

*Excerpts from a paper read before the U. E. Loyalists' Association by  
H. H. Robertson, Barrister, Hamilton, 10th March, 1903.*

Mr. Leeming, having been ordained by the Bishop of London, was sent out in the footsteps of Rev. Robert Addison, who had been rector of St. Mark's, Niagara, since 1792, by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. He arrived in Ancaster in 1816. Up to the time of his coming residents of the district had resorted to Mr. Addison for the ministrations of the church, or for the celebration of marriages— if they resided more than eighteen miles from a parson—to the nearest magistrate. "In 1815 and up to 1818 there were twenty merchants' shops in the village of Ancaster," says the author of *Smith's Gazetteer* (1850), "and doing good business, but about that period Dundas and Hamilton, Brantford and West Flamboro sprang into existence as business places, and later, London, Simcoe, Ingersoll and other places of business, to the westward, and the monopoly enjoyed for a brief period by Ancaster was destroyed."

By our constitutional act (31 George III.) it was enacted that the Governor might erect parsonages and rectories, "and that every person so presented shall hold the same (rectory) in the same manner, and liable to the performance of the same duties as the incumbent of a parsonage or rectory in England."

In 1817 the Rev. William Sampson became rector of Grimsby, and four years after the arrival of Mr. Leeming, on the 6th of June 1820, Mr. Leeming was married at Dundas, by the Rev. William Sampson, to Susan, a daughter of Major Richard Hatt, who, with his brother Samuel, had settled in Ancaster in 1798. The first entry of a marriage in the recovered register is dated Christmas Eve, 1816, and the last on the 11th day of January, 1827. In the record of baptisms, there is no entry between the 31st of August, 1818, and the 17th of October, 1824. Where was the rector between these dates?

Mr. Leeming was succeeded by Mr. Miller, as rector of Dundas and Ancaster, on the 8th of August, 1830, who in turn was succeeded by Dr. McMurray, who came to the parish in 1838, but was not inducted therein until 6th December, 1841. Dr. McMurray left, and the Reverend F. L. Osler took charge of the rectory on the 12th of January, 1857. Mr. Osler remained rector, nominally, until 1895.