

MILTON
SEMI-CENTENNIAL

A decorative graphic featuring a central circular emblem with the years 1857 and 1907. The emblem is flanked by stylized, symmetrical flourishes that resemble wings or scrolls. The entire design is enclosed within a decorative border.

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MILTON
PAST AND PRESENT

1857-1907

"Let the great world spin for ever
Down the ringing groves of change."

—LOCKSLEY HALL.

"Comparisons are odorous."

—SHAKESPEARE, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Act iii., sc. 5.



The Town of Milton

1857—1907



THE Town of Milton, Ontario, was incorporated in 1857. It, this year, celebrates its Jubilee of that important event.

There were strenuous struggles between Oakville and Milton to capture the coveted position of COUNTY TOWN. Milton, probably from its central position in the county, won the day, and great were the rejoicings of its citizens. James Beaty, proprietor of the Toronto "Leader," W. C. Beaty, of Omagh, and Sir Francis Hincks, were deeply and actively interested in making Milton the County seat. And to their efforts was largely due the success of the struggle in Milton's interests.

The history of Milton goes back to 1822, when Mr. Jasper Martin built his grist mill and saw mill. A small hamlet grew up around these buildings, and was called Martin's Mills. Settlers had come into the neighborhood as early as 1818, and Martin's Mills were a great boon to them. Mr. Martin died January 16th, 1833, at the early age of thirty six. The present grist mill, a substantial stone structure, was built in 1856 by his sons, and still remains in possession

of the family. It has a capacity of 100 barrels of flour a day. The water-power is furnished by a creek called the Sixteen, which comes from a union of springs flowing from the limestone rocks of the "mountain" near by, and, after passing through the town, finds its exit in Lake Ontario at Oakville. The course of this stream through Milton has been changed in order to make it serve the town's interests better. Originally it crossed Main Street three times within a short distance, and the straightening of its bed was a necessity.

The Town of Milton is located on lots 13 and 14 in the 2nd Concession of Trafalgar (new survey), and is about seven-eighths of a mile square. The country around is, for the most part, level; but on the west side, at a distance of less than two miles, is an elevation popularly called "The Mountain." This mountain is a portion of the height of land which, adjoining Flamboro' Heights, forms the table land extending, and gradually ascending, to the north. The view from the mountain top is very fine, extending many miles. It is from springs flowing out of this mountain that the water supply for the town is obtained.

The country round about was well wooded, and beautiful pines and the best of hardwood timber were cut down and burnt in log heaps to clear the land. The ashes were turned into potash and produced a good return financially.

In 1837-38 the population of Martin's Mills was about 100. It was somewhat about this time that a public meeting was called to consider the giving of a proper name to the incipient town. It is uncertain who first suggested the name Milton. Whether Dr. Fell, who was the schoolmaster, or George Brown, who afterwards became the first mayor, or Dr. James Cobban, the first practising physician suggested the name, or, whether, as is more probable, a consultation of these with others decided the matter. But, however it was, Milton became the accepted title.

About 1830 a small store was opened by George Brown, and afterwards, when the name was fully decided upon, a post office was opened.

The united countries of Wentworth and Halton were separated in 1853.

The first schoolhouse (a log one, afterwards replaced by a frame), was built on the banks of the Sixteen close by what is now called the Old Cemetery, and Mrs. Harrison was the first teacher. The third school building, a brick one, was situated at the East end of Main Street, the fourth, a stone building and the one now in use, is also in the East end of the town. It contains seven rooms and a High School Department. The first church was erected in 1846 by the old Kirk Presbyterians. It was a substantial frame building with a small spire, and is not now standing. The first Methodist church was built in 1852 and the present one in 1890. The present Presbyterian church was built in the same year. The first Anglican church, a frame, was erected on the eastern hill on Main Street in 1854, and replaced by a handsome stone building in 1895. The Roman Catholics of the town are served from Oakville, the church having been built in 1859.

Milton has excellent railroad accommodation. The C.P.R. main line west from Toronto and the Grand Trunk (Hamilton and North-Western Division) run through the town. The town owns its own water works and electric light plants and finds them a source of revenue. A large mileage of concrete walks has been laid. The Bank of Hamilton, the Metropolitan Bank and the Farmers' Bank give ample facilities for commercial transactions.

There is a shoe factory and a carpet factory in the town, while only a short distance up the line of the C.P.R. the Milton Pressed Brick Co. and the Toronto Pressed Brick Co. have their works. All these industries are full of activity, and give steady employment to a large number of hands. The present population is about eighteen hundred.

Milton's Municipal Rulers.

The first meeting of the Town Council was held 4th July, 1857. Mayor—George Brown. Reeve—John White. Councillors—John Martin, Wm. Smiley, Edward Martin, Joseph Bell, James McGuffin, William Robson, Wm. Hill. Town Clerk—P. M. McKay.

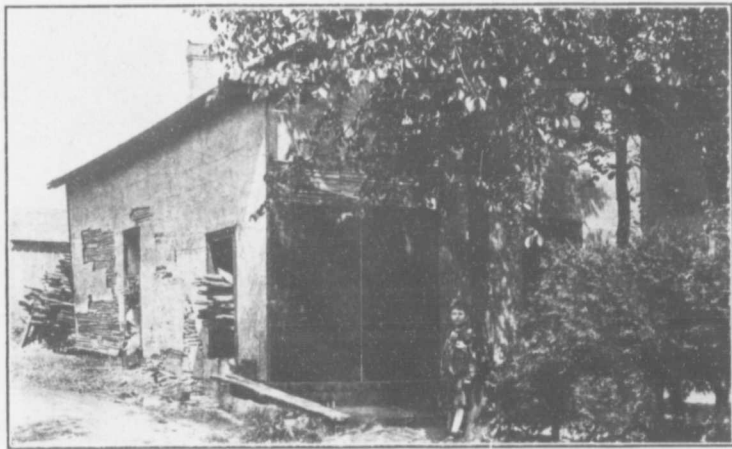
The following are the names of the Mayors :—

1857 —George Brown.
1858-9—Edward Martin.
1860-1—James McGuffin.
1862-6—W. D. Lyon.
1867-9—George Smith.
1870-2—Dr. C. Freeman.
1873-6—Dr. D. Robertson.
1877-9—George Smith.
1880 —D. W. Campbell.
1881 —J. D. Matheson.
1882-4—George Smith.

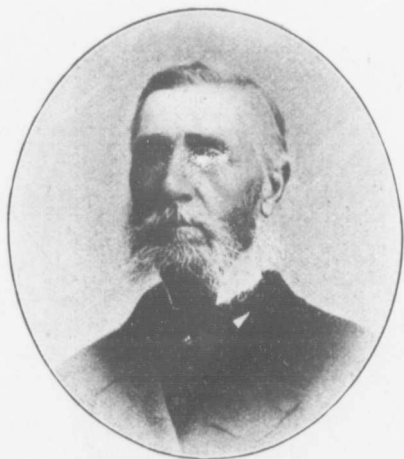
1885-7—S. Hannant.
1888 —Dr. D. Robertson.
1889 —J. E. Harrison.
1890-3—S. Dice (D. W. Campbell one month in '90).
1894-6—J. H. McCollum.
1897-8—S. Dice.
1899-1901—J. S. Deacon.
1902-3—S. Dice.
1904 —Dr. R. K. Anderson.
1905-6—A. Higginbotham.
1907 —Dr. R. K. Anderson.

The Council of 1907 consists of Mayor Anderson, Reeve Higginbotham, Councillors J. S. Deacon, J. F. Little, James Dent, J. S. McCannell, James Blaine and James Houston.

The Reeves of Milton, in order, have been :—John White, Ransom Rowe, John White (2), John Turner, W. D. Lyon, John Thompson, John Dewar, James McGuffin, Edward Martin, James McGuffin (2), John Dewar, Jr., James McGuffin (2), W. D. Lyon (6), Duncan Dewar, W. D. Lyon, Joseph Brothers, John White, D. W. Campbell, J. E. Harrison, Dr. Freeman, John White, J. H. McCollum (4), Dr. Robertson (9), E. F. Earl in 1898, when the office was abolished till January, 1907, when A. Higginbotham was elected.



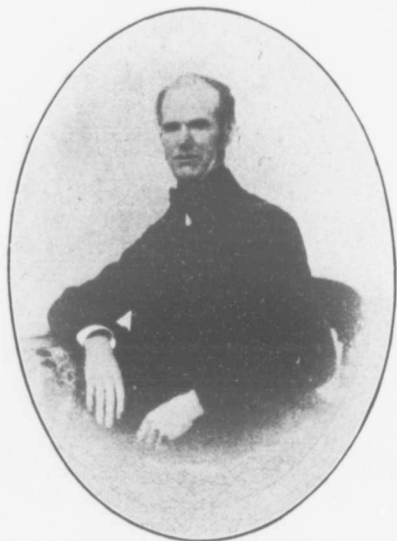
The first house built in Milton—the home of the late Joseph Martin



The late Joseph Martin, M.P.



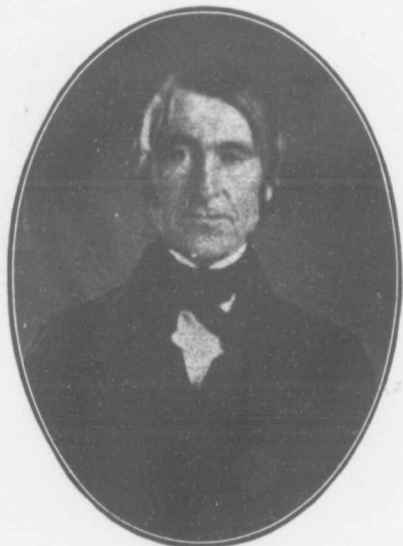
Mrs. Joseph Martin (deceased)



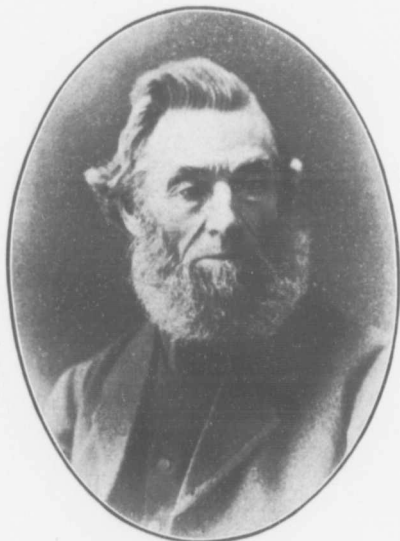
Geo. Brown (First Mayor of Milton)
Died Aug. 4th, 1860. Aged 52 years



Mrs. Geo. Brown
Died May 26th, 1863. Aged 44 years



Hugh Foster
Died Sept. 5th, 1858. Aged 64 years

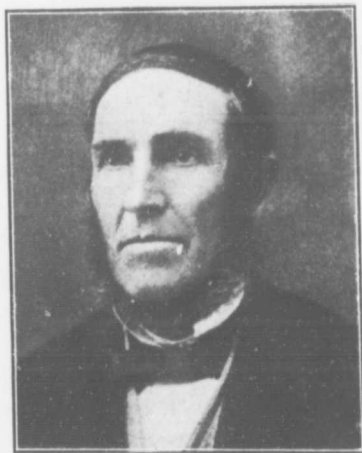


Wm. Willmott
Died May 9th, 1875. Aged 69 years

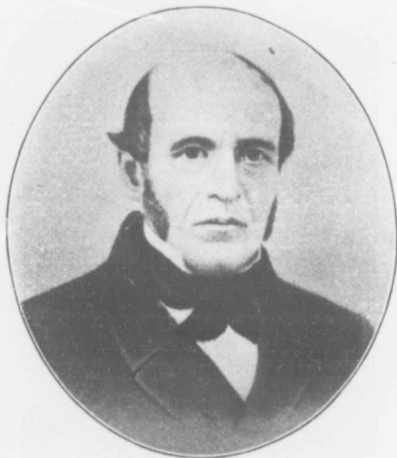


Mr. and Mrs. Philip Walker

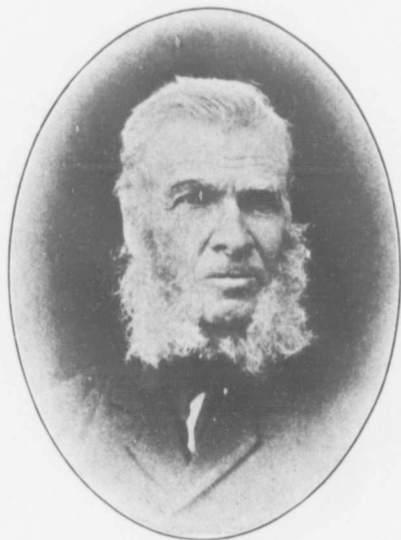
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The late Finley McCollum
School Teacher, afterwards County Treasurer



The late Dr. James Cobban



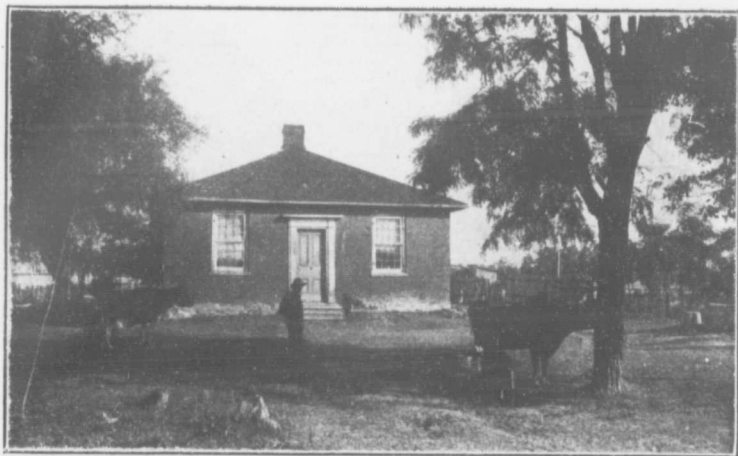
Levi Wilson
First Sheriff Co. Halton



Miss Sarah Willmott



The late William Smiley



The First School House in Milton, now a dwelling



Mrs. Thomas Coates
Died Feb. 16th, 1860. Aged 83 years



Mrs. John Willmott
Died Feb. 1st, 1861. Aged 93 years.



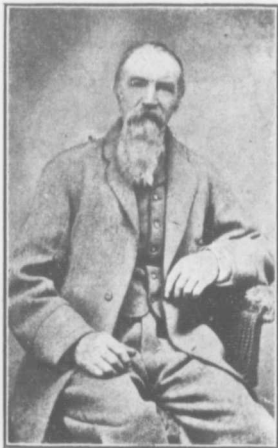
The late John White, M.P.



James Rixon
Died Feb., 1870. Aged 74 years



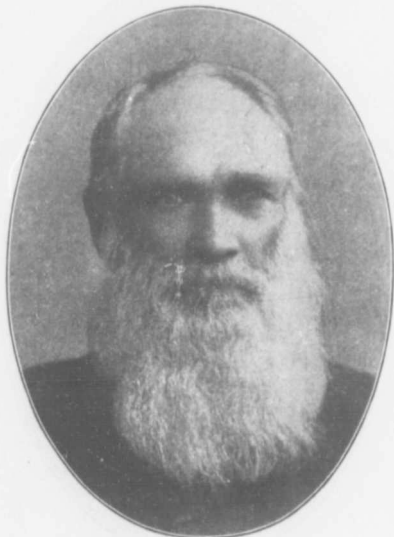
The late John Holgate
Clerk of Division Court, 1857.



The late Joseph Bell



The late John Dewar
County Crown Attorney



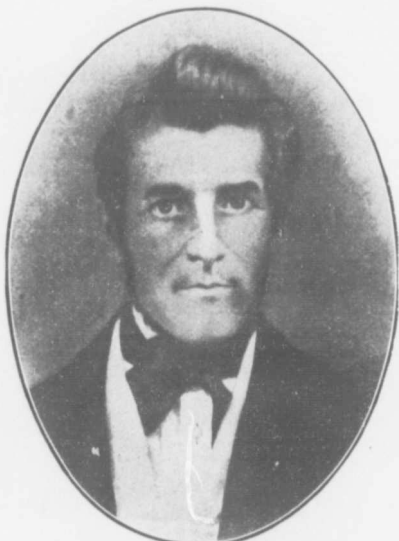
Benjamin Jones
Died April 19th, 1898



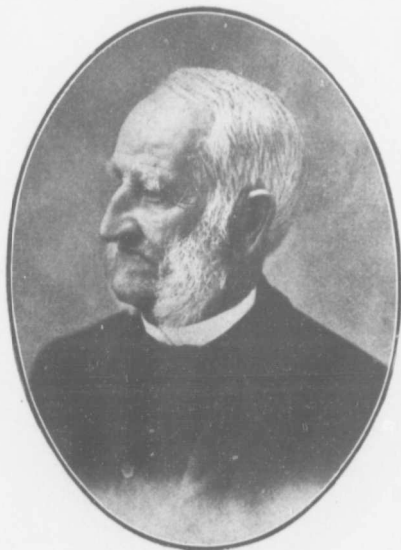
Mrs. Benjamin Jones
Died April 14th, 1889. Aged 63 years



The late Dr. Hume



Henry Edward Willmott
Died March 12, 1855. Aged 47 years



Robert Willmott
Died Sept. 1st, 1897. Aged 82 years



Thomas Bowes
Died Feb. 2nd, 1881. Aged 78 years



Mrs. Thomas Harrison
Died June 5th, 1867. Aged 86 years



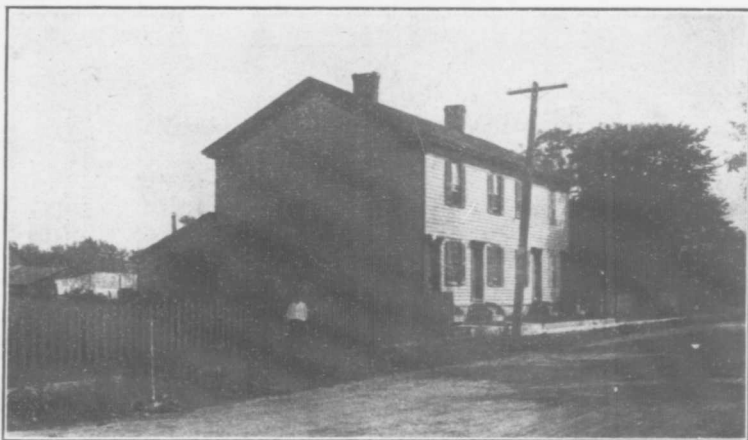
Mrs. F. Bowes
Died May 15th, 1884. Aged 80 years



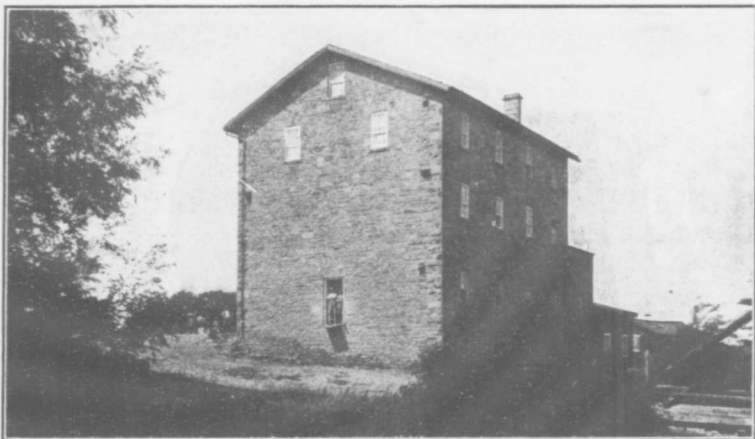
Dr. Clarkson Freeman
Died March 4th, 1895. Aged 64 years



William Panton, Sr. (County Clerk)
Died Oct. 1865. Aged 57 years



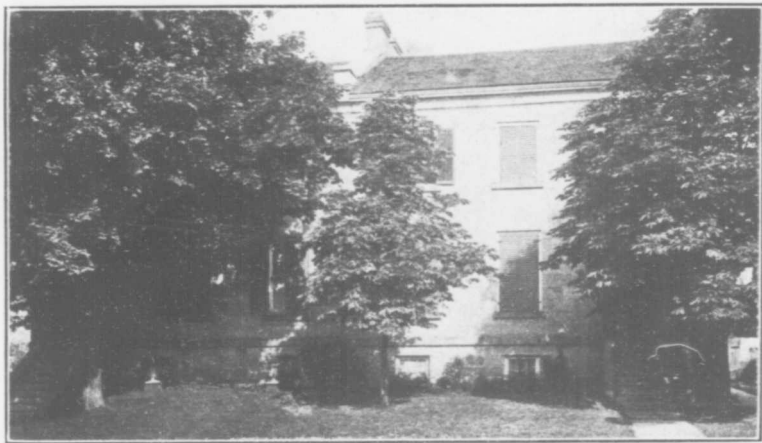
One of Milton's early tenement houses



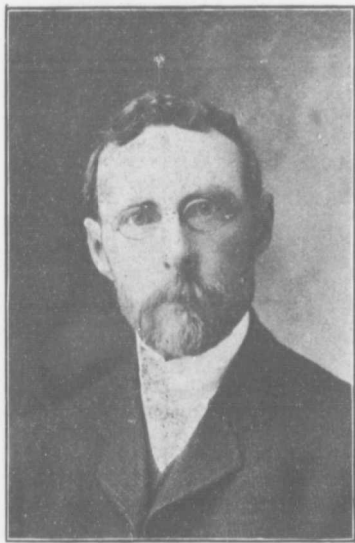
Martin's Mill. Erected 1856



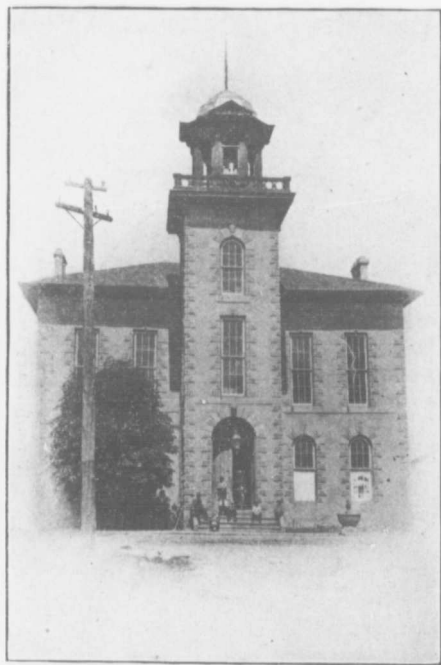
The late D. W. Campbell
Formerly County Treasurer



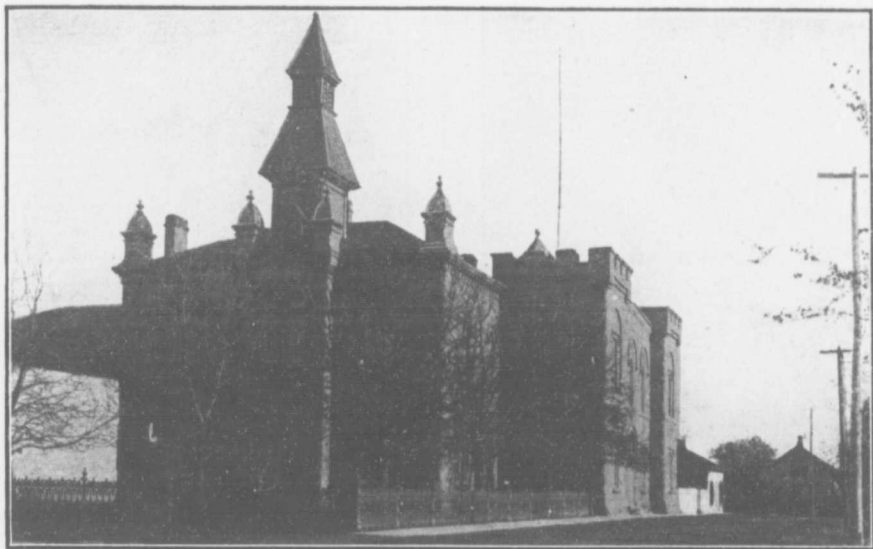
Residences of J. A. Frazer and Alfred Winn
Occupied fifty years ago by the late G. T. Bastedo, Halton's first County Attorney, and the
late Dr. William Hume



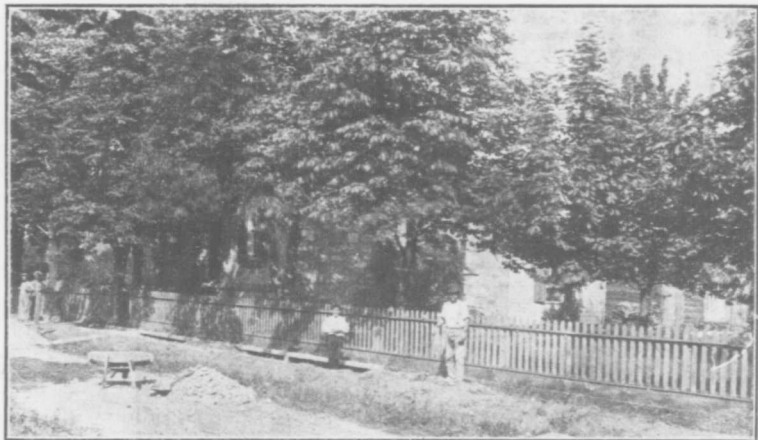
Dr. R. K. Anderson
Mayor of Milton, 1907



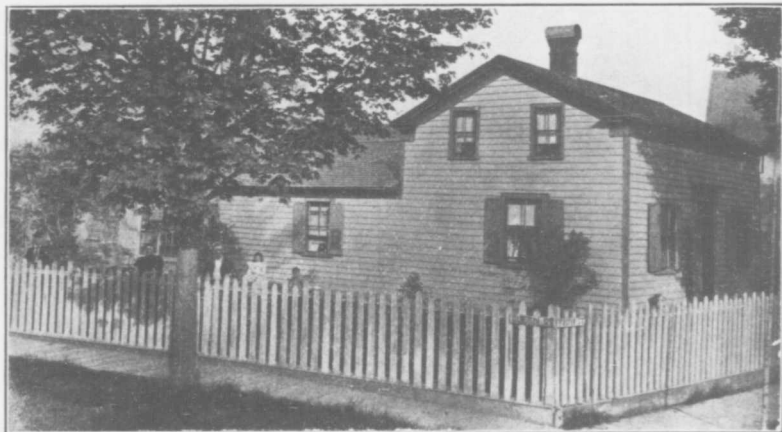
Milton Town Hall, built in the early sixties



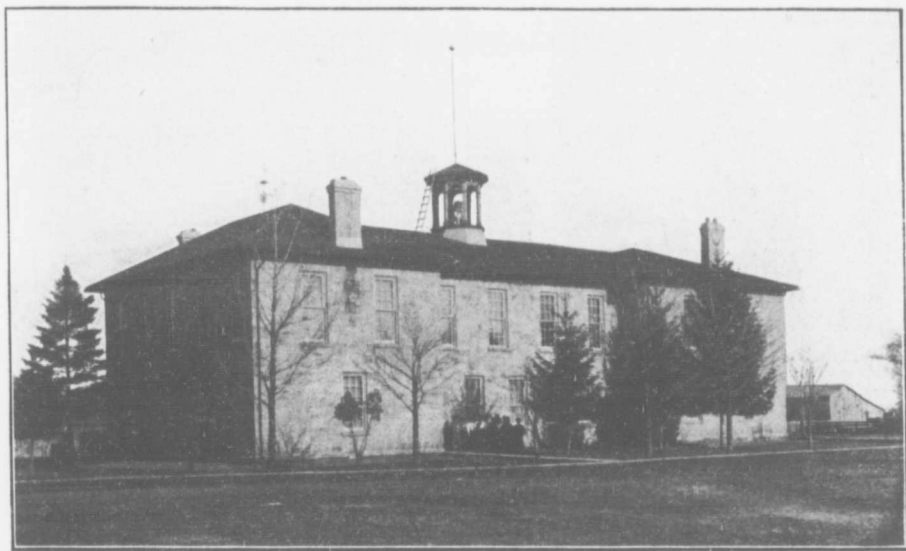
The County Buildings and Registry Office. Erected 1857—Enlarged 1878



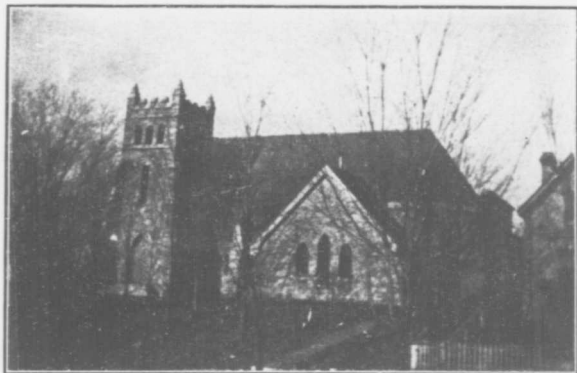
House of late Wm. Craig, one of the early buildings



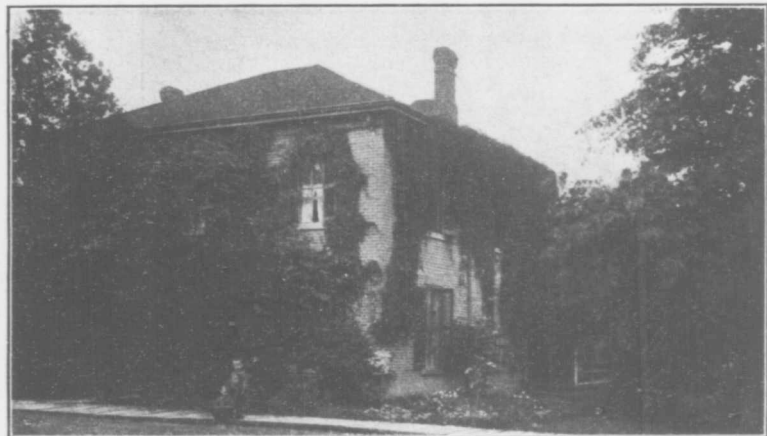
House of late Benjamin Jones



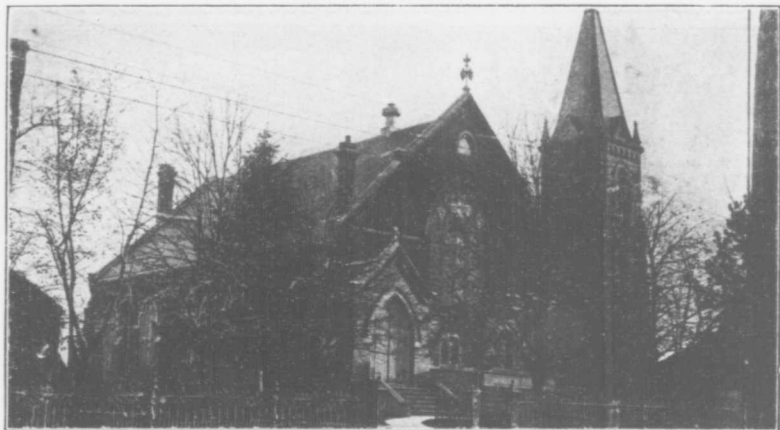
Public School, Milton



Grace Church, Milton. Built 1895
Rev. A. J. Belt, M.A., Rector



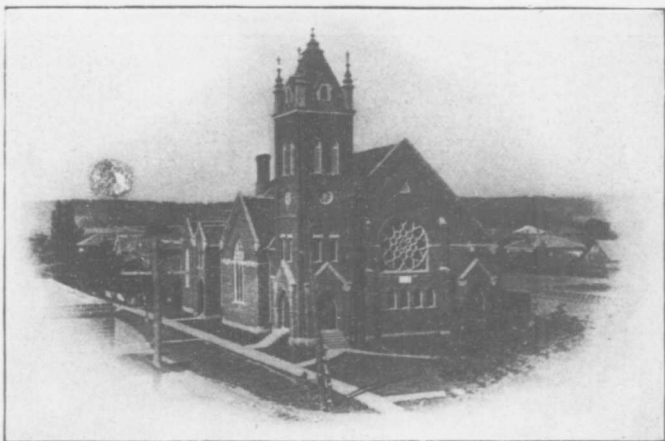
Grace Church Rectory
Built first as a cottage in the early fifties



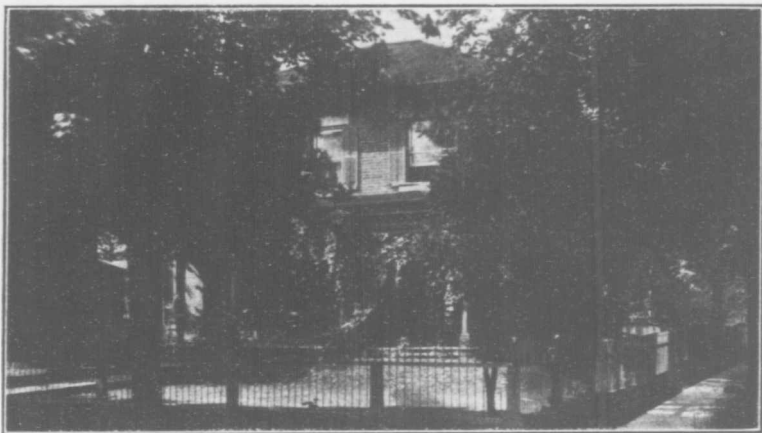
Knox Church. Erected 1890. Rev. W. M. McKay, Minister



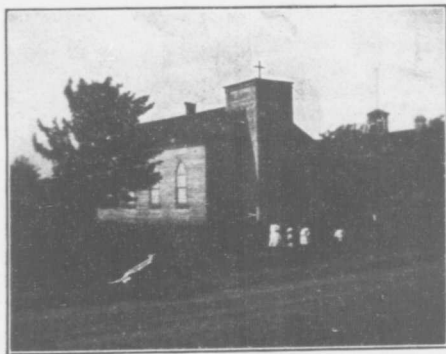
Knox Church Manse



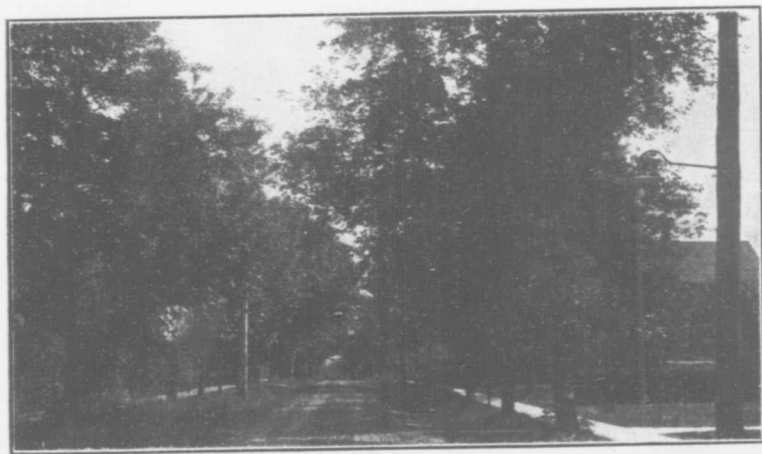
Methodist Church. Erected 1890. Rev. C. T. Bennett, B.A., Minister



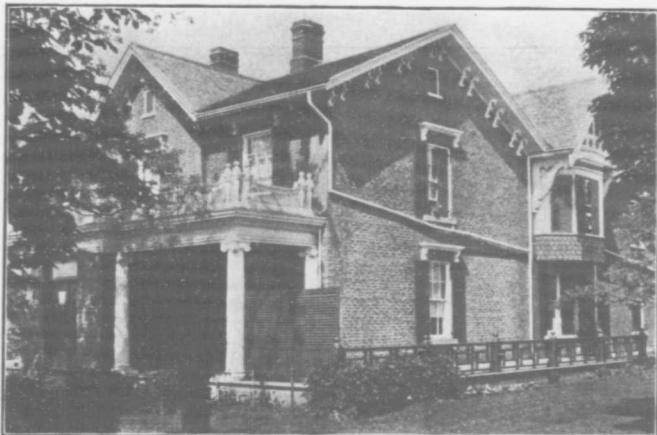
Methodist Parsonage



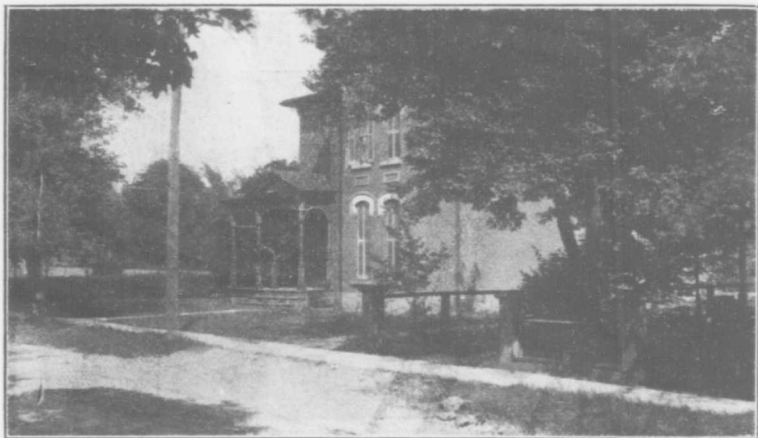
St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church. Built 1859
Rev. Father O'Reilly, Pastor



Victoria Avenue, Milton



Residence of His Honor Judge Gorham



Residence of A. Higginbotham, Reeve of Milton, 1907



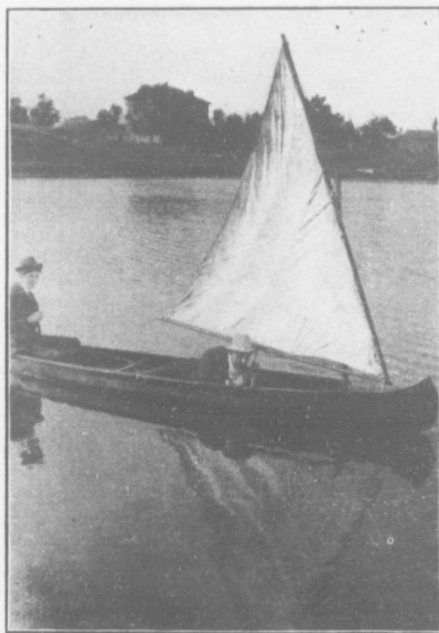
Residence of Sheriff Clements



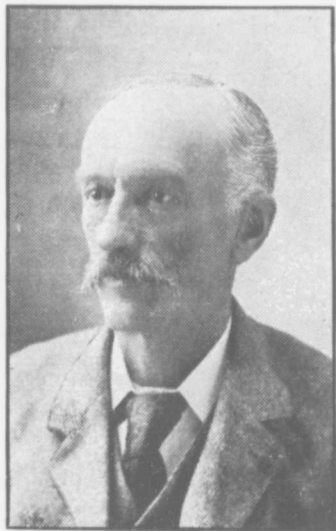
Residence of Dr. H. A. McColl



Thos. McDowell
One of the earliest residents of Milton



Skiff Sailing on the Pond



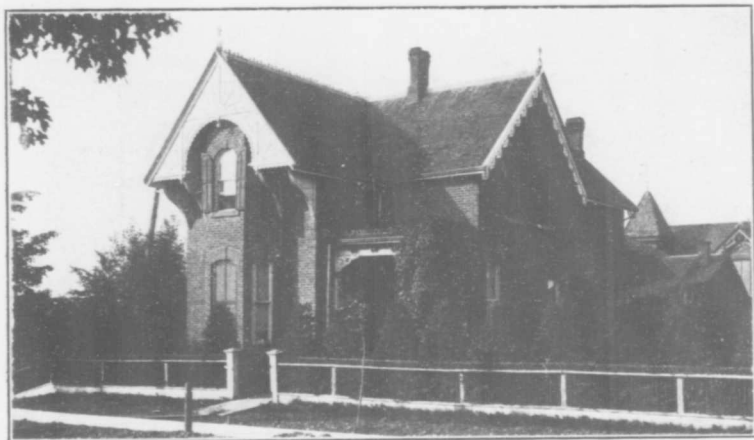
William Panton, Jr.
County Clerk since 1865



Residence of William Panton



Martin Street Bridge



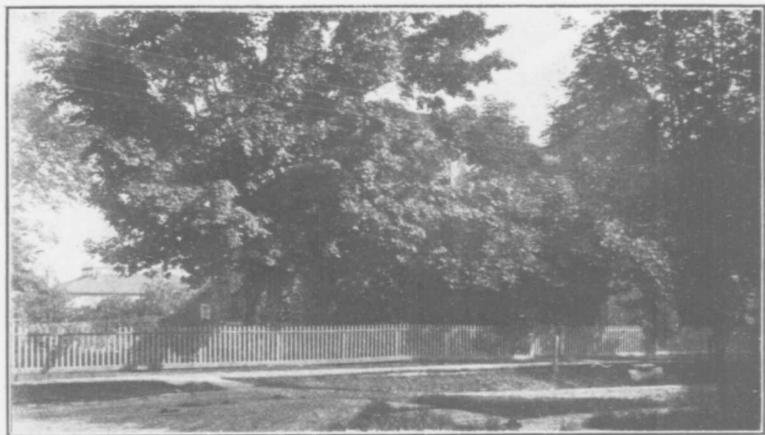
Residence of Dr. R. K. Anderson, Mayor of Milton, 1907



Residence of J. S. McCannell
Manager of Milton Pressed Brick Co.



Residence of C. J. Lewis
Proprietor Toronto Pressed Brick Co's Works, Milton



Residence of Duncan Dewar



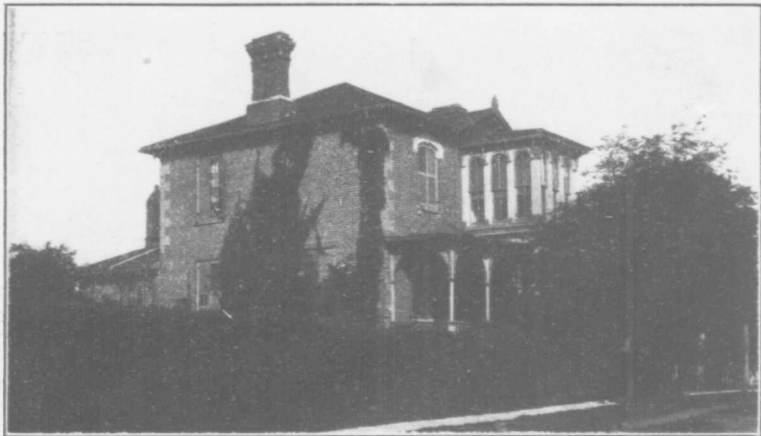
Residence of George Andrew, County Treasurer



Residence of Dr. M. E. Gowland



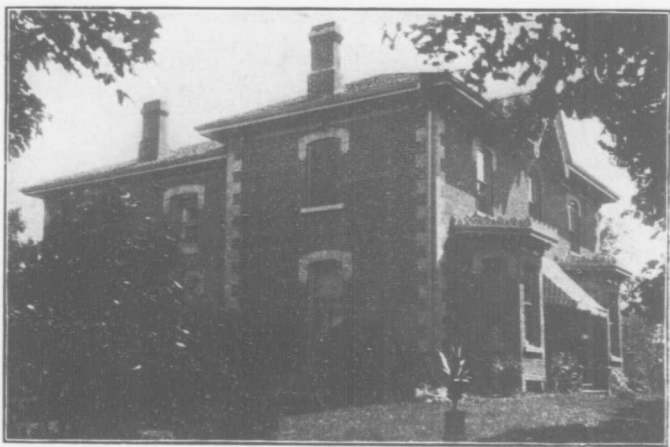
Residence of C. W. Martin



The late Dr. Freeman's old residence



Residence of J. S. Deacon
Public School Inspector



Residence of James Hollinrake



Residence of R. L. Hewstreet



Residence of T. D. Hume



Residence of James Houston
A Member of the Town Council



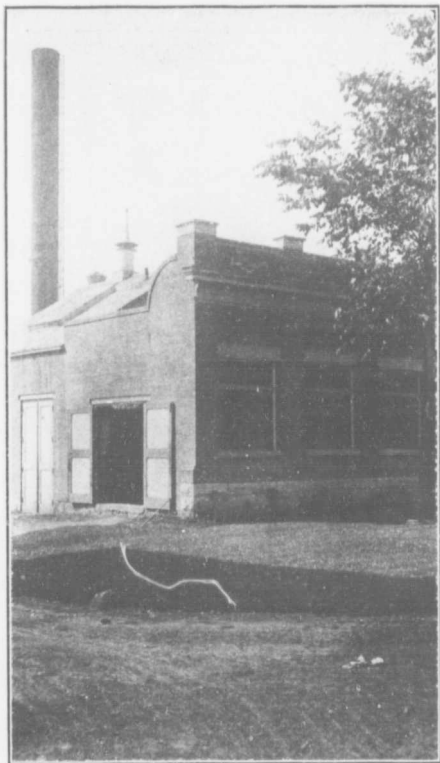
Residence of Donald Robertson



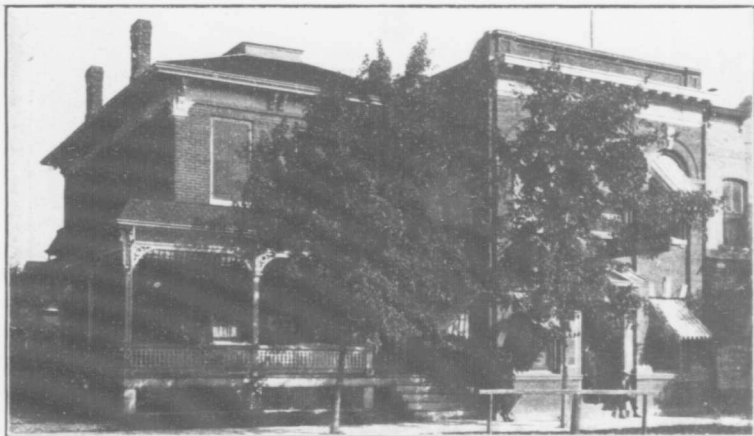
Canoeing on the Pond



Samuel Dice, J.P.
Mayor of Milton for several years.



Milton's Electric Light Power House



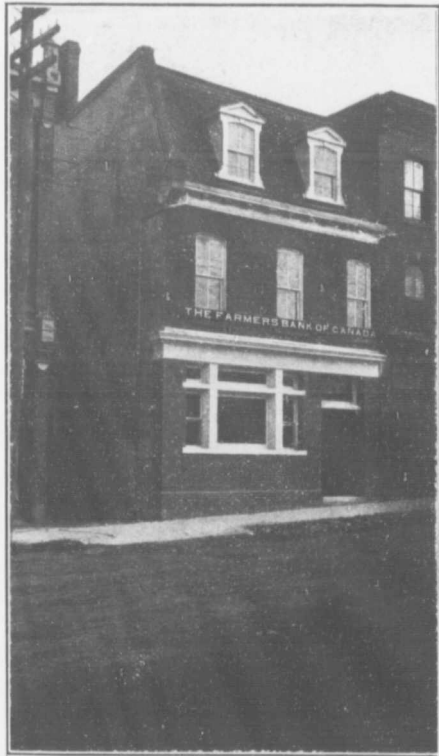
Bank of Hamilton and residence of H. P. Wanzer, Manager



Little's Block



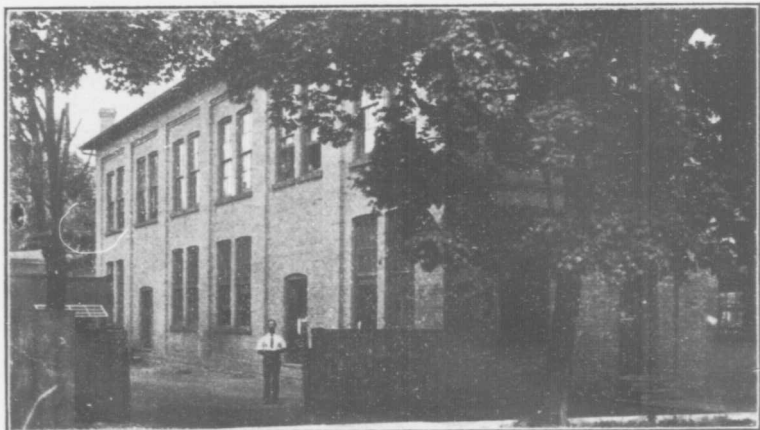
Metropolitan Bank—W. B. Clements, Manager



The Farmer's Bank—W. D. Paxton, Manager



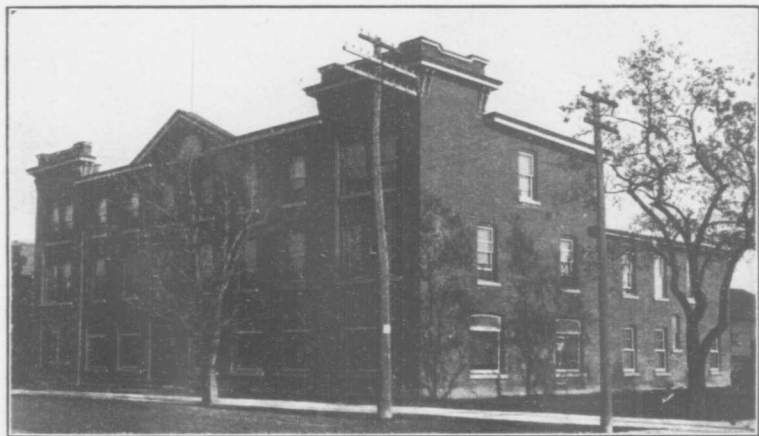
Winn & Co's. Shoe Factory



The Canada Carpet Co's Factory
S . Syer, Proprietor



R. & C. H. Burlings Block



The McGibbon House
J. D. McGibbon, Proprietor



The Commercial Hotel
John Kelley, Proprietor



The New Royal Hotel
F. Martin, Proprietor



Residence of Greenlees Bros.
Lumber Merchants