

Wylie and Ferguson secured the contract to build the Tay Canal, then deemed a grand enterprise. While performing the work Mr. Wylie lived at Poonemallee, subsequently locating in Ramsay, where he opened a store and helped start the village that has grown into the important town of Almonte. One of his sons is still in business there. A daughter married the late Judge Malloch.

The Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Methodists conducted a Union Sunday School in the old court house. The ministers were on friendly terms, although the people were divided into cliques and factions, which had little social intercourse with each other. Once the aristocrats, who believed themselves head and shoulders above the ordinary run of humanity, had to do their statute labor on the streets, owing to the scarcity of workmen, much to the edification of the community. John Adams, who attained four-score and ten, taught singing school most efficiently. Congregational singing was the style in church and Perth ranked high in this feature of worship. Folks dressed neatly on Sundays. My mind recalls perfectly the looks of the principal men and women who lived in Perth seventy or more years ago. Pretty girls were by no means scarce. Three barefooted boys, Malcolm, John and Alexander Cameron, were particularly clever and ambitious. All became distinguished, notwithstanding John died in the bloom of what promised to be a remarkable career in medical practice. Malcolm Cameron's public service is a part of the history of the province. The rum-demon was not absent, not a few promising youths going down to the drunkard's grave and to the drunkard's eternal doom.

The flourishing town of Smith's Falls has grown wonderfully since Simpson and Gould erected flour and saw mills and started general stores. Richmond was a small, muddy patch, the abode of some half-pay officers and a mixed population. Captain Lyon built a grist-mill and carried on a large store. Hinton and Mulloch also had stores. Richmond was named from the unfortunate Duke of Richmond, Governor of Canada, who died there