

were Alex. McTavish, Donald, Gillies, Alex. Reid, McFie, Peter Butchart, Angus Campbell, Holliday, Joseph McDonald, Capt. McDonald, Jas. Stirton, Jas. McQuillan, Wm. Patterson, Ross, McCrae, John Dean, Jas. Mays, Thos. Knowles, Thos. Daly, the Kennedys (three families), M. Sweetnam, and others, most of whom, however, afterwards sold out, when they had made some improvements and removed elsewhere. Another party took up land in the Paisley Block, among whom were Jno. Inglis, Jno. Laflair, J. McCorkindale, Drew, Campbell, Alexander, Gleason Hood, Wm. Hood, Thos. Hood, Boyd, McKernie, John Speirs, Thos. Jackson, John Jackson, Joseph Jackson, Wm. Jackson, and Geo. Jackson, most of whom became wealthy and influential citizens. Most of these early settlers had families, and the sons of some of them have since held prominent positions in the various councils and in the legislative halls of the country.

THE LA QUAYRA SETTLERS.

In the early settlement of Guelph the La Quayra settlers took a prominent part. These people, fifty-seven in number, had been sent to La Quayra, or Caracas, in South America, by the Columbian Company, and had found that the glowing pictures of prosperity drawn by the agents in England, by which they had been lured away from their homes, and the almost immediate achievement of wealth and position, which had been promised them, were all a delusion, and, when, by the influence of the English officials, they were enabled to reach New York, they were in the most destitute condition. From New York they were sent on to Guelph by the British Consul, and through their unfortunate excursion to South America they had no money. They were each allotted five acres of land fronting on what was the Elora road. Hardy, thrifty fellows were these La Quayra settlers, most of them Scotch, but half a dozen or so of other nationalities. The Elora road from the Wellington hotel up to near Marden was opened by them. They had only one yoke of oxen the first year and most of the heavy logging was done by hand. Just as they had completed this big contract the raising of Mr. Prior's house, now occupied by Mr. Cardlege on Quebec street, was begun. Mr. Prior invited a large crowd of the older settlers to officiate at the raising. The first day they got the foundation up, the second they raised three rounds of the square timber and then the work was at a standstill. Mr. Prior was in a quandary what to do, but Dr. Dunlop, canny Highlander that he was, saw a way out of the difficulty. He went to the La Quayra settlers, told them that the Irishmen of the settlement had tried to raise the structure and failed and that Mr. Prior had sent him to get "one Scotch" to complete the job. The La Quayra men, fresh from their severe training on the Elora road, came down with their skids and handspikes and Prior's house was soon ready for the rafters. This was the first, but not the last, conquest of the rugged sons of old Scotia in their new home.

AN IMPOSING BENCH.

The initial effort at setting in motion the complex machinery of civilization in the new settlement was made in the year 1833. The first sitting of the Court of Requests—the same as our present District Court—was held in June of that year. Those who presided were: William Heath, Henry Strange, Osmond C. Huntley, Samuel Crawford, Edmund Huntley, Capt. George Lamprey, Dr. Robert Ailing, Thos. Saunders, Geo. J. Mackelcan, Col. Young, Col. Hewat, Dr. Wm. Clarke, William Thompson, Charles Ambrose, Geoffrey Lynch, and John Inglis.

THE OLD GORE DISTRICT.

Up to 1840 the municipalities in the vicinity of Guelph belonged to what was known as the Gore district. In that year the act for the separation came into operation and the District of Wellington was formed. On July 28th, 1840, the first meeting of the Court of Quarter Sessions was held and the following officers were appointed: Sheriff, Mr. Geo. J. Orange; Clerk, Treasurer, Mr. Wm. Hewat; Surgeon, Dr. Geo. Wm. Clarke; Inspector of Weights and Measures, Mr. A. A. Baker; Gaoler, Mr. Robt. Dunbar; Chief Constable, Mr. John Jones.

EARLY ELECTIONS.

The first political contest the country ever witnessed took place in 1834. The constituency then embraced North Wentworth, Waterloo, Halton and Wellington. Boland, Winfield, and Capt. Power were the candidates. There were only 150 voters within the limits of Wellington and neither aspirant obtained the requisite number of votes. Besides being defeated they were financially ruined, so heavy was the drain on the election funds at that time. The Union Act of 1840 brought another election. Durand, a Dundas merchant, and Robert Christie, of Dumfries, were nominated. The county town was the only polling place; the books were kept open ten days, but on the third day one hundred sleigh loads of Waterloo freeholders recorded their votes for Durand and virtually settled the contest. Durand held his seat till 1844, when James Webster, the Conservative nominee, defeated him after an exciting contest.

THE FIRST COURT HOUSE.

At the meeting of the Court in August, 1841, a proposition was made to lease from Wm. Dyson a room in a new brick building he had just erected on Gordon street for many years known as the Red Lion tavern, and now called the Fountain hotel. For many years the magistrates' courts had been held at the British Coffee House, where the Royal hotel now stands, but now that the District had been set apart, and the legal business would be large, and constantly increasing, it was decided to lease this place, at a rental of £50 per annum, until the Court House, soon to be commenced, should be ready for occupancy. In 1843 the new jail was finished, the distinction of being the

first man to be confined therein being due to James Lindsay, for stealing cattle. It being proved that he had been carrying on this business for a long time, he was sentenced to be imprisoned for five years. At the January sessions in 1842, Mr. Adam Johnston Ferguson's commission as Justice of the Peace, and his appointment as Judge of the District were presented, when he took the oath of office. Through the acquisition of some property in Scotland his Honor took the name of Blair, and in the political affairs of the county Ferguson-Blair was for many years a prominent figure. The contract for building the jail was let to William Day, who commenced the work in 1839 and completed it in the following year. The Court House was built by William Allan, afterwards of the Guelph Mills. The cost of both structures was \$24,000.

FIRST MEETING OF COUNCIL.

It was in February, 1842, that the first meeting of the Council of the District of Wellington—then comprising the counties of Wellington, Waterloo and Grey, and a portion of the County of Dufferin—was held. Alexander Dingwall Fordyce read a commission issued by the Governor-General, appointing him Warden of the District. Thos. Saunders was appointed Clerk ad interim. Representatives were present from eight townships. Owing to certain irregularities six of the Councillors could not legally take their seats. This necessitated an application to the Governor-General to call a special meeting as soon as Councillors could be elected to fill the seats of those disqualified. The special meeting was held on 14th of April, at which the following municipalities were represented by the eleven Councillors named: Eramosa—Thomas Armstrong; George Henshaw; Garafraza—John McKee; Guelph—John Howitt, Benjamin Thurtell; Nichol—James Webster; Waterloo—Johnathan B. Bowman, James Cowan; Wilmot—Abraham Bricker, David Millar; Woolwich—John Meyer.

The most important business at this meeting appears to have been the nomination of persons from whom the Governor-General might select the District Clerk. The three persons elected were R. F. Budd, A. D. Ferrier and James Wilson. Mr. Budd was appointed District Clerk by His Excellency, and entered on his duties at a meeting of Council held on the 11th of May, 1842.

RICHARD FOWLER BUDD.

Richard Fowler Budd was quite a character his contemporaries say. He lived in a house opposite the present site of the water works. This house like its owner has long since crumbled into its original dust. They tell a story of a practical joke once played on Mr. Budd. A rumor was industriously set afloat in the town that Budd had a salamander at his place. The first victims who sought to gratify their curiosity by visiting the gentleman's abode considered the joke a good one and pushed it along. For a time there was a continual procession of eager sight-seers on the road to Budd's until that worthy gentleman grew angry, and arming himself with a shotgun met the inquisitive visitors at the gate and made them execute a "right about turn." Thereafter the query: "Have you seen Budd's salamander?" was likely to provoke unpleasant feelings and possibly open hostilities.

A POLITICAL BATTLE.

Mr. James Webster had sat for the District in the Local Assembly for several years, and the Reformers thought that a gentleman of their own side in politics should be chosen at the next election, which was expected to take place at no distant day. They accordingly organized, and Mr. A. J. Ferguson, District Judge, was induced to resign his position for the purpose of becoming a candidate, which he did in April, 1847, and Mr. Wm. Bunner Powell was appointed his successor in May of the same year. Mr. Powell was the father of Mr. J. B. Powell, Inland Revenue Collector. He lived on Waterloo avenue and his home was the scene of many happy social gatherings. A scholarly, upright and honorable gentleman and a most genial host was Judge Powell. Judge Powell died suddenly August 20th, 1854, from epilepsy, superinduced by fatigue and exposure in driving from place to place in the discharge of his duties, in the various parts of the large counties of Wellington and Grey, over which his jurisdiction extended. He was succeeded by Judge Macdonald, father of Col. Macdonald, who held the position until his death. His successor was the late Judge Drew.

In January, 1848, a general election took place, the candidates in the Wellington District being Mr. A. J. Ferguson, Reformer, and Mr. James Webster, Conservative. The election was hotly contested by both sides. The result of the general election was that the Reform party succeeded to power, but Mr. Ferguson was defeated in this district by 200 votes. He thereupon entered a protest, on the plea of corruption on the part of the Conservatives, especially in the neighborhood of Owen Sound, where some votes appear to have been polled by some persons not duly qualified. Mr. Webster, however, took his seat and the contested election suit dragged its weary way along until February, 1849, when judgment was given in Mr. Ferguson's favor, and he became the District's representative.

DIVISION OF THE DISTRICT.

The last meeting of the District Council was held in October, 1849. At that meeting the following gentlemen represented the various townships: Arthur—John McIntosh, Robert Morrison; Amaranth—Nelson Hughson; Bentinck—Richard Jones Williams; Derby—William Boyd; Erin—Georgé Henshaw, William Clarke; Eramosa—Donald Black, Joseph Parkinson; Egremont—Isaac Batey.

Guelph—James Wright (Warden), William Clarke, M.D.; Garafraza—James Donaldson; Guelph—Archibald Hunter; Holland—Nathaniel Herriman; Nichol—Charles Allan, Archibald Sherratt; Normanby—John McNulty; Peel—Alexander Harvey; Puslinch—John Cockburn, Thomas Ellis; Sydenham—John Frost, Thomas Lunn; Sullivan—Richard Carney; Waterloo—Johnathan B. Bowman, James Cowan; Woolwich—John Meyer, William Reynolds; Wellesley—Samuel Hoffman, George Davidson; Wilmot—Jacob Bettischen, William Scott.

The Waterloo County Council met in the Court House, Guelph, on the 28th day of January, 1850. B. Thurtell was elected Warden, A. D. Ferrier, Clerk, N. Hewat Treasurer, and T. R. Brock and Thomas Heffernan, Auditors. At this meeting twenty-three townships were represented by twenty-seven Councillors. The Townships of Garafraza, Amaranth and Melancton were represented by one Councillor, and the Townships of Peel and Maryboro' by one, while the Townships of Erin, Guelph, Puslinch, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich sent Deputy-Deputies. This Council was in existence for two years only; the last session closed on the 11th day of October, 1851. In this year twenty-four municipalities were represented by twenty-nine Councillors. The town of Guelph separated from the Township this year, and sent a representative to the County Council.

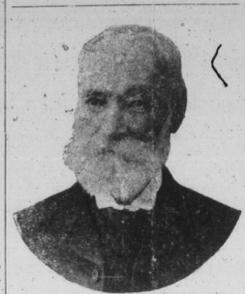
NEW REPRESENTATION BILL.

A new Representation Bill was introduced into the Assembly at the June session of 1850. It provided that "the County of Halton shall consist of the Townships of Erin, Esquesing, Trafalgar, Nassagaweya and Nelson; the County of Waterloo shall consist of the Townships of North Dumfries, including the town of Galt, Waterloo, Wilmot, Woolwich, Wellesley, Peel and Maryboro; the County of Wellington shall consist of the Townships of Puslinch, Guelph, Nichol, Garafraza and Eramosa; the County of Peel shall

to their share of the Government grant made at the last session of Parliament. The President was Mr. John Cockburn, Vice-President Mr. John Hammersley, and the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. David Stirton. The Guelph Township Agricultural Society was formed at about the same time, in a few days 112 persons having subscribed not less than five shillings each to the funds. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. R. Jackson; Vice-President, Mr. John McCrae; Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. J. Harland; Directors, Messrs. James Wright, A. Hogge, W. White-

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES FORMED.

In January, 1852, the Puslinch Agricultural Club was formed into a separate organization, so as to be entitled



MR. JOHN SMITH, First Mayor of Guelph.

Parliament for South Wellington and Mr. David Stirton was elected. Mr. Stirton served the constituency for many years and though earning and receiving strenuous opposition from the Conservatives he always retained their personal respect and esteem. To-day he is one of the few links that bind us to the memorable past with its stories of hardships and vicissitudes and difficulties overcome, and its rich treasures of amusing anecdote, in the narration of which Mr. Stirton has no equal. On the 4th of February, 1859, the nomination of candidates for the representation of the North Riding took place at Fergus. For about three weeks political excitement had run high all over the north part of the County, it being evident from the first that the contest would be very close. The candidates were Mr. James Webster, Conservative, and Mr. James Ross, Reformer. At the nomination there was a very large attendance, and the show of hands was in favor of Mr. Ross by a small majority. A poll was, of course, demanded by Mr. Webster, and the election took place on the 11th, resulting in the election of Mr. Ross by a narrow majority.

In the general election, which occurred in June, 1861, consequent on the dissolution of Parliament, Mr. Stirton, who had been elected in 1858, was returned without opposition in the South Riding. In the North Riding the contest was between Dr. Clarke and Mr. James Ross, who had defeated Mr. Webster at the previous election. The result was a victory for Dr. Clarke by 71 votes.

The Hon. A. J. Ferguson-Blair having accepted the portfolio of Receiver-General, a new election became necessary in the Brock Electoral Division. The new minister was returned without opposition.

The Macdonald-Sicotte ministry having been condemned by Parliament on a vote of want of confidence a general election took place early in June, 1863. In the South Riding Mr. David Stirton was returned by acclamation. In the North Riding Dr. Parker and Dr. Clarke were the candidates. The result of the election was in favor of Dr. Parker, which was undoubtedly due to the fact of Dr. Clarke's over-confidence, causing him to delay the commencement of his canvass until within



GUELPH IN 1830.

law, E. Hubbard, A. Ritchie, J. Card, R. Campbell, A. Quarrie and J. Davie.

NORTH AND SOUTH RIDINGS.

A bill was passed in March, 1852, giving to the County of Wellington two representatives in Parliament, the county being divided into the North and South Ridings. The following were the townships, with the population of each, in the respective ridings:

Table with 2 columns: Township Name and Population. Rows include North Riding (Nichol, Garafraza, Pilkington, Peel, Maryboro, Amaranth, Arthur, Luther and Minto) and South Riding (Guelph, Puslinch, Centre Riding-Elora Village, Eramosa, Erin, Garafraza, Nichol, Pilkington).

In the South Riding the candidates were: For the House of Commons, Mr. David Stirton and Mr. F. W. Stone; and for the Legislature Ontario, Messrs. Peter Gow and William Leslie. Mr. Stone's absence in England seriously affected his candidature and Mr. Stirton was returned by a large majority. The contest for the Legislature was more closely contested, and the defeat of Mr. Leslie was not only a disappointment but some what of a surprise to his friends. He was selected one of the Union candidates on account of his supposed strength in Puslinch, but the returns showed that he polled nearly double the number of votes in the town of Guelph that he polled in Puslinch. Guelph Township also gave him a larger majority than Puslinch.

MR. DREW ELECTED.

The nomination of candidates for the North Riding took place at Arthur, September 6th. Quite a number of prominent politicians were present from the adjacent townships, and especially from the villages of Mount Forest, Fergus, Elora, and Salem. A substantial platform had been erected on the grounds opposite O'Callaghan's Hotel, in front of which the electors assembled in the number of 500. The Brownites of Mount Forest mustered in strong force, together with a select assortment from distant portions of the north and

several of the nomination, and his indecision in giving a definite answer as to whether he would be a candidate or not.

CONFEDERATION MEMBERS.

Additional interest attached to the Confederation elections in 1867 because the Redistribution Bill, passed in the year previous, then came into operation. This bill provided that the County of Wellington should be divided into three ridings, instead of two, as heretofore. The following were the divisions, with the population of each township: North Riding—Amaranth, 1,196; Arthur, 3,597; Luther, 689; Minto, 2,341; Maryboro, 1,344; Peel, 5,008; total, 15,965. South Riding—Guelph, township, 3,683; Guelph, town, 5,076; Puslinch, 4,701; total, 12,685.

POLITICAL EVENTS.

In the fall of 1857 a general election took place, and in the North Riding Mr. Charles Allan, of Elora, (Reformer), was elected over Dr. Clarke by a small majority, principally on account of some of the electors disapproving of the course taken by Dr. Clarke on the question of removing the capital to Quebec. A vacancy occurred the following year in the representation in

upper sections of the Centre Riding. With the exception of a few personal friends of Messrs. Drew and Beattie, the Unionists were nearly all from Arthur township, and village, and the adjoining parts of Minto, Amaranth, Luther, Peel, and Maryboro'. Mr. Geo. A. Drew, Elora, was nominated as a candidate for the Commons, by Dr. Tuck of Drayton, and seconded by Mr. Peter Keane of Minto. Hon. M. H. Foley was nominated by Mr. Samuel Robertson, and seconded by Mr. D. Yeomans, of Mount Forest. In the Legislature, Mr. John Beattie was nominated by Dr. Maudslay, of Hollin, and seconded by Mr. C. O'Callaghan. Mr. Robert McKim, of Peel, was nominated by Mr. E. Stevenson, and seconded by Mr. Wm. Sturridge. The result was that Mr. Drew was elected for the Commons by a vote of 1486 to 1269, showing a majority of 217. For the Legislature Mr. McKim was elected by a majority of 71.

DR. PARKER'S LAST VICTORY.

In the Centre Riding the nomination took place at Fergus. Two candidates were nominated, Dr. Parker, of Guelph, and Mr. John Dobbin, both gentlemen declining to go to the poll. Dr. Parker was declared duly elected. For the Legislative Assembly, Mr. A. D. Ferrier, Mr. James Loughrin, and Mr. T. S. Armstrong were nominated. At the close of the poll the vote stood Ferrier, 1,083; Armstrong, 1,025, and Loughrin, 358. Mr. Ferrier was therefore declared elected. Dr. Parker was not spared long to aid in moulding the legislation of the newly forged confederacy. On Sunday, Oct. 18th, '67, the doctor having received a professional call to visit a sick child at Rockwood, proceeded there, intending to remain all night, but finding that his services could be of no avail, at about 10 o'clock he started to walk to Guelph, taking the road, in order, as he said, to avoid the danger of falling through a bridge on the track near Rockwood, where two men had already been killed. Finding the road very muddy, he altered his determination, and took the railway, walking cautiously, as the night was very dark. Before he was aware of it, however, he had arrived at the fatal bridge, which was spanned only by beams to support the rails, and plunged through to the road beneath, where he lay, unable to move, until the next morning. It was found that he had sustained a fracture of the thigh and serious internal injuries. He lingered, mostly in an unconscious state, until the following Saturday, when he died.

The election to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Parker, M.P., for Centre Wellington, was held Jan. 18, '68. Several candidates had been named. Mr. Ross, of Cunneen, was the only one who accepted a nomination, and he was elected by acclamation.

On September 13th, 1870, the Wellington, Grey, and Bruce Railway was opened as far as Fergus, when addresses were presented on the occasion to Mr. Adam Brown and the other Directors, by Mr. J. M. Fraser, Reeve of Elora, and Dr. Orton, Reeve of Fergus, on behalf of those municipalities.

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disqualify him. At the election which took place in January, 1875, Dr. Orton was again returned, defeating Mr. James Ross by 126 votes. The election of a member of the Local House for West Wellington also took place in January, Mr. J. McGowan being returned by a majority of 98 over Mr. McKim. The trial of the petition for the unseating of Mr. John McGowan, M.P.P. for West Wellington took place in June, 1875, and resulted in Mr. McGowan being unseated, on account of a case of treating by an agent, but Mr. McGowan was altogether exonerated from the personal charges of corrupt practices handed.

THE HAND OF DEATH.

The political events of more recent date are still fresh in the public mind and as it is not the purpose of the writer of this sketch to fill the pages of the historian they may well be left to find a place in some more pretentious volume. During the years whose most striking events we have been recalling, the county sustained many severe losses. James Webster died in February, 1863. He was one of the held. In all the political movements of his day he took an active part and sat in Parliament as representative of the then District of Waterloo in 1844. In 1858 he was appointed Registrar of the County of Wellington, which office he retained till his death.

In October, 1873, Col. Saunders, father of the present Police Magistrate, who had been Clerk of the Peace of the county since its foundation was suddenly called away. He was driving in to town with his own conveyance, and while coming down Paisley street a runaway team, attached to a heavy vehicle, dashed into his buggy, smashing it to pieces, and throwing Col. Saunders violently to the ground, by which he sustained a severe shaking, and while in an unconscious state he was kicked on the head by one of the horses. He died soon afterwards.

On August 19th, 1876, another of the few remaining early settlers was removed by the death of Sheriff Grange. Mr. Grange came to Guelph in the year 1834, and after having been in active business for some years was in 1840 appointed sheriff, which office he filled till the time of his death. Since his arrival in the town he had always taken a deep interest in all public matters, and no man, perhaps, did more to advance the interests of the town and county than he did.

In September, Mr. Peter Gow, M.P., resigned his seat for South Wellington, in the Ontario Legislature, and accepted the shrievalty of Wellington, vacant by the death of Sheriff Grange. On Mr. Gow's death Mr. Robert McKim, the present sheriff, was appointed. At the election which followed Mr. Gow's retirement Mr. James Masie was elected by acclamation.

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