

MR. DAVID ROWNTREE.

David Rowntree's parents were born in England and emigrated to this country in 1834, and first settled in Etobicoke Township. David Rowntree, the subject of this sketch, was born in Etobicoke Township, Aug. 7th, 1842. His first experience from home was the clearing of a bush farm in Walpool, which injured his constitution so much that he was unfit for that kind of business. After living in several places he at last, in 1874, bought that splendid hotel in the village of Mono Road, directly opposite the railway station, and the only one in the village that received a license this year. In the year 1865 he married Amanda Wien, who have had six children. This hotel is a very commodious one and travellers are always sure of a hearty welcome, good meals and clean beds, and at very moderate prices.

THE SILVERTHORN FAMILY.

John Chisholm, Esq., lived at Queenston Heights, and was married to Catharine Fletcher, July 15th, 1790; he came from Inverness, she from Argyshire, Scotland; their daughter Jane was born April 11th, 1791.

John Silverthorn, Esq., lived in New Jersey, near the old "Meadows," and was married to Esther Corwine, Jan. 12th, 1783, both of English extraction.

Joseph Silverthorn, Esq., was born in December 7th, 1785, in Jersey. His parents came to Canada in 1786 and lived on a farm two miles and a half north of Lundy's Lane until 1810, when he removed to Lot No. 4, south of Dundas Street, Township of Toronto.

Joseph Silverthorn and Jane Chisholm were married at the residence of her father John Chisholm, Queenston Heights, March 17, 1807. They had twelve children—nine girls and three boys. At the present time, 1877, they have three of their daughters still living with them at the old homestead. They have also a goodly number of grand-children and great-grand-children.

In the year 1807, Joseph Silverthorn, wife and father, left Niagara on the morning of April 18th, in a vessel named the *Hunter*, owned and sailed by one Joseph Kendrick, Hiram Kendrick as mate, and a man called *Pete*, sailor. There was a gale that brought them across the lake in two hours and a half, and when they reached the bay at Little York (now Toronto) they found so much ice the captain was afraid he could not get through, but he did not like to give up beat, or stay outside the bay all night, so he forced his way through the ice to the landing, injuring his vessel very much. The only tavern in Toronto at that time was kept by Dr. Stiles, where they staid all night. The next day the captain sent the open boat and Pete to take them to the mouth of the Etobicoke; when near the mouth of the Humber, a squall arose with hail, so it was with great difficulty they could make their way into the Humber, where they remained all night. The next day (Sunday, April 20th) they reached the Etobicoke, where his father staid to take care of the things while he and his wife started on foot through the woods which was so rough that sometimes they felt so discouraged that it required all their strength of mind to enable them to proceed; however after a great deal of trouble and weariness, they reached their future home on lot 11, north of Dundas Street, where they have lived ever since. They remained with Mr. Phillips Cody, until they built a shanty 18 by 20 feet where they lived until about the year 1816, when they moved into a house they had built a little larger and not far from the first one. They lived in this house until 1822 when they erected the building in which they at present reside.

Mr. Silverthorn has always been a farmer, although he had a saw mill for several years. He brought with him two cows, but the bears killed one and wounded the other so that it died. They got another and it got its horns fast under a log in the stable and died, so they were obliged to get four or five before they succeeded in keeping one. They also had great difficulty in keeping pigs and sheep.

He served as a militiaman during the war of 1812-15; during the war they were obliged to make a pen for their cattle to prevent them from being stolen. The first winter they lived in the Township of Toronto there were thirteen camps of Indians all near his house. When the snow came Mr. Silverthorn had to go back to Queenston for supplies and was gone for six weeks, but his wife felt very safe with such a guard around, as the Indians were very friendly and exchanged venison for turnips and other things they wanted.

His eldest son, George, was the first to take up arms and assist in putting down the rebellion of 1837, and continued in the service until the end of it. In 1815, Charles Nichols boarded with them and taught a school, which was the first one in the vicinity.

At the present writing, April 7th, 1877, the aged couple are both remarkably smart, and last month passed the 70th anniversary of their marriage.

FRANCIS SLEIGHTHOLM, ESQ.

The parents of the above, James and Ann Sleightholm, were natives of England, emigrated to Canada and arrived in Little York (Toronto) on the 1st of August, 1829. They moved up to Yonge Street, near Montgomery's tavern, and remained there until 1830. During their stay there Mr. Sleightholm purchased lot No. 6, 10th concession Toronto Gore, then County of York, and removed on said lot on the above date where he still resides; his wife has been dead for 22 years.

Mr. Francis Sleightholm was born in England in 1824, and came to Canada with his parents. His facilities for receiving an education were very limited and his whole attention during life has been given to agriculture at which he has been very successful. He was married to Miss Sarah Allison, daughter of John Allison, Esq., on the 8th of June, 1847, having 9 children.

EMERSON TAYLOR, ESQ.

Israel and Theresa Taylor, the parents of the above gentleman, were natives of New York State, and were born in the years 1789 and 1793 respectively. Mrs. Theresa Taylor is still living. Mr. Emerson Taylor, the subject of this sketch, was born on the 1st of August, 1814, in the State of Pennsylvania. In 1834 he came to Canada and settled in the Township of Markham where he resided three years, when he finally settled in the village of Springfield, where he still resides. When he arrived at Springfield it was a busy and stirring village, being on the through road between Toronto and Hamilton, but when the Grand Trunk and Great Western railroads were built it cut off most of that traffic and left the village duller than before. However, the water power is the very best there, and it is expected that when the Credit Valley Railroad is built, the village will again improve. Mr. Taylor married Miss Bolina Ball, daughter of John Bull, Esq., of Pennsylvania, in 1838. In politics he has always supported the Reform party. He has occupied and still holds many positions of trust. He was appointed magistrate in 1858, and has been acting magistrate for the village ever since. He was a member of the Township Council for five years. He was appointed postmaster in 1864 and still retains that position. He keeps the only hotel in the village and has done so for the last twenty-six years. It is one of the finest hotels for travellers to stop at in the country; the stranger always finds good clean lodgings and the very best of meals. The house is deservedly called the model house of Peel. Mr. Taylor belongs to the Methodist Church, and has done much towards the advancement of religion in his neighborhood, frequently opening his house for the services of the church. He is well known throughout Peel and other counties and highly respected by all as an honest and upright man.

ROBERT WILLIAMSON.

Robert Williamson was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1816, and emigrated to this country in 1842, and first settled in Newmarket. He remained there until 1862, when he bought the farm he is now living on, being lot six in the 7th concession Township of Albion. He married Miss Robinson in the year 1864, six children being the issue, all living. He is a prominent member of the English Church and has been connected with it all his life. He has followed the agricultural business and expects to do so as long as he lives.

AMOS WILCOX.

Isaac Wilcox, the father of the above, was born in the United States, where he served in the revolutionary war in 1776. He with his family emigrated to Canada in 1796, and settled at Chippeway. After remaining there a short time they moved to the Fifty Mile Creek, but on account of the Indians being so troublesome, they were obliged to leave, when after a very difficult journey, they removed to the Humber in York County, where they lived for several years, and after stopping a short time in Etobicoke Township, they finally sold out and went to the State of Indiana. Amos Wilcox, the subject of this sketch, was born in York State in 1793. He lived with his father for fifteen years, when he left home and worked for himself in different parts of Canada. When he was twenty-six years old he purchased the farm on which he is now living, it being lot 16, in the 2nd concession north of Dundas street, Township of Toronto,

County of Peel. In the war of 1812-14, he took an active part, and was in four engagements, Queenston Heights, Stoney Creek, Detroit and Black Rock and was presented with a medal for being one of the party who stormed and took the Fort at Detroit. He remained in the army and followed the privations of a soldier's life until the close of the war. He volunteered and went into the Government troops during the Mackenzie rebellion and was ordered to Port Credit, where he remained for some time, but was not in any actual engagements. He was several times offered a commission but always declined. He has followed farming all his life, and is considered one of the most successful farmers in the neighborhood. In 1820 he married Miss Annie Papps, and has had ten children, seven of whom are still living. Charles the youngest son is living on the old homestead, conducting the farm, it having been willed to him by his father. The farm consists of 200 acres, and was first purchased by them for the small sum of \$800, there is now on it a fine residence and the best of outbuildings, and is a most valuable property.

ALLAN WILCOX, Esq.

His parents, Absolem and Barbara Wilcox, were of English extraction, and born in the State of New Jersey. They came with their family to Canada and settled near Grimsby in 1801. They removed to the Township of Toronto and settled on Lot 3, 1st concession Dundas Street, in the year 1808. At that time there were only half a dozen families in the County of Peel. They died in 1841 and 1856, respectively.

Mr. Allan Wilcox was born in the Township of Toronto in 1809, on the old homestead on which he at present resides. He has followed farming all his life and made a specialty of fruit growing, which has proved remunerative. In 1837 he married Miss Elizabeth Harris, and had eleven children, seven of whom are still living. In the rebellion of 1837 he followed the fortunes of Mackenzie, his leader, and served him all through the unpleasantness. He first joined Mackenzie at Toronto and was with him at Navy Island, and was one of the chief ones to assist him out of the country. He took up arms against the Government because he thought they were interfering with the rights of the people, and thought and believed yet that although they were not successful, a good thing was accomplished for the country. After the war he remained a year in the States, after which he returned, and has since resided on his farm.

JOHN WATSON, Esq.

John Watson, Esq., was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in the year 1800, and settled in this country in 1824. He received a common school education and has followed farming all his life. He married Miss Rook, and eleven children were born to them, eight are still living. In 1844 Mrs. Watson had triplets (daughters), two of them died at the age of eight months, the third one is still living and is married to Stephen Smithers, of Mount Forest. Mr. Watson was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1858. Although a reformer he was identified with the Government party during the rebellion of 1837. He volunteered as a member of the Local Guards, but was not in active service. He was educated in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, but became connected with the Wesleyan Church in 1832; was appointed local preacher in 1850; has been class leader and circuit steward since the year 1837; was the principal person concerned in the establishment of the church in the vicinity in which he resides; has always been a consistent Christian man, and has by his own exertion accumulated a fine property. His residence, a fine substantial brick dwelling, is situated on lot No. 1, concession 4, Chinguacousy. In the contest between Malton and Brampton as to which should be the county town, he used his influence and gave his vote in favor of the Town of Brampton. In 1835 he took a very active part in the advancement of the temperance cause in his vicinity. He assisted in forming what was called the Total Abstinence Society, the rules of which prohibited the use of liquors on their farms or places of business. The first buildings raised without the use of liquor were raised on his property, contrary to the predictions of many who supposed that there could not be a sufficient number of men gathered together without the use of whiskey. This society was the first organization of its kind in the county. There were, however, temperance societies which allowed the use of beer and wine. Mr. Watson, at the time of this writing, although in his 76th year, is of a remarkably clear intellect and active habits, highly respected by his neighbors and the community generally.

