

a store in it. This was the first store in the place. Mr. Walker kept a hotel on the present site of Chamber's Hotel. In 1852 the post-office was opened as Brant post-office. Mr. John Shannon was appointed first postmaster. Mr. Shannon also kept a small store. In 1853 he turned the post-office over to Mr. McLean, who then became postmaster. It is hardly necessary to say that the honor of being postmaster, gave its possessor at that time more work and trouble than dimes. The village, Rogue's Hollow, or Sucker Town, as it was then called, however received fresh accessions each year. In 1854, Mr. John Bruce, one of our most respected and enterprising citizens came here. In January of that year he let the contract for a small frame building, which was erected and ready for occupation, within six weeks from the time the contract was let. Mr. Bruce at once commenced business, and became a prosperous merchant. He retired in 1875, after having replaced his frame store by a brick, which he repeatedly enlarged, until it became the finest and largest brick structure in the town. He built the first brick building in town in 1858. It formed part of his brick block lately swept away by the fire. In 1855 Mr. Louis Wisser and Mr. Wm. Richardson our worthy townsmen, bought lots and settled at the intersection of Jackson and Durham streets. Mr. Flett had a short time previously settled on the lot on which he is still living.

The village grew but slowly, until it was chosen as the county seat about 1865, but even then its increase was by no means rapid. The completion of the Railway in 1872 however gave it an impetus forward, and ever since it has rapidly increased both in size and population, as also in importance as a commercial centre. In the year 1871 the place was incorporated as a town by a special act of Parliament. It then had a population of about 800. Mr. Joseph Walker was chosen the first Mayor. This was fitting tribute to the first settler of the place. Mr. McVicar was the first Reeve of the town.

In 1866 the Jail and Court House were built at a cost of \$44,000. Mr. John Elliot of Brantford, was the contractor. In 1876 the County Council filled a long felt need, by erecting the commodious and substantial Council Chamber on Colborne street. It cost \$6,000 and contains besides the Council Chamber, offices for the County Officials and the Master in Chancery.

In 1863 the first printing office was established in the town by Mr. Brown, who removed the plant of the Herald office to this place from

Paisley. The
TELESCOPE
carrying on
Joseph Cra

In 186
continued t
hands of th
terest of th
views of po

In the
ing point
terian Chur
The Angli
Church edit
beauty.

On Ma
tened to be
has been tu
the noble b
tures destro
destructive
course of a
dences, and
severe blow
like, the tow
were built d
beauty, as t
many a city

* In 1876
ings, among
building ope
least \$150,0

While the
centre, her n
in that line
David Moore
Messrs. Ken
Fischer & P