

Paper Read on the 14th Jan., 1901

in St. Paul's School House, Woodstock, on the 21st Anniversary of the opening of the new Church.

THE History of Woodstock does not date very far back. Its starting-point may be placed in the year 1832. It was then known only by the name of "the plot." Some half dozen houses and a very few inhabitants composed the settlement.

In this year, Capt. Drew, R. N., visited the spot and, pleased with the situation and the excellent quality of the land, determined to take up his "grant" here.

He was followed by others; Col. Light who, we are told, became possessor of "one of the sweetest spots in Canada"; Capt. Graham, R. N., Messrs. Hunter, M. P. P., Riddell, Deedes, Buller, Gibson, and later, the Hon. P. B. de Blaquiére and others.

The name of Admiral Vansittart will always be identified with that of Woodstock as practically the founder of the town and the donor of the Church.

He commissioned Captain Drew to make extensive purchases of land for him.

Very soon the want of a Church was felt by the incomers of this new settlement, and was made known to Admiral Vansittart in England.

He immediately collected small sums for the purpose, amounting to about £250, to which he and his sister, Mrs. East, added a like sum, and in this year, 1832, sent £500 for the erection of a simple edifice. The land for the site of a church and churchyard was given by Captain Drew.

In the latter part of the year, the living was offered by Admiral Vansittart to the Rev. William Bettridge, with the generous pledge of an income of £100 and 100 acres of cleared land, until the government should make an equal allowance; but as no convenient residence could be found for him, and the church was not yet built, his departure for Canada was deferred.