

WALKERTON,

From the Year 1851 to 1877.

Little over a quarter of a century has passed away since the first echo of civilization was heard on that part of this terrestrial globe on which the thriving town of Walkerton is now built. Wild beasts had their lairs where now are the pleasant homes of our citizens. The forests then covered what in so few years has been changed into beautiful gardens. The howl of the wolf has given place to the din of the workshop, the merry tingle of the bricklayer's trowel or the strongly resounding blows of the carpenter's hammer. In that short space of time was the forest cleared away and a town built to which its citizens may well point with pride as an evidence of not only their enterprise but their prosperity.

It was in 1851 that the late Joseph Walker, from whom, being the first settler, the town received its name, settled on the Saugeen River, within the limits of what is now the town of Walkerton. It seems Mr. Walker and several others, started on an prospecting tour from Durham to Owen Sound, thence to Southampton and Kincardine. From there they turned eastward and one of them decided on Riversdale as the spot for his future home. The rest continued their journey until they came to the Saugeen where Mr. Walker determined to pitch his tent and at once located his claim. He came here in the Summer of 1851. He at once set about building a mill. He dug his mill race the same year he came here, but did not construct his dam until the next year. He also built his sawmill in that year. In the Fall of the year in which Mr. Walker settled here, our worthy post-master Mr. Malcolm McLean came in and erected the building which is still used as a post-office, and opened