

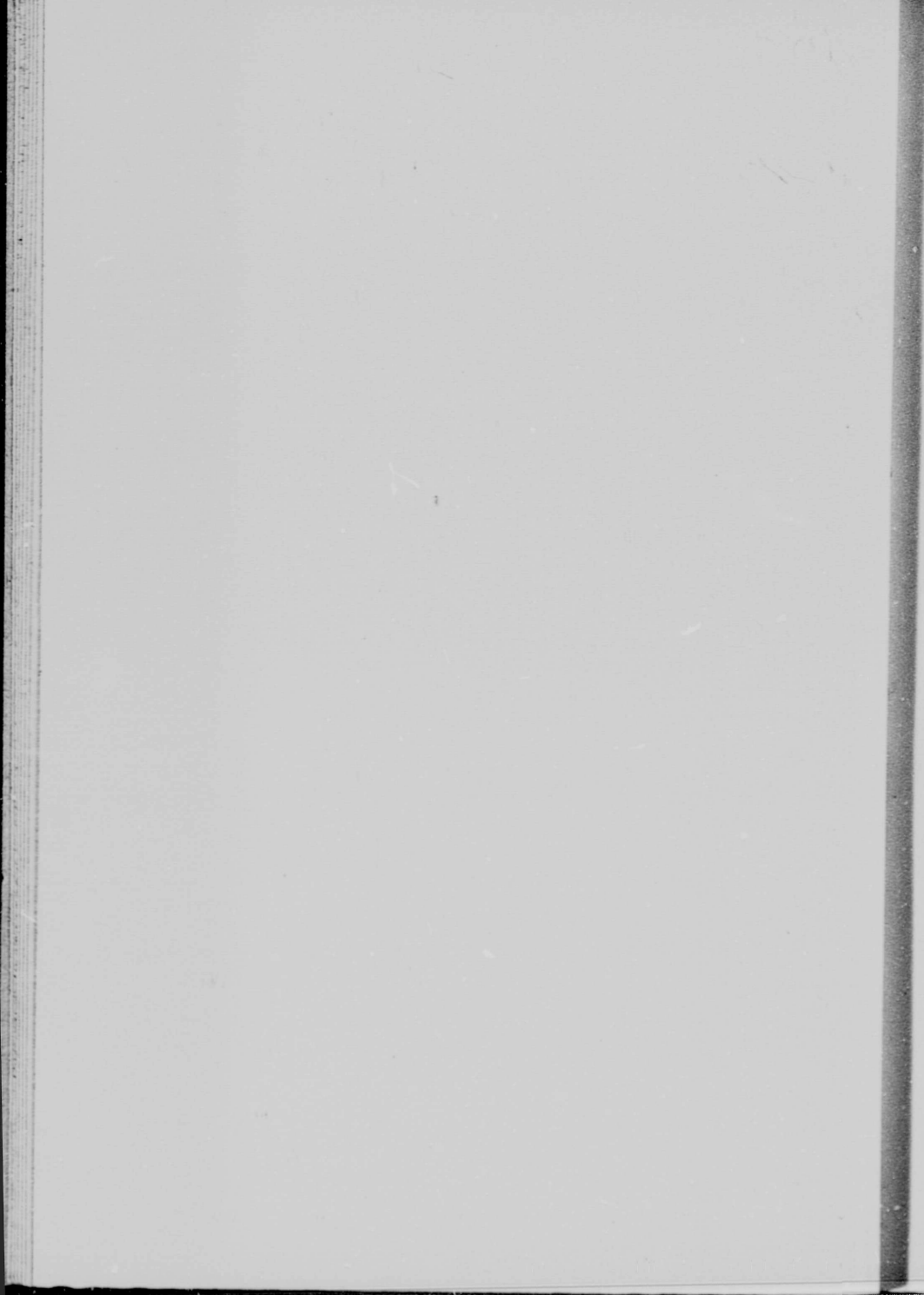
Simcoe County Pioneer and  
Historical Society.

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PIONEER PAPERS--No. 1.

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BARRIE:  
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**W**HEN making this selection from the various manuscripts in the possession of the Society, the Committee adopted for publication mostly those by authors who have passed away ; and in the three cases thus adopted, portraits of the authors appear with the articles. For the rest, their aim was to make the subjects spread over as wide a territory as the materials at hand would permit them to do. The papers are taken from the proceedings of the Society, but it is not meant that this should be a rule or precedent to govern them in the issue of future publications.

**THE PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.**

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

COMPILED BY HIS HONOR, JUDGE ARDAGH.

**Names of Justices on a Commission of the Peace for the County of Simcoe, in "Our Home District," dated First November, 1831. (The original spellings have been preserved.)**

(Simcoe, 1831.)

Wm. Wooden, Thos. Cumersell Anderson, James M. Hamilton, Edward O. Bairn, John E. White, Edward Favel Davis, Makolm Ross, Arthur Carthew, Charles Stanley Monck, James Adam, Robert Oliver and William Petty (Betty) McVity.

Simcoe, 1835. (Special.)

Captain John Moberly, William Cayley, St. Andrew St. John, James Gardner, Thos. Workman, Charles Rankin, Michael McDonell and Charles McVittie, "all of the County of Simcoe. Esquires," to keep the Peace in and throughout our Home District.

The Commissions for 1833 and 1837 respectively are included amongst the Justices for the entire Home District. But owing to the fact that the addresses of those named are not given it is difficult to separate with precision the names of the Simcoe Justices.

The first Commission of the Peace for the new District was issued on the 18th of March, 1843. Sir Charles Bagot was then Governor-General, the Hon. Robt. Baldwin, Attorney-General, and the Hon. Samuel Bealey Harrison, Provincial Secretary. The last named was the author of "Harrison's Digest," (at which time he was an English Barrister), and subsequently Judge of the County of York.

This Commission contained only seven names; these were: James Robert Gowan (District Judge), James Adam, George Lount, Elmes Steele, John Moberly, James Dallas and Jacob Æmilius Irving (Warden of the new District).

On the 8th of July in the same year a new Commission issued, appointing as Justices of the Peace the following: James R. Gowan (Judge), Edward O'Brien, James Adam, George Lount, John Dawson, Elmes Steele, John Thompson, Frederick Stephens, John Moberly, Edmund Lally, James Wickens, Sr., James Wilson, Gerald Alley, Jacob Æ. Irving, Andrew M. J. Durnford, Frederick Dallas, Charles Thompson, Adam Goodfellow, Wm. Charles Hume, John Austin, Patrick Patton, Wellesley Richey, William Martin, Matthew Coates, William Campaigne, James Darling, Alex. Lewis, James Speers, Benjamin Ross, Thos. West, Hugh Gilmour, John Robinson, John Craig, Richard Drury, Andrew Moffatt, William Armson, John Carswell, Thomas Keenan, Wm. McLaughlin (Michael was intended), Edwin Sleer, Peter White, Chas. Partridge, David Soles, John Garbutt, John Stewart, Michael Ryan, Donald Cameron, Joseph Hodgson, James Scott, Benjamin Hawke, Gustavus Hamilton, Benj. West, Andrew Cunningham, Wm. Thorpe, James Johnson and Wm. Stephenson,—56 in all.

Of these we do not know that any survive but the first named, the present Sir James R. Gowan.

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A FEW NOTES ON THE TOWNSHIP OF SUNNIDALE  
AS I FOUND IT FIFTY YEARS AGO, AND MY  
JOURNEY TO IT.

(Written in 1897.)

By George Sneath, Esq.

At that time it was uncertain how the Township came by its name. It was an inappropriate name, for the Township was so thickly wooded and the foliage so dense that it was impossible for the sun to penetrate through and make Sunny dales.

There is a legend in connection with the naming of the Township: A short time before it was surveyed, (1831-2) a party of surveyors and sportsmen left Toronto early in October to explore and hunt over the tract of Country lying between Lake Simcoe and the Nottawasaga Bay. Arriving at the little Village of Barrie they took up quarters at the King's Arms, a small log hotel kept by the late John Bingham, and stayed there for a day or two laying in a stock of provisions and making arrangements for an extended stay in that hitherto unexplored tract of Country.

Starting on their expedition, they had not long left Barrie until they found themselves in the solitude of the bush and in a sportsman's paradise. On the second morning after leaving Barrie, they considered it necessary that one of their number should return to that village and get assistance to take away the game they had killed, as wolves were numerous and following in their tracks and destroying it.

A young gentleman lately from England, a visitor at Government House, who had joined the party at Toronto, volunteered to return to Barrie and get the required assistance. He did not expect to find any difficulty in retracing his way back to the village. He was cautioned by his friends not to lose sight of the trees they had blazed as they went along. He expected to make Barrie easily before night, but he had not travelled long before he lost sight of the blazed trees. He tried in every direction to find them again but failed. He was lost in the bush and became bewildered, travelling at his greatest speed, he knew not whither, until night closed on him. Tired and hungry, he laid himself down; but he dared not sleep for fear of wild animals. His

thoughts carried him far away to loving friends, a dear mother, and one dearer still, if that could be, whom he would never see again, for there was no chance of him finding his way out; his flesh would be eaten by wild animals and his bones would lie and bleach in this dreadful wilderness. Welcome daylight came at last after the longest night he had ever spent, and with it renewed hopes that he might still find his way out. He commenced again his weary tramp but in what direction he knew not, as unfortunately the sky was clouded over, obscuring the sun and he carried no compass. He travelled on and on through the ever-bewildering and unchanging woods until night overtook him again, despondent and worn out with fatigue and hunger. Not caring now what happened him, he lay down and slept until daylight. When he opened his eyes what met his view? Could it be real or was he dreaming? A beautiful young girl, a squaw, was standing over him viewing him in amazement. After silently viewing each other in wonder for some time, he spoke to her but she did not understand him; neither did he understand what she said. He tried to make her understand that he was lost and dying of hunger. She made signs to him to follow her. She led him to an Indian Village not far away where he was made welcome and his wants attended to.

He was the guest of the Indians until he regained his strength again and was a general favorite with the tribe. The young squaw who found him was the daughter of the chief. She became very friendly with him and gave him to understand that she would like to become more than a friend to him.

He begged the Indians to guide him to where he could find his friends. But they were loath to part with him. They offered that if he would only stay with them he should have the beautiful young squaw, the chief's daughter, for his wife and should eventually be made the chief of the tribe. He told them that could not be for he had already plighted his troth to a beautiful white squaw far away over the big waters and he must go and redeem his pledge. They finally agreed on the promise of big pay to take him in a canoe to Penetanguishene. He pacified the young squaw for her loss of him by placing on her finger a valuable gold ring which he himself had worn.

Arriving at Penetanguishene he lost no time in making his way to Barrie and from there to Toronto to ease the minds of his friends as news had been sent to them that he was lost in the bush. His friends received him with open arms. The lost one was found.

In describing to his friends the Indian village where he had



been so well received and entertained, he told them "that it was beautifully situated in a sunny dale close to a big river and in sight of the lake." The Governor answered that that solved a question which had been bothering him. A Township was about to be surveyed there and he had been requested to give it a name. He had been at a loss to know what to call it; now that was settled; it would be called Sunnidale, after the sunny dale of the Indian village which would likely prove to be within the boundaries of the new Township.

Half a century ago I became acquainted with Sunnidale and its people—25 families all told. My first journey to it I made on foot from Barrie, 26 miles. In travelling I had only Hobson's choice, for there were no railroads and no stage coaches; there were no horses to be hired, and unfortunately I did not own one.

I left Barrie, then only a small village, on a fine June morning (1847?) with a determination to reach the end of my journey in a few hours. I prided myself on my locomotive ability, but I had no idea of the kind of road I had to travel over. The road had been opened out some years previously by Government from Barrie to the Nottawasaga Bay and called "The Sunnidale Road." A large part of the road was over swamps which had been crosswayed with logs and was anything but easy and safe to travel over.

Six miles on my way I reached Root's Tavern, then "Upper Settlement," Vespra, now "Grenfell," and was pleased with the opportunity of getting a rest and having a chat with the genial landlord, Dudley Root, who told me some very big wolf and bear stories, and wondered at my temerity in travelling alone through such a country and not even carrying a gun. "You may just as likely as not come across wolves and bears and then where will you be?" said he.

I left the tavern, I must own, a little faint-hearted, from what I had heard, and proceeded on my way. It was mosquito time too and this road had the reputation of being infested with myriads of the largest and most blood-thirsty mosquitos in the country, and I found there was no exaggeration. After fifty years I have a most vivid recollection of that journey and of those mosquitos which accompanied me.

After leaving Root's, I travelled some twelve miles, all woods, without meeting a single person, and not a little afraid that I might encounter wolves and bears, which I did not, but I had to fight the mosquitos for all I was worth, until I reached "Old Rachel's Tavern" on the outskirts of Sunnidale, tired and hungry. Rachel McNeill and her husband Alex. kept the tav-

ern at Brentwood of the present day, at least she did and Alex. was her man to be ordered around. The surroundings forbade me resting long or eating at all. Rachel was a good old soul and many a weary traveller, not so fastidious as myself, was helped on his way, rested and refreshed by her.

A few miles farther on my way I reached Conners' Tavern and a swarm of mosquitos along with me. The landlady forbade me the house with my company and would not allow her door to be opened. She called to me to run as fast as I could for a piece, dodge into the bush, then run for the house. I did so and left my tormenters bewildered in the bush.

After rest and refreshment, I took the road again. I was here passed by Judge (afterward Senator) Gowan and the late John McWatt of Barrie on their way to Nottawasaga on horseback. I had hard feelings against fate. What sins had I committed? or what better were they than me? that they could ride and I had to walk. However I consoled myself with the thought that in walking over the dangerous road I was not running the risk of getting my neck broken.

In a dismal swamp by the road side I saw a number of log huts which had the appearance of having been occupied and deserted. On enquiry, I learned that the Government some years previously had chosen this beautiful swamp in which to found a Highland Scotch Village and had generously granted five acres of this swamp to each family of emigrants and provided them with huts to live in and provisions for the winter. When Spring came the emigrants left in a body for the 8th line of Nottawasaga and there founded a prosperous settlement at the present Village of Duntroon.

On pursuing my journey from Conners' I found I was getting, if not into civilization, at any rate, out of solitude.

Nearly opposite Conners' stood a small log shanty occupied by a Mr. Fisher, an old man, formerly a book publisher of Paternoster row, London, England, his wife and grandson. How the gentleman and his wife, a delicate lady, could think of leaving society, comfort and luxury to come to such an out of the way place in the bush to suffer hardships and privations is past comprehension. Mr. Fisher brought with him from London, a quantity of his publications, chiefly novels; failing to sell, he distributed them among the settlers, with whom some of them can be still seen. The hardships of bush life were too much for the old gentleman and lady; they endured them but for a short time. The grandson they brought out with them is now one of the most prosperous farmers of the Township.

My destination was the 'Corners' (Sunnidale Corners). On my way I passed a few scattered clearings with surroundings which looked anything but inviting.

I met an old gentleman on the road who stopped me and kindly held out his hand to shake hands. After a number of enquiries about my business, etc., he said to me: "You are no Scotch?"

"No, but I am half Scotch."

"Your father will be a Scotchman."

"No, my father and mother are not Scotch."

"Then how can you be half Scotch?"

"Well you see my wife comes from the Highlands of Scotland which makes me more than half Scotch."

"Has she the gaelic?" was his next enquiry. I told him "no, she did not speak it, but she understood it pretty well as her father and mother spoke it." I then had to shake hands with him again. I afterwards found that being half Scotch gave me a welcome to all the Scotch families of the Settlement. At the post office, kept by Mr. Gillespie in his dwelling house, I learned that the Township was served with a weekly mail. The late John Hunter had the contract of carrying the mail from Barrie to Owen Sound, making one trip a week calling at all the post offices on the route between the two places. He was on the back of his old white charger from Monday morning until Saturday night. The postmaster informed me that once a week was quite often enough to get the mail; even then the mail bag often came empty. Letter postage was expensive and newspapers were almost out of the question. Seldom did outside news reach into this back settlement.

Most of the settlers had a few years previously emigrated from the Island of Islay, Scotland—left their occupation as fishermen and came to Sunnidale to settle on free grants of land from Government. Bringing little or no means with them and being unacquainted with clearing the bush and farming they made slow progress and suffered untold hardships.

From the "Corners" to the River there were a few good farms occupied by good farmers. At the River was a small farm and sawmill occupied and owned by the late George Cathey J.P. As well as being the only Justice of the Peace in the Township, Mr. Cathey held a Captain's Commission in the militia, and every man of proper age in the Township was enrolled in his company. On a 24th of June I had the privilege of seeing the company muster for drill. Their appearance did not strike me as being very soldier-like. Some were in shirt sleeves, some in

smock frocks and others wore their coats. I pitied the commanding officer who had command of such an awkward-looking squad.

Capt. Cathey was a very popular and worthy man, ever ready to help the needy settlers, and was deserving of the honors he wore.

Two miles farther on, by a road running nearly parallel with the River, is the Nottawasaga Bay. Between it and the river once stood the town of Hythe. A most beautiful site for a town, on the banks of the River and within a short distance of the bay. Some of the ruins of the buildings were then still to be seen. The town had been laid out by Government and buildings erected for a military station. A company of the 30th infantry occupied the station for some time. When the barracks at Penetanguishene were ready for occupation the station was abandoned (1818).

When the first lines were run for the Northern Railroad (1836) it was generally expected that here would be the terminus; the harbor being the best; but for reasons well known, Collingwood carried the day.

There was one public building in the Township, at the 'Corners'—a shanty, built with logs and roofed with basswood troughs. It was used for a school house, for a place of worship, and for all other public purposes. It was furnished with seats, made of boards nailed to logs. They were made low to accommodate the children, and when adults used them their knees were nearly in a line with their chins. It had one desk—a board fixed under the one small window of the building, and a chimney built of sticks and mud in the end opposite the door.

There, in such primitive surroundings, the youth of the township were taught—under difficulties, not imagined now—the branches, at that time required to be taught in the public schools of the Country. And there in that miserable shanty, scarcely fit for a pig sty, every Sunday was preached the Gospel by a faithful Catechist to a devout people.

The religious services were Presbyterian. The sermon was first preached in English then immediately afterward in Gaelic. The Psalms were first intoned two lines at a time by the precentor, then in the same monotone sung by the congregation, but to what tune I could not make out. When I hear an English Church priest sing the service it brings vividly to my mind the precentor and the singing in the Sunnidale old log shanty. Once in a while an ordained clergyman from outside would come and administer the Sacrament and baptize the babies.



GEORGE SNEATH,

From a photograph in 1903,

(b. Sept. 30, 1819, d. July 13, 1907.)

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The nearest store was at Barrie. The nearest grist mill, "Oliver's Mills," now Midhurst. If a doctor was required—which happily was seldom the case—from Barrie he had to come.

A non-resident had to represent the Township in the old District Council. The Councillors were paid neither fees nor expenses at that time. The settlers were too poor to loose time and go to Barrie for a week at their own expense. The late George Jackson, M.P. of Owen Sound, represented the Township at the Council for some years. After him a resident was persuaded to accept the position. He traveled on foot to and from Barrie, carried his grub with him and paid only for lodgings. He tired of it in one year. He came to the conclusion that he was paying very dear for all the honor he was getting.

Sunnidale as I knew it in that long ago does not now exist. It has gone almost out of recollection, so have the long-suffering but sturdy pioneers who hewed out in the wilderness homes for themselves and families. And in its place now stands a fine farming Township inhabited by a thrifty and prosperous population and dotted over with fine residences, churches and school houses.

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## RECOLLECTIONS OF MOSES HAYTER, THE FIRST JAILER OF SIMCOE COUNTY.

By Samuel Lount Soules.

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In fulfilment of a promise I made you some time ago, I will write in regard to some events that are not generally known, which took place seventy years ago. It would not have taken me long providing I could have come across some of my old manuscripts treating of the subject; but I failed to light upon the right ones and had to do the best I could from memory. I have endeavored to write nothing but facts, without enlarging or putting on any varnish.

I shall begin with 1832, when the Township of Innisfil had but a very few settlers. A man by the name of Moses Hayter came from the city of London, Eng., to Canada. His occupation in London was that of a grocer in a small way; but being of a romantic turn of mind he came to the conclusion that he would strike out for Canada and see if he could better his fortune in some other way. So bidding his wife and two boys, Benjamin and Charles, goodbye, he set sail, and after a tedious voyage landed in New York, and from there he came to Toronto, and made enquiry at the Crown Lands Office where he could obtain a lot of Government land. He was advised to seek information from some of the oldest settlers who had taken up land in some of the recently surveyed townships in the County of Simcoe.

From Toronto he pushed on as far as the Holland Landing; and from there he came on as far as Myers' Corners, now the village of Stroud. Now at this time my father, David Soules, had settled upon lot 26 in the 14th concession of Innisfil, on the south shore of Kempenfeldt Bay, generally known as Big Bay Point, and had been there about ten years. At this time there was no road from there to Myers', only a very blind trail which was occasionally used to reach the Penetanguishene Road (which itself was scarcely fit to be called a road at the time). Myers advised Hayter to see Soules, who would advise him what was best for him to do, and the shortest way to reach Soules would be by this trail, seven miles through an unbroken forest where wolves and bears were very numerous. Now I make this statement to show the courage, perseverance, and determination of this new comer.

The whole journey from Toronto had been accomplished on foot, and now, not daunted by what Myers had told him of the probability of his getting lost in the woods and lying out all night, he boldly set out on this perilous jaunt and at dusk reached the desired destination. I shall never forget it, as I was lying in bed sick with the measles. The rash had broken on me that morning, all over my whole body, and I remember the fright it gave my mother when Hayter said it was smallpox, but he thought it was a light type and that I would soon recover. But my father maintained it was measles which soon proved to be the case.

Hayter gave an account of what he had passed through and what his business was. And in those days when there was but little communication with the outside world, we were pleased to meet with strangers, especially one like Hayter who was to us a full encyclopaedia, and one that was always ready to impart to others such information as was most enjoyed. My father told him there was a 200-acre lot joining his, that belonged to the Clergy Reserves. It was excellent land, and he had good reason to believe that it would soon be placed on the market for sale. And as preemption rights were then recognized, he would advise him to make application at once for the first right to purchase the lot. Hayter did so and received a favorable answer. He at once engaged a man to chop four acres. My father promised that they would make a bee and get it logged and burnt off as soon as possible, so that he could build a house on it, (lot 25, concession 13).

My father gave him the privilege of using in the meantime a good large room which he had recently erected in addition to the part we occupied, and his wife and family could live there as soon as they arrived, or until their own house was made ready for occupancy. All this was done in a very short time, and the four acres were put in fall wheat.

The family had now been here about seven months. Hayter's money, which was but little when he came, had all gone; and when he moved his family into his new house he had not one dollar left, and had been living on what my father had furnished him until he (my father) had reduced his own stock of provisions so that he could do no more. This was a serious dilemma, surrounded as he was by strangers in a strange land. I shall never forget the night Hayter and my father held a serious consultation as to what was best to do under such trying circumstances. My father at length suggested that Samuel Lount of Holland Landing should be approached, as it was a well known fact that he had, on several occasions, given aid to new settlers who had been placed in similar circumstances. Hayter looked quite surprised at such a suggestion, and made this reply:- "What



would citizens of London think if I should have the audacity to appeal to a man I never saw, an entire stranger, for aid, with nothing in sight whereby I could repay him. But as I can see no way out of these trying circumstances unless Providence comes to my aid through some unforeseen channel, I will venture to write a letter to Mr. Lount."

Now as nearly as I can remember, the letter was in these words:-

Mr. Samuel Lount,  
Holland Landing.

Dear Sir:-

As I am a very recent settler from the City of London, and now occupy a lot of land adjoining your brother-in-law, David Soules, who has given all he can spare in the way of furnishing myself and family with the necessities of life, and as I am quite destitute of money to carry me through until my little crop, which I have succeeded in putting in the ground, comes off, by the advice of Mr. Soules I have ventured to ask you as a great favor to advance me one barrel of flour which by strict economy may be the means of prolonging our lives until I can raise enough to live on and pay you. Nothing but straitened circumstances impels me to approach you in this unusual manner. Hoping you will not be offended at my request and will grant my petition, I shall ever remember you in my prayers to the Author of all gifts. I am, yours sincerely,

MOSES HAYTER.

P. S. The flour could be sent by the steamboat.

About eight days after this letter had been sent, the steamer's whistle was heard just opposite our place, and a signal for a boat to be sent out. Hayter and his son Charles (as my father was not at home at the time) took our boat, pulled out and drew up alongside of the steamer. When Captain Laughton came forward he said, "There is some flour on board for Mr. Hayter." This was good news. Two bags were lowered down into the boat. Hayter, with tears of gratitude running down his cheeks, was in the act of pushing off when the captain sang out: "Hold on; more flour," and two more bags were let down, with a note tied to one of the bags. On reaching the shore, Hayter opened the note, which read as follows:-

"Mr. Hayter: I received your letter in which you very modestly ask me to advance you one barrel of flour. I fully realize your position and extend my deepest sympathy. Not thinking one barrel would carry you through until your crop comes

off, I concluded to send you two barrels. Pay me when convenient. The price I paid for the flour was £2, 10s. (or \$10 in present currency). Wishing you may pull through all right, I am, yours very sincerely,

SAMUEL LOUNT.

Holland Landing.

P. S. Should you chance to pass this way, call and see me.

"Such an act of kindness," said Hayter, afterward, "coming from a man I had never seen, caused me to break down, and I was only relieved by a flood of tears. This was the beginning of a lasting friendship. I frequently did call on him, and the more I became acquainted with him, the more I learned of his hospitality and generous heart."

And now I must hurry on to the tragic end. About this time there was much excitement throughout the country in regard to the manner in which the affairs of the country were conducted by the government then in power. It is not my intention to enter into details in regard to the maladministration and corruption of the government, which caused the Rebellion of 1837. I will only refer to Lord Durham's Report to the Imperial Government, where he says:- "I was much surprised, after close enquiry, that the colonists suffered such abuse as long as they did without an open rupture." But it came; and Samuel Lount, being a very popular man, (having been once elected as a member of the provincial parliament for Simcoe county), was chosen to take charge of all the insurgents that could be collected from the northern townships. It is well known how it ended; and a reward of several thousand dollars was offered for the capture of the leaders, Lount among the rest. At this time Hayter's eldest son, Benjamin, was in the post office in Toronto as a junior clerk at a small salary. Hayter had just received word that he had better come down to Toronto and take Benjamin home as he was failing very fast with consumption. Hayter started immediately, making for the city on foot. When within four miles of Toronto, he found a strong guard across the road, but his friend Lount gave him a pass. The next day the battle was fought, the insurgents defeated, and the large hotel belonging to Montgomery was laid in ashes. On his return, while passing the ruins, he picked up a burnt lock and put it in his pocket as a memento of the battle. This, in a very short time after, was the cause of much trouble and annoyance to him. Pushing on, he at last reached the recently hospitable home of Samuel Lount in Holland Landing. Here he found Mrs. Lount in great trouble and grief, not only on account of her husband, who was then fleeing for life with four thousand dollars reward for his capture, dead

or alive, but she had just received notice, from Col. Dewson, warning her to leave the house with her family, as it would be burned down that night over their heads if she did not take warning and fly for safety. Not knowing where to flee for refuge caused her great agony of mind.

Unexpectedly at this juncture Hayter put in an appearance leading his sick boy by the hand. After a short conference, he enquired of the oldest boy at home if there was a gun in the house. Being answered in the affirmative, and that there was lots of powder but no bullets, yet plenty of lead and a bullet mould, Hayter set to work and cast a few balls. While in this act, some spies saw him at it, which also cost him a trip to Toronto. He then loaded the old chief piece, and told Mrs. Lount and the family to go to bed, that he would guard the house. They did so, and Hayter took up his stand at the front door. About twelve o'clock he saw a numerous procession marching up the street, with various flambeaux and torches, shouting "Down with the d--d rebel's house," their shouts mingled with fearful imprecations. Hayter, standing on the platform in the front sang out in a loud, commanding voice, "halt," which was instinctively obeyed, as the command was quite unexpected. He thus addressed the mob:— "Do you call yourselves Englishmen? I am an Englishman from the city of London, was an usher to the Duke of Wellington, where I was taught to know no fear when in a just cause. I most sacredly declare that before you enter this house, with the intention of burning it down over the head of a defenceless woman and her children, you will have to walk over the dead body of an Englishman, but not before I will take good account of at least one of you. If you only knew the character of the man whom you are seeking for his life as well as I do, you would retire with shame. Once he saved me and my family from starvation when that fate stared us in the face. And hundreds can testify that he has reached out a helping hand to those who were in great need."

On hearing these words, every man threw down his torch and went slinking away down to the tavern. The next day he resumed his journey northward on the Penetanguishene Road, and when he reached the Half-Way House, he met a band of tough looking old pensioners, and a rough lot of human beings on their way to Toronto for the purpose of fighting the rebels and saving the country from ruin. Hayter, being an outspoken man, and being accustomed to use full liberty of speech, endeavored to explain the causes that led to the Rebellion, saying what they called rebels were not antagonistic to the British Government, but to

the oppressive Family Compact that was ruining the country; and that this Rebellion would eventually bring better times for Canada. He then pulled out the burnt lock, saying "the time will come when this lock will be called a relic of a glorious Rebellion." This expression along with some other minor ones helped soon afterward to send him to Toronto to answer to accusations brought against him.

On the fourth day after leaving Toronto he reached home with his sick son, who rapidly sank, his end being hurried on probably by exhaustion from the long walk. The very next day a press gang, having a warrant for Hayter's apprehension on the grounds that he had been seen running balls at Samuel Lount's house, and for treasonable expressions made at a country inn, and for otherwise aiding and abetting the rebels, arrived at his house and forced him to appear in Toronto before a tribunal of judges expressly appointed to investigate and try all those who were suspected of disloyalty. David Soules was pressed with his team to carry the culprit to the city. Those fancy bracelets generally known as handcuffs were actually placed on his wrists for fear he might escape. He was arraigned before the bar of these commissioners, and was asked if he wanted a solicitor, to which he promptly said no.

As I was not there, and only heard an account of his defence, as he made it, at second hand, I cannot venture to relate it. I was told by those who did hear it that his accusers were put to open shame. He was speedily acquitted, and he returned home to find his son in the last stage of the disease. This was not the last of Hayter's troubles over the Rebellion, nor yet of ours. Shortly after the rebels were defeated, a gang of drunken men, to the number of 35 or 40, were deputed and fully invested with authority to search Soules' and Hayter's houses and premises, as it had been reported that they, with a company of 18 or 20 desperate men, had sworn that they would sell their lives dearly before Lount should be taken. One cold night in December 35 or 40 men, dressed in blanket coats, burst in our door. Their blanket coats and capotes drawn close over their heads made them appear like Indians. No one being up at the time but my mother, she was very much frightened and begged of them not to murder us. My father got up and demanded by what authority they broke into his house in such a manner. The warrant was shown him, and their further authority that should they be met with serious opposition they were to shoot down all but the wife and her son. After looting the place of all the light goods, such as socks, mittens, handkerchiefs, collars, shirts, and other similar things, and after partaking of a hearty meal of boiled pork,

bread, cakes, pies, butter, preserves, and milk, they said they were quite satisfied that Lount was not there. Hayter suffered the same treatment with the same result. In the confusion I had been pricked with a bayonet because I would not turn over and satisfy a drunken fool that my uncle was not in bed behind me and I felt that if I had the strength of a Samson I would annihilate every one of them. I was told by my father to visit the barn, which I did, and I could see through a crack that they were thrusting their bayonets deep into the hay and straw, frequently repeating, "I wonder if the d--d rebel might be here."

And now for the last act. When Lount was sentenced to be executed, my father visited him in prison and asked him if he thought a numerously signed petition, presented to the Governor, praying for commutation of the sentence, would be of any use. Lount replied that it would only hasten his execution, which proved to be true. However, a petition was circulated in great haste as there was only a very short time left for doing it. Hayter volunteered to canvass Oro. My father went south, and through Barrie and Vespra. Hayter, rather than lose any time in going around the head of Kempenfeldt Bay, determined to venture across the ice, which had broken up into large floes, and was in a frightfully dangerous condition for a horse or even a man to travel upon. But Hayter braved the danger, and made the old French-Canadian horse jump from floe to floe. The ride was like Eliza's struggle across the Ohio River, in Uncle Tom's Cabin, as we watched him from our shore expecting every moment to see his horse go down. But he succeeded in reaching the Oro side, where he worked night and day with great success. There was not one that he asked who did not sign the petition. In other places many thousands signed similar petitions. But when it was presented to the Governor by Mrs. Lount on her knees, he cast his eyes over where the numbers were added up, and very abruptly said to her:— "this petition seals his death," verifying Lount's prophecy.



SAMUEL LOUNT SOULES,

From a photograph by J. F. Jackson, Barrie, in 1895,

(b. 1823, d. Jan. 5, 1904.)

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**Note by the Secretary.**

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When this county was organized in 1843 as a fully equipped judicial district, Moses Hayter, the subject of the foregoing narrative, became the first jailer, and held the office until 1852,—a period of about nine years. Before leaving Big Bay Point to reside in Barrie, as jailer, his only remaining son, Charles, died of consumption, just as Benjamin had done at an earlier date. During his term of office, a prisoner knocked Mrs. Hayter senseless, snatched the keys, and escaped, leaving the woman in an insensible condition. She recovered, although she never fully regained her former strength. This circumstance may have had something to do with his resignation from the jailership not long afterward, coupled perhaps with growing ill health. For a few years he had a sawmill in Essa, near Utopia. He died at Barrie, Oct. 9, 1864, and his gravestone in the Barrie Union Cemetery gives his age as 69 years. Mrs. Hayter died Feb. 8, 1865, aged 79 years. Joseph Hayter of Vespra Township is a nephew of our first jailer.

## EARLY DAYS IN ORO.

By Lt. Col. W. E. O'Brien.

The settlement of the Township of Oro began about the year 1830 when immigration was first directed to the country on the North shore of Lake Simcoe. It is true that before the date mentioned settlers had taken up land on the Penetanguishene Road, which was opened after the removal of the military station from the Nottawasaga River to Penetanguishene. Among these early settlers were many whose names are still well known amongst us, as for example, the Caldwells, Drurys, Craigs, Partidges, all more or less connected with this township. Another name which should not be omitted, though no family bearing it remains, is that of Thomas Mairs, who first introduced the breed of short-horn cattle into this country, thus doing more than any other individual of his time in promoting the development of agriculture. In the year 1830 my father, the late Edward George O'Brien, then living in the Township of Vaughan, attracted by the glowing reports of the beauty of Lake Simcoe, resolved to settle upon its shore, and was appointed by Sir John Colborne, then Governor of Upper Canada, to look after the Settlement of Oro. Grants of land in proportion to their rank were offered to half pay officers, both of the army and of the navy, who were willing to become actual settlers, and many took advantage of the offer. Few of them, however, were qualified to endure the laborious toil, and the many privations incidental to the life of a settler "in the bush," and by degrees they left the country till but very few remained. But though their enterprise proved of little or no benefit to themselves, it was of great benefit to the country. The money expended by them was of immense advantage in providing work for the poorer immigrants, thus enabling them to live until produce of their own land became sufficient to maintain them. Many a family of now opulent farmers got its first start in life by the money earned in working for those who had something to spend, and generally were more willing to spend, than they were prudent in their outlay. It was an undoubted advantage that there were, among the early settlers, so many men and women of education and refinement who, by precept and example, maintained a standard of manners and conduct which would not otherwise have existed, and which did not exist where these ele



ments of civilization were absent, and though few settlers of this class remained upon their lands they were not lost to the country. Of those who, in subsequent years, took a leading part in public affairs many were the sons of men who, full of hope and enterprise, spent the best of their years, and the chief of their substance, as settlers in the back-woods. Let one example suffice. Capt. Steele of the Royal Navy, one of the settlers of this class, made a home in the Township of Medonte, then a trackless forest. He afterwards represented this County in the Assembly of Upper Canada. Of his sons one was for many years reeve of Oro, and afterwards warden of the County, and still lives amongst us esteemed and respected. Another son, after an honorable career in our own North West, and more recently in South Africa, holds high rank in the Imperial Service.

The first settlers in Oro were from the west of England, and from the Highlands of Scotland, chiefly from the Island of Islay. The former settled in the eastern part of the township where young and flourishing families of Shaws, Leighs, and Hodges, and others bearing English names, are still to be found. The Highlanders took up their land in the central and northern parts of the township where their descendants, bearing the names of many illustrious clans, still abound. Of the last named immigrants, all were able to speak, and did speak among themselves, the Gaelic tongue. A few of the older people knew no other, and continued to speak it to the end of their days. Indeed it is not many years since the service in the Gaelic was discontinued in one of their churches. Many of these people landed at my father's wharf at Shanty Bay, and worked for many years in the neighborhood, so that in my childhood I heard as much Gaelic spoken as English.

There was a settlement of coloured people in the central part of the township, of which Wilberforce Street, named in memory of the great emancipator, and which will be found in the description of many old deeds, is a reminder. These people were escaped slaves, and fine specimens of the negro race many of them were. Some here may remember the name of Jenny Jackson, an old lady of very rotund proportions, a true specimen of the careless, merry hearted, laughter-loving African. It is of her that is told the story of a hand to hand, or rather hand to paw conflict with a bear over the body of a pig which Bruin was feloniously trying to extract from his sty. Of these people there is only one family that I know of, remaining.

The formation of the township is somewhat peculiar. Close along the lake shore, all the way from Barrie to Orillia, there is a

strip of cedar swamp of varying width in which cedars of enormous growth, a few scattered pine, and both spruce and balsam were to be found. North of this and sloping upwards is a bank of gravel and stone of every size from the smallest pebbles to gigantic boulders of many tons in weight, and closely corresponding to the stones on the shore of the lake. These stones are of the Laurentian formation and apparently have been brought by the action of ice in some early age from the rocky region to the north. Above this gravelly streak runs what we call the ridge, and north of that is a tract from three to four miles in width of excellent soil, growing lighter in character as it approaches the range of sand hills which occupy the northern part of the township, where the soil is of poorer quality and water scarce. In this part of the township much pine formerly grew, all now converted into lumber. In the southern part, maple and beech, the different varieties of elm, some of enormous size, basswood and hemlock, were the prevailing timbers. Running east and west through the township are several cedar swamps, the water from which ultimately finds its way into Lake Simcoe. These swamps in which the water is never stagnant, and therefore not unhealthy, interfered very much with the opening of the roads going north and south, and for many years it was very difficult to have any communication between the settlers in the central and southern parts of the township.

The Penetanguishene Road formed the chief outlet for the settlers in the north and west of the township, and from it easterly the first roads were opened. The mail route to Orillia and that by which most of the travel passed was from White's Corners, now Dalston, to the townline of Orillia Township. Along the lake shore the Ridge Road running along the gravelly ridge already spoken of, was a road opened by the settlers for their own convenience, fifty feet in width, and quite independent of the government road allowances. It was opened as far as what is now the Village of Hawkstone, but was for many years little better than a track through the bush. Later it was regularly surveyed, and established as at present, and by degrees was made one of the best roads in the township. The settlers within reach of the lake made use of the water in summer, and of the ice in winter, as a means of communication, and both were much more frequented in those early days than now, when boating is pursued solely for the purpose of recreation. In summer, water, and in winter, snow, gave the chief means of communication with the outer world, and also between the chief places of business, Barrie and Orillia. To reach Toronto the traveller in summer took the steamer at its various places of call, and was thence con-

veyed to Holland Landing. A night was spent there, and some time in the following day, according to the state of the roads, the stage coach set him down in the metropolis of Upper Canada. The calling places for the steamer in this township were Shanty Bay and Hodges, now the flourishing Village of Hawkstone. In winter the ice formed the best road across the lake. Sleighs coming down the Penetanguishene Road crossed the Bay at Kempenfeldt, landing on the other side near Tollendal, and thence making a short cut through the woods to the Innisfil Road, the highway to the south. From any part of Oro this would be a two days' journey, but from Barrie, when the sleighing was good, the drive of sixty miles was often accomplished in one day.

With the growth of population, some small villages, having the traditional foundation of a post office, store, and blacksmith's shop, came into existence—such as Edgar, Rugby, Hawkstone and Shanty Bay. According to the original plan, the site of the county town first laid out at Kempenfeldt would have been in Oro, instead of in Vespra. Kempenfeldt was the landing place for the Penetanguishene Road, and there was a store house and wharf at the point of which some remains may still be seen. There were landed the stores for the newly-founded naval and military establishment at Penetanguishene, and there landed Captain Franklin on one of his expeditions in search of the North-West Passage. The transference of the townsite to Barrie put an end to Kempenfeldt, but one incident in connection with it may be recorded. In the winter of 1841 occurred the general election which led to the establishment of responsible government in this country. The constituency of Simcoe embraced not only all the present county of that name, but several townships both to the east and to the west. The election was the last that took place under the old system, when the voting was open, and was continued for a week. It was not then illegal to convey voters to the poll, or to refresh them on the way. Open houses were kept in the interest of each candidate and conveyances were provided to carry the voters to the poll. The expense, of course, was considerable, and it was remarked as proof of the enormous cost of the election that the successful candidate spent £700. Considering that the contest lasted for a week, during which everything in the shape of meat and drink was free to those who chose to take advantage of the liberality of the candidate they favoured, that the voters had all to come to Barrie by sleigh, that they came from Beaverton on the east, and from beyond what is now Collingwood on the west, from Holland Landing on the south, to Penetanguishene on the north, it must strike the modern politician who, under present circumstances, will think he

gets off easy with an equal expenditure in an election lasting one day, in an area of four townships, that the science of political corruption had not much developed in those ancient days. Be that as it may, in this contest, as generally throughout the country, party feeling ran high; the memories of 1837 rankled in the hearts of many, and fears were apprehended that breaches of the peace might take place. Impressed with this feeling, and especially with the idea that the Orangemen of what is now South Simcoe might come into conflict with the Reformers from the north, some timid magistrates in charge of affairs at Barrie made a requisition for military aid; and, in consequence of their representations, a detachment from the regiment then stationed in Toronto was sent up. As by law no military force can be allowed within a certain distance of a polling place, the detachment was quartered at Kempenfeldt, in a house built and occupied by Mr. William Mann, the first settler there, who will be remembered many years later as doing business in Barrie. However, as it happened the services of the warriors were not required, and the election passed off quietly, and resulted in the return of the Reform candidate, Capt. Steele R. N., already mentioned as one of the first settlers in the county. His opponent was the Hon. W. B. Robinson, brother of the late Chief Justice of Upper Canada, who for a long period represented the County of Simcoe in Parliament.

For many years after the first settlement the progress of the township was slow; money was scarce, the small clearings produced little more than sufficed for the actual needs of the settlers, roads were scarcely passable except in winter, wages were low, and there was no lumbering or other work going on to enable those who had leisure to find profitable employment. Gradually, however, these conditions changed, and when improvement began its progress was rapid. With larger clearings, and fields freed from stumps, the aid of farm machinery became possible. The sickle gave place to the cradle, and the cradle to the reaper. For the scythe was substituted the mower, and the drill for the seed basket. Instead of the slowly moving yoke of oxen, laboriously dragging the scanty surplus of the small farm to be disposed of "in trade," came the spanking, gaily harnessed team well loaded with grain, or other produce, to be readily sold "for cash." Substantial brick dwellings took the place of the frame or log house which in turn had supplanted the original shanty. Gardens were made, orchards planted, and a general aspect of tidiness and thrift prevailed. In short the Township of Oro, once regarded, in spite of its name, as one of the poorest and most backward in the county, has become second to none in regard to either the

beauty of its situation, the fertility of its soil, the excellence of its cultivation, or the comfort and prosperity of its people. Among the early settlers there was an unruly element which gave some work to the magistrates. A good deal of drinking prevailed, especially among the older men, and the means of education for the young people were limited. In these respects, too, a great change has taken place and there is not now in the Dominion of Canada a population more orderly, sober, well conducted, and better educated, than that of the Township of Oro.

While thus the moral and material interests of the township have been promoted, the more distinctly spiritual needs of the people have not been neglected. In the southern part of the township where the Church of England had many adherents, a mission was established with the first settlement. Among the Highland settlers worship according to the Presbyterian form was early established, and, so long as necessary, the Gaelic tongue was used in the services. Where Methodists predominated, no time was lost in erecting places of worship, and holding services wherever a congregation could be assembled.

In this brief sketch of the history of the township it will be noticed, unless something remains untold, that while there was a great deal of hard work done, many privations endured, much patience exercised, and many difficulties overcome, there was little to be seen or heard that would appeal to the imagination, or take the life of the settlers out of the prosaic routine of every day existence. Yet in the minds of some, at least, of those entering upon a new life, under entirely new conditions, and amidst entirely new surroundings, there must have been a rising of new hopes and new aspirations, a new sense of freedom, a feeling that here was a life worth living, a goal worth striving for. In the years that followed many may have been the disappointed hopes, the unfulfilled expectations, the ungratified desires, but, in the main, that success was achieved we have for testimony the happy homes, the smiling fields, and the signs everywhere of life passed in the enjoyment of material comfort and mental activity. Such as first told was the Township of Oro in the early days, and such as now described is the Township of Oro to-day.

### NOTES OF BARRIE'S FIRST RESIDENTS.

(At a meeting of the Society, May 11th, 1898, the first residents of Barrie, as they appear in Walton's Directory for 1837, were the subject for the day's discussion. The Society possesses a typewritten report of the meeting, the statements or comments about each resident having been taken down in shorthand. This report in a condensed form appears in these papers following the Notes by Mr. Sneath and Mr. Soules neither of whom was present at the meeting, but they afterward wrote what they knew of some of the persons named in the list, and their remarks follow.)

Heads of families in Barrie, 1837, (Total 28): Lucius Boyington, John Bingham, Dugald Campbell, James Campbell-Richard Carney, Richard Cobb, C. Cunningham, Jane Duggan, David Edgar, Andrew Graham, Francis Hewson, Francis Martin, Francis Meighan, Thrift Meldrum, Richard McCoy, James Morrison, John McCausland, David McCausland, John McDonald, William Nesbitt, John Perry, D. S. Ross, Robert Ross, S. M. Sanford, Thomas Smith, George Stokes, William Strong, Alexander Walker.

#### Notes by George Sneath, Esq.

**JOHN BINGHAM.**—John Bingham's wife got the name of the "smiling landlady." They had no family. Alfred Arnall was a nephew of Mrs. Bingham. The "King's Arms", later changed to the "Queen's Arms", was a small log building on the site of the present hotel with a large garden attached. Bingham had two sisters, Mrs. Dicker and Mrs. Lang.

**RICHARD CARNEY.**—Richard Carney was a step-son of Joseph Crow, an old sailor from Portsmouth, England, of whom no mention was made at your meeting. He and his wife, Mrs. Carney, a son, Thomas Crow, and a daughter, Eliza Carney, lived in a shanty near the lake opposite Sanford's store. Crow found Carney money to build his tavern. When first opened it was called "Carney and Crow's Tavern". Major McKenzie's mother was a sister of Richard Carney. A brother, William Carney, was mixed up with the Rebellion of '37, was taken prisoner and confined in Kingston jail for two years.



WILLIAM H. HEWSON,

From a photograph, March, 1880,

(b. Jan. 22, 1818, d. Jan. 10, 1903.)

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**JOHN MUNRO.**—In a shanty joining Crow's was another family not mentioned at your meeting, John Munro's. Mr. Munro was from Inverness, Scotland, enlisted in the Foot Guards and was in London several years with his regiment. He was a millwright and carpenter by trade, and came to Canada in 1832. After working at the Government buildings that being erected at Penetanguishene for some time, he moved to Barrie and took the contract of building Mr. Sanford's store. It was raised on a Christmas day. The timbers put into it were so heavy that it was generally believed they would not be put together without some accident. For fear such would be the case two doctors were brought from Toronto to be on hand if needed. Contrary to expectation the building was raised without accident, and when finished was considered to be the best building north of Toronto. James Smith, a merchant of Toronto, and a brother-in-law of Mr. Sanford, found the money for building and stocking the store. Mr. Sanford had been for some time a clerk in Mr. Smith's store. Mr. Munro also did the carpenter work at the Shanty Bay church, and later removed to his farm on the Seventh concession of Vespra where he was killed by the falling of a tree.

**JANE DUGGAN**, called "The Scotch Widow", was not a widow. She subsequently married a William Johnston, a plasterer, and resided in a house close by Carney's tavern.

**FRAZER** and **BUCHAN** were journeymen of Mr. Munro.

**S. M. SANFORD.**—This man left Barrie for Toronto and went into Smith's store again. McWatt was made manager of the store in Barrie and was appointed postmaster, which position he held until Jonathan Lane succeeded him. Sanford had been the first postmaster; there were several applicants for the position. Sanford married "Steamboat" Thomson's sister and returned to Barrie where he remained until death. He came to Barrie in 1836.

**"TAILOR" McDONALD.**—He lived in Barrie in 1836. In religion he was a Roman Catholic, but decked himself out with orange ribbons and was a prominent man at the first Orange gathering in Barrie on a Twelfth July. He was afterward disciplined by the Priest. His excuse was that he wanted to have a good time.

**JOHN McWATT.**—Sanford took McWatt as clerk into his store, I think in 1837. He had previously been working for Capt. Oliver on his farm at Shanty Bay, and took for wages lot 25, 2nd concession, Vespra, now owned by James Russell. He



built a shanty and made a small clearing on it before going to Sanford.

JOHN McCAUSLAND.—He had one "motion" house about where the freight sheds stand now. He also had, where he lived, where Dr. Well's house stands, what he called his mill where he prepared his timber for his "motion." It was worked by horse power, one horse, and to save expense of a driver he had a box of oats fixed in front of the horse just out of its reach, moving as it moved, consequently never reaching it.

FRANK MEIGHAN.—Or Main, as he was called, was a laboring man about town.

PEARSON came to Barrie in 1838.

ALEXANDER WALKER.—His house stood where Mr. Lee's house stands. He left Barrie in 1838. His wife Betsy spent his money as fast as he could earn it in entertaining her neighbors and in buying fine clothes.

#### Notes by S. L. Soules.

ALEXANDER WALKER was the first settler in Barrie. He was of Scotch descent, a very hardy, uneducated man, daring and intrepid, with natural enterprise, which for want of better judgment frequently led him into serious financial losses. He was a sort of Jack of all Trades and Master of None. He bought 100 acres of land, and on the hill, near where Christopher Lee afterward resided, built a log house, where he and his family lived for many years. When the Sunnidale Road was opened out, he contracted for a number of miles, but was so unacquainted with the nature of the work that he lost money where others made out well. When the contract was given out by the Government for cutting down the hill on Yonge Street near Holland Landing,—a very extensive work,—he took the whole job, and in this entirely failed, which reduced him to a state bordering on beggary. I must not omit to mention, to prove his want of ingenuity, that he at one time borrowed a pocket compass from David Soules when laying out the Sunnidale Road, and such was his ignorance of the working of the compass that he was guided by the letters denoting the various points, which confused him so much that he returned it saying he could do better with his head.

DAVID EDGAR, was the next newcomer. He owned 100 or 200 acres of land in the west part of the town which eventually became very valuable. He also owned 200 acres where Allandale is now situated. He was a Canadian by birth, coming from Napanee to Barrie with his family, whom he left for some time at Dav-

id Soules', Big Bay Point, until he could prepare a house for them. At that time there were but two log houses in Barrie, Walker's and a log house near the water which was built by the Government for a storehouse or arsenal in or about 1814. This house he got possession of, and moved his family into it, where they remained for a number of years. He was a very intelligent man, but reckless, and, as may be truly said, spendthrift, which in the end drove him to poverty. He died in Toronto. He had disposed of his properties in Barrie and Allandale for trifling sums, and sometime after his death those who had bought lots in his Barrie land came nearly being dispossessed of them by his eldest son after coming of age, through some technicality in law in regard to the transfer. He was much given to sport; he introduced into the neighborhood the first fox hounds, game fowls, and boxing gloves, in all of which he seemed to take great delight. And here I cannot refrain from relating how one of his game cocks was nearly killed. After crossing Lake Simcoe on his way to Barrie from Toronto, he stopped at David Soules for dinner; and some farmers' boys, who owned a male bird that had carried off the plumes as a fighter for some years, resolved to try one of Edgar's noted game birds. They soon found a way to take one out of the box, and placed the two on the barn floor, when in a very short time Edgar's game bird was nearly killed. They then placed the bird back in its box, and Edgar knew nothing of the matter until he reached Barrie. He immediately offered a reward of \$100 for the apprehension, or for information that would lead to the conviction, of the offender. Those birds led to many fights outside of cock fights, but were finally abandoned.

The next new comers were JOHN BINGHAM and THRIFT MELDRUM. Meldrum bought a lot on Dunlop Street and engaged David Edgar to build a house on it which he did, but it was found to be two feet on the street. Meldrum refused to pay for it until it was put in the proper place. Edgar refused to do this and got an axe and swore he would cut it down. Meldrum was obliged (as his family was ready to occupy it) to pay Edgar an extra sum to move it. Meldrum kept tavern in it for many years. In politics he was a Liberal. At the election in 1841, Wm. B. Robinson opposed Captain Steele, who was successful through the indirect influence of the Governor-General, Lord Sydenham, but at an enormous expense to himself. All the hotels (with the exception of one) in Barrie were open houses for the accommodation of Steele supporters, and a committee was appointed who became responsible for all debts contracted. Meldrum's bill was £99, 19s, 11¼ d; Bingham's was over \$1000;

McCausland's, \$500; but these amounts were very much reduced by the committee. He was appointed Crier of the Court under Judge Gowan and held this position for a considerable time. Mr. Meldrum died Dec. 6th, 1860, aged 75 years, and was interred in the old Presby'n Cem'y, Barrie.

ROBERT ROSS was another of the first settlers in Barrie; he was a provincial land surveyor, also a carpenter and builder; he did not follow his profession as a surveyor, but confined himself to his trade, and accumulated considerable property. He was married the second time; had no children by his first wife, but several by the second, among whom were Dr. R. A. Ross who died some years ago, and Wallace, a printer. There are some daughters also; one became the wife of Mr. C. A. Perkins, retired grocer here.

DAVID S. ROSS.—A Scotchman who came to this country in company with his brother, Capt. Ross, who settled in Oro on the lakeshore near where Adams had taken up land. David soon after came to Barrie and was the second to start a store in the town in a log building which was afterward used as a schoolhouse. From Barrie he went to the states, but eventually came back to Canada, and after the Northern Railway was built he was appointed station master at Holland Landing.

One of the first settlers was JOHN McCAUSLAND who labored several years endeavoring to find out perpetual motion. He erected quite a number of buildings of very strange designs which caused passers by to gaze with wonder. They were filled with massive wooden wheels, which when put in motion would cause lookers on to shift their quarters to a considerable distance for fear the whole edifice might collapse as the creaking and unearthly sounds, combined with the vibration of the huge mass, was enough to cause stout hearts to tremble. He built the Episcopal church at Shanty Bay, which stands to-day as a lasting monument of John's early work. It was constructed, on the old Egyptian plan, of straw and mud made into huge bricks, somewhat of the style of the Egyptian pyramids on the banks of the Nile. His brother, DAVID McCAUSLAND, kept a hotel in the west end of the town for many years.

RICHARD CARNEY also kept a hotel for a long time. He was a very upright and straightforward man. He received an appointment as custom house officer at Owen Sound. One of his sons is Sheriff at Sault Ste. Marie. After he left the hotel it was conducted by Edward Marks who subsequently built the "Barrie Hotel."

C. CUNNINGHAM was the first shoemaker in Barrie. He

was patronized by the general community. In those days it was often remarked that shoemakers were not over conscious in regard to their promises, and Cunningham was no exception to the rule. He would frequently have six or seven pairs of shoes partly made, all promised for a certain day; and parties calling for their shoes always found him pegging away at them and could not reasonably find fault. But no sooner had they left the shop and he would see another party coming than he would in an instant have the latter's shoes on his knees belting away; and in this way he tried to please everyone. He was in the habit of spreeing at times and when intoxicated was very turbulent and frequently was hauled up and fined. But after some citizens had made many fruitless attempts to reform the man, he was at length sentenced to jail, and as there was no such convenience in Barrie at the time he was ordered to Toronto. Two constables were deputed to take him there, but he refused to walk; a horse was procured and he was assisted to mount; but no sooner was he on than he would throw himself off. An expedient was tried by tying his legs under the horse's belly; but even when he managed to turn the saddle. After many unsuccessful attempts he was finally liberated on trial for good behaviour.

#### Notes by W. H. Hewson and others.

At the meeting of the Society on May 11, 1898, when Walton's list of the first residents of Barrie, prior to 1837, was taken up, and each person discussed, the following members among others, were present and took part in the discussion, viz., Judge Ardagh, John Darby, Robert Grose, Wm. H. Hewson, Alex. Smith, and John L. Warnica, Mr. Hewson being the chief contributor, the recollections contributed by him being indicated throughout by his initials, (W. H.)

**LUCIUS BOYINGTON.**—He was a native of Kentucky, and followed shingle-making at Kempenfeldt about the time this list was made. He had no family, and afterward lived in Stroud. The people usually shortened his name to Boynton. (W. H.)

**JOHN BINGHAM.**—He kept the "Queen's Arms" Hotel, where the Queen's Hotel is now. Before coming to Barrie he kept a hotel on Church Street, Toronto. He was a native of England; was married, but had no children. He was married before they came from England. Mrs. Bingham was a stout, portly woman, a genuine English landlady, worthy and dignified, and they kept a good hotel. Besides John, there were the following brothers:— Henry, Robert, Joseph, William and Edward and two sisters, Mary and Martha. Henry was a butcher,

and has descendants in town. Robert kept a hotel in Bradford. Joseph was a tanner; and Edward a butcher. William died in England. One sister, Mary, was married to a John Wilkie, a blacksmith, who lived at Coldwater, later he worked with Mr. Butterfield in Bradford, and then in Barrie. Martha married a Mr. Laing, who built and lived in the house just east of the Clarkson House.

**LESLIE CALDWELL.**—(Not named in Walton's list, as he had died before). This early resident had but a short career. He and David S. Ross came to Barrie from Toronto to open a store. Two carpenters, Buchanan and Fraser, came up from Toronto and built two houses exactly alike. One was where Mr. Hoar's hardware store stands and the other was on the north side of Dunlop Street, in front of Judge Ardagh's Conservatory. Then Caldwell and Ross came up from Toronto and in one of the houses opened a store. There was a big fire on a Sunday, and Caldwell exerted himself so much that he became over-heated, took inflammation of the lungs, and died. All this occurred before the Rebellion. He was a brother of Mrs. Richardson (Prudence Caldwell) who died Feb. 11, 1879, aged 80 years, (Barrie Union Cemetery.) (W. H.)

**DUGALD CAMPBELL.** He was a tailor, and moved into Barrie some time after 1834. The Government built quite a large log building at Lane's corner (Mulcaster Street), and also two or three shanties behind it for emigrants; and Dugald Campbell lived in one of those. He and his wife were natives of Scotland. His wife, especially, was an enthusiastic Scot, and every Scotchman who came along was a connection of hers. She would say: "If he is no my cousin, he is my good man's cousin, for we are all cousins." He lived in Nottawasaga latterly when that township began to be settled extensively. (W. H.)

**JAMES CAMPBELL.**—He was a native of Ireland, and a shoe-maker. He was living in Barrie in the summer of 1833 and had probably come that year. He owned the lot at the south-west corner of Dunlop and Sampson streets, and had a shop and a house on it, on the bank, where he lived for some years. Then he built a frame house on the lot immediately opposite, on Dunlop Street, and succeeded pretty well for a time, but afterward "ran through everything." The elder Mr. Strathy afterward occupied the same house. (W. H.)

**RICHARD CARNEY** kept a little inn on the north side of Dunlop Street, where the store at 46 Dunlop St. now stands. In 1832 he erected the log tavern here for the accommodation of

travellers and others, and continued in it until the setting apart of Grey County, when he was appointed Collector of Customs at Owen Sound; subsequently he became Sheriff of Algoma and passed the remainder of his life at Sault Ste. Marie. His son W. H. Carney became his successor as Sheriff.

**WILLIAM CARSON.**—(An early inhabitant not named in Walton's list). This was the father of William Carson of Vespra. He lived at the foot of Bayfield Street. There was a kind of knoll near the foot of the street, on which he built a shanty and lived there some time. (W. H.)

**RICHARD COBB.**—This man's name was pronounced 'Cobe' by everyone, but the correct spelling is uncertain. Cobe and David McCausland carried the mail from Holland Landing to Coldwater, the first regular mail that was started. They did not run a stage; they only carried the mail. Edward and Miles McDonald had been the first regular mail carriers; before them there were only despatches from the Government carried by Indians. They used to carry it week about from Holland Landing to Penetanguishene. Edward would start one Monday and Miles would start the next Monday; and they would go to the Landing and carry the mail on their backs to Penetanguishene. Cobe and McCausland carried the mail on horseback. Cobe was an Irishman, and Mrs. Cobe had the same native country. He liked "a drop of the cratur" and Mrs. Cobe likewise. (W.H.)

**C. CUNNINGHAM.** He was a shoemaker, and was a native of Ireland. He lived in front of the present post office. There was a knoll there, and his house was on top of that knoll. Latterly, he lived about a mile south of Holland Landing station, on top of the hill, in the house where Samuel Lount had formerly lived. (W. H.)

**JANE DUGGAN.**—(See Narrative by Mr. Sneath).

**DAVID EDGAR.**—This man became the owner of the east part (50 acres) of Lot 24 in the 5th Concession, Vespra, now wholly within the town, and lying just west of Bayfield Street. Soon after marriage, he and his wife came to Barrie to occupy the land just mentioned. The young couple took up their abode for at least three years or more in the deserted Government storehouse. Then in 1832 he erected a house on his land. It was located on Toronto Street, of the present day, some distance south of Elizabeth Street. The family of Mr. Edgar consisted of three children. In the fall of 1840, when they were living in Toronto, he was found dead. His widow and family removed to Belleville, where they resided for many years.

FIDEL. (Not named in Walton's list). He was the first blacksmith in Barrie. His shop was near the corner of Poyntz and Dunlop Streets, immediately in front of Dr. Morton's, on the shore where Dr. Pass afterward had his surgery. This shop was gone before 1842. Mr. Fidel, who lived four miles west of Cookstown, was a relative of this man. (W.) H.)

ANDREW GRAHAM.—He was a native of Co. Fermanagh, Ireland, where he was born in 1806, and came to Canada in 1828. He lived for a few years in the neighborhood of Toronto, and in 1834 came to Barrie, where he spent the remainder of his life. In 1835 he married Miss Mary Noble. He began business in Barrie as a tanner; he also made boots and shoes, and later kept a general store. In 1843, or in the year preceding it, he was a strong advocate of Barrie for the County town, when the question was rife, and it is said he canvassed the county on horseback in the town's interests. He was one of the founders of Methodism in Barrie, some of the early meetings having been held in his house. His membership in this church was of 76 years duration. His wife died in 1884. He died, April 4, 1898, at the ripe age of 92 years.

THOMAS GRAHAM. This was a brother of the preceding, next in the family to Andrew, who was the eldest. His name is in the early Patentee List, but not in Walton's. He was a carpenter by trade, and resided in Barrie, though perhaps after the list was prepared. William and Alexander were younger brothers who arrived in Barrie, shortly afterward.

TIMOTHY HAGGART.—As his name appears under Sunnidale in Walton's Directory for 1837, he was probably living in that township at the time, or held land there, but was a resident of early Barrie, both before the year named and afterward for many years. His wife had been a Miss Perry, a daughter of John Perry, subsequently named in this list. Mr. Haggart was said to be an excellent hewer with the broadaxe.

FRANCIS HEWSON.—He was a native of Ireland, came to Canada in 1817, and purchased 500 acres of land at Big Bay Point as soon as Innisfil Township was surveyed in 1820. In that year his family arrived from Ireland and he settled at once on the land. Soon after his settlement he was appointed Justice of the Peace, and it is said that, as a magistrate, he performed the first marriage ceremony that took place in Simcoe County. He came with his family from Big Bay Point to Barrie in the spring of 1834, (moved up on the ice of the Bay), and lived next to where Judge Ardagh's place is now situated. His sons

were Francis, who afterward resided in Nottawasaga, at Duntrout; and William, who took part in the proceedings at this meeting. He also had three daughters.

**JONATHAN LANE.**—As he lived at Kempenfeldt in 1836, he does not come in this list, but was usually reckoned one of Barrie's first settlers, having moved to town afterward. He lived above the hill at Kempenfeldt. He was a tailor, and afterward was Postmaster and Clerk of the County Court.

**JOHN MACWATT.**—In 1835 or 1836 John MacWatt came from Oliver's (the Raikes farm in Oro) and entered Sanford's store as a clerk. But at the time the list was prepared, he was not living here; he was across the Bay at Tollendal; which explains the omission of his name from the list. In 1840 he purchased Sanford's business, and secured the Post Office, which he kept in connection with the store.

**FRANCIS MARTIN.**—He was a carpenter, or worked at this trade. He built a big wooden building south of Elizabeth Street, near John Street. He was a constable, or acted in this capacity now and then; Francis Hewson the magistrate used to employ him to act as constable sometimes. Mr. Martin was an Irishman. His son Thomas became a printer, and John, the second son, was a stationary engineer, or machinist.

**FRANCIS MEIGHEN.** (See Mr. Sneath's recollections).

**THRIFT MELDRUM.**—At an early period this man had, at Tollendal, a distillery, which was destroyed by fire. In Barrie he had a tavern near the northeast corner of Poyntz and Dunlop Streets, and was Crier of the Court for some years. He was a native of Fifeshire, Scotland, and died Dec. 6, 1860, aged 75 years, his remains now resting in the Old Presbyterian Cemetery, Barrie. (See Mr. Soules' Recollections for some further particulars).

**RICHARD MCCOY.**—(Mis-spelled "Molloy" in the original list). He was a native of Earnest-town, Co. Tyrone, Ireland, and a shoemaker. His wife was a daughter of John Perry, mentioned further in this list. He built and lived in a small house on the west side of Bayfield Street, between Dunlop Street and the Bay. When Mr. Perry died, McCoy became the occupant of the Perry house further west near John Street. (W. H.)

**JAMES MORRISON.**—He lived in Barrie at this time (1837) and afterward kept a hotel at Morrison's Corners, now Craighurst, which at one time bore his name. He was a nephew of Leslie Caldwell and Mrs. Richardson (See "Caldwell" above), and by birth an Englishman, or rather, he was a native of the Island of Jersey, off the coast of France. (W. H.)



JOHN McCAUSLAND.—At first this man lived with his family in a shanty on the bank, on the south side of Dunlop street, just east of Mulcaster Street. Here he commenced to make a "Perpetual Motion" machine. He worked at this fad and kept adding to the shanty until he had built a pile of wood of very large size; so large, in fact, that at last Francis Hewson, who lived across the street, entered a complaint about it to the Council. Then he built another structure on the north side of Collier Street, just west of Clapperton St., but this did not become so extensive a building as the one on the shore. He drew all the stuff from the shore building to this one. The machinery, if such it can be called, seemed to have no proportion at all, and was chiefly of wood. In one part of it he would have pieces as much as two or three feet square, and then use a small piece no more than two or three inches square at the outside, on which to work the larger part. It is said by some that he spent a good deal of money in this work; but be this as it may, he spent years and years of time and labor. His brothers said he would never do anything but work at that fad; his family actually lacked the bare necessities of life, at times, because of this; and the owner of the shanty recovered no rent from him on the same account. He moved with his family, finally, to Nottawasaga; but continued to work at "Perpetual Motion" until he died. (W. H.)

DAVID McCAUSLAND.—He and Richard Cobe kept a tavern at first on the southwest corner of Elizabeth and Bayfield Streets, and also carried the mail from Holland Landing to Coldwater. (See "Cobe" above.) Everybody, or almost everybody, kept a tavern in those days as there was no license act like the present one. Then David and Cobe dissolved partnership; David bought a lot across the street, where the Wellington Hotel now stands, built a house on it, and kept a tavern there. Thomas and Alex. McCausland, brothers of the foregoing, came to Barrie two or three years after them, and their names do not occur in Walton's list. Thomas drove the stage from Barrie to Holland Landing, at a later time. (W. H.)

JOHN McDONALD.—This man was a tailor, one of the first of this trade in the town. He had a house on the north side of Dunlop Street, between Poyntz and Sampson Streets. He had come to Barrie early, and was probably gone before the Rebellion. The presence of so many taverns in the early years of the town gave a sinister turn to his character. (W. H.)

P. McGUIRE.—(Not named in the list). This man, a tailor, by trade, lived in Barrie before the Rebellion. He was here

as early as 1834, but it appears he had no place of his own, and resembled McDonald in habits. When the settlers gathered up to go to Toronto at the Rebellion he followed them part of the way around the head of the Bay, singing war songs. For a time he lived a short way out in Vespra Township. His daughter married John Hamilton, a brother of Wm. B. Hamilton who afterward kept the Collingwood post office, and moved to Kingston. (W. H.)

**WILLIAM NESBITT.**—An Irishman, by birth, and a carpenter, by trade. His house, (a small log building) stood on the north side of Dunlop Street, between Poyntz and Sampson Streets. According to the best information to be had, he left no descendants. His brother Robert married a sister of Andrew Graham, Miss Isabella Graham, in or about 1834, but he did not remain in Barrie after he was married. (W. H.)

**JOHN PERRY.**—He was a native of Ireland. His house, which he built, was on the west side of John Street, a little way south of Elizabeth Street. Mr. Haggart and Mr. McCoy, mentioned above, were married to daughters of Mr. Perry. Until his death four or five years after coming to Barrie, he lived in the house mentioned. He had moved here from Cookstown, which in those days was known as Perry's Corners. His eldest son John moved to Utopia, and his son George in later years kept the Wellington Hotel, some time before the Summersett family kept it. (W. H.)

**DAVID S. ROSS.**—This man first came to Barrie in 1835 or 1836, probably in the latter year. He and Leslie Caldwell came and built a store on the west side of the present Queen's Hotel, where Mr. Graver afterward kept a hardware store. (See "Caldwell" above). A portrait of this Mr. Ross appeared in the Toronto Globe of May 7, 1898, and it is stated in the text beside the portrait that he built the second house in Barrie. It was the second store he built; there were many houses in Barrie when he arrived, but only one store, and he added the second. At the time of the publication of this portrait, he was living in Toronto at 91 years of age, and it also appears that he was the sole survivor of the list of early residents of the place, at the date of this meeting. He has since passed over to the majority.

**ROBERT ROSS.**—He was an Irishman by birth, and a surveyor by occupation. He had also some skill as a carpenter. (See also the remarks by Mr. S. L. Soules).

**S. M. SANFORD.**—He came to Barrie in 1832 and built the first store. His wife was a sister of the famous Charles Thomp-

son of Yonge Street, the man who owned the early steamboats. Mr. Thompson had the contract of building the jail, and at one time owned a share in every stage that was running in Ontario, so it is said. (W. H.) (See also Mr. Sneath's Recollections).

THOMAS SMITH.—He was English by birth, and a blacksmith by trade. He built the first brick house in Barrie, viz.: the Harper house on Dunlop Street. His blacksmith shop was on the opposite side of the street. Thos. Ambler succeeded Smith as blacksmith, and Solomon Bailey succeeded Ambler about 1843.

GEORGE STOKES.—He was a carpenter by trade, and an Englishman by birth. He lived on Dunlop Street, a little west of Mr. Sanford's store, in a house in which Mr. Lane kept a store, some time after. (W. H.)

WILLIAM STRONG.—He was an Irishman by birth. His wife was Christina Graham, a sister of Andrew Graham. Their son James in later years was a merchant here, of the firm of Strong & Donnell. (W. H.)

ALEX. WALKER.—He was a Scotchman by birth, and was the first settler on the site of the town, having come here some years before David Edgar, the second settler came. His house was on the top of the first hill northeast of the corner of Collier and Bayfield Streets. This hill has been much reduced in height, in subsequent years.

(At the close of the meeting, the chairman, Judge Ardagh, took occasion to thank Mr. Hewson, the chief contributor, for the interesting information furnished about the early settlers.

Of the original list of 28 names, to which 8 have been added, making a total of 36, over one-half were natives of Ireland.