

therefore these individuals from whom much information may have been obtained in former years, had ceased to refresh the memory of others with a history of their early days.

The apparent difficulties before mentioned had to be overcome by patient and persevering effort in obtaining that which was at present available, and to record the information now at hand, although it is in some respects imperfectly, and necessarily very brief. Any lengthened detail of uninteresting and comparatively minor things would, in all probability, have frustrated the object in view, namely, of placing within the reach of parties interested, a variety of information so condensed that it may be obtained at a moderate price. The very small edition required has increased the cost per copy, and has to be taken into account in all works for publication.

The Belfry Family was more than an ordinary family; it is an uncommon occurrence to find a family so large, having the same longevity. Sixteen children that grew up to be men and women, is not otherwise known to the writer in the County of York, and it is a possible question whether a parallel can be mentioned, or is in existence in the Province of Ontario.

A very brief reference to the descendants of this remarkable family is all that has been considered advisable to give in this place, or ought to be expected.

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