

the oldest Baptist families of Ontario. In 1816 he purchased two hundred acres of heavily wooded land in the township of Blenheim, County of Oxford, and made a "clearing" on the "Governor's Road," a much travelled highway from Hamilton to London, albeit there was no London in those days.

In the early years of his residence there Jacob Goble became a Baptist preacher, spending most of his time in journeying from place to place and preaching in the log cabins in the woods. When he reached a home boys would be sent through the "bush" to spread the news that a preacher had come. By "early candle light" all the settlers for miles around would gather to hear probably two or three sermons before leaving. How far his missionary journeys extended and what part he took in organizing the early churches cannot now be learned; but his work must have been considerable for his memory yet lingers among the older people of Oxford and Norfolk counties especially.

Deacon William L. Goble was born July 9, 1811, in the town of Butternuts, Otsego County, N. Y. He was but a child of five years when his father settled in Blenheim, in 1816, and there he was destined to live for *seventy nine* years.

The school of those days was a very primitive affair, lasting but a few weeks in winter, yet he succeeded in getting a fair English education, which was afterwards broadened by reading and contact with men, until he had a strong and intelligent grasp of the great problems of his day.

In the year 1834, he married Miss Laura Green, a daughter of John and Sarah Green, then of Burford. Her mother was a Lathrop, a descendant of Rev. John Lathrop, who is thus described: "A man of great piety and many adventures. He was a minister of Egerton, Kent County, England, before 1624; afterwards preached in London as successor to Mr. Jacobs, in the first Congregational church organized in England. After suffering two years imprisonment for non-conformity, he was released and came to America in 1634." Many descendants of the family are to be found in Norwich and other parts of Connecticut.

Within a narrow clearing, where the village of Goble's Corners and station now stand, this young couple, strong in the vigor