



The Township of Biddulph



THE Township of Biddulph is situated in the northerly part of the County of Middlesex, having the Townships of Usborne and Blanshard on the north, the Township of McGillivray on the west, and the Townships of London and West Nissouri on the south, and lies about sixteen miles north of the City of London. It contains about 39,300 acres, exclusive of the village of Lucan, and formed a part of what was known as the "Huron tract," which extended from the County of Waterloo to the shores of Lake Huron, and which had come into the possession of the Canada Company for purposes of colonization. This Company had been originally promoted by John Galt to settle the Clergy Reserves, but meeting difficulties with these, it secured one million acres, exclusive of swamp lands, in the Huron tract, at 1s. 6d. per acre. In 1828, John Galt blazed a trail from Guelph to Goderich. One of the directors of this Company was John Biddulph, Esq., and from him the township secured its name.

Separation from the County of Huron

From its first organization, to the year 1865, the Township of Biddulph formed a part of the United Counties of Huron, Bruce and Perth. In the year 1865, when the late Robert H. O'Neil was Reeve, the townships of Biddulph and McGillivray separated from the County of Huron and were annexed to the County of Middlesex. Mr. James S. Smith was then member of Parliament for North Middlesex, and assisted in securing the necessary legislation.

At this time the indebtedness of the United Counties of Huron and Bruce—Perth in the meantime having withdrawn and formed into a separate county—was very large, incurred for the most part in building gravel roads and bonusing the Buffalo