 1845 to the hamlet which up to the time of its incorporation as a village in 1858, had been known as New Hope, and which from that time was named Hespeler, in honor of the enterprising gentleman who had become identified with its progress.

For some years previous to 1845, Mr. Hespeler, had conducted several lines of business in Preston which he continued to carry on for some years later. His coming to Preston dated from the early thirties. Smith's Canada, of 1851, in a local directory edition, records Mr. Hespeler as proprietor of a

grist mill, a distillery, vinegar works and cooperage in Preston, besides being classed as a storekeeper, postmaster and magistrate of that village. In the same directory, 1851, in New Hope, Mr. Hespeler appears as operating grist mills, saw mills and a cooperage.

Mr. Hespeler was a native of Wuerttemberg, Germany, having come to New York in his youth, where after a brief business experience he became interested in the fur trade and represented in Western America the interests of John Jacob Astor and later the Hudson Bay Company.

Coming to Canada he settled in Preston at about the age of twenty years and his ability and capacity for successful management of business soon became manifest in his various enterprises there.

The first woollen mills in Hespeler, then still New Hope, were located in a large stone building on the south bank of the Speed River, now the site of The Stamped and Enamelled Co. Limited property.

This building adjoined Mr. Hespeler's flour mills, saw mills and distillery, and he completed the erection of this large woollen mill about 1862. It was however completely gutted by a destructive fire in the winter of 1869 and then stood as a ruins for many years.

The heavy stone walls of this Hespeler mill were so well built that in 1881, after Messrs. Harvey and McQuestion of Hamilton, purchased the site from The Bank of Montreal, (Dec. 7th, 1880) the walls served for a reconstructed building in which the main operations of the new company then formed, were carried on, under the name of Hespeler Manufacturing Company, in which Mr. Jonathan Schofield along with Harvey and McQuestion, became associated.

More extensive reference to Mr. Schofield's connection with woollen manufacturing in Hespeler and elsewhere will be made presently.

The Hespeler Manufacturing Company ceased operations after a few years and the buildings and machinery stood idle for some time, when Mr. Alexander Brodie and his father, from Peterboro, purchased the premises, again from The Bank of Montreal. The purchase was completed August 1st, 1888, and operations in woollen manufacturing in these premises were resumed in 1889.

The Brodies carried on the business with commendable energy, making large extensions from time to time, but with

the introduction and extension of the British Preferential Tariff features of the Laurier-Fielding administration at Ottawa, this large and modernly equipped plant employing as many as five hundred hands found it impossible to compete with similar lines of goods being imported from Great Britain.

The Hespeler mills were consolidated with a number of other plants located in Waterloo, Markham and elsewhere, in order to endeavour to reduce overhead charges, etc., but eventually the entire group was forced into insolvency and all of them practically ceased operating as woollen mills and the machinery, much of it of an expensive nature, became the property of junk dealers.

Fortunately this series of "ups and downs" which identified the enterprises at the site of Jacob Hespeler's original woollen mill, were not repeated in another local woollen and worsted plant which commenced operation under other auspices a few years later than the Jacob Hespeler mill.

#### THE R. FORBES COMPANY LIMITED

The organization which up to June 1928, had been for 58 years associated with the name of Forbes, has an interesting history of which our space will admit of only a mere outline.

Since July 1st, 1928, the operation of the Hespeler plant and its subsidiary, The Orillia Worsted Company, Limited, has been under the corporation known as Dominion Woollens & Worsteds Limited, with which R. Forbes Co. Limited, the former operating company has now no connection.

This Hespeler industry began its eventful career in the year 1870, when Jonathon Schofield, already referred to in connection with a later venture, and the late Robert Forbes erected a stone factory building in the centre of Hespeler, just east of the present Town Hall block, on the site of what had many years previously been a tannery operated by Mr. Forbes but had later given place to a stave factory.

Mr. Schofield was born in 1830, in Rochdale, Lancashire, England, but the date of his coming to Canada, the writer has not been able to ascertain. Sutherland's Directory of 1864 refers to him in its Hespeler section, as a weaver. At that time he had some hand looms in operation on the corner of Queen and Cooper Streets, in Hespeler, and he distributed his products along with other wares throughout the local countryside with a horse drawn waggon. After severing his partnership with Mr. Forbes and later upon the dissolution of The Hespeler Manufacturing Co. he removed to Paris, Ont.,

and later still founded the Oshawa enterprise which since his death in 1892, has been carried on successfully by his son Mr. Charles Schofield, and is now known as the Schofield Woollen Co. Limited.

Mr. Schofield's partner in this early venture in Hespeler, Mr. Robert Forbes was born in Kinrosshire, Scotland, in 1814, his coming to Canada taking place in 1836.

Smith's Directory, 1851, refers to him as proprietor of a tannery, shoe store and saw mill, but the latter was not located in Hespeler.

The small woollen mills which these gentlemen (Schofield and Forbes) erected in 1870 contained about 24 narrow looms with the accompanying woollen cards and spinning equipment.

Forbes Park shows the transformation from what sixty years ago was the mill pond of the Schofield and Forbes Mill into the present beautiful park, the site for which was in recent years presented to the Town of Hespeler, by Mr. George D. Forbes, the son of the founder of this little industry.

Still standing in the park is the south side of the original factory building erected in 1870, which in 1874-'5 was abandoned for larger premises at the westend of the corporation limits.

Reference to one of the ledgers in use in the early years of this partnership (1870) reveals some interesting items. Much of the business was done by barter, chiefly in wood and wool from the local farmers in exchange for tweeds, flannels, blankets, druggets, knitting yarns, etc.

The barter system seems to have broken down in some instances — for example, in a transaction with a local dentist at that time. The dentist, having purchased some woollens from the firm on credit, it is evident he could only offer his professional services in exchange. The ledger account shows him credited with the pulling of two teeth at 25 cents each, and the balance of the account cancelled as a bad debt. This may have been the origin of the expression "as hard as pulling teeth" referring to the difficulty of collections.

The larger premises into which the machinery of the up-town plant was moved in 1874-'5 had been erected ten years earlier by Messrs. Randall-Farr & Co., who in 1874 moved their equipment for the manufacture of alpaca linings, etc. from Hespeler to Holyoke, Massachusetts, and, accompanied by many of their Hespeler employees, commenced the industry in New England which grew to such vast proportions in succeeding years under the name of The Farr Alpaca Company.

The earlier history of this Randall-Farr Co. should be briefly outlined before concluding with further details of the Forbes Company which succeeded them here.

Mr. Marshall H. Farr had come to Ontario, from Vermont with contracts which he had secured from the Grand Trunk Railway Co. to erect station buildings and freight sheds on the main line of that company, westward from Guelph, but he unfortunately lost his life in the Des Jardines canal accident at the entrance to Hamilton, March 12th, 1857. His railway contracts were completed by his nephews, George Randall and Shubel H. Randall, who also erected the Great Western station at Preston. Messrs. Randall and Mr. Farr's son, Herbert M. were the principals in the industry which commenced in Hespeler in 1864, removed to Holyoke in 1874 and continued so successfully there up to the present time.

While this enterprise expanded in the United States, the plant which they vacated in Hespeler also rapidly developed.

Mr. Robert Forbes took over Mr. Schofield's interests in the firm in 1880 and in 1886 with his sons James H. and George D. Forbes, and Mr. Wm. H. Weaver organized a joint stock company to carry on the business. Mr. Forbes Sr. and Mr. James H. Forbes died in the earlier years of this organization, the conduct of the business and its note-worthy development being continued by Mr. George D. Forbes and his associates.

Perhaps no other large manufacturing company of Canada has enjoyed a greater measure of public confidence throughout so long a period. The woollen and worsted cloths, knitted outerwear, and yarns manufactured by this company for nearly sixty years were always maintained at a high standard of quality and finish. Mr. Robert Forbes, the founder of the organization was a gentleman of high principle, and the business ethics of the company always reflected the same lofty conceptions of integrity and devotion to basic ideals in its various relationships.

—Contributed to the Canadian Textile Journal.

## PRESTON IN 1866

By Dr. A. E. Byerly

The following account of Preston was written in 1866 by a gentleman living in Guelph, and that it may not be lost I have edited it for the records of the Waterloo Historical Society.

Preston is pleasantly situated on a gravelly soil, on the banks of the Speed a short distance from its junction with the Grand River, three miles from Galt, and from its location at the terminus of the Dundas and Waterloo road, was formerly a mercantile village of considerable importance, but the construction of the various lines of railroad have turned attention more to manufacture. Stone of excellent quality is found in the immediate vicinity of the village, and it has for some time been extensively used for building, thus giving a solid and substantial character to the village.

Most of the older buildings are constructed in the old fashioned German style, but of late years some splendid stone and brick buildings have been put up, among which we may notice the palatial suburban residence of Jacob K. Erb, the Reeve of the village, and also the residences of Messrs. V. Hahn, A. A. Erb, and F. Guggisberg, and the hotels of Messrs. George Roos and S. Cornell.

There are a large number of shade trees planted along the main street which adds greatly to the appearance of the place during the summer months.

There is a good school in the village, at present in charge of Mr. J. C. Buchanan, supported by an able staff of assistants. A Wesleyan Methodist church — a handsome stone structure — has been recently erected, chiefly through the exertion of the Rev. Mr. Freshman. A large addition was built to the Roman Catholic Church last fall, and other improvements made in connection therewith. The village contains about two thousand inhabitants, most of whom are of German extraction. Jacob Hespeler, Esq., was formerly a resident of Preston, and his removal was a sad drawback to the place.

### THE OIL FEVER

We were in the village but a few minutes, when we became aware that the malady had reached that section — everybody and his wife seeming to have "ile on the brain." In the hotels, stores, and in fact everywhere, where two or three were gathered together, the oil business was the topic of conversation.

Even the little urchins at the street corners were discussing the prospects, and the sturdy Teuton, sitting smoking beside the barroom stove, would call for another and another glass of "lager" until having filled himself to his almost capacity, he swaggered home and retired to bed, to dream of huge shafts of Bologna sausage and rivers of Lager beer and oil.

After a little patient enquiry we ascertained that a Joint Stock Company was about being formed with its headquarters at Preston, to bore for the precious stuff on Lot 21 in the 1st Concession, township of Mosa, County of Middlesex. The southeast half of said lot is owned by Messrs. A. A. Erb and Bros., of Preston, and they have generously offered to donate one acre to the proposed Company. Early in December last oil was struck at the Wood Well, on Lot 27, and it has since continued to yield, on an average, 25 barrels per day. The Company started with a capital of \$3,000, sixty shares of \$50 each, about \$1,200 of which is already subscribed.

#### S. CORNELL'S HOTEL

After getting off the cars at Preston we stepped into the comfortable bus running to the North American Hotel. All our travelling readers are acquainted with the "jolly phiz" of the doctor — "mine host" of the North American, and also with the superior quality of his eatables, drinkables and smokeables, so we need say nothing in regard to them.

The doctor informed us that his mineral baths induced such an influx of visitors last summer, that he has found it necessary to make a large addition to his already commodious establishment. He intends erecting a two storey brick building, 30 by 40 feet, as an addition to the hotel, for parlor and bedrooms, and a promenade balcony 45 feet in length and about 8 feet in width, he also proposes making an addition of several baths — the whole to be completed by the 1st of June. We expect, ere many years, to see the Preston Mineral Baths as popular with us provincials as Saratoga is among our American cousins.

#### A. A. ERB AND BROS.

This enterprising firm carries on an extensive business. Their grist mill, a fine four storey structure is kept constantly running. They also own a large stone distillery, a saw mill, also of stone, a stave and head factory — the introduction of which has reduced the cost of the manufacture of flour barrels about one third, a shingle factory and a bone mill. Bone dust has been pronounced by competent agriculturists to be one of the best fertilizers ever introduced, and Messrs. Erb Bros.,

dispose of large quantities of it. In the various branches of their business they give constant employment to upwards of 30 hands.

#### ABBNEY, RISLEY AND CO'S. HOP YARD

Three years ago, two Americans, Messrs. Abbey and Risley, came to Preston and leased twenty acres of land from Joseph Erb, Esq., and set out a hop-yard. Hop culture was then a new thing in that locality, and the result of the experiment was anxiously awaited. The investment proved amply remunerative, and they now have thirty-eight acres under cultivation, and purpose making a further addition of fifteen acres during the ensuing summer, when they will have one of the largest, if not the largest and best hop-yard on the continent. During the summer season they give employment to from 20 to 200 hands. Hops of their cultivation carried off a premium at the Hamilton Provincial Exhibition.

#### F. GUGGISBERG'S CABINET FACTORY

Crossing the Speed we next come to the large Cabinet Factory belonging to Fred Guggisberg, Esq. Mr. Guggisberg has been established in business on his present location for the past twenty-five years. His factory is fitted up with machinery of the most improved description and is complete in every department. He carries on the manufacture of furniture of all kinds very extensively. The machinery is arranged so as to be driven either by water or steam power.

About a year ago Mr. Guggisberg, at great expense, fitted up machinery for the manufacture of mouldings — conceiving such to be a want in the province — and he has found it a complete success. He now manufactures forty-five different patterns, as also several specially designed for extra fine work, such as organs, pianos, melodeons, etc. The demand for his mouldings is increasing so rapidly that he purposes erecting another machine shortly. He showed us, we should say, upwards of five hundred feet, being part of an order from Messrs. Jacques and Hay, of Toronto. Mr. Guggisberg has also established a branch sale room in Hespeler, where furniture is sold at factory prices.

#### PRESTON LINEN FACTORY

Two years ago last January, a disastrous fire occurred in Preston, which destroyed the large cloth factory of Messrs. Hunt and Elliott, and threw a large number of persons out of employment. Shortly after there was a change in the composition of the firm — Mr. Hunt, the elder, retiring and two of his sons taking his place, — and the new firm, Elliott, Hunt and Company, erected a three storey stone building having

146 feet frontage, with two wings — 46 by 80 and 34 by 74 respectively. This they intend converting into a linen factory, and are now engaged fitting up the machinery, which has lately been imported from Europe and possess all modern improvements.

They intend to carry on the manufacture of linen fabrics of all grades—shirtings, trowserings, towellings, seamless bags, etc. Their rope walk is a building 422 feet in length. When in full operation they will give constant employment to over seventy persons about the factory, independent of the large number engaged in the cultivation of the raw material. They have also a linseed-oil mill.

#### WRIGHT AND CO'S. CLOTH FACTORY

Messrs. Wright and Co., formerly of Linwood have leased the mill and vinegar factory belonging to Jacob Hespeler, Esq., which has been vacant for sometime, and are fitting it up as a woollen mill.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The foundries of Messrs. Clare and Beck, and V. Wahn, the tannery of Mr. Kelsey, the vinegar and cider factory of Xavier Fuchs, the breweries of Messrs. G. Roos, and G. Bernhardt, the cigar factory of F. Uttach, as well as several minor enterprises are well worthy of notice.

## NOTES ON THE MUSEUM

W. H. Breithaupt

In the way of a report of the Museum and Publication Committee there are several things to be said. In the first place every member of the society must feel keen satisfaction at the continued growth of interest manifested. The Waterloo Historical Society has become an institution well known throughout the County, known throughout the province and beyond. Only the other day the Secretary had request from the library of the City of New York for further numbers to complete its set of the Society's Annual Reports. We can look back with justifiable pride on 21 years of work, on an accumulation of recorded County and Provincial history favorably comparable with that of older local societies, and on a constantly growing County Museum. We are glad to give space in our transactions not only to Waterloo County but more or less to general Canadian history, especially to history of surrounding counties which do not publish, all being catholic to our purpose.

In former years the society had a regular annual grant from the Ontario government. This was discontinued and then the government, by intervention of the Ontario Historical Society, of which our Society has from the beginning been an affiliate and on the council of which we now have a representative, President Panabaker, published for us for six years, which was better than the former grant. However two years ago this aid also ceased. Fortunately the society had saved enough on grants from the county and from local municipalities, to publish the reports for 1931 and 1932, which we did this year. As to the 1933 report we live in hope.

Of particular interest is our newspaper library growing from year to year, the shelves, containing over 450 volumes, lining the walls of our overcrowded museum. We are pleased to acknowledge the co-operation of the County papers in our effort to have a continuous file of bound volumes of all Waterloo County newspapers, and thus an extremely valuable reference source of current County history.

Among Museum additions received during the year there may be mentioned a bake kettle donated by Mrs. J. Cressman, a direct descendent of Abraham Weber, among whose household effects it was brought from Lancaster County Pennsylvania in 1807. Abraham Weber will be remembered as the

driver of the Conestogo Waggon we have in the Museum. The kettle and cover are of cast iron. It is nearly 14 inches in diameter and 5½ inches deep. In use, mainly for baking bread, it was set in and covered over with the hot ashes and live coals of the old time wide fire place at which all cooking was done.

The roller mill donated by Mr. Amos Hilborn of New Dundee two years ago has now been brought to the Museum. There were originally two pairs of porcelain rolls which were imported, by E. W. B. Snider, from Switzerland in 1879. One pair became overheated in use, broke, and was replaced by an iron pair. The frame was made in the Bricker Foundry, Waterloo, now part of the Waterloo Mfg. Co.'s plant. E. W. B. Snider acquired the New Dundee mills in 1876. He sent Mr. Hilborn to New Dundee in the spring of 1880, when the porcelain roller mill was installed there, and used for 12 or 15 years, when it was discarded for an improved roller mill. The porcelain rolls were best for grinding, but were brittle.

Mill stones are among the earliest implements of civilization, direct adaptation of the hollow and rolling or pounding stones used by primitive man, as witness the examples in the Waterloo Park, used by the Indians long before the white man came to America. Mill stones of civilization, long out of use, have now become fit museum exhibits. One was recently donated to the Waterloo Historical Society. It is not yet delivered, no place for it, although it might safely be put outside the entrance door.

Jacob Y. Shantz was another descendent of original Waterloo County settlers distinguished not only in his native town and County but as a citizen of Canada. Dr. Hervey Bowman gave the Society, in 1924, a paper largely on Shantz's public service in the colonization of a part of Manitoba by Russian Mennonites. Shantz's account of his first journey of exploration to Manitoba was published by the Dominion government and largely used as an emigration pamphlet. It is now a rare document, hard to get. The Society Museum library has a copy in French, recently acquired. Mr. Moses Shantz of Rochester, son of Jacob Y., now gives the Society his personal memoirs of his father which we hope to publish later.

The late John Connon of Elora, notable local historian and collector of maps, documents, records of all kinds, directories, newspapers, etc. pertaining not only to the history of his native county, but to that of the province generally, accumulated a large private store of such material which he housed in a small isolated brick building. Among other items of the collection three were some rare and unique records and

documents, such as the first Minute Book of the Canada Company beginning with the record of the original meeting of organization at the London Tavern in 1826. Mr. T. G. Connon of Goderich, a brother, now generously donates to the Waterloo Historical Society an ample list of original railway maps and papers, old county directories and sundry other items which we shall keep intact as a memorial to John Connon, who contributed to and for years evinced a friendly interest in our Society.



## AN INSTITUTION OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE THE NEW SECULAR TRAINING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

There has recently been erected in the environs of the City of Galt a new reformatory institution for problem girls. The purpose of the institution is the prevention of delinquency by placing girls between the ages of ten and sixteen years, who show tendencies towards incorrigibility, in an atmosphere where anti-social tendencies will be removed and the proper standards of life inculcated.

The Parliamentary Legislation of 1930 placed the administration of the Boys' Training School at Bowmanville in the Department of Public Welfare, under the jurisdiction of the Honourable W. G. Martin, M.L.A. for Brantford. The success of this institution led the Minister to formulate plans for the establishment of a similar school for girls. A group of citizens of South Waterloo, in sympathy with the movement, raised money by subscription and purchased an excellent site, consisting of 39.4 acres, situated between Galt and Preston in the Township of North Dumfries.

Prior to launching the plan, the Honourable W. G. Martin visited several schools doing reformatory work with girls in the United States, and from these visits attained a helpful insight into modern modes of carrying on this work, as well as information concerning the best types of accommodation and equipment.

In the month of January, 1932, the Premier, the Honourable George S. Henry, gave his approval to the scheme and authorized the construction of the first unit. For the next year,

building operations were carried on and a school building, two cottages, administration building, and a heating plant were constructed.

The School, situated on the highest point of the site, commands a remarkable view of Galt and the surrounding country, and on its commanding eminence forms a most attractive feature in the landscape. Outstanding points in the school are the hospital and administration building and the separate bedroom for each resident as opposed to the Dormitory System.

At the time of writing (April, 1934), forty-five girls have been admitted. This almost completes the complement that may be dealt with with the present accommodation. Under the Superintendent, Miss E. I. McKim, who was Director of Girls' Work in the Technical Schools of Ontario, and her competent staff, every care is being taken to establish in the minds of the girls correct life standards. Training is being given in academic subjects, vocational subjects and physical culture, and doubtless through the agency of this institution a very large percentage of the so-called problem girls will take their place in society, efficient and worthy citizens.

Galt has reason to be proud of the addition of this type of educational institution to its panel schools.

The school was opened on September 7th, 1933. At 2.45 p.m. on that day Hon. W. G. Martin, Minister of Public Welfare, handed a golden key to Mrs. Bruce, wife of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, who then formally declared the school open.

There were present Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Bruce, Premier Henry, and the Minister of Public Works, Hon. Mr. Monteith beside the Minister of Public Welfare, and a general attendance of nearly 1,000. The ceremonies took place in Angela Bruce Hall.

The total cost of the buildings and grounds, up to the time of opening, was given as \$288,000.



**GEORGE PATTINSON**

## BIOGRAPHY

### GEORGE PATTINSON

With the passing of George Pattinson, who died early Sunday morning, May 10th, 1931, at his residence at 600 Eagle Street, Preston, after a lingering illness of several years duration, the town lost one of its most respected and valued citizens.

George Pattinson was born in Haltwhistle, Northumberland, England, July 17th, 1854, and attended school at Hexham, in the same shire. He lived for the greater part of his life, about sixty years, in Preston.

President of the George Pattinson Company, Limited, until the time of his death, he had been continuously connected with the woollen industry — a family vocation which his father and grandfather also followed — since he was about 16 years of age. Before coming to Preston he was in Plattsville for a year. In Preston he entered the woollen mill of James Crombie and Company which shortly after was taken over by Robinson-Howell and Company. Later he became a partner in the business. After some time the company passed into new hands becoming the Ferguson-Pattinson Company, of which Mr. Pattinson was the moving spirit. The business finally came under his name and has, since its incorporation, Sept. 1st, 1920, been known as the George Pattinson Company, Limited. The present company is one of the foremost in the country in the woollen industry. Since his father's passing, Mr. Frank H. Pattinson is head of the business.

Mr. Pattinson represented South Waterloo in the Ontario legislature for nine years, from 1905 to 1914. During his time of office he was made a member of the original Hydro Electric Commission on which he was associated with Sir Adam Beck and P. W. Ellis of Toronto. It was largely through the efforts of these men that the foundation of the present Hydro Electric system was laid. He was also appointed director of the Lake Superior Corporation, representing the Ontario government.

While a member Mr. Pattinson took prominent part in the introduction of the workmen's compensation act which is now so universal. He served on the Prison Reform Commission, with the Honorable Mr. Hanna, and on many special committees.

Before the incorporation of Preston as a town, Mr. Pattinson held various offices in the municipal council, being reeve during 1889. He was largely instrumental in bringing hydro power to Preston and took a deep interest in all town affairs. He was a member of the public school board for many years.

During the Great War, Mr. Pattinson took an active part in patriotic work. He was chairman of the wool commission which handled all the wool coming into Canada from Great Britain at that time. He was president of the Preston Patriotic Association during the period of the war and, for the same period, was a member of The Soldiers' Insurance Commission of Waterloo County, on which commission was also Mr. D. N. Panabaker, then Warden of the County.

Mr. Pattinson was director of the Economical Fire Insurance Company of Kitchener and of the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada from the boards of both of which companies he resigned a few years before his death.

Mr. Pattinson was a devout member of St. John's Anglican Church and member of the local branch of the Sons of England lodge. He married Mary Elizabeth Erb, in Mildmay, in 1878. Mrs. Pattinson was a descendent of Abraham A. Erb, former Collector of Customs in Preston, of the family of pioneer Preston settlers who were founders of the municipality and of the town of Waterloo. She died in February 1898. Their son Lynn was killed in action in the Great War.

An article taken from a Special Souvenir Number of Industrial Preston, 1908, here follows (slightly abbreviated).

"Throughout the Dominion, the story of the woollen industry has been the story of a native industry, which has suffered most severely through competition from abroad. The case of the mills that have survived these adverse conditions is one to attract Dominion attention. Preston provides one example of a mill that won out under the present customs tariff. This is the plant operated under the name of Geo. Pattinson & Co., founded thirty-four years ago by James Crombie & Company, in 1876 Robinson-Howell & Co. and for a time operating under the name Ferguson & Pattinson. This plant is located on the Speed River and Eagle Street, and comprises a substantial stone building, fully equipped with fine machinery and representing a large investment of capital. Employment is given to 200 hands, and the product of the factory includes general woollen goods, tweeds, overcoatings and costume cloths. The fame of these products is spread from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. The reason why this concern has not budged an inch backward in its onward march to further prosperity lies wholly in the quality of the goods manufactured, as well as in the skill and integrity of the men who direct its affairs, and who have charge of the mills. Mr. Pattinson has had a life-long experience as a practical woollen manufacturer and is known, throughout the Dominion, to the trade. The progressive condi-

tion of the mill, in view of the fact that the wheels are no longer turning in many of the woollen mills of Canada, is viewed with a feeling of pleasure by all those who appreciate the importance of such industries to the nation; the importance of fostering them with all possible care, that Canada may as far as possible be self-supporting in the necessities of existence."

—Compiled from data supplied by Mr. Frank H. Pattinson.

### PETER SHIRK

It will be of interest to know a little of his ancestors. The first we have record of was Ulrich Shirk who came from Switzerland in 1832 to Pennsylvania with his six sons and two daughters. One son was named Peter who had a son named Joseph and Joseph had a son named Christian.

Peter Shirk was the son of Christian and Elizabeth (Hoffman) Shirk and was a native of Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where he was born November 11th, 1839. He came from a poor family which made it necessary for him to go to work and help support the family when eleven years of age. He worked hard and had long hours, but he was eager to learn so studied a good deal at night. He learned the milling trade at Peter Rupe's flour mill near Churchtown, Pennsylvania.

When he was a young man he left his native state and came to Canada with his eldest sister Barbara, arriving at Berlin (Kitchener) on May 1st, 1861. He made his home with his uncle, the late Jacob Hoffman in whose services he was for nearly two months piling lumber and assisting in the saw mills. (Jacob Hoffman's saw mill was situated where Schreiter's Furniture Store now stands). From here he went to the village of Waterloo and engaged himself as miller with D. H. Moyer & Co., who were then the proprietors of the Union Mills. After E. and S. S. Snider became proprietors of the mills he continued with the new firm until December 1st, 1866, when he purchased the Blair Mills. Here he did a well paying business until December, 1869, when he sold the mills and entered into partnership with Samuel Snider in Bridgeport. In 1887 Peter Shirk bought Mr. Snider's interest in the company and continued the business under the name of Shirk & Snider until 1910 when the firm name was changed to Shirk & Snider Ltd., Peter Shirk as President and his eldest son Geo. M. as managing-director.

On August 17th, 1889, the Baden Mills were purchased from James Livingstone, the business having grown to such an

extent that it was necessary to increase its capacity. The two mills, Bridgeport and Baden had a combined capacity of 250 barrels per day.

The Bridgeport flour mill of Shirk & Snider Ltd. is one of the old industries of Waterloo County, this mill having been built in 1830 and the dam, of about 25 acres, in 1829, by Jacob Shoemaker. Mr. Shoemaker operated the mill for 20 years when he sold to Elias Eby who had it for the following 20 years. Peter Shirk and S. S. Snider bought from Mr. Eby in 1870. The buildings were always kept in good repair and the machinery modern.

In addition to the mill Peter Shirk also owned and operated a cooperage, supplying the barrels for the Bridgeport, Baden, Waterloo and other mills. Most of the flour was sold and shipped in barrels in the earlier days. All the export flour had to be teamed to Dundas in the early days as that was the nearest shipping station. After 1856 the flour was teamed to Berlin (now Kitchener.) In 1903, through the influence and efforts of Peter Shirk a spur line was extended direct to the mill from the beet sugar factory of that time.

The company's products always had an enviable reputation both locally and in the foreign markets. The special flour brands were "Buda" a blended flour for all purposes (this getting its name from the abbreviation of Budapest, Hungary, where the first roller mills were used); "Two Sisters" a special flour for pastry and cakes and "Evangeline" a pure Manitoba flour for bread.

Peter Shirk was in his youth possessed of but little of this world's substance, but by energy and perservance and being naturally gifted with first class business qualities besides having a good character, he gradually worked his way up from one position to another and to affluence. In his later years he was identified with public life and held prominent positions of honor and trust. He was on the board of trustees of the Kitchener and Waterloo Collegiate and Technical Institute about 30 years. During his term he was instrumental in having Manual Training and Household Science added to the curriculum. He was treasurer of Waterloo Township for 20 years when he resigned, being succeeded by his son, Geo. M., who held the position for 15 years. Allen Shirk has been Township Treasurer for the past 6 years, since the death of his father Geo. M. Shirk.

Peter Shirk was married on June 5th, 1866, to Magdalena (Weber) Martin. Mrs. Peter Shirk's grandfather was Abraham Weber who in company with Benj. Eby and wife, Samuel Eby and family, Joseph Schneider and family, and others, came to



WM. H. SCHMALZ

this section of Waterloo County on June 2nd, 1807. The Conestogo driven by Abraham Weber on his trip from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1807, is now in the Waterloo Historical Society Museum.

Soon after Abraham Weber's arrival in Canada he married Elizabeth Cressman and they settled on the corner of King and Wilmot Streets where the Canadian Goodrich plant is now situated. It was at this place that Mrs. Peter Shirk's mother was born, on August 14th, 1811, being one of the first children born in Berlin (Kitchener).

To Mr. and Mrs. Peter Shirk were born the following children: Peter, Anna, George, Emma, Elizabeth, Catherine, Martin, Magdalena, John, Maria, Noah, Veronica and Barbara. Mr. Shirk's first wife died on November 7th, 1895 and Peter Shirk died on October 1st, 1919, aged 79 years. He is survived by his second wife, 1 son and 7 daughters.

—Contributed by Mrs. F. Capling,  
Granddaughter of Peter Shirk.

## WILLIAM HENRY SCHMALZ

### And The Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

William Henry Schmalz, ex-mayor and noted citizen, was born in Berlin, Canada West, now Kitchener, Ontario, on the 31st day of December, the last day of the year, 1862. He died on the 9th day of May, 1933. The following is taken from an appreciation of his career written by the late J. P. Jaffray, Journalist and Community Historian, before Mr. Schmalz's death.

Very impressive has been the rise to an eminent position in his chosen field of endeavor of Mr. William H. Schmalz, Managing Director of the Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Company, whose long record of service from office boy to the headship of the strong and wealthy institution is unparalleled in Mutual Fire Insurance circles in this Province; in the entire Dominion, as a matter of fact.

Looking over some of the old Policies, as has been my privilege, I have been struck by the strikingly attractive character of his penmanship. The key to the attributes of his management is seen in the written lines of the policies that have marked his development of the inside workings of the Economical.

The schools that knew him were the Berlin Central (public) and the Berlin High. In both he acquitted himself entirely to the satisfaction of his teachers.

His first job came to him in 1878 as clerk and policy writer, etc., in the employ of one of the leading public and business men of the county — the late Hugo Kranz, who in that year was elected federal Member of Parliament for North Waterloo. The Economical "office" then became, in a sense, a "box office," inasmuch as it was placed on a desk in the corner of Mr. Kranz's General Store. In 1883 young Schmalz was found solely identified with the Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The next step in his career was his election to the Secretaryship in 1891. This was his association with the Company until 1903, the year that saw him appointed Managing Director, which position he still holds.

Mr. Schmalz's connection with the Economical has been unique. Fifty-four years ago he displayed his 'prentice hand in the writing of a Policy. His superiors were H. F. J. Jackson, the first president, William Oelschlager, Hugo Kranz, John Fennell and others. When he was appointed Secretary in 1891 the total of Insurance in force was \$6,190,516. In ten years more \$10,000,000 was added to the business accumulated. At that time John Fennell was President and so continued until his death in 1922, when he had been for years the only surviving charter member of the Company.

Mr. George C. H. Lang became a Director of the Company in 1884 and President in 1923; Mr. L. J. Breithaupt joined the Company as Director in 1888 and is still in office; the late Mr. H. L. Janzen was elected a member of the Board in 1895 and served for the rest of his life until 1923. The late P. S. Lautenschlager spanned the years between 1889 and 1927; George Pattinson, ex-M.P.P., had a record of service from 1892 to 1928, Sheriff (Dr.) H. G. Lackner from 1917 to 1926 and Mr. Hartman Krug from 1920 to 1932. Other Directors from time to time were A. A. Weiler (New Germany), James Livingston (Baden), E. W. B. Snider (St. Jacobs), J. Oberholtzer, Aug. Fuchs, C. Stuebing, John Motz, Henry Knell, P. E. W. Moyer, W. H. Bowlby, K.C., Geo. Rumpel (all of Berlin) John Ruppel (Elmira), Christian Pabst (Hespeler), J. L. Kroetsch (St. Clements), T. W. Thomson (Fergus), Otto Klotz (Preston), Hon. Samuel Merner (New Hamburg), John Watson (Ayr), A. B. Powell (London), Frank Turner (Toronto), Philip Jacobi (Toronto), and Jos. E. Seagram (Waterloo).

When Mr. Schmalz, in 1878, became clerk and policy writer of the Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Company its net assets amounted to \$75,000. At the present time (1933) they stand at \$1,800,000.

For forty-two years Mr. Schmalz has been Secretary of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kitchener, for 22 years he was Treasurer of the Ontario District of the Missouri Synod and member of St. Paul's Choir for about two decades. He was on the Berlin and Waterloo Hospital board for eighteen years, nine years as secretary and three as president.

He was Alderman in 1892 and Mayor of Kitchener 1911-1912. Some years later, continuing his keen interest in civic affairs, he was member and first chairman of the Kitchener City Planning Commission.

His private interests are Landscape Painting, Band, Orchestral and Vocal Music, and travel. In course of time he has become one of Canada's leading philatelists, and now has a collection of postage stamps exceeding 45,000.

His wife is the youngest daughter of the late William Oelschlager, charter member of the Economical Board of Directors, as spoken of.