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# A HISTORY OF EATON.

By C. S. LEBOURVEAU.

Being an Historical Account of the First Settlement of the  
Township of Eaton.

At that time situated in the County of Buckingham, in the District  
of Three Rivers, Province of Lower Canada.

I find it up-hill work to gather reliable statistics with regard to the first settlement of Eaton, and have had to rely principally upon what has been handed down from mouth to mouth, as I find but very few records to assist me, those few being family and church records. I shall endeavor, however, to make as few errors as possible. I shall try to give brief sketches of some of the hardships, privations and inconveniences the early settlers had to endure, so that the rising generation may see what their forefathers had to contend with, and the courage they must have had to have carried the burden which they took upon themselves in clearing up the farms which their successors enjoy. Where I find descendants of the same name now living I shall give their genealogy as correctly as possible.

## CHAPTER I.

I shall commence with Sawyerville, as the first settlement commenced there.

Mr. Josiah Sawyer, after making two or three trips through the wilderness to Quebec, succeeded in obtaining a charter of a large portion of the township. His associates were Israel Bailey, Orsamus Bailey, Amos Hawley, Ward Bailey, John Perry, John Cook, Royal Learned, Samuel Hayes, John French, Levi French, Timothy Bailey, Abner Osgood, Waltham

Baldwin, Benjamin Bishop, Jessie Cooper, Abner Powers, Samuel Beach, Jules Baldwin, John Gordon, Charles Cutter, Royal Cutter, James Lucus, Philip Jordan, William McAllister, Abel Benet, George Rimball, Calvin Rice, Charles Lothrop, Apthorp Caswell, and Peter Green Sawyer. In 1795 Josiah Sawyer, in company with Augustus Hurd, came into the county and felled ten acres of trees on the place now known as the Dudley Williams' place in Newport, thinking it was in Eaton. In the fall a hunter passed that way, and he was very much surprised to find it there, and as it was a very dry time thought it would be very good trick to fire it, which was a little more trouble for him to do than it would be at the present time, as he had to strike fire with steel, flint and punk, there being no matches then. As there are a good many to day that do not know what punk is, I will tell them, as it is a matter of history. It is a tough, spongy piece of wood, mostly found in maple.

The result of the fire was that everything was burnt but the logs, and when Mr. Sawyer and Mr. Hurd came the next spring they were more surprised than the hunter to find their slash burned, but it was a joyful surprise, and as our forefathers were a little given to superstition, they thought the Lord had sent the lightning and burnt their slash for them, but later on when they heard who burned