

he names it Brampton after the home which he had left across the sea; he goes back to Toronto, opens a store again on King street which he turns over to a son;⁹ returns again to his Brampton farm for a time, and finally, in 1847, with two other sons, establishes a business in the city of Hamilton, which for a quarter of a century is one of its landmarks.

In public affairs he is equally active. He is a life long reformer; he opposes the "Family Compact" with speech and pen; though a co-worker with Bishop Strachan, he denounces the Clergy Reserves and though never, himself, a candidate for Parliament, he is a familiar figure on political platforms and a frequent contributor to the newspapers as a supporter of George Brown and the "Grits." He is a Justice of the Peace of the county of Wentworth for many years, and dies in the City of Hamilton on February 19th, 1875, respected by the whole people among whom he lived and deeply regretted by the church he loved so well.¹⁰

On the walls of the Primitive Methodist church in Brampton, England, is a tablet with this inscription:

William Lawson, J. P.

Born at Wall-Holme, 1793; married Ann Atkinson 1814; emigrated to Canada 1829; introduced Primitive Methodism into Canada and founded the town of Brampton, Canada; died at Hamilton, Canada, 1875.¹¹

Of the eleven children of William Lawson all but one, were born at Brampton, England, four died in infancy and one at the age of twenty.

Thomas, the eldest son, went with his father to Brampton and managed the farm there, and returned with him to Toronto when he opened the new store on the north side of King street. When William Lawson settled in Hamilton, Thomas carried on the Toronto business until about 1865, when he bought a farm at Gallows Hill, now within the corporate limits of Toronto; he removed to Wellington Square, near Hamilton a little later and after a short stay there purchased a farm near London which still remains in his family. Thomas was the only one of the sons to whom descended his father's gift for public speaking. It is worth noting that James J. Hill the famous railroad promotor and president worked, as a farm-hand when a young man on Thomas Lawson's London farm.