

Report on Public Buildings

Ans. I am not-- Hamilton is the handsomest, healthiest and most convenient place in the district---thinks that the advantages of the county town being situated upon the water would overbalance the convenience to the inhabitants generally in having it situated in the centre of the district---the increase of the town of Hamilton has been retarded by the reports circulated by interested individuals of the intention of the inhabitants to apply to the legislature for a removal of the county town.

AUGUSTUS BATES.

Lives in Nelson, subscribed the petition of the inhabitants of Nelson and Trafalgar---lives twelve miles from Hamilton---has nothing to offer to the committee more than is stated in his petition.

It is more convenient and the road is better from Dundas street to Hamilton than to Flamboro' West, Dundas or Ancaster.

As far as he has heard the inhabitants say any thing upon the subject of the county town they are in favour of Hamilton.

THOMAS TAYLOR, ESQUIRE.

Is judge of the Gore district court, and lives in Hamilton---has signed none of the petitions.

Ques. Do a majority of the inhabitants of the district desire a division ?

Ans. Cannot form any opinion.

Thinks that if individuals had not interested themselves in circulating petitions on the subject we should have heard nothing of a removal of the county town---thinks Hamilton a good place for the county town, and does not think any other place in the district preferable for a county town, unless selected for geographical position.

Is of opinion that if the district should remain undivided, and all the townships been equally well settled, the advantages of a county town at a place accessible by water communication, would render it preferable to a central situation in the interior of the district.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Lives in the township of Saltfleet, and is a justice of the peace in that district---is decidedly of opinion that the great majority of the inhabitants of the district do not desire a removal of the county town.

Upon hearing the testimony of Mr. O'Riley read to him, concurs in every thing stated by him, except that part relating to Ancaster being the most suitable place for a county town upon a settlement of the whole district.

Is of opinion that Hamilton would, under any circumstances, be preferable to Ancaster.

January 24th, 1827.

JOSEPH WEBSTER, *called in and examined.*

Has signed the petition which prays that the village of Coot's Paradise should be made the county town---lives in the vicinity of Dundas and has some property in the village, considers that it was the intention of a former lieutenant governor, that Dundas should be the county town, and thinks conscientiously that it is an eligible situation.

It would furnish more advantages to the western section of the province and the Gore district in particular; has resided eight years in his present residence---read to the committee a paper. No. 1. If it should not be removed to Dundas, he would still think it should be taken from Hamilton, to some more central position.

WM. HARE, ESQUIRE.

Is a signer of the petition requesting that Dundas shall be the county town---has lived 18 years at Dundas. No further reasons occur to him for this measure than those given in the petition, and those stated by Mr. Webster, in whose opinion he concurs.

Dundas is now a considerably larger town than Hamilton---The mill stream is a great advantage; thinks Dundas the place most favourably situated for business and that it would be the most considerable place setting out all questions of its being the county town.

January 25th, 1827.

WILLIAM CHISHOLM, ESQUIRE.

Lives in Nelson---10 miles from Hamilton, 11 miles from Dundas---has not subscribed any of the petitions now before the house---As an inhabitant of the district would be willing to have the county town remain where it is, even if the district should remain undivided---Hamilton is the best place in the county of Wentworth, the shore of the little lake opposite Hamilton is well adapted for commerce; a town situated there would be very convenient so far as regards the advantages of a harbour.

The produce from the northern parts of the district as far west as to Flamboro' East would naturally be brought to the shore of Burlington bay, not to Hamilton but to some point on the north side of the lake; thinks that Hamilton is not likely to become a large town for purposes of trade, and that Dundas is, from its advantages of a mill-seat. Hamilton is not a place to which the people of the district generally are likely to have recourse for other reasons than because of its being the county town. If the De S.Jardins Canal is completed so as to afford a sloop navigation to Dundas it will become an important place for business. Setting out of view the circumstance that Hamilton has been made the county town, and looking at the district as if it were now about to be organized, he thinks the convenience of the inhabitants generally would be best consulted by placing the gaol and court house at Dundas---for the present and at all times to come, thinks that from a great proportion of the new settlements, the produce will be taken to the mouth of the 16 mile creek where a harbour for vessels can be made. Taking all circumstances into consideration, thinks the advantages of the district generally would be better consulted at all times by having the county town at any convenient point of Burlington bay than in the interior, although the latter would be more central.

JAMES HAMILTON ESQUIRE.

Lives in Dundas---has resided there two years, and eight years in the district. Has signed a petition praying that the county town may be placed in the most eligible situation, to be determined by commissioners. Does not approve of Hamilton as a county town. Is a magistrate of the District, understand that a contract is entered into for building a gaol and court house at Hamilton, but does not know the particulars,---has been at Hamilton lately,---no great preparations made,---cannot say what expence has been incurred, but thinks not much,---objects to Hamilton principally because it is so far from the centre of the district,---thinks any removal further to the north or west would be beneficial under all circumstances,---thinks at the top of the mountain in Flamboro' West, near Green's mills, the best site. It would be on a concession line much travelled and improved, and at a point where all the roads concentrate, from the west, east, and the north, and is on the great high road to York and the western district. Thinks a town there would become a considerable place, as there are great advantages of water for mills,---thinks that situation would be convenient for persons living at Waterloo and other back townships, and that altho' not central, it would be generally approved of, and preferred to Dundas by the persons living in the interior of the district, except perhaps some of the eastern townships. Has not heard any expectation expressed of the district being divided, unless by some persons in favor of the county town remaining at Hamilton, who have given as a reason for it that the district would probably be at some future time divided.

There were five magistrates against building a gaol and court house at Hamilton at the time of the contract: J. Crooks, Hamilton, Leopard, Smith, and Overfield.

WILLIAM SCOLLY, ESQUIRE, M. P. P.

Will not pretend to say which is the best place but would prefer that it should be left to disinterested commissioners. Waterloo, Dumfries, and Beverley contain more than a quarter of the population of the district. Would be in favour he thinks of a more central position than Hamilton, if the district is to remain undivided. They have only two magistrates in those townships, and therefore when Mr. O'Riley says in his evidence, that only four magistrates were against Hamilton continuing to be the county town, it ought to be considered that there are not magistrates in the townships above mentioned in proportion to the population.