

square miles. This was the last territorial change experienced by the county. Prior to 1840 the territory which is now the county of Oxford was included in the Western District, which was thus described by Surveyor-General Smith, in the year 1796: "It is bounded southerly by Lake Erie, easterly by a meridian passing through the eastern extremity of Long Point, and comprehends all the lands north-westerly of these boundaries not including within the bounds of the Hudson Bay Company or the territory of the United States: the boundary which divided it from Louisiana is not well known after reaching the sources of the Mississippi." The court house and gaol for the Western District was by Act of Parliament required to be built in Detroit. It will be remembered that previous to the Treaty of 1794 (taking effect in 1796) the Ohio and Mississippi formed a part of the boundary of Canada. By that Treaty the line was drawn to the middle of the lakes. By the British Act 31, George 3, chap. 31 heretofore alluded to, the Governor was empowered to divide the Province within two years into as many counties, &c., as he might see fit, and elect therefrom not less than sixteen members to compose the House of Assembly, in accordance with which power Governor Simcoe, on the 16th July, 1792, issued his proclamation dividing Upper Canada into the following counties, viz: Addington, Dundas, Durham, Essex, Frontenac, Glengarry, Grenville, Hastings, Kent, Leeds, Lennox, Lincoln, Norfolk, Northumberland, Ontario, Prince Edwards, Stormont, Suffolk and York, nineteen in number. The townships which now form the county of Oxford were attached to the counties of Norfolk and York—the townships of Burford, Oxford (which is now North, East and West Oxford) Norwich and Dereham being connected with the former county. In this proclamation the county of Norfolk was thus described; "On the north and east by the county of Lincoln and the River *la Tranche* (Thames), on the south by Lake Erie until it meets the Barbue (to be called the Orwell river), thence by a line running north sixteen degrees west, until it intersects the Thames up the said river, until it meets the north-west boundary of the county of York." The county of York, to which the townships of Blenheim and Blandford were attached, was described as follows: "Bounded on the east by the westernmost line of a tract of lands belonging to the Mississauga Indians, running north forty-five degrees, west to the River Thames, on the south side of Lake Geneva, (Burlington Bay), and a carrying place leading through the Mohawk village to where it intersects the river Thames, thence up the said river to the north-westernmost boundary of a tract of land belonging to the Mississauga Indians. In the year 1798 the tract of land of a triangular shape, then called the Townsend Gore, was made part of the township of Burford, and in the same year, by the same Act, it was enacted that the townships of Burford, Norwich, Dereham, Oxford upon the Thames, Blandford and Blenheim constitute the county of Oxford, and the counties of Oxford, Norfolk and Middlesex, with as much of the province as lay westward of the Home District and the District of Niagara, to the southward of Lake Huron,

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