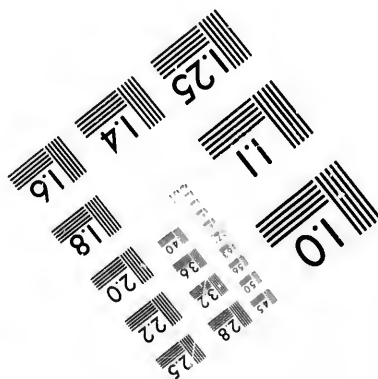
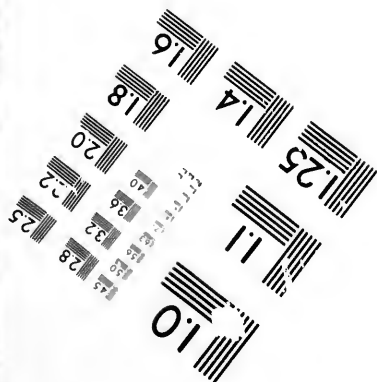
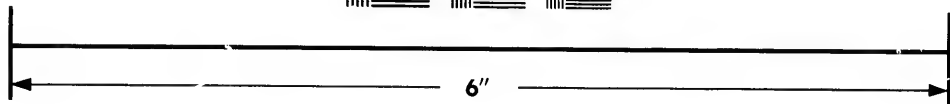
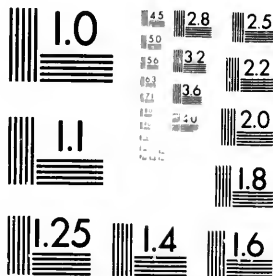


**IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)**



**Photographic
Sciences
Corporation**

23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503

Ca



**CIHM/ICMH
Microfiche
Series.**

**CIHM/ICMH
Collection de
microfiches.**



Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions

Institut canadien de microreproductions historiques

1980

Technical and Bibliographic Notes/Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- Coloured covers/
Couverture de couleur
- Covers damaged/
Couverture endommagée
- Covers restored and/or laminated/
Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- Cover title missing/
Le titre de couverture manque
- Coloured maps/
Cartes géographiques en couleur
- Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/
Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- Coloured plates and/or illustrations/
Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- Bound with other material/
Relié avec d'autres documents
- Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion
along interior margin/
La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la
distortion le long de la marge intérieure
- Blank leaves added during restoration may
appear within the text. Whenever possible, these
have been omitted from filming/
Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées
lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte,
mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont
pas été filmées.
- Additional comments:/
Commentaires supplémentaires:

- Coloured pages/
Pages de couleur
- Pages damaged/
Pages endommagées
- Pages restored and/or laminated/
Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/
Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- Pages detached/
Pages détachées
- Showthrough/
Transparence
- Quality of print varies/
Qualité inégale de l'impression
- Includes supplementary material/
Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
- Only edition available/
Seule édition disponible
- Pages wholly or partially obscured by errata
slips, tissues, etc., have been refilmed to
ensure the best possible image/
Les pages totalement ou partiellement
obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata, une pelure,
etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de façon à
obtenir la meilleure image possible.

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below/
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	14X	18X	22X	26X	30X
			✓		
12X	16X	20X	24X	28X	32X

The copy filmed here has been reproduced thanks to the generosity of:

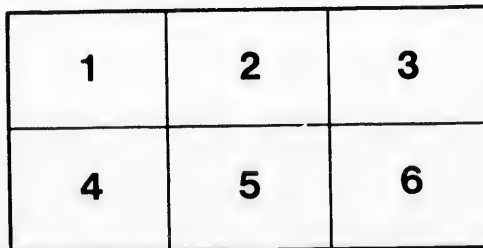
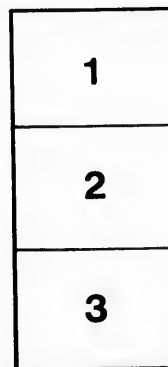
Library of the Public
Archives of Canada

The images appearing here are the best quality possible considering the condition and legibility of the original copy and in keeping with the filming contract specifications.

Original copies in printed paper covers are filmed beginning with the front cover and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression, or the back cover when appropriate. All other original copies are filmed beginning on the first page with a printed or illustrated impression, and ending on the last page with a printed or illustrated impression.

The last recorded frame on each microfiche shall contain the symbol \rightarrow (meaning "CONTINUED"), or the symbol ∇ (meaning "END"), whichever applies.

Maps, plates, charts, etc., may be filmed at different reduction ratios. Those too large to be entirely included in one exposure are filmed beginning in the upper left hand corner, left to right and top to bottom, as many frames as required. The following diagrams illustrate the method:



L'exemplaire filmé fut reproduit grâce à la générosité de:

La bibliothèque des Archives
publiques du Canada

Les images suivantes ont été reproduites avec le plus grand soin, compte tenu de la condition et de la netteté de l'exemplaire filmé, et en conformité avec les conditions du contrat de filmage.

Les exemplaires originaux dont la couverture en papier est imprimée sont filmés en commençant par le premier plat et en terminant soit par la dernière page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration, soit par le second plat, selon le cas. Tous les autres exemplaires originaux sont filmés en commençant par la première page qui comporte une empreinte d'impression ou d'illustration et en terminant par la dernière page qui comporte une telle empreinte.

Un des symboles suivants apparaîtra sur la dernière image de chaque microfiche, selon le cas: le symbole \rightarrow signifie "A SUIVRE", le symbole ∇ signifie "FIN".

Les cartes, planches, tableaux, etc., peuvent être filmés à des taux de réduction différents. Lorsque le document est trop grand pour être reproduit en un seul cliché, il est filmé à partir de l'angle supérieur gauche, de gauche à droite, et de haut en bas, en prenant le nombre d'images nécessaire. Les diagrammes suivants illustrent la méthode.

errata
to

pelure,
on à



G

FO

MEMOIRS
OF
GEORGE AND PHOEBE WARNICA,
PIONEERS OF INNISFIL.

PREPARED BY THEIR GRANDSON,
ANDREW FREDERICK HUNTER, B.A.,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF THE BARRIE EXAMINER.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION AMONGST THEIR DESCENDANTS.

BARRIE, ONT. :
THE BARRIE EXAMINER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING HOUSE.
1891.



G

FOR

MEMOIRS

OF

GEORGE AND PHOEBE WARNICA,

PIONEERS OF INNISFIL.

PREPARED BY THEIR GRANDSON,

ANDREW FREDERICK HUNTER, B.A.,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF THE BARRIE EXAMINER.

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION AMONGST THEIR DESCENDANTS.

BARRIE, ONT. :

THE BARRIE EXAMINER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING HOUSE.

1891.

CORRECTIONS TO BE MADE.

PAGE 9.—Lines 2 and 5. For 'Dutch' read 'German.' Her ancestors were not natives of Holland.

" 13.—Line 6. For 'Penetanguishene' read 'the head of Kempenfeldt Bay.' It is asserted that Garrett Malloy had a hostelry at Bradford at the time.

" 14.—Line 12 in sec. 3. For 'Thom' read 'Thorne.'

" 22.— " 7. For 'Thom' read 'Thorne.'

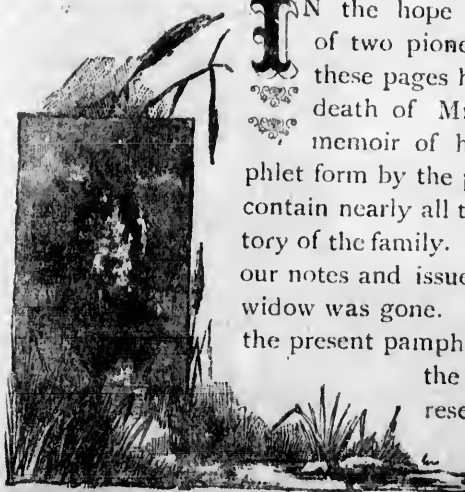
" 26.— " 30. Omit the words 'Rev. John S. Clark made his home with us for eight months,' which does not appear to be correct.



MEMOIRS OF GEORGE AND PHOEBE WARNICA,
PIONEERS OF INNISFIL.

BY THEIR GRANDSON, A. F. HUNTER, B.A.,
BARRIE, ONT., CANADA.

INTRODUCTION.



IN the hope of commemorating the lives of two pioneers of the Canadian forests, these pages have been written. After the death of Mr. Warnica in 1886, a brief memoir of his life was issued in pamphlet form by the present writer, but it did not contain nearly all that was of interest in the history of the family. It was resolved then to retain our notes and issue another memoir when his widow was gone. Most of the information in the present pamphlet was in our possession at the time of his death, but was reserved for the future undertaking, which now appears.



CHAPTER I.

THE PARENTAGE, YOUTH AND EARLY MANHOOD OF GEORGE FREDERICK WARNICA.

I.—HIS PARENTS.

GEORGE FREDERICK WARNICA, the second of a family of four sons, was born in Salina, New York State, on the 20th of September, 1808. His parents, before their marriage at this place in 1806, had both passed through some uncommon experiences, as will appear from the few facts about them that have been handed down. Many events of their lives are, accordingly, worthy of being related, especially so in the case of his father, George Frederick Hanning Warnica, a Dane, who will be the subject of our first remarks.

The spelling of the name "Warnica" requires a passing notice. The Danish form of it was Werneck (pronounced 'Varnick'); but when he left Denmark and finally settled down in a country where the English language was used, the spelling became "Warnick." This is the form always retained by John, the eldest of his family; but the other sons, including George, modified it still further into "Warnica," which name now designates a numerous line of descendants.

In regard to the year of his birth, some difficulty has also arisen. The inscription upon his gravestone in Barrie states that he died August 1st, 1847, aged 87 years. It would thus appear that he was born in the year 1760; another traditional account makes it 1770; while the announcement of his death in the Barrie "Magnet" at the time states that his age at death was 83, as a consequence of which the year of his birth would be 1764. The latter date is likely to be the more correct, as his age at marriage in 1806 has been always mentioned in family tradition as forty-two years.

It is therefore possible to affirm with something like accuracy, that George Frederick Hanning Werneck, the ancestor of the family, was born in the district of Holstein, Denmark, in or about the year 1764. He was the third son in a family that was possessed of considerable wealth. When he became eighteen years of age, he left his native country of Denmark and travelled for four years in company with a gentleman of means, neither of them being limited in their expenses for the comforts or even the luxuries of life. In their travels these two visited Spain, Portugal and several tropical countries, and were in fact visitors to many lands. Then they returned to Denmark where young Werneck spent a few more years.

When he arrived at old age, like many people advanced in years, he often took pleasure in relating the exploits of his early life, so that many still living have heard from his lips the incidents of his eventful career. One of these events, which is particularly amusing and which happened during his second sojourn in Denmark, exhibits in a remarkable manner the impetuosity of his nature. The story asserts that once while describing a sight which he had seen on one of his foreign voyages, a listener questioned the truth of his statements. Stung bitterly by this imputation, his nature being unusually fiery, he instantly gave a heavy blow to the fellow who had dared to doubt his word. As a result of this conduct legal proceedings were taken against him, and he was summoned to appear at a court of law to answer for his misconduct. The presiding judge of course decided the case against him, and inflicted a fine of forty shillings for his misbehavior. The infliction of this penalty fired his passionate nature still more, but he remained unhurt in appearance and paid over the forty shillings to the judge, inquiring at the same time if the same sum would be the penalty if he should shortly strike another man in a similar way. The judge answered yes! whereupon young Werneck, to the bewilderment of the spectators, and with less regard for money than for his own injured feelings, counted out a second forty shillings. The purpose of this second payment was not evident at first, but soon became so; for while the judge was counting the money, he received a severe blow upon the head, dealt by Werneck's fist, in consequence of which His Honor rolled over upon the floor. Considerable excitement in and about court followed and policemen were called in; but in spite of the noise and confusion, it was evident that the young man with injured feelings, who had inflicted the blow, had already paid the penalty. This strange event, which happened a century ago, demonstrates the excessive sensitiveness of his temperament.

During this, his second stay in Denmark, his mother died. Some time afterwards he embarked again upon another voyage, not to return to his native country until half a century had passed, as will be seen further on. His travelling was continued until he was over forty years of age, having lasted from his eighteenth year, making a total of about twenty-two years. During this period he visited at least three fourths of the globe.

A remarkable event occurred during one of his voyages. It is superstition, though it was believed by him. Once while passing some rocks that rose out of the sea near islands inhabited only by sea-fowl, the attention of the ship's crew was called to a group of mermaids. Whatever the creatures were that he saw on this occasion*, they made a lasting impression upon

*Seals and walruses are the supposed origin of mermaid stories.

his memory, as he often spoke of them in his later years. When the vessel drew near the place where they were, he resolved to shoot one to learn the real nature of the mysterious being, and raised his gun for that purpose, but was prevented in the act by the Captain of the ship, who explained the imprudence of the course he was about to pursue. Amongst sailors there was a superstition that the slaughter of one of these beautiful little creatures brought upon the ship a sad end; another tradition made their appearance take place just before a great storm. The gun was taken down, however, and the ship was saved.

By almost constant travelling for twenty-two years, his financial resources, which had been large at first, began to fail. His capital, however, still amounted to about two thousand dollars; but it became more and more evident to him that his travels must soon come to an end. Pleasure had been his chief object in travelling, and it had rendered him useless in practical life. He had acquired the art of making himself interesting in all sorts of company; he was a skilled musician and could play on a variety of musical instruments, including the flute and the fiddle. But all these accomplishments were of little avail when he was forced to face the grave problem of earning his daily bread. Under these circumstances he alighted from his long rambles at Philadelphia about the year 1804 and cast about to find employment of some kind. With the money he still had he bought a horse, a pedlar's van, and a supply of goods, and set forth to make his living or perhaps his fortune. But all hopes proved vain; as a pedlar he was a failure, and became almost reduced to poverty. What a contrast his condition now was to that in which his life had begun! Too independent to return to Denmark and impose himself upon his friends there, he wandered up and down for some time and finally settled at Salina in New York State. Here he took a house and afterwards married a widow by the name of Myers; she had kept house for him for some time before this. Their marriage was solemnized by Magistrate Kinney, who will be mentioned later, and it took place when Werneck was forty-two years of age; this would be about the year 1806.

Widow Myers already had a family of three sons* by her first husband;

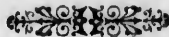
*Their names were Peter, Leonard and David. Adjoining Salina was Onondaga Lake, a small sheet of water around which a carriage road ran, and at the opposite side of the lake stood the town of Liverpool. In the latter place, Peter Myers spent his life, having married a widow with one child. He was a blacksmith—a good tradesman, but indigent. His chief work was to make and repair potash kettles for the salt works near at hand. When visited by his half-brothers John and George, in 1829, some men brought two kettles to him to be repaired, and with difficulty persuaded him to work while they were his guests. His fee was two dollars per kettle, at which price it was possible for him to have become rich. He has been spoken of in very good terms.

Leonard, the second son, at the death of his father, had been adopted by a wealthy Presbyterian. When the latter died, he left all his property to Leonard, who removed to one of the new Western States. There he invested his capital in a distillery and mills on an extensive scale, which before long were destroyed by fire, the loss resulting in his financial ruin, and himself and family narrowly escaping with their lives from the conflagration.

David, the third son, removed to Canada and spent the greater part of his life at Stroud, where he kept a tavern in the early days.

and her life up to this time had been as remarkable as Werneck's. Her maiden name was Catherine Wolfe, and she was of Dutch descent. Her parents had come from Europe at an early date and had settled beside the Mohawk River, where she was born. The valley of the Mohawk was chiefly settled by Dutch and their descendants. In this valley the Wolfes lived, their farm bordering upon those of their countrymen. In October, 1780, during the Revolutionary War, the Mohawk valley was desolated by Indians and horrible atrocities committed on the peaceable inhabitants. The peaceful settlement in which the Wolfes lived suffered devastation at the hands of the Mohawk Indians, and great numbers of the defenseless inhabitants were slain. The parents of Catherine Wolfe, and likewise her grandparents, who lived in the same neighborhood fell in this massacre, the murderous Indians bursting with tomahawks upon them when at work in the hayfield, and in a very short time slaying their defenseless victims. As Indians always do, they took the scalps from the unfortunate creatures they had killed. Catherine Wolfe was a child but two years old when this fatal calamity befell her people. She had just been laid in bed before the advent of the bloodthirsty Indians, and when they scoured the premises for their victims, she was fortunately overlooked. On this occasion the Indians had left her grandmother for slain, having taken away her scalp, and, as they thought, had killed her outright. But she revived and lived for about twelve years after this, by which time her lucky little granddaughter had grown up to childhood and was able to realize the misfortune that had befallen her friends, and also the pitiful appearance of her grandmother's scalpless head—a sight that made a lasting impression upon her mind, and which she clearly remembered until her death in 1838. Just how many sisters and brothers she had is not exactly known at this day, but two of her sisters escaped besides herself from the fatal massacre in which their parents perished; and it is possible that others of the family made their escape also, of whom there is now no record. After this sad event, the three young sisters were removed to Salt Point, the name of which was changed in later years to Salina, now a place of considerable importance on account of its salt wells. In course of time all three sisters married there. The two elder ones became the wives of Mohawks,* and remained at Salina permanently. Catherine, the youngest, first married Myers, and then G. F. H. Warnica, who had now brought his travels to an end. By this marriage she had a family of four sons—John, George Frederick, Joseph and William.

*One became the wife of a man named Kinney, a magistrate and officer of some kind. When visited by John and George in 1829, their son had grown up to early manhood and had charge of a grocery store. The other married a laboring man named Helmer, whom the brothers did not see in 1829. He is described as a *lazy Turk*, who fished a good deal, and kept a sort of grocery store for the sale of pies, cakes, beer, etc. One of his sons was already married at this time.





2.—YOUTH AND EARLY MANHOOD OF G. F. WARNICA.

Salina, N.Y., where George Frederick Warnica was born in 1808, is now a place of considerable importance, owing to the number of salt works in its vicinity; but at the time of his birth it was quite small. His parents resided there for a few years; but after the Anglo-American war of 1812-15 they became attracted by the offer of free grant lands made by the Canadian Government, and decided to leave New York State. Accordingly, in 1815, they removed with their family to Upper Canada and settled in the Township of Markham, two miles east of Richmond Hill Village.

In Salina one of the most vivid impressions that had been made on the mind of young George was by the sport called *Bobbing for Eels*. The Salina district abounded in eels, and on many occasions he was taken by parties to keep the eels when caught from escaping over the sides of the boat. These excursions were clearly remembered by him throughout his life. After coming to the Township of Markham in Canada, young though he was, he did not forget the sport. There was a marsh near their dwelling similar to that at Salina in which the eels were caught, and in suitable weather he placed a bait and caught an eel, the first ever known to have been caught in that part of Canada.

In Markham the boys attended school, and received the only Public School instruction they ever had the privilege of obtaining. Like most boys they appear to have been fond of mischief in their school days—to judge from the account of a frolic that has been handed down by family tradition. A neighbor's family of boys had offended them, and they were anxious to retaliate. The offending boys drove to school in winter time with an old horse and sleigh, having a large cow-bell attached. The Warnica boys loaded up an old musket, hid behind a large snow bank near the road; and when the caravan and its occupants drew near, bang went the musket beside it, clouds of snow flew into the air and nothing could be seen; while the "dingledy, dingedy," of the cow-bell soon grew fainter and fainter in the distance.

The backward condition of Upper Canada as they found it in 1815, was a subject on which George Warnica talked with great pleasure in his last years, when comparing it with recent times. The Township of Markham where they first settled lay along the east side of the important highway of Yonge Street. It has now a well cultivated area, but at the time of their arrival it was chiefly a forest wilderness into which the tide of immigration was flowing. The family were in rather slim circumstances about this time, so that when George became ten years of age he left home to earn his own living. For three years he was employed with a Pennsylvania Dutch family in Markham Township. The Township of Innisfil was surveyed and thrown open for settlement in 1820. John Stamm, a neighbor farmer of theirs in Markham, and a former private in Captain Button's Cavalry Company, 1st Regiment York Militia, had received for his services

1825,
was
taken
land
£10.

a grant of 100 acres in Innisfil—the north half of lot number thirteen in the twelfth concession.*

On one occasion, or perhaps more, Mr. Warnica Sr. and George accompanied Stamm to Innisfil to do settlement duty on this land. Once while they were going home they were caught in a severe storm on Lake Simcoe. Their boat was drifted off towards Georgiana Island, and when near that place it began to fill with water. Young George jumped overboard into the water and by hard work brought the boat to the shore and saved the lives of his father and Stamm. They always said in after years that he had rescued them from a watery grave. So disgusted and frightened was Stamm on this occasion with the difficulties and dangers of the trip to his Innisfil farm, that for a small sum he disposed of it to Warnica and never afterwards returned to it. Thus the Warnicas came into possession of a bush farm in Innisfil, to which they permanently removed from Markham in March, 1825. The testimony of all is conclusive as to this date, and also that they had been backwards and forwards for two years before this time, doing settlement duty.

The hardships which they experienced in reaching their forest home over the ice of Kempenfeldt Bay, and through the deep snow to their land are incredible. No other settler lived nearer than David Soules at Big Bay Point, six miles away. The route by which they reached it was up Younge Street to Roache's Point, whence the remainder of the journey was made on the ice by way of Big Bay Point. The family were moved up by Fred Quantz, one of the Berczy settlers of Markham. Where Tollendal of the present stands, they had to leave part of their loads owing to the depth of the snow and return for it. Their oxen had a difficult undertaking to wade through the deep snow with a small quantity of lumber to build a covering for the animals. Their first cabin was at the north-western corner of their lot, and not far from the Tollendal Creek up which they came. A large willow tree in recent years stands at the site of their first abode, a small log house in the midst of a cleared patch of ground, near Painswick.

After settlement they were actively employed in clearing the forest on their farm, and raising a crop of wheat. To get their grain ground into flour it was necessary to take it to Tyson's Red Mills at Holland Landing. This place was about thirty miles distant, but was the nearest village to them at that time, not even a store being within easier reach. On one occasion, probably after their first crop was harvested, in the autumn of 1825, the father and the two eldest sons, John and George, left home early in the morning with a grist, bound for Holland Landing. The journey was made through Lake Simcoe in a row boat. They had had their grist ground and were on their way back, intending to reach home that night if they could. But about nine o'clock in the evening when near De Grassi Point they were overtaken by a rainstorm and forced to seek shelter on land to save their

*The patent deed of this farm was issued to Stamm by the Crown, July 15th, 1825, the settlement duty having been duly performed by that time. Although it was not issued till 1825—after Warnicas had settled upon the land—the lot had been taken up two years before this, viz., in 1823. John Stamm's deed transferring the land to Warnica was made October 19th, 1825, the price paid for the 100 acres being £10.

flour from destruction. Doubling the Point they put on shore in the adjoining cove. A troop of hungry Indian dogs saluted them upon landing by loud barking, from which they knew that Indian camps were there. The Indians had retired within their wigwams; but upon their arrival one old fellow crawled out of his quarters and invited them in to pass the night. They consented, and after the flour had been secured from the drizzling rain by covering the boat over it on the shore, they followed the Indian to his wigwam. Each one was given a blanket, and after wrapping themselves up, and stretching around the fire amongst the members of the Indian's family, they passed the night in his wigwam. Returning, as they were, from a trading establishment, they had a quantity of tobacco, with some of which the old Indian's hospitality was repaid in the morning. He was delighted with the tobacco, and when they left the encampment he gave the father two ducks recently shot, one for himself and the other for his wife at home.

About this time, traffic over the Nine Mile Portage from the head of Kempenfeldt Bay to Willow Creek was abundant, and gave employment to the settlers with their teams. With his yoke of oxen, George and his brothers often hauled goods across this Portage. They lived but four miles from the eastern end of the Portage; they frequently found employment in that way as the four sons were now growing up to manhood and some of them were obliged to find work away from home.

Their mother who was a thrifty and tidy person made some of the clothing worn by her sons from flax, grown and manufactured at home. For a time, George possessed but a single shirt, one made from this home-made linen. Often he would lie in bed over night while this one was being washed, and on rising in the morning would find it again ready for use. Such was roughing it in the bush in early times!

About the time of their arrival in Innisfil a movement was on foot among the settlers of the Penetanguishene district to have the "Main Road" opened through Innisfil and thus complete overland communication between Lakes Huron and Ontario. All parts of the highway except through Innisfil had by this time been constructed. To do this a sufficient sum of money was raised by subscription. The two eldest sons, John and George, secured the contract for the construction of this road from the head of Kempenfeldt Bay as far south as the present site of Churchill, a distance of eleven miles. This work was performed in the autumn of the same year in which they came to Innisfil, viz., 1825, and for it they received the sum of \$55, being at the rate of \$5 per mile. The contract for the remaining part from Churchill to West Gwillimbury, was secured by John Cayton of the latter place. He, however, had little acquaintance with the forest, and was obliged to employ the brothers, John and George, to open his portion of the road also. This forest track which they were the first to open throughout the entire length of Innisfil was rough and winding at first, but it was straightened in subsequent years. In early records it is named "Main Street," and at the present time it is often called the "Main Road." The famous traveller John Galt, mentions it while on his way in 1827 to Penetanguishene. "At the head of Kempenfeldt Bay," he says, "we met horses with our luggage, which had come through the forest (from

Holland Landing) by a track recently opened, a great convenience in summer; in winter the lake is frozen, and travellers pass on the ice."

The opening of "Main Street" brought about an interesting event in the history of the family. Their small house was converted into a wayside hostelry, or tavern, there being no other stopping place for travellers between Holland Landing and Penetanguishene. Small as it was, containing but two rooms and a loft, they had many lodgers of all classes; high and low, rich and poor, were made welcome, and received the best accommodation the place afforded. In the spring of 1825 Sir John Franklin and party had passed through Kempenfeldt Bay on their way to the arctic regions. Several weeks afterwards one of his French attendants came back, bringing word of Franklin's welfare and whereabouts to the seat of Government at York. On the way south, this messenger, or scout, called at Warnica's; and although he could speak no English, and none of the family could speak French, they ascertained who he was, for he carried a paper written by Franklin. They kept him over night, treated him hospitably, and in the morning when he departed they gave him provisions for the remainder of his journey. At another time they received Bishop Strachan as a guest when on his way northward to visit some outlying places of his diocese in the district of Penetanguishene. He had an attendant, both riding on horseback, as this was almost the only means of travelling in those days on account of the bad state of the roads. Before coming to the house the Bishop saw the four sons logging not far from the road, and sent his attendant to the loggers, who stood gazing at the strangers (for passers by were few), to ask about the inhabitants of the solitary log house which was in sight. It was their own, and so the Bishop decided to remain with them for the night. The best room of the two in their dwelling, which contained the fireplace, was placed at his disposal. In the evening the sons were called much against their wills into this room to take part in family worship which he conducted, but he did not make a favorable impression upon George, who thought that he might have made himself more sociable.

In the month of May, 1829, the two eldest sons, John and George, who had now grown to be young men, made a trip to their native village of Salina, N.Y., to visit their relatives. This visit to the scenes of their boyhood was full of interest, and the extensive salt works that had been erected in their absence of nearly fifteen years, proved highly instructive. George was forcibly struck by observing how one small fire was made to heat a long row of salt-kettles. They were solicited to stay and pack salt at the rate of \$1 per day, but did not accept the offer.

With time the family grew in prosperity, and the boys in strength. The late Sheriff McConkey used to relate that he and some of his family went for seed wheat to Warnica's on the day that George came of age, and found the boys wrestling in the barn. (This would be on Sep. 20th, 1829.) George could "throw" them all.

Having come of age, George soon left home to earn his livelihood, and went to the neighborhood of Thornhill. Here he met Miss Phoebe Lyon, to whom he was married on Dec. 10th, 1829. Mayerhoffer, a famous Hungarian clergyman in Markham, would have married them, but he was not a

sufficient master of the English language. They were accordingly married by Rev. Wm. Jenkins, the Presbyterian minister of Markham. After their marriage George worked the farm of Mrs. Elizabeth Lyon, his mother-in-law, at Thornhill, for more than two years. He and his wife with his wife's mother came on horseback in June, 1830, to Innisfil to see the place. Bradford was not in existence at the time. On this occasion they also visited the head of Kempfenfeldt Bay where Barrie now stands.



3.—THE WAYSIDE INN, AND THE LAST DAYS OF HIS PARENTS.

Many stories have been told illustrating the rash temperament of George F. H. Warnica, the elder. It is said that once, about the year 1828, at Holland Landing, he fought a duel with Squire David Soules of Big Bay Point. The seconds, on that occasion, had taken the precaution to use nothing else than powder in loading the pistols, and accordingly, the duel was fought without bodily harm done to anyone. The combatants are said to have been in earnest, thus affording all the more amusement to the seconds and other spectators.

Soon after George left home on coming of age, his brother John left also, for George had always been the upholder of the sons' rights when there was any upholding to be done. John accordingly bought the adjoining farm (N. $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 14, con. 12,) from Mr. Thom. In due course of time he also married, and after living here for some years beside the homestead, he emigrated to the State of Wisconsin. After an absence there of many years he returned in the autumn of 1881 to visit his Canadian friends, which visit it gives them pleasure to recall. Within two years after his return to his home in Wisconsin, he died, deeply regretted.

The third son, Joseph, about the time of George's marriage, married Miss Melvina Denure of Bell Ewart, a sister of the late Mr. Calvin Denure of Innisfil. He was a carpenter by occupation and for a time lived in Innisfil, subsequently removing to Barrie. An epidemic of scarlet fever swept over the town in 1843 carrying off scores of children, and during its ravages three of their children died within the course of a few days.*

About 1857 he removed with his family to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and during the American Civil War he became employed along with his son Joseph in making bridges for the transportation of the army.

*Their remains lie beside those of their grandparents in the old Episcopal burial ground in Barrie, where the stone marking their resting place thus tells the sad story of their death:

	Years.	Mos.
George F., died July 20th, 1843, aged ..	9	8
Joseph J.. " " 31st, " " ..	3	10
Daniel, " Aug. 10th, " " " ..	7	11
Rosannah, " May 15th, 1855, " " ..	13	10

Children of Joseph and Melvina Warnica.

Di
sep
wer
join
beca
of H
of t
It v
side
fam
cer,

pass

reach
nica
new
jects

nativ
where
in 18
land,
Innisfil
the n

came
visits
Landi
the G
it was
Canad
disting
cause,
withst
which
terwar
during
Colbor
militar
gentler
mother
Townsh
his son
govern
lapsed.

*T
about 18

Differing with the army officials as to pay, he gave up this employment, thus separating from his son, after which he joined the Light Horse Cavalry and went to France. After a time he grew tired of army life and started to join his family in Michigan. On his way home he reached Cleveland and became sick. During his stay there he wrote to his family, informing them of his condition, and sending one of his trunks in advance, with the intention of following it as soon as he recovered health, but he never reached home. It was supposed that he had met with foul play, for his trunks were of considerable value. Diligent search was afterwards made for him by the family but no record nor trace was ever found. His wife had died of cancer, some time before.*

The fourth son, William, settled upon a farm in Innisfil and there passed his life, which closed about 1875.

When the first steamer on Lake Simcoe, the *Sir John Colborne*, reached the head of Kempenfeldt Bay in 1832 on her first trip, Mr. Warnica Sr. rode from his home in Innisfil upon an old white horse to see the new boat. The white horse as well as the new boat were conspicuous objects in the annals of the neighborhood.

He belonged to the Lutheran Church, the established religion of his native Denmark. There was a church of that denomination in Markham, where he had lived for a few years; which through disuse came to be filled in 1829 by an Austrian missionary in connection with the Church of England, Rev. V. P. Mayerhoffer. This missionary would occasionally travel to Innisfil and preach in the loft of Warnica's Inn, baptizing the children of the neighborhood.

On several occasions they were visited by Sir John Colborne, who became Governor of Upper Canada in January, 1829. The first of these visits was made by Colborne in company with Francis Phelps, of Holland Landing, with the latter of whom Warnica was acquainted, but not with the Governor. In the morning when leaving and paying for their lodgings it was made known to the host that he had sheltered the Governor of Upper Canada over night, and thereupon he would on no account take pay from so distinguished a guest. He accepted, however, pay for Phelps' lodging, because, as he said, Phelps always charged him at Holland Landing. Notwithstanding his refusal, the Governor left with him a doubloon—a coin which he prized, but the value of which he did not know for some time afterwards. Old Mr. Warnica became intimately acquainted with Colborne during the latter's term of office, and their correspondence was frequent. Colborne always stayed at their place on his journeys to and from the military post at Penetanguishene; and on one of these trips took the old gentleman with him for the sake of his company, as both spake the same mother tongue. Sir John once promised to him a good bush farm in the Township of Innisfil for each of his sons, but he cared so little for either his sons or the land to take the trouble of a journey to the seat of government at York for the King's deeds of the farms, and so the promise lapsed. Land, too, was of little value then.

*These facts of his tragic end were learned by a letter from one of his daughters about 1880.

John Carruthers, a travelling catechist of the early Presbyterian Church, used sometimes to lodge at the Warnica Inn on his northern travels, and has left brief notices of these visits in his *Retrospect*. On a journey northward in 1832 he writes in his journal :

Wednesday, 25th July.—Lodged for the night at Warnica's Inn, a Dane from Copenhagen ; he speaks English in a tolerable way—has a good address, and no doubt has often administered to the necessity and comfort of the weary traveller in the forest, with or without pay. More of my kind host next journey.

On his return south from the military post at Penetanguishene, where he had been, he writes :

Monday, 6th August.—Took my course south to Lake Simcoe, then rounded Kempenfeldt Bay—and night coming on, I had again to lodge at Warnica's Inn.

Returning from a second visit to Penetanguishene in the following spring, Carruthers writes :

Wednesday, 20th March, 1833.—Crossed Kempenfeldt Bay into the Township of Innisfil, and delivered an exhortation at Warnica's Inn. His wife was very sick and not likely to recover. Our prayers were earnest in her behalf.

Mrs. Warnica did recover on that occasion. Sir Richard H. Bonnycastle, in his book, *The Canadas* in 1841, makes a casual reference to Warnica's Inn. Speaking of the Main road he says: "The road goes along the waterside of Kempenfeldt Bay ; and, indeed, you travel through the water, in some seasons, to Varneek's tavern, four miles ; then to Clement's, ten miles." Bonnycastle made this journey in July, 1835. No doubt many such references to the Warnica Inn occur in the writings of early travellers through Innisfil.

The little log house which they had built upon their first arrival in Innisfil and which they had used as an Inn for travellers was soon succeeded by a larger hewed log-house. The latter was built in the fall of 1831 near the site of the large house at Painswick, lately occupied by Dr. Armstrong. To help his father in its erection George came from Thornhill and spent two weeks at the old homestead. This second inn was at the fork of the Main Road, the site having been chosen where travel along both branches would pass it. Here the old man unfortunately fell into tipping and drinking habits, and got into financial difficulties. For a debt he owed, he conveyed in 1835 his interest in the farm, to William C. Ross, a wine and spirit merchant of Toronto for £500 (so the deed asserts) and never appears to have acquired any interest in the property afterwards. He was then compelled to leave the house by being sheriffed out at a time when his wife lay sick in bed, whom notwithstanding her feeble condition the sheriff's officers carried out in the bed into the public highway. The debt which he owed is said by descendants of the family to have been about \$250—an amount much less than the value of the property. A man from Toronto, either the creditor or one who had bought the farm, came and by a stroke of policy persuaded John, the eldest son, to sign over his claim, and henceforth all proprietorship of the farm was at an end so far as the Warnicas were concerned. In those days the laws of entail gave a claim upon the estate to the eldest son, and thus John's signature was a necessary step before the farm passed out of their hands.

After this the old folks removed to a house near the present Village of Stroud on its north side. Here they continued to live until the death of the mother on 24th September, 1838.* Her remains were laid at rest in the old Episcopal burial ground in Barrie. Old Mr. Warnica afterwards married a woman in Markham, the widow of Captain Sheatz, an officer who had served in the war of 1812-15. For some cause or other he did not remain long with her. Owing to their separation he decided to return to his native Denmark and spend the remainder of his life with his friends there. This design was rather imprudent, for he had been absent nearly half a century without receiving any word in the meantime of what had been transpiring. Similar mistakes have been made frequently by emigrants expecting to find the state of affairs in their mother country little changed from what they were at their departure. He expected to live comfortably with his surviving friends on the property upon which he considered he had a just claim. In this frame of mind he made his departure for Denmark. In September, 1842, he took passage in the ship *Stephani* from New York to Hamburg, and for the passage (\$24) he hypothecated his claim upon the lot in Innisfil of which he had been deprived a few years before. The claim was of no value; it was, however, accepted by the owner of the ship, Mr. Robt. M. Sloman.

All Warnica's hopes of spending the evening of his life in Denmark proved vain. On his arrival there he found none of his relatives alive, except one nephew who was very poor. [Another account states that he found only two young men of his name, and these were entirely ignorant of their ancestors.] His native district was dilapidated almost beyond recognition, and he afterwards described it as the loneliest place he ever saw. The district had been ravaged by war in his absence, and the estates of his family had been confiscated. Owing to this condition of affairs he found himself in an awkward predicament, for he had not brought enough money to return to his family in Canada, and it would take a long time to communicate between the two countries in those days. He was essentially in a foreign land without a friend, and his position was such as to require immediate attention. Accordingly he was obliged to apply for charitable assistance to his native parish upon which he had a just claim according to the Danish laws. Thus his life, begun in wealth, ended in dependence. The parish officials decided to send him back to America rather than maintain him in Denmark, and so paid his passage to New York, where he arrived, but he could proceed no further through lack of funds. He could not write English, but secured there someone to write for him a letter to his sons in Canada asking for money to bring him to Innisfil; none of them were in a position just at the time to render him any assistance. This letter mentioned that in his possession were valuable papers—doubtlessly referring to the land claim papers with the ship owner. Fortunately he had been a member of the Freemason fraternity for many years, and he applied at the headquarters of that order in New York for assistance, which he duly received. By travelling from place to place in dependence upon that order, he at last reached Canada, and spent the remainder of his life with his son George. At first

*On her gravestone the year of her death is incorrectly given as 1843.

his family were inclined to doubt that he had ever been in Denmark on this occasion, but they became finally convinced, as he gave very accurate details of everything he had seen, and, moreover, he was naturally of an honest disposition, and would not intentionally deceive them.

It has been stated that he was a good musician; notwithstanding this, he never kept a musical instrument of his own, his reason being that such music as that of the fiddle would lead his family into undesirable company, so he never gave them an opportunity to form a passion for it. Once while playing the fiddle for a social gathering at Mann's in Kempenfeldt he was unfortunate enough to stumble and fall with his fiddle. Some one immediately asked if the fiddle was broken, upon which he hurled the fiddle at the questioner, complaining that the welfare of the fiddle was thought of more consequence than the welfare of the player. This concluded the musical programme of the occasion. To the end he retained this extremely impetuous disposition.

In stature he was not large, and he is said to have been so bow-legged that a wheel-barrow could be trundled beneath him. After his final visit to Denmark, he frequently regretted that he had lost the proper rhythm and pronunciation of his native Danish tongue, a result of travelling in so many countries where different Dutch dialects were spoken. On August 1, 1847,* his eventful life came to a close, the last years of which were in striking contrast with the first. He was buried beside his first wife in Barrie. A plain gravestone, now broken down, marks the resting place in the old Episcopal burial ground, of the two who spent such unusually eventful lives. Through neglect, his second wife, who resided in Markham was not informed of his death until about a month after it occurred, an oversight that was much regretted by the family when it became discovered. She died about one year afterwards.

*The death of George Frederick Hanning Warnica was announced in the first issue of the Barrie "Magnet" (dated August 6th, 1847) in the following terms, the surname, however, being incorrect: "At Innisfil, on the 1st inst., Mr. George Frederick Haning Warner, aged eighty-three years."



TH

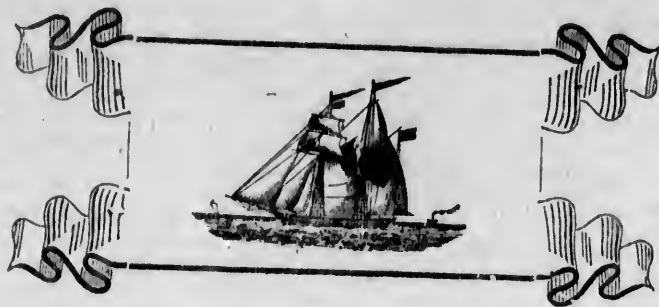
P
J
w

*T
ing ori
life in
there a
cond w
His fat
survive
of his
some in

on this
into de-
of an

ng this,
at such
any, so
ile play-
unfortu-
y asked
stioner,
quence
me of
osition.
-legged
visit to
m and
o many
1847,*
striking
rie. A
l Epis-
lives.
formed
at was
t about

the first
ms, the
ge Fred-



CHAPTER II.

THE PARENTAGE, YOUTH AND EARLY WOMANHOOD OF PHEBE (LYON) WARNICA.

PHEBE LYON, the wife of George F. Warnica, was the youngest child of John Lyon* of Thornhill, where she was born, August 16th, 1808, and where she grew up to womanhood. Her mother, Elizabeth Horton, had

*This John Lyon was born in Long Island on June 28th, 1767, his forefathers having originally come from Ireland. Little or nothing has been recorded of his early life in New York State. It is related of him that he had been married to a first wife there and that she and child died. He married Elizabeth Horton of Palmyra as second wife and after the birth of their first child Hannah, they settled in Canada. His father, Thomas Lyon, was one of the Grenadiers of the Revolutionary War, and survived his son by twelve years, dying at a very advanced age, in 1825, at the home of his widowed daughter-in-law near Thornhill. This veteran soldier was troublesome in temper in his last years.

been the eldest daughter of Barnabas Horton* of Palmyra, N. Y., and not long after her marriage with Lyon, they emigrated to Canada—apparently about the year 1794—settling near the present Village of Thornhill at a distance of thirteen miles from Toronto. The *Thirteen Mile Pine Tree* stood near their gate, and about the roots of this favorite landmark their children often used to play. At this early Canadian home most of their family† were born, the youngest of whom is the subject of this sketch.

According to the government records, the first patentees of Markham Township—those of 1796—were John Lyon, Nicholas Miller, and Thomas Kinnear. As the patent records of York County only begin with the year 1796, these three settlers were likely located before that date. When Lyon and Miller settled at Thornhill, Toronto consisted of but five shanties, one of which had the luxury of a brick chimney. General Simcoe and his party of men, hungry and tired, stayed at Lyon's dwelling on their way north on an exploring expedition, where they partook of cakes which they relished so much that they called again on their return south. This must have been on one of Governor Simcoe's later short expeditions of 1796 when Yonge Street was being opened out, and not on his memorable journey to Lake Huron in 1793.

*The family of Barnabas Horton of Palmyra, N. Y. was indeed a large one and interesting in some respects. He had previously come from the State of Rhode Island to Palmyra, which was then a small village in Wayne Co. N. Y., and which afterwards became noted as the place near which the notorious Joseph Smith claimed to have found the golden plates of the Mormon Bible. Of this noted impostor the Hortons had some knowledge. Out of sixteen children in the Horton family (some of whom died young) there were five sons and eleven daughters. The following list contains the names of those who survived childhood: Elizabeth, Caleb, Jonathan, Deborah, Christina ("Teenie,") Mehetabel ("Hittie,") Experience, Patience, Abigail ("Abbie,") Sarah ("Sally,") Penelope, Mary, Amanda.

Elizabeth, the eldest, was born on Sept. 6th, 1789, and after marriage to John Lyon, removed to Canada. Caleb in early or middle life removed from Palmyra to the vicinity of Detroit where his means were wasted. Abbie married one Trueman and lived near Niagara; in after years she lived with her sister Elizabeth on Yonge Street at Thornhill. Sarah became the wife of one Walker, who kept a wayside hostelry or tavern on Yonge Street. Several of the daughters in this family never married. Their father (Barnabas Horton) built an addition to his dwelling near Palmyra for the use of those who remained single or became widows. There were, however, descendants in more than one branch of this family, as the subject of this sketch possessed in recent years a photograph of one of her cousins who had passed her life there.

The Hortons belonged to the Presbyterian faith, of which they were staunch adherents; of Elizabeth it has been said that she was well versed in the Bible, and never read other books except perhaps an occasional New York paper which her daughter Phœbe received before the Canadian press came into existence.

†This family consisted of the following members:—

Hannah Lyon,	born Oct. 17th, 1794.
Samuel " "	" July 7th, 1797.
Sarah " "	" Jan. 24th, 1800.
Abigail " "	" Dec. 13th, 1802.
Barnabas " "	" Mar. 7th, 1805.
Phœbe " "	" Aug. 16th, 1808.

The eldest child, Hannah, lived to be but eighteen months old.

John Lyon was the first to build a grist mill in this Province, or at least in the midland portion of it. He also erected a saw-mill and a distillery which was likewise the first of its kind. These mills were situated on Yonge Street at his farm (lot 33). In their construction and management he was assisted in some way by Nicholas Miller of the adjoining lot (No. 34) who was a miller by trade as well as by name. To bring their mills into existence they made a dam on the small creek crossing Yonge Street at the place. The neighbors, generally, helped in the work. The grist mill had a capacity of about two bushels per day, and it resembled a coffee mill. This advent of these pioneer industries is sketched as follows in the **History of York County* (page 126) [C. Blackett Robinson, Publisher, Toronto, 188—.] In some instances the statements are incorrect, especially the figures:—

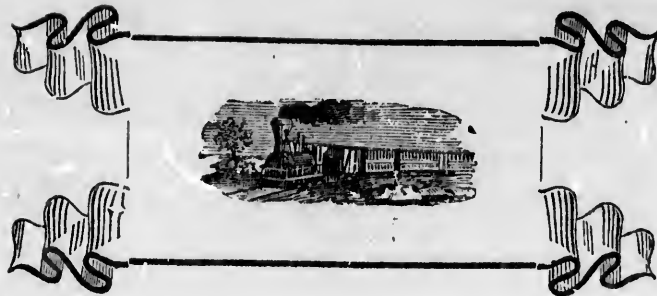
The first saw-mill in Vaughan was built in 1801, by John Lyons, who came to Canada from New York State in 1794, and after living for a while in York (Toronto) settled on lot 32 (should be lot 33) concession 1, in Markham. The mill was built on the main branch of the Don, where it crosses Yonge Street. In 1802 he constructed a small grist mill with a dam over 200 feet long and ten feet in height. The pond was used to conceal articles taken from the Government warehouse in York at the time the Americans were in possession of the town, during the war of 1812. The invaders generously presented the settlers with a quantity of agricultural implements belonging to the Canadian Government, and when they left a search was made through the country for these articles. Many of the residents in this locality consigned their share of the plunder to the waters of Lyon's Mill Pond for safe-keeping. John Lyons died in 1814 (should have been 1813), and his mills and other real estate were purchased by William Purdy, who added many improvements. His sons, in connection with their cousin William Wright, built a tannery and a grist mill. The Lyons' mill was afterwards used as a carding and fulling mill.

John Lyon belonged to the Light Horsemen during the war of 1812, but was not in action. He died, August 24th, 1813, and his remains were laid at rest upon his own farm. His executors were Messrs. Hoshel and Benson, the surveyor. Benson is said by members of the family to have mismanaged while administrating the estate. As widow Lyon was in comfortable circumstances, she was not without suitors, one of whom was one Eckhardt of Markham, but she never married again. After a life containing perhaps more than the usual share of trials, she died in 1850 and was buried in the Thornhill cemetery. Her daughter Phœbe had grown up to womanhood and had married George F. Warnica in 1829 as already stated, retaining distinct memories through life of the scenes of her childhood, and of Toronto in its infancy—the old Court House and its other celebrated landmarks.

*The same work (page 116) also gives the following information, which is, however, incorrect in some particulars:—"Another early pioneer in the industries of Markham was Nicholas Miller, who built the first mill on the Humber. In 1794, Mr. Miller settled on lot 33, concession 1, of Markham, and built a small grist mill on a tributary of the Don."

But again on page 117, the same book reads:—"On the north half of lot 33, John Lyon built a distillery, in 1810 (?), and ran it for a long time. To the northward again, on the same creek, Nicholas Miller built the first flour mill in the township, in the year 1793. It was an old-fashioned coffee mill, on a very small scale."

The foregoing information is incorrect on various points. John Lyon died shortly after 1810, viz., in 1813, so that the distillery must have antedated 1810.



CHAPTER III.

THE YEARS OF THEIR MARRIED LIFE.

THE attachment of the brothers, John and George, was so great that the former felt himself unable to get along without the company of his brother, and so George was persuaded to leave Thornhill where he had been working the farm of his mother-in-law, since his marriage in 1829, and return to Innisfil. Here he purchased N. $\frac{1}{2}$ lot 15, concession 12, from the Canada Company, just beside John's farm, and also the south half of the same lot from Mr. Thom. Their removal to Innisfil took place in March, 1832, and on this farm they continued to live until his death in 1886.

By slow degrees the district developed. While their family were small the husband had to take various ways to support them. The navy at Penetanguishene always made a market for farm produce there; but as a rule it was sold at low prices, and was not sufficiently profitable to make ends meet without doing something besides farming. Accordingly he often made shoes at nights for the neighbors; and though his work was rough it was well thought of in a pioneer settlement, as these times were long before the days of fashion. There was also much teaming to be done. Although the Nine Mile Portage fell into disuse about 1830, as a result of which through traffic practically ceased, still there was much local teaming required in a country so young and just developing. By this means he often found

em
wo
the
tlet
lon,
hog
late
the
tion
the

John
they
narro
good

while
nov
shatt
comp
way.

I
impor
round
timate
came
through
gard to
in a vo
new se
civility
E
northe
Landin
too oft
occasio
common
time, fo
the Ind
own; t
of living
of an c
Innisfil,
near the
by, a ba
came up
years of
thorough
as any of

employment and was thus able to support his little family and keep the wolf from the door. The district around Meaford was settled shortly after their arrival in Innisfil, and considerable teaming was required by the settlers going there, some of which he did. On one occasion in 1832, or not long after it, he was employed to take a load of provisions, probably dressed hogs, with his team to the Meaford district for one of the settlers. It was late in the winter, near spring indeed, and the journey was made by way of the Sunnidale road to Nottawasaga Bay, over the ice of which their destination was reached. The condition of the ice was so bad that at one place the whole party narrowly escaped drowning.

His escapes from drowning were numerous. Once he and his brother John were crossing Kempenfeldt Bay on the ice with a big cheese which they had purchased in the north. The ice broke in with them, and both narrowly escaped death. They managed to save themselves as well as their goods.

Amongst other narrow escapes was one from death by lightning. Once while riding homeward on horseback at a short distance north of Victoria, now Stroud, a tree just a few yards from him was struck by lightning and shattered to pieces, the fragments flying about them. Horse and rider were completely stunned for a short time, but soon recovered and went on their way. Such were the dangers to which the pioneers were exposed.

In those days Indians were more numerous and consequently of greater importance in the life of the new settlements than they are now. Surrounded by numbers of them at all times until recent years, he became intimately acquainted with them and their ways. Shortly after the family came to Innisfil, a numerous band of wild Nor' West Indians passed through their farm on the way to Toronto to interview the Governor in regard to some matter that affected their tribe. These conducted themselves in a very terrifying fashion by whooping and yelling around the house of the new settler. With this exception, the Indians always treated them with civility.

For the purpose of bartering furs, many Indians in those days from northerly parts of the country, several times a year visited Holland Landing, which was an emporium for a large territory. Whiskey was too often the commodity they got in exchange for their furs. On one occasion, he counted no less than thirty large wigwams clustered on the common adjoining Holland Landing. He was on a trip there at the time, for that place was the nearest trading post to them as well as to the Indians. It is usual now to see Indians dressed in clothes like our own; then, the dress of an Indian was merely a blanket. Their habits of living were also very irregular. He used to relate an amusing story of an old chief's enormous appetite. Not many years after settling in Innisfil, he and several others were logging on the town limits of Barrie, near the present residence of Mr. Thomas Cundale. In the woods close by, a band of Nottawasaga Indians was encamped, the old chief of which came up to the men and gazed in wonder at their work. He was fully eighty years of age. The logging was a novelty to him which he seemed to thoroughly enjoy, for he tried to help the men roll logs with his hands—as any other novice would—and to pick up brands and carry them to the

logheaps. His dress consisted of the ordinary Indian blanket. George drove the oxen, and for sport several times drove them so as to swing the log against the old chap's bare legs, if possible. But these attempts, although executed with all seriousness, failed, as the aged chief was too active to be so easily caught. Dinner time came around at last, and the chief was invited to have something to eat with the rest of the loggers, to which he readily consented. Amongst other things a large quantity of bread and milk had been prepared for this meal, and the men secretly agreed with each other to forego their shares of it and give all to their red-skin guest, in order to see how much an Indian could actually eat. A six-quart basinful was first given him, which he consumed with great facility. The basin was filled again, and emptied, and again filled and emptied; but towards the close of the proceedings, the old fellow began to fear that the undertaking would get the better of him. He triumphed nevertheless, the total quantity consumed being upwards of four gallons; but it is needless to say that he did no further logging that day, locomotion in his case being a difficult task. The old chief's record for eating seems to be unsurpassed.

In those years the uncommon physical strength of George Warnica rendered him of great service in chopping and logging the forest, not only on his own farm, but also throughout the neighborhood. He helped to clear much of the land upon which Barrie is built.

He had seen a large number of the well-known men of early times, whose names are familiar to readers of Canadian history. Of Sir John Franklin he always had a distinct recollection, having seen him in 1825 on the occasion of his passing through the district. With some of the leading spirits in the Rebellion of '37 he was acquainted. He had never seen Matthews, but had met William Lyon Mackenzie on several occasions. He was personally acquainted with the unfortunate Samuel Lount. Lount was a prosperous blacksmith in the years preceeding the rebellion, in Holland Landing, which for many years was the nearest trading post to the Warnica family. Once while in that village, George was suddenly seized by an extreme attack of ague. Lount took him into his house and treated him hospitably. He was also acquainted with John Montgomery who owned the tavern on Yonge Street near Toronto that was made the rendezvous of the rebels.

During several years George F. Warnica was in prominent connection with the municipal affairs of Innisfil. For the year 1841, three wardens were chosen for the township, of which he was one. In 1842 he was honored by being chosen the councillor for Innisfil to the old Home District Council, the meetings of which were held in Toronto. A Township Council was organized in Innisfil in 1850, and he represented the Northern Ward of the township in that Council as well as in those of 1851 and 1852. The Barrie "Magnet" of July 4th, 1850, contains the following paragraph which may be cited to show his constant activity in promoting the material welfare of the township in which he lived:—

A memorial, numerously signed, will be presented to the Town Council of Innisfil, on Friday next, by Mr. George Warnica, requesting the Council to convene a meeting for the purpose of establishing a branch agricultural society. We believe agricultural societies are productive of great benefit. Our friends in Innisfil have our best wishes.

He continued to represent the Northern Ward in the Innisfil Council until 1853, when he was defeated in the election by the late W. C. Little who had unsuccessfully opposed him till that year. After this he did not actively engage in municipal affairs. Sometime during his term of office he secured the appointment of Wm. Main of Cherry Creek, to the position of Township Clerk. Mr. Main was a gunsmith, and in rather needy circumstances. It soon became evident after his appointment as Clerk that he kept the township accounts in a careless manner, and the one who had secured the office for him was obliged to insist upon his removal. Main was succeeded in office by Benjamin Ross, who retained it for a number of years.

Capt O'Brien, Mr. Lally and others at an early date (about 1835) wished to have an Episcopalian church at Tollendal, so subscriptions were raised and a "bee" was made for the purpose, attended by many settlers of the neighborhood including G. F. Warnica, Nath. Wood and others. While felling trees on this occasion Mr. Warnica nearly came by his death from one of the trees falling upon him. The men cut timber and built the frame of a large meeting house. This structure was never completed, but the frame stood uncovered for many years, and one piece after another blew away until the whole became demolished.

When quite young, G. F. Warnica joined the Lutheran Church. This body had no appointments in Innisfil, and upon removing thither his connection with it lapsed. The Methodists were the chief missionary visitors to the backwoods in which they lived after 1832, and hence they became connected with the Methodist Church, and ever remained with it. In the early days, their place of attending church was Barrie, where the Methodists had regular preaching after 1836. Their house was the boarding place of ministers on the circuit for several years; and it was also a stopping place where many of the transient missionaries and others would stay. Brother Warnica, as he was called in church circles, always had plenty of accommodation for men and their horses, and his hospitality was frequently turned to account. Throughout the years of their married life, especially their earlier ones, many ministers came and went, their dwelling being always open, without money and without price. About two years before her death, Mrs. Warnica made a list of the Methodist ministers who had either boarded with them or stayed while on visits to the settlement. Her list is given herewith:—

Rev Mr. Berry. An early missionary travelling to Penetanguishene. Stayed with us over night in our shanty, in April, 1832.

Rev Robert Corson (from Markham). Rev. Ezra Adams (Yonge Street), Rev. Jonathan Scott (from Coldwater.) These stayed while on mission tours.

Rev. Thomas McMullen (about 1838.) Lived in Barrie after he was married, but lived with us before. Rev. Mr. McMullen and wife, with Rev. Devrel, wife and child, came to see us at one time. Gave up my own bed to some of them and slept on the floor.

Rev. Wm. Price. The young man at Barrie in the Centenary year. When the Centenary meeting of the Methodist Church was held at Kempenfeldt in 1839, we had about thirty stay over night at our house.

Rev. Sylvester Hulburt. Successor to McMullen.

Rev. Wellington Jeffers. Made his home with us. Was afterwards connected with the *Christian Guardian*.

Rev. J. Richardson. Missionary travelling to Penetanguishene. Stayed with fatigued horse on his way north.

Rev. Henry Reid. From Nottawasaga.

Rev. Michael Fawcett. Rev. John Lever, (1841-3) Rev. Reuben Robinson, Rev. Mr. Clapperton (a "British Methodist.")

Amongst other travelling missionaries, white and native, who stayed at various times were :—

Rev. Geo. McDougall, afterwards a missionary to the North West; Rev. John Williams (from Penetang Road.)

Revs. Wm. and John Ryerson. When Rev. Wm. Ryerson preached formerly on Yonge Street. I heard him many a time.

Rev. Conrad Vandusen stayed several days on one occasion.

Rev. J. Sawyer. Indian preacher.

Rev. W. Herkimer. An Indian preacher. He once conducted services in Barrie. Appeared to be old and feeble. Went home with us from Barrie and stayed over night.

Revs. Peter Jones and John Sunday, the two celebrated native preachers, though never visitors to Innisfil, were known to both husband and wife in early years.

Amongst stationed ministers there were :—

Rev. Horace Green (1844-6) Rev. Luther O. Rice (1847-9.) Rev. Lewis Warner (1850-3.) Rev. John Douse (1854-6.) Rev. J. W. Cawthorn. Rev. Sylvester Culbert. Rev. Alex. Campbell. Rev. Andrew Edwards.

During the term of the latter, Stroud became a separate congregation; till this time, both were in the same circuit, having a church in each place. Stroud being nearer after the separation the family regularly attended worship there.

Rev. John S. Clark. Made his home with us for eight months. In earlier part of his term he was stationed with Barrie congregation; in the latter part with Stroud.

Rev. Thomas Stubbs. Made his home with us in his first year. Was married next year to Dr. Lachlan Taylor's sister.

Rev. Erastus Hulburt. Rev. Thomas D. Pearson.

Amongst visiting ministers about this period were :—

Rev. Lachlan Taylor who made his home with us in the fall of 1862, when he was around with his Egyptian mummy, and called my husband his man Friday.

Rev. Enoch Wood, President of Conference, who conducted the opening services at Painswick.

Rev. Stephen Brownell. From Morrison's Corners (now Craighurst.) Would sometimes stay at our place on his journeys to and fro.

Amongst the ministers of the Innisfil circuit who visited in later years, were —

Rev. Mr. Langford, Rev. Mr. Holmes, Rev. James W. Stewart, Rev. H. S. Matthews, Rev. J. W. Totten, Rev. W. L. Scott, and Rev. Wm. Thornley.

The last named of these became more intimate with them than any others in their declining years, having visited them upwards of eighty times during his pastorate of three years. A sum of money was loaned on easy terms by Mr. Warnica towards the erection of the new church at Barrie,

which was opened in March, 1864. He never received the whole sum, but forgave a portion of it for the assistance of the church. In former times, camp meetings were more frequent than latterly, and they always took an active interest in these events. Dr. and Phœbe Palmer, of New York, the esteemed publishers and editors of the *Guide to Holiness* and other periodicals, as well as books, attended one or more of the district camp meetings. During their stay in Canada they spent a short time at the Warnicas'; and in the writings of Phœbe Palmer, when alluding to their Canadian tour (in *Guide to Holiness*) she refers to the visit and stay at Warnicas'. It will thus appear that their useful connection with the Methodist Church extended over a long period.

The brick cottage in which they spent the larger part of their married lives, was built in 1852.

At the time of the construction of the Northern Railway in 1853, the farm of G. F. Warnica was damaged by its passing perhaps more than any other property on the line from Toronto to Collingwood. To compensate him for his extra loss he was promised a flag station and handcar for his own use, but he would accept no favors at the hands of the railway.

He was appointed a magistrate about 1860 and served in this capacity during the remainder of his life.

Their Golden Wedding was duly celebrated in 1879, when a large number of descendants and friends were present.

In his later years G. F. Warnica did not take an active part in business, but his earnest activity for the welfare of the township in bygone years deserves to be remembered. He was the last member of his father's family to survive. He reached the close of his life on Sept. 25th, 1886. The funeral procession on the 28th to the Methodist cemetery at Stroud was very large. Rev. Messrs. Thornley and E. W. Murphy conducted the burial ceremony, both speaking in the highest terms of the deceased.

In the later years of Phœbe Warnica's life she did much needle-work; and as to the quality of it, the following paragraph from the Aurora "Banner" of Feb. 4th, 1884, will give some idea:—

Mr. Bice, of this place, has shown us a cap made by an old lady over 80 years old. The cap was made by Mrs. Phœbe Varneck as a present to Mrs. Forsyth, of Uxbridge, a niece of the old lady. Accompanying the present is a note from the old lady, saying the work was done without glasses, having received her second sight. She also says she can see to thread the finest needle without any difficulty. The work itself is a marvel of neatness, and would be a credit to many of the young ladies of the present day.

Mrs. Warnica survived her husband until Dec. 31st, 1890, having lived during her widowhood of four years with her youngest daughter, Abigail, near Thornton. She was buried beside him in the Stroud Methodist Cemetery. The lives of these two pioneers contained more than ordinary hardships and it is hoped that the preceding brief sketch may tend to keep their memory green amongst their descendants in future years.



APPENDIX.



HERE were ten children in the family of George and Phoebe Warnica, seven of whom are still surviving. At this date (June 10th, 1891.) there are 58 grandchildren, 43 still living; and 15 great-grandchildren, 12 living. The names of the children are given in the following list:—

- John Lyon. Born Feb. 17th, 1831. Lives upon the old homestead in Innisfil. Thirteen children, eleven surviving.
- Phoebe. Born Sept. 10th, 1832. Wife of Daniel Rogers, whom she married March 19th, 1851. Lived during summer of '51 in the Quaker Settlement near Newmarket, then removed to the Township of Collingwood. Two children, both of whom died in childhood. She departed this life, March 5th, 1853, at the young age of 20 years. Rev. Lewis Warner solemnized her marriage in 1851, and within two years was called upon to perform the painful duty of conducting her funeral ceremony.
- George Horton. Born Oct. 9th, 1834. A resident of Franklin, Pennsylvania. Six children, five surviving.
- Martha. Born May 24th, 1836. Wife of William Hunter, Barrie, Ont. Four children, all surviving.
- Samuel Wesley. Born Aug. 31st, 1838. A resident of Toronto, Ont. Ten children, five surviving.
- Sarah. Born Sept. 24th, 1840. Wife of Silas Smith, Franklin, Pennsylvania. Six children, all surviving.
- Leonard Barnabas. Born Oct. 26th, 1842. One child, a son, who was drowned July 1st, 1881. He died himself three weeks after his son, July 22nd, 1881.
- Alfred. Born Dec. 11th, 1844. A resident near Holly, Ont. Twelve children, nine living.
- Elizabeth Abigail. Born June 27th, 1847. Wife of John P. Carr, near Thornton, Ont. Four children, three living.
- Charles Manson. Born June 1st, 1849. Died June 25th, 1865, in Louisville, Kentucky.



