

ment are not small. Valuable medical assistance is also to be obtained within a short distance, although, from the healthiness of the situation, it is generally casualties that call for its exercise.

There are two post offices in the township, one at Fergus, the other at Elora, to which the post is brought three times a week, and letters despatched an hour after their arrival; and from the leading road from Dundas (on Lake Ontario) to the Government Settlement on Owen's Sound (Lake Huron) passing through it, the township seems likely in a few years to become of some importance."

IX.

Fergus in 1845

In one corner of the map of Nichol drawn in 1845 by Mr. Fordyce, referred to in the last two articles, is a plan of the village of Fergus, or rather of that part of the village that was then occupied. Of the streets running parallel to the river only St. Andrew's, St. Patrick's and St. George's streets and of those running at right angles to the river only St. David street, Provost's Lane and Tower street are named. James' Square is also marked, but it is cruciform in shape and about twice the area of the present square. Its size and shape would seem to have been changed soon after this, for on another plan drawn by Mr. Fordyce and dated 1847, the property of Mr. Jas. Ross of Fergus, the square has its present form and dimensions.

Four of the above mentioned streets were of course named after the patron saints of Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales respectively. Provost's Lane was so called in honor of Mr. Wm. Buist, who was familiarly known as the Provost, a word that in the sense of head of a royal burgh is distinctly Scotch, and owes its vogue in Scotch, to French influence. James' Square in the absence, at the moment, of any authority for the statement, may be surmised to have been similarly named by his friends in honor of Mr. James Webster. Tower St. received its name as a tribute to a worthy lady, Jessie Tower, the Hon. Adam Fergusson's second wife, who married Mr. Fergusson in 1833, and came out to Canada with her husband the same year.

St. David's street is marked with an arrow pointing "To Owen Sound," and Tower street with one pointing "To Dundas."

The former was regarded as a promising lake port, and the latter was then the important market and manufacturing town of a large tract of country, being about or before this time ranked third in importance of the towns within the province of Upper Canada. It overshadowed Hamilton altogether. What changes half a century has wrought!