

and between them and a line drawn due north from a fixed boundary (where the easternmost limit of Oxford intersects the river Thames) till it arrives at Lake Huron, formed what was called the London District.

By an Act of Parliament passed in the year 1821 the gore of land then attached to the township of Burford was made a separate and distinct township, and named Oakland, and the townships of Zorra and Nissouri were added to the county of Oxford. And also the gore of land on the east side of the township of Norwich became a part of that township. The courts were held from the year 1800 to 1804 in the house of Mr. James Munro, township of Charlotteville, and were removed in the latter year to the house of Mr. James Lodor, Innkeeper, Turkey Point (an original governmental reservation for a town and garrison selected by Governor Simcoe), where they continued to be held until a gaol and court house were erected, the former of log and the latter of frame, at the expense of the District.

In pursuance of an Act of Parliament passed in 1815, the courts were removed from Turkey Point to the village of Vittoria, and were there held, first at the house of Mr. Thomas Finch and then at Mr. Matthias Steel's, until the year 1822, when the brick court house was completed, the estimated cost of which was \$9,000. In November, 1825, this building was destroyed by fire, after which two or three courts were held at some private house in Vittoria, and also several in St. Thomas, until a temporary court house was erected in London.

By Act, 7th William 4, chap. 3, passed in the year 1837, it was provided that so soon as a good and sufficient gaol and court house would be erected in the town of Woodstock for the security of the prisoners and the accommodation of the courts, it should be lawful for the Governor to declare by proclamation the following townships a separate and distinct district with the name of "Gore," viz: Zorra, Nissouri, Blandford, Blenheim, Oxford, Burford, Oakland, Norwich and Dereham, and the town of Woodstock.

This proclamation was issued November thirteenth, 1839, and in the year 1840 the first court for the district was held at Woodstock.

By an Act of Parliament passed in the year 1845, the townships of Blandford, Blenheim, Burford, Dereham, Nissouri, North Oxford, East Oxford, West Oxford, Oakland, Norwich, East Zorra, and West Zorra, formed the county of Oxford; and by an Act of Parliament subsequent to the abolition of districts (1849) the following townships and towns constituted the county, viz: East Zorra, West Zorra, North Oxford, East Oxford, West Oxford, Dereham, Blenheim, Blandford, Norwich and East Nissouri, and the town of Woodstock, since which the following municipalities have been added: the town of Ingersoll and the village of Embro.

In connection with the territorial changes above described we will trace the political history of the county.

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