

Americans under the Prophet and Tecumseh. Indeed, in the eddies under its banks, it was not yet a very rare scene to see moored there the red canoe fleet, and above deep into the cooling glade the picturesque Indian wigwam camp. Nor, has the Indian camp been the sole occupant of that historic spot, but other fires have lighted up in weird like brightness the deep darkness of its forest night. Here, in 1814, General McArthur's rugged troopers bivouacked, sang and caroused. Here, in earlier times a great French commander and his voyageur soldiers and Indians rested and feasted, on their way to northern forts; and who will say that even the greater La Salle may not have sailed the "Sny" and Sydenham's broad and deep waters in the good ship "Griffin," and moored against its wood bound shore. That a story was current amongst the Indians, that long prior to the white man's advent in the district, a French commander had arrived there, was well known to the early settlers, and that an armed body of Europeans must have visited, if not traversed, the Bear Creek Valley prior to Gen. McArthur, is evidenced by round shot being found embedded in standing timber, over which many a year's growth of rings had grown.

Such was the site in 1804, and such it was in 1822, when at the latter date pioneer Laughlin McDougall, a Baldoon settler, Moses-like of old, desiring pastures new and green moved upon, and took possession of Lot 13, Con. 2nd, Sombra, now Chatham Gore, planting his camp at a spot now described as sub-division No. 1, Block A, McDougall Survey, fronting on Wallace Street. Here he, about the year named, erected thereon a log house which in course of time served as Indian truck store, tavern and dwelling house, and was in the year following when visited by assessor James Dolsen, the highest up river domicile, excepting perhaps the shanties of Messrs Boyles and Bolton, who had settled along the upper river reaches near what is now the village of Florence about the same time. To this rude and primitive erection he in after years built in front of it a rather substantial frame building, which, if we are not misinformed, still remains and forms part of what is known as "Patterson's" Store. On the same lot—later known as the "Peck Property"—and in rear of the house aforesaid, at the water's edge, he, in 1834 or there about, built the schooners "Wallace" and "Selkirk," the first vessels of Baldoon's fleet, and the first to navigate modern Bear Creek's deep waters. Across the street he, also some time after, erected the more pretentious hostelry of the then period, a resort known for its famed three cent swipes of whiskey, and from the effects of which not a few free brawls were instituted, a feature however, not more common to McDougall's than to other taverns of that day—a resort too, under a later regime, for a gang of men, perhaps far more temperate, much less noisy, but none the less wicked and lawless—the 1856 horse thieves. Burned down, the site of the same is now occupied by the premises of Alex. McDougall, solicitor.

Laughlin McDougall, a few years after his first settlement, was joined by the McGregor family of 1812-14 war renown, who for services then rendered by the gallant captain, secured some 850 acres, principally on the 1st Con., and settled thereon upon Lot 12, where at a point a little south of McDougall's, he erected about the year 1831, a building in which he kept store for 12 or 15 years. He was followed by Hugh McCallum, who obtaining from the patentee, Francis Baby, the south half of the original Lot No. 12 on the second concession, built thereon on what is now sub division Lot No. 10, River, McCallum's survey, a log house, and subsequently in 1835, a frame, in which he taught School and kept Post Office. It is to Hugh McCallum, a Baldoon emigrant, that the village owes its name, for it was he—the first P. M.—that took from it the ugly appellation of "40 Thieves," and the somewhat more appropriate name of the "Forks," and gave it standing

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