

the District of Hesse the very first day it sat, July 17, 1789, and, as has been said, he was the only professional man who practised in that Court during the five years of its existence (so far as appears by the extant records); he appeared on one side or the other in practically every case of importance and his name appears as witness to many of the conveyances of the period, no doubt drawn by himself.

Trained in the French-Canadian law and in the practice prescribed in the Quebec Ordinances he was at a disadvantage when, in 1792, the Legislature of Upper Canada introduced the English Law and in 1794 destroyed the Courts of Common Pleas and instituted the Court of King's Bench in their place. His name does not appear as Counsel in the Term Books, although several motions are made by other Counsel acting as his agent; once, too, his name occurs as witness. He was a considerable land holder in the Western District, his name appearing in many chains of title. It was he, it is said, who delivered to the Americans the keys of the Fort at Detroit on the surrender of that place the British in 1796 under the terms of Jay's Treaty of 1794. He became a Barrister at law and a member of the Law Society in 1797.

He was made a Registrar for the Western District of Upper Canada by Governor Simcoe in 1796, the Commission being still extant in the possession of his grandson, Albert E. Roe, Toronto.

It may be noted that it was a son of his, William Roe, who was the governmental clerk who saved the public money from the Americans on their capture of York (Toronto) in 1813 by burying it on the farm of John Beverley Robinson (afterwards Chief Justice of Upper Canada), east of the Don Bridge on the Kingston Road.

William Roe afterwards became a prominent merchant at Newmarket. The family tradition is that he was a juror on the trial of Lount and Matthews, March 26th, 1838, for their part in the McKenzie Rebellion. That would appear to be a mistake as these unfortunate men pleaded guilty. The trial referred to was probably that of Dr. James Hunter of Whitby, who was tried the same day that his two friends were executed, April 12th, 1838. On this jury was Mr. Gooderham—the original Gooderham, grandfather of the present generation. I have it from one who remembered those days, Sir Aemilius Irving, that when the jury retired to their room, Mr. Gooderham said, "Gentlemen, we have had enough hanging," and drawing his cloak about him added, "when you are agreed on a verdict of Not Guilty, call me. I am going to have a sleep." He then lay down. A verdict of Not Guilty was arrived at with no great delay.

One layman who appeared as Attorney in the Court was Charles Smyth, afterwards the Clerk of the Court; he seems to have been what we now call an unlicensed conveyancer, a class of professional men not yet quite extinct.

A contemporary letter by the Honourable Richard Cartwright, a member of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada says that Charles