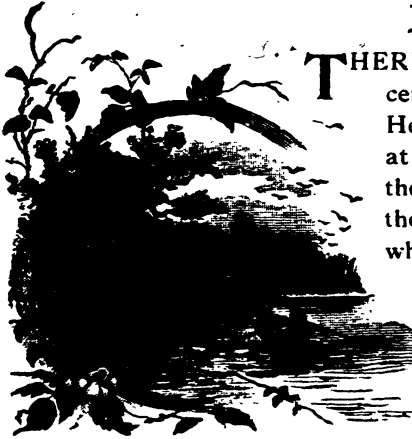


# THE TOWN OF DUNDAS.

DR. J. W. SMITH.



THERE is a tradition that early in the 17th century a Flemish priest, named Father Hennepin, visited the section of country at the head of Lake Ontario and gave it the name of Flanders; to the bay he gave the name of Lake Geneva, and the site where Dundas now is he called Little Flanders. The village was originally laid out in a plot of sixty acres, and called "Coote's Paradise," supposed to have derived its name from an Englishman, a member of Gov. Simcoe's staff, named Coote, who was fond of hunting and found in this valley a very paradise for that sport. When he first saw it, he exclaimed, "Behold a paradise!" Another account gives it that name because it was a paradise for a bird, very common in the early days, called the "Coote."

The order for the survey was made on May 1st, 1801. Isaac Smith, grandfather of the writer, built the first house, and took up land in what is now the west part of the town, but remained there only a few months, when he moved up on the mountain, north of the town. Hatt, Hare and Head were amongst the first permanent settlers. A log jail and court house was erected on the site of the residence of the late Hugh Moore, Esq. This jail was used as a prison in the war of 1812-3.

On the 28th day of July, 1847, Dundas was incorporated as a town and divided into four wards. The town hall, which is still in use for that purpose, was erected in 1848. The first council was composed of one member from each ward and a president, as follows:

|                 |                            |   |   |    |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---|---|----|
| JOHN PATTERSON, | President.                 |   |   |    |
| JAMES COLEMAN,  | Councillor for Ward No. 1. |   |   |    |
| ROBERT HOLT,    | "                          | " | " | 2. |
| HUGH McMAHON,   | "                          | " | " | 3. |
| ROBERT SPENCE,  | "                          | " | " | 4. |

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Finest of Fruits, Peels, etc., at HAZELL'S.