

WILLIAM DUFF MILLER

It is the intention of the Society to publish from time to time as opportunity may offer short notices of early inhabitants of the town. There have been already more or less full accounts of several families in the township as Servos, Ball, Whitmore, Field, McFarland as found in our publications numbers five, eight, eleven, but there has been little mention of any of our chief townsmen such as Heron, Crooks, Grier, Dickson, Clench, Rogers, Muirhead, Lockhart. It is hoped that any who can help in this direction will do so. The name found at the head of this article may be seen again and again in early papers of the town and even down to a period in the memory of many now living, Col W. D. Miller is remembered as having filled many offices and always with honor as Secretary of many societies, Registrar for many years, Coroner, County Clerk, Merchant, Elder of St. Andrew's Church, as Militia Officer etc., all this shows in what esteem he was held and how trusted, and of his numerous descendants many have sustained the honor of the father's name.

Born in 1786 of Scottish parentage, nearly his whole life was spent in Canada. The name W. D. Miller appears as Ensign in the Lincoln Militia in 1812 and he afterwards reached the rank of Lt.-Colonel although from his retiring nature he never wished the title to be used in addressing him as so many do.

His youngest daughter, Mrs. Wilson, remembers distinctly that when a little girl she went with him on the 4th of June (Training Day) to Chippawa, as having lived there first he retained his position of Colonel of the regiment long after he had removed to Niagara. Mrs. Wynn, the eldest daughter who died at Niagara, aged 90, was born at Chippawa in 1809, while Richard Miller, another child was born in Niagara in 1817 in what is now called "The Wilderness" now occupied by W. H. J. Evans, then owned by Col. Wm. Claus. Mrs. Wilson tells that while the residence on Mary Street of her father was being built her mother planted trees chiefly willows, and that she was assisted by Col. Claus, the young trees being taken