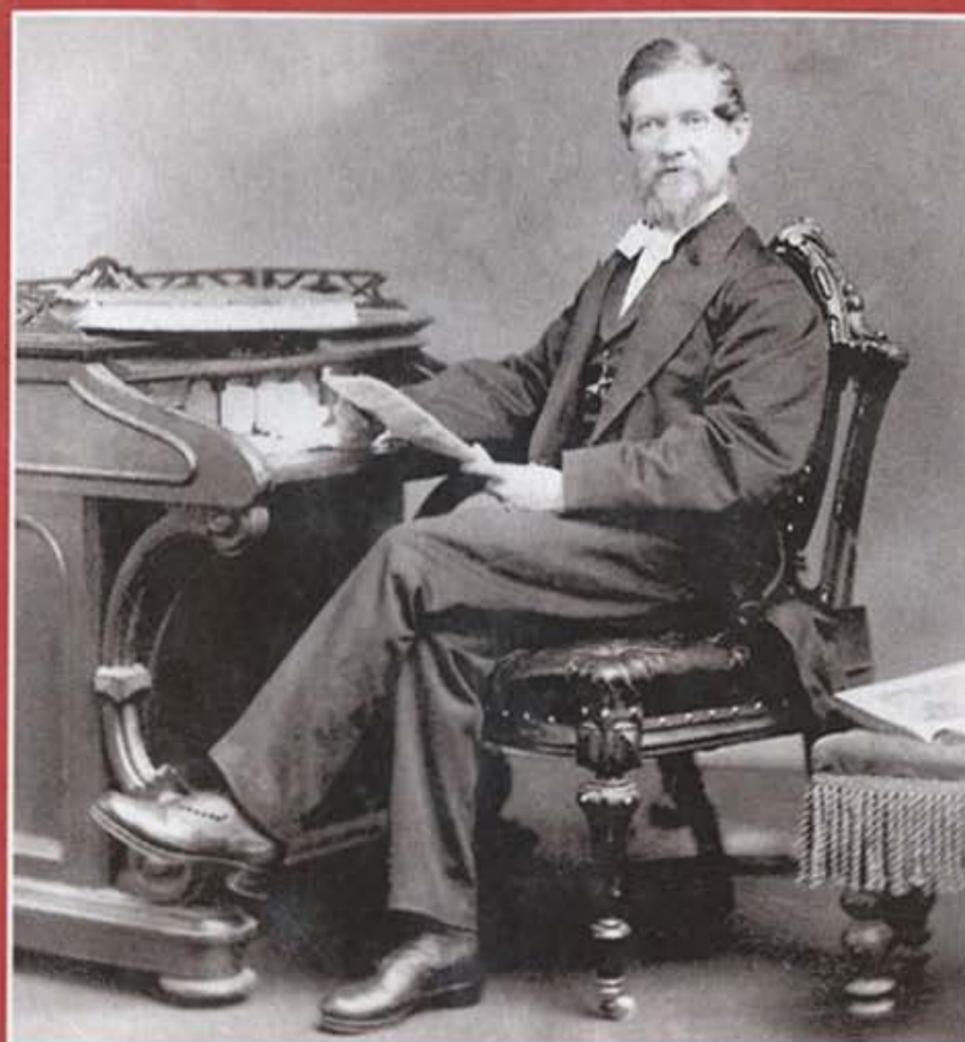


How Firm a Foundation



*A History of the Township of Cramaha
and the Village of Colborne*

BY EILEEN ARGYRIS

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only

I DIDN'T GROW UP ON THE VILLAGE STREETS OF Colborne, or the country roads of Cramahe Township, but my children did. My ancestors were not among the pioneers. But it was my joy to live in Colborne for 22 years and to raise my own family there. And it was my great privilege to be entrusted with the job of being editor of the *Colborne Chronicle* from 1979 to 1997, serving the village and the township. Although I have made my living by words for the past 20 years, I have no words to describe my feelings for Colborne and Cramahe. If this place is not my hometown, then I have no hometown.

In 1984, I prepared a supplement to the *Colborne Chronicle*, a special heritage edition to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Colborne. And, in 1992, I prepared another special souvenir edition for the 200th anniversary of the creation of the Township of Cramahe. Both projects were labours of love, and the work I did on them formed the skeleton for the book you hold in your hands. It had long been my dream, as a writer and adopted "local," to give Colborne and Cramahe a history book all their own. The advent of the re-amalgamation of the two municipalities into one — as they began — and the turn of the millennium from the 20th to the 21st century, presented that opportunity.

On a cautionary note: in my research, I uncovered so much material that a book five times this size could easily have been written. However, there must be an end somewhere, and within those limitations, I have included as much of what I judged to be the most relevant information available to me. I can only hope the reader agrees that the text comes together as a coherent whole, and gives them some feel for the times, places and people described.

(continued on back flap)

(continued from front flap)

When you travel through the village and the township after reading this book, it is my hope that you will do so with awareness of those who have gone before, in whose footsteps we walk; to be aware of the hopes and dreams and the sheer effort that shaped these communities. Although they are not historic but new, I have used civic addresses wherever possible to describe locations. In this way, I hope that the points of interest will be identifiable for an indefinite period into the future, and that readers of the book — newcomers and old-timers and everyone in between — will truly be able to look at Colborne and Cramahe Township through "old" eyes.

The title, *How Firm a Foundation*, is also the title of an old hymn. It is meant to reflect the strong faith that sustained the pioneers and is their legacy to us, no matter what our religion. The subtitle is deliberately chosen: "a history," not "the history," since there are so many stories to tell which are part of "the" history, but just didn't fit into this one.

This book comes to you with my very best wishes for the future, whatever your interest in Colborne and Cramahe may be, that you may know and cherish the memories of those who have struggled, succeeded and failed, known triumph and heartbreak on these hills, fields, homes and streets.

— EILEEN ARGYRIS

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Printed in Canada

How Firm a Foundation



*A History of
the Township of Cramahe and
the Village of Colborne*

BY EILEEN ARGYRIS

A Project of the Millennium Committee of the
Village of Colborne and Township of Cramahe

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FRONT COVER: These photographs, graciously loaned by Marian Carter, depict Joseph Keeler, MP, and his wife, Octavia Phillips Keeler. They were taken at the Notman Studios in Ottawa, sometime between 1867 and 1881, probably closer to the former. MP Keeler was the grandson of Cramahe Township's original settler, Joseph Keeler.

BACK COVER: photograph top left, see page 144; photograph top right, see page 74; photograph bottom left, see page 114; photograph bottom right, see page 142.

PAGE 4: Birdseye view of Castleton, taken by Vance Pomeroy, a Castleton native who worked for the Kodak company of Rochester, New York, circa 1920. In left foreground, the former mill pond can be seen and in the middle left, Castleton United (then Methodist) Church. The barn-like building near the mill pond is an apple evaporator. The building was destroyed by fire in 1926. Also identifiable, by those who know Castleton, are the hotel on the four corners (just right of centre) and the rear of the present-day Castleton General Store (the white building cater-corner to the hotel).

Photo courtesy of Roseanne Quinn

ENDPAPERS: From *Historical Atlas of Northumberland & Durham Counties*, H. Belden and Co., 1878

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"The past is not the past, it is the context..."

— JOHN RALSTON SAUL





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Cramahe council and staff, 2000: (Back, from left) Deputy-Reeve Jim Williams, Councillor Marc Coombs, Reeve Stuart Oliver, Councillor Ernie Stoneman, Roads Foreman Steve Pasquan. (Front, from left) Clerk Trudy Merrill, Treasurer-Administrator Gerry Morrison, Councillor Jennifer Scott-Tinney. *Photo by Eileen Argyris*



Last council and staff of the incorporated Village of Colborne: (Back, from left) Clerk-Treasurer Beth Vosbourgh, Roads Foreman Jim Black, Chief Building Official Mike Godin, Deputy-Clerk-Treasurer Michele Herley-Tremblay. (Front, from left) Councillor Sandra Coleman, Deputy-Reeve Pat Westrope, Reeve George Boycott, Councillor Jane Boreham, Councillor Tim Post. *Photo by Eileen Argyris*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO THANK OR PRAISE ENOUGH THE MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S Institute, especially the Colborne and Castleton branches, for their help in the preparation of this book. In a village and township without the resources of larger centres to microfilm old newspapers and records, their Tweedsmuir Histories have formed the backbone of printed source material. Their painstaking clipping and compilation of material — augmented by reams of typed text — made research for this project possible. And with that, particular mention should be made of Amy Gresham, former curator of the Tweedsmuir History for Colborne WI, and Sue LaBerge, who serves the same function for Castleton. The considerable knowledge and cheerful co-operation of Roseanne Quinn of Cramahe Township, has been invaluable, as was that of her aunt, Marian Carter of Colborne. Thanks to Dave Mowat, economic development officer for the Alderville Reserve, who acted as advisor on the chapter, "Since the World Began," and to my former colleague, Bob Owen, sports reporter for the Colborne Chronicle, for his advice on the "Sportin' Life." This book has indeed been a community effort, but a few outstanding contributors spring to mind: the Colborne Public Library (Lorna Houston) and the Cramahe Township Public Library (Sue LaBerge), Walter Luedtke, Margaret Jean Kernaghan, Harold Harnden, Linda McKague van Will, John and Jane Boreham, Walter and Dorothy Rutherford, Rosemary Robertson, Dave, Duncan and Betty McGlennon, Tass Corbier, Arnold and Vi Warren, Mary Pearson, and countless others who gave interviews and loaned pictures. I am very grateful to the Colborne Millennium Committee for choosing me to research and write this book, and to the Rotary Club of Colborne which obtained partial sponsorship for the project from the New Ontario Trillium Foundation. Many thanks to graphic designer Joseph Gisini, indexer Mary Elliott and proof-reader Sharie Lynn Fleming, all of whom went above and beyond the call of duty to help make a quality production. Last, but certainly not least, many thanks are due to councils of Colborne and Cramahe Township who endorsed the project, and to their very willing staffs who made time in their busy days to answer the questions of the inquiring author.



Since the World Began

“I HAVE LIVED HERE SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN,” BEGINS AN ABORIGINAL LEGEND.¹ LONG BEFORE recorded history, perhaps as early as 50,000 BC,² North America’s First Nations peoples are believed to have migrated to this continent across a land bridge — up to 1,000 miles wide — that no longer exists between present-day Alaska and Siberian Russia.

Archeological reminders exist of some of these early people who lived in the area now occupied by the Village of Colborne and the Township of Cramahe. Noel Roseblade, a resident of Scott Street, Colborne, once found a number of native artifacts while digging on his property. After he donated the tools — including an axe, adze and gouge as well as a scraper, hammerstone and maul — to the anthropology department of Trent University at Peterborough, he received written confirmation from the university that they were probably 4,500 to 5,500 years old, but were at least 3,000 years old. In other words, they had last been held in the hand of a

human being more than 1,000 years before the birth of Christ.

Before the coming of the white settlers, it is estimated that anywhere between 50,000 and 100,000 aboriginal people — of different tribes and linguistic groups — inhabited the area we now call Ontario.³ They belonged to two linguistic groups: those who spoke Algonkian — including the Cree, Ojibwa, and Mississauga — who lived mainly in the north; and the Iroquoian peoples — including the Mohawk, Hurons, Tobacco and Attiwandaron (or Neutrals) — who lived in southern Ontario. It is thought that Algonkian peoples originally lived in what is now Northumberland County but at some time, Iroquoian tribes pushed up from



Mary Ann Black, George Beaver and Ellen Loukes cut the anniversary cake to mark the 100th anniversary of the resettlement of the Mississauga people in the Alderville Reserve, 1937. They were moved there from Grape Island in 1837.

Photo courtesy of the Alderville Reserve



the south to establish themselves along the north shore of Lake Ontario. But records show that when the first white people arrived, the Mississauga, an Algonkian-speaking people, inhabited the area that is now Colborne and Cramahe, as well as much of the rest of the lakeshore area of this province.

How the Mississauga came here has been recorded for us from the oral tradition of the First Nations people. In the early 17th century, the Huron controlled the lakeshore area then they were attacked and driven out by other Iroquoian tribes (mainly Mohawks, whom the Mississauga called Hahdoway, "snake people"). The Mohawk and the Ojibwa were traditional enemies and, about 50 years later, the Mississauga launched an attack that regained this territory for their tribe. In describing how Algonkian Mississaugas drove out the Iroquoian Mohawks, Robert Paudash and his son set down a record in 1905, telling their story. It begins:

"I Robert Paudash, with my son Johnson Paudash, am desirous of putting on record for the first time the solemn tradition of the Mississagas (sic) respecting their present place of settlement in Ontario, and the migration which led them thither. No word of what I am about to say has come from reading, or in any other way than from the mouth of Paudash, my father, who died, aged seventy-five, in the year 1893, the last hereditary chief of the tribe of Mississagas, situated at Rice Lake and from the mouth of Cheneebesh, my grandfather, who died in 1869, at the age of 104, the last Sachem, or Head Chief, of all the Mississagas, who in turn had learned according to the Indian custom, what Gemoaghpenassee, his father, had heard from his father and so on..."⁴



Robert Paudash.
Photo courtesy of the
Hiraatha Reserve

Paudash's story tells how the Mississauga people travelled from the north to wage war against the Mohawks (chief tribe among the Iroquois people) who had earlier "made great slaughter" of a group of Hurons and some Mississaugas living on the shore of Lake Huron. The avenging Mississaugas travelled down the Severn River to Lake Simcoe and Lake Couchiching and then south on two fronts, one by way of Balsam Lake and the other through Toronto. The Mohawks, according to Paudash's record, retreated before the advancing Mississaugas, down the Trent valley, and made a stand at what is now the city of Peterborough. The Mohawks, he says, were defeated there and in subsequent skirmishes, and were driven down to Rice Lake where another battle took place, resulting in a further retreat by the Mohawks to "the famous carrying-place where the Murray Canal now is...and from there into their own country."

Later, as the Paudash record indicates, this party of Mississaugas reunited with the war





parties that had travelled south by way of Toronto, and carried out further raids on Mohawk villages, then the warriors decided to further advance against their enemies and they laid siege to the Mohawk fort on the Mohawk River. Although they resisted bravely, according to Paudash's account, the Mohawks eventually decided to send out peace emissaries, "it being a pity that two brave enemies should fight till both were upon the point of extermination." The two tribes decided to make a permanent peace by a treaty which provided for intermarriage between the tribes, thus uniting the two former enemies as members of one family. The Paudash account reads:

"The Mississagas then returned, and seeing that the land conquered by them from the Mohawks...was full of game and an excellent hunting-ground, they came down from Lake Huron and settled permanently in the valley of the Otonabee or Trent, and along the St. Lawrence, as far east as Brockville. They thus extended from Lake Huron to Brockville, in the east, and in the west...from Toronto to Lake Erie. The British Government subsequently (in 1763) recognized the claims of the Mississaga to this country."⁵

Early fur-traders and French Sulpician missionaries who came to present-day Northumberland County in the 1660s — long before any settlers — found the Mississauga well established here. These were the Ojibwa, who call themselves "anishnabe," meaning "first men."

The Algonkian tribes — of which the Ojibwa were members — lived in wigwams, which were huts with arched wooden frames covered with bark, animal skins or woven mats. Wigwams could be quickly built or dismantled as the tribes moved around with the seasons. The basic family unit was the clan, a sort of extended family, in which members cared for one another according to their various needs and abilities.

Hides and furs were the most common clothing materials for most tribes. Native people favoured colourful decoration in their clothing. They manufactured dyes from natural substances with which they adorned their clothing, and sometimes their faces and bodies, as well. Symbolic colours and designs were used for different occasions: to signify mourning or warfare or perhaps simply to denote clan relationships. Porcupine quills were sewn onto garments for decoration. Jewelry made from animal teeth or claws, as well as stones and copper, was also used for adornment. Most men plucked their facial hair with shell, bone or wooden tweezers.⁶

Everything in life was imbued with spiritual significance for Canada's native people. The hunting and fishing expeditions of the Ojibwa (corrupted to "Chippewa" by Europeans) were accompanied by prayer. Central to Ojibwa culture was the tradition of the sweat lodge within which water was poured over hot rocks to cause steam and induce sweating. Shamans possessed extensive knowledge on curing the sick. The First Nations had no written languages but used pictographs, the oral heritage was crucial in passing along traditions, values and historical information to succeeding generations.

The native people used the streams, rivers and lakes for fishing, and also for navigation. These were the first superhighways, and the First Nations people understood how waterways





and portages could carry them from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean. It was they who imparted this knowledge — along with information on the manufacture and use of such navigational aids as canoes, toboggans and snowshoes — to the first fur-traders, explorers and settlers. The Mississaugas made maple syrup during “seegwun,” a skill they later taught to white settlers. This was also the season of the spring salmon run. After seegwun came “nee-bin,” the “abundant season,” when corn was harvested and wild rice was gathered from shallow lakes, like nearby Rice Lake (from which it derives its name.) This traditional activity was still carried on at the time of writing. In “peboon,” or winter, the people survived on the plentiful game abounding in the forests of oak, ash, maple, hickory, black walnut and pine.

One native version of the impact of the arrival of the whites was chronicled for history by Peter Jones, the son of surveyor Augustus Jones and Tuhbenahneeguay, a native woman and daughter of a chief. Peter, who grew up to be a Methodist missionary to the First Nations people, was born in 1802 and he lived with his mother’s tribe until he was 14 years old. It was probably during those early years that he heard from his elders the words that inspired his sad account, as follows:

“A strange people landed, wise as the gods, powerful as the thunder, with faces white as the snow. Our fathers held out to them the hand of friendship. The strangers then asked for a small piece of land on which they might pitch their tents; the request was cheerfully granted. By and by they begged for more and more was given to them. In this way they have continued to ask, or have obtained by force or fraud, the fairest portion of our territory.”⁷

For their part, at least some of the settlers would find the ways of the aboriginal people fascinating. One such person was Catharine Parr Traill, an Englishwoman who lived for a time near here, on the north shore of Rice Lake. Parr Traill, in her work, *The Backwoods of Canada*, described how natives created ingenious duck blinds by placing a number of boughs in a canoe until, she said, it resembled “a floating island.” This hunting aid was copied by settlers, as were many of the native survival techniques. A mother herself, Parr Traill took particular note of native child-care practices:



Wesleyan Methodist
Church at Alderville,
ca. 1888.

Photo courtesy of the
Alderville Reserve





"In long journeys the children are placed in upright baskets of a peculiar form which are fastened round the necks of mothers by straps of deerskin; but the young infant is swathed to a sort of flat cradle, secured with flexible hoops to prevent it from falling out....Much finery is often displayed in the outer covering and the bandages that confine the papouse."⁸



Mary Ann Black, ca. 1930, with child in "tikkinaagin" which Catharine Parr Traill called a "papouse."

Photo courtesy of the Alderville Reserve

After the end of the Seven Years' War between the British and the French, the Proclamation of 1763 not only delivered the government of "Canada" into the hands of the British, it also established the Crown as the only intermediary that could acquire further land from the natives. Colborne, Cramahe and a fair portion of Southern Ontario was transferred to British by the Gunshot Treaty of 1787. On September 23 of that year, a meeting was held between Sir John Johnson, representative of Lord Dorchester, Governor of Quebec (which included this region, prior to the creation of Upper and Lower Canada), and a number of Mississauga representatives at Carrying Place, just a few miles east of present-day Cramahe Township's eastern border. The lands to be conveyed by this treaty extended from Carrying Place, along the north shore of Lake Ontario to the Etobicoke River. The land was paid for in "goods" which changed hands at the meeting. One source names these goods: "new flintlock guns, powder and ball for winter hunting and enough red cloth to make a dozen coats and as many laced hats."⁹ Officially, this transaction was

called the Bay of Quinte Purchase. The natives dubbed it the Gunshot Treaty, because the territory surrendered extended inland as far as a "gun could be heard on a clear day."

After the treaty, the Mississauga were removed to Grape Island; many of their descendants are now settled at the Alderville First Nations community in Alnwick Township.¹⁰

"Indians were obstructions to settlement, to agriculture, especially in the manner in which they held land in common," notes Dave Mowat, economic development officer for the Alderville First Nations. "The relationship of Indians to white people in Canada, to be frank, has progressed from teacher, partner, ally, to pauper and ward in a span of 200 years."

Some further facts about the First Nations people, as supplied by Dave Mowat, include these:

- ~ The Alderville reserve, on which some of the descendants of those who once peopled Colborne and Cramahe now live, was established in 1837.
- ~ Tecumseh, an American chief of the Shawnee tribe, came through this area in the early 19th century, trying to garner support for his vision of a powerful nation that could quell white expansionism.
- ~ John Sunday, an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church by 1836, was Chief among the Grape Island and Alderville Mississauga for 50 years, fought at the battle of Crysler's Farm in the War of 1812 as a teenage warrior ally of the British, and he preached in Ojibwa to the Alderville Church, built in 1870 and still standing today.





- ~ Sunday and others, who occasionally took their newly converted protégés on educational and fund-raising trips to large cities like New York, often acquired sponsors who paid for the education of these young natives who, in turn, assumed the “European” names of their benefactors.
- ~ Fred Simpson, a Mississauga Ojibwa, born at Alderville in 1878, grandson of John Simpson also known as Pashageezhig, a lieutenant of John Sunday, became a famous marathon runner based on the Hiawatha Reserve and in Peterborough, and ran for Canada in the 1908 Olympic Marathon in London, England, placing sixth. He turned professional in 1909 and raced in New York City, Chicago, Savannah, New Jersey, Toronto and Montreal — a world contender before his retirement in 1912. He died at Alderville in 1945.
- ~ Nine Alderville men fought and died in World War I, some at Vimy Ridge in France, for which the First Nations people have named their waterfront on the south shore of Rice Lake.
- ~ Two Alderville men fought and died in World War II, still fighting as allies, side by side with the very people who now occupy their ancient hunting grounds.



1888 Alderville
Chief and council –
(back, from left)
Councillors Thomas
Marsden, Peter Crowe,
Francis Beaver, (front)
Councillor George
Blaker, Indian Agent
John Thackery, Chief
Mitchell Chubb, Secre-
tary William Loukes.

*Photo courtesy of the
Alderville Reserve*





NATHANIEL GAFFIELD

THE ADVENTURES OF A FRONTIERSMAN

One story we have of the early settlers (albeit with many of its details shadowy) is that of Nathaniel Gaffield (ca. 1755–1838). Nathaniel has a number of aliases; one is Gosfield — which could simply be a misreading of someone's handwriting — another is Garfield, which appears to have been the name he was born with; however, if one considers the pronunciation of Garfield with a New-England accent, it is not difficult to imagine how the name came to be established as "Gaffield." He also went by the name of Amherst Farrel, and by that alias hangs a tale. This story emerges from the research of one Richard Reid, a descendant of Gaffield's.

When Nathaniel was a baby, living with his parents, Benjamin Garfield and Eunice (nee Cooley), hostile natives conducted a raid on their home in Bridgeman's Fort, Vermont, on June 27, 1756, killing his father and abducting his mother and himself as a small baby. (This was during the time of the so-called "French and Indian Wars" also called the Seven Years' War, 1756–63, which ended with the takeover of Quebec by the British.) The captives were taken out of the Thirteen Colonies to what is now Canada. The mother escaped and eventually made her way back to the American Colonies but it appears that she was unable to get her little son out with her.

One version of the story has Nathaniel's first reunion with his mother taking place after he was a grown man and able to decide that he preferred living "in the wilds" to life with her and her second husband, Ephraim Pratt, in New England. Canada, at that time, would have been relatively "wild" compared to the Colonies, which had been settled more than a century before.

No information is given in Mr. Reid's account about where Nathaniel had been held in Canada, but a record left by Gaffield's grandson states that, when the captive was about eight years old, he was recovered by the English, possibly by a soldier called Farrel (with variations in the spelling) who served under General Sir Geoffrey Amherst. After this, he was called Amherst Farrel. "An explanation for this name is shown in Nathaniel's application for land as a Loyalist in 1819 and the Perkins-Bull papers, both found in

the Archives of Ontario," writes Mr. Reid. He adds: "In 1819 Colonel John Peters, Northumberland Militia, swore he had known Nathaniel under the name of Amherst Farrel"¹ in their previous military service together.

Nothing more is known of Gaffield/Farrel until he served in the American Revolutionary War with the Thirteenth Regiment, Albany County Militia, also known as the Saratoga District Regiment, likely between 1776 and 1781. He appears on the muster list under the name of O'Ferrel. These American forces fought a battle against British General John Burgoyne in 1777. Gaffield next surfaces on the British or Loyalist side, on the roster of Jessup's Loyal Rangers, enlisting December 1781, and serving with that outfit until the war ended, December, 1783. There is no reason given for his change of sides, but it is with Jessup's Rangers that he meets Col. John Peters, whose name lives on in this area in the name of Peters Road in Salem, Cramah Township. The Deputy Reeve of Colborne at the time of writing, Patricia Peters Westrope, is a descendant of this Colonel Peters.

Jessup's Rangers had been incorporated in 1781 in Lower Canada (approximately present-day Quebec) by Governor Sir Guy Carleton. Jessup, the commander, was a Tory (Loyalist) who had forfeited 500,000 acres of land near Albany, New York, by siding with the Crown in the American Revolution. The corps served under General Burgoyne and disbanded at the end of the war with many of its members settling in Leeds and Grenville Counties and on the Bay of Quinte.

Nathaniel was 21 years old in 1776 when the war broke out, and it is surmised that he may have married around that time. This would account for his going back into the newly independent United States after the War, where he, as a Loyalist soldier, would have been distinctly unpopular. This could also account for his not claiming land either in Leeds and Grenville, or on the Bay of Quinte, with most of his former comrades-in-arms, since he would have to go back to the former Thirteen Colonies to get his wife. Meanwhile, the mystery of the names continues: He had served as Amherst Farrel under Jessup, but appeared as Nathaniel Gosfield in the 1790 census of New York.



Nathaniel Gaffield's name appears on the Augustus Jones report of Cramahe Township compiled in 1799. His original land grant was Lot 32, Con. 2, approximately the western half of the present-day village of Colborne. He was granted a patent on this land on May 1, 1804, but sold it a few years later to Joseph Keeler, the township's first settler and father of Joseph A. Keeler, Colborne's founder. He appears to have been on friendly terms with Keeler, as he farmed the property after the sale, for the remainder of his life. He successfully petitioned for additional land — 100 acres in Esqueving Township, west of Toronto — in 1819, after most of his children had also successfully petitioned for grants of 200 acres, to which they were entitled as children of a Loyalist. But it seems he never moved there since he appears on subsequent census documents as a resident of Cramahe Township. He sometimes used the middle initial "A" with his name, possibly a reference to his earlier alias of "Amherst." His descendants have not been able to ascertain the name of his spouse, neither have they been able to locate his final resting place. It is assumed that he died in 1838, as his name disappears from the census after 1837.

His children are listed as follows (all birth dates and some dates of death are approximate): Eunice Gaffield (also spelled Unis) born about 1784, married John Mix; Sarah Gaffield, born about 1786, married Joel Halstead (or Halsted) who died before 1861 (Sarah is shown on the Cramahe Township census as having been born in the U. S. and as living with Jonathan and Mary Ann Gaffield in 1861); James, born about 1788, married Anna Reddick in 1808 in Cramahe Township, died before 1813; Jonathan Gaffield, born about 1790 married Phebe Ann Hubble and

later Mary Ann Barney; Phoebe Gaffield, born about 1794, married Nathan Hubble; and Oliver Gaffield, born about 1800, married Rhoda Gaffield, died 1873, buried in Castleton Cemetery. Oliver received his O. C. in 1833. (An Order-in-Council was a review of a person's application for land. In order to qualify for grants of land, the settler had to fulfill various obligations, such as clearing a specified acreage, building a house and providing a road, before a Patent of ownership was granted.)

Following is a copy of the letter from Col. Peters, pertaining to Nathaniel Gaffield, United Empire Loyalist, taken from Mr. Reid's research:

"I do hereby certify that I have known the Bearer Nathaniel Gaffield since the year 1778, that he served in the time of the American Revolution in a Provincial Regiment called Loyal Rangers commanded by Major Edward Jessup, by whom he was discharged, by the name of Amherst Ferrol; the reason of his having the Name Ferrol is, in the French War he was taken by the Indians, when an Infant, and retaken under General Sir Giffery Amherst by some person, perhaps Ferrol, by which name he was called until he found his Parents, since which he has always and still does go by the name of Nathaniel Gaffield; and as such I have given my certificate, to his having served as a Private faithfully in the first Regiment of Northumberland Militia, during the late war with the United States of America.

Given under my hand at Cramahe the 2nd June 1819
Jno. (John) Peters, Lt. Col.
Comd 1st of North'd Militia."



CHAPTER TWO

At Home in the Wilderness

IN 1793¹ WHEN A VERMONTER NAMED JOSEPH KEELER STRUGGLED ASHORE WHERE LAKEPORT NOW stands, he and his party landed without benefit of wharf or welcome. But before Keeler and his fabled forty families could become Cramahe Township's first settlers, a number of historical events had to unfold.

In a revolutionary war that lasted from 1776–83, the former Thirteen Colonies had won independence from Britain and had formed the United States of America. However, a number of Americans, even some whose families had been in the New World for generations, were not keen on the new republican style of government, and these "United Empire Loyalists" began looking for a new home where they could live under British rule. Loyalists were not all British; many were of German, Dutch, African and native ancestry. American patriots made life difficult for their neighbours who chose to remain loyal to King George III. History records incidences of burning of Loyalist homes and tarring and feathering of their occupants. It was difficult for Loyalists to add to their holdings of land and some had property confiscated to pay war reparations.

Whether they were lured to new territories by the promise of land grants, or forced out of their former homes as political refugees, the Loyalists started migrating to British North America after 1783. Some Loyalists headed for the regions that now comprise Canada's Maritime provinces, but their arrival created a demand for land elsewhere in British North America.

"When the Loyalists reached the termination of their long and weary journey from the homes they had left, they found an unbroken wilderness, for there was not a white settler between Frontenac (Kingston) and Toronto," Susan Burnham Greeley wrote of the experience of the first Loyalists to arrive at the Bay of Quinte. Her mother, Margaret Rogers, was among them. "Those who arrived early in the season and had tents dwelt in them till they could clear a bit of land, but those who had none remained without other shelter than the boughs of the trees till they could put up their log houses, which soon dotted the country and long remained memorials of their founders. No glass or nails were to be had, neither could they get boards till they sawed them out by hand."²

By 1790, despite these hardships, it is estimated that about 10,000 people had moved from the Thirteen Colonies into what is now the province of Ontario. The British government helped





the new settlers by giving them provisions and tools, as well as free land.³ To accommodate the differing preferences of the two groups, French and English, the British government in 1791 passed the Canada Act, or Constitutional Act, dividing the territory then called "Canada" into "Lower Canada" to the east, where French customs prevailed, and "Upper Canada" to the west, where English and American customs were adopted.

Also by the provisions of the Canada Act, John Graves Simcoe, an officer who had served with the Queen's Rangers in the American Revolutionary War, became the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada. But, prior to Simcoe's arrival, and in readiness for an expected second influx of American settlers, Governor Sir Guy Carleton had issued instructions for Samuel Holland, Surveyor General of Quebec, and John Collins, Deputy Surveyor General, to survey and mark out the front lines (base lines) of a row of townships from the eastern boundary of the Trent River to the Humber River (present-day Toronto). The townships in this area from the east were to be named Murray, Cramahe, Haldimand, Hamilton, Hope, Clarke, Bristol, Norwich, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dublin. (Brighton Township was formed later, in 1851, from part of Cramahe and part of Murray).⁴

One of the surveyors hired for this job was a man named Augustus Jones, a grandson of Welsh immigrants, who had been trained as a land surveyor in New York City. In January, 1792, he was instructed to "engage ten chainbearers or axemen on the most reasonable terms they can be had, not exceeding one shilling and sixpence per day each man" with an allowance of one shilling and threepence a day for himself. With this crew and adequate provisions, he was "to survey and mark the front line of a row of (eleven) townships from the Eastern boundary of the District (the Nassau District, as this part of Upper Canada was called) to Toronto, and to carry the side lines of each township back one mile, well marked."⁵

It was this same Augustus Jones who later (in 1798) married the daughter of a Mississauga chief and fathered Peter Jones, the Methodist missionary whom we met in the chapter entitled "Since the World Began."

The government decided to adopt one of the strategies it had used successfully in the Thirteen Colonies, the settlement of townships by "land agents." The agents were to be responsible for persuading settlers to come, seeing that they arrived and getting them started in the new territory. In return, if successful, agents were awarded grants of 1,200 acres for themselves, compared to the 200 acres granted to settlers. Joseph Keeler, Cramahe Township's first settler, was such an agent.

Although the bulk of the Loyalist settlers had migrated to British North America in the 1780s, the 1790s saw the arrival of another group, for which Carleton and Simcoe had been preparing. These were the so-called "late Loyalists." It is to this group that the Keeler settlers belonged. The Keeler party probably travelled from Vermont by boat up the Lake Champlain waterway, along the St. Lawrence River, into Lake Ontario, past the tiny settlements which were taking root along the Bay of Quinte, and along to the shoreline to Cramahe Township.

The family of Joseph Keeler (1763–1839) originated in England but had been six generations in the New World by 1793. Keeler arrived here from Rutland, Vermont, with a son named Joseph (1788–1855) and he would later have a grandson named Joseph, as well, (1824–81) born





in Canada and destined to serve in the new nation's federal parliament, under its first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald.

In a book entitled *Keeler Family*, one of the American Keeler descendants, Wesley B. Keeler, records that the Loyalist Joseph Keeler had made an earlier trip across Lake Ontario to the British side in 1789. It was at this time that Keeler scaled the highest promontory of land he had been able to spot (perhaps from afar, aboard his boat) to oversee the terrain of his prospective new home. There he reportedly climbed a tree and, based on what he saw, he made his decision to uproot his family and come to live in this virgin land. That hill, which Keeler named Kelwood, just north and west of the present-day Village of Colborne, was to be the site of triumph and tragedy in the years to come. On the basis of his experience in 1789, Keeler decided to become a land agent, bringing the requisite 40 families to settle the newly opened territory, in exchange for a personal grant of 1,200 acres, if he were successful.

Keeler went back to the United States to dispose of his American properties as best he could, round up prospective settlers, and (as one version has it) free some negro slaves. Another version claims that Keeler brought the slaves north with him and that they were later freed and settled in Cramahe and Haldimand Townships.

Among the American colonists who came to settle in Cramahe Township with the Keelers were: Stephen Simmons, Daniel Lewis Simmons, Hiram Merriman, Ebenezer Percy, James Rankin, James Lyons, Ozem Strong, Joshua Webster, Thomas Webb, Christopher Jaques, Joseph Jaques, Smith Herman, Robert Scripture (perhaps a relative of Mrs. Joseph Keeler, the former Olive Scripture) Robert Dunnett, William Philp, Isaac Gould, John Dudley, Levi Dudley, as well as families named Mutton, Bellamy, Colton, Grover, Boyer, Eddy, Bradley, Dewey and Turney. Many of these family names survive in the area to this day. In some accounts, Aaron Greeley, a surveyor, is listed among that first settlement party; in other accounts he arrived here in 1795.

Martin Keeler, brother of Joseph, was among those who landed where "Keeler's Creek" flows into Lake Ontario (the mouth of Colborne Creek, today). Martin and his wife, Hannah, had three sons and five daughters. He lived here until his death in 1841. Hannah died in 1855, and they are both buried in the cemetery across from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church at Lakeport.⁶

Joseph Keeler, the energetic leader of this group, was born March 12, 1763, in Lanesborough, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. In 1780, when he was 17 years old, he served four days with Ensign Cushman's Company in the Revolutionary War expedition to Ticonderoga. He later served another two days with the same outfit at Fort Vengeance. That brief effort concludes his military service, although we do not know how it came to be that he saw only six days' service. That alone may have made him suspect of Loyalist sympathies, and things may have gone hard on him after the war.

On July 11, 1787, at Rutland, Vermont, he married Olive, eldest daughter of Jeremiah and Abigail Scripture. He was 24 and she only 19 years old. Although the census of 1790 in Rutland records the Keeler household as consisting of three males over the age of 16 and three females (their ages gallantly unmentioned), Joseph and Olive arrived on the shores of Cramahe Township with two children, Joseph Abbott Keeler, aged five, born in 1788, and Clarissa, aged two, born



FIRST COLBORNE COUNCIL MEETS



The following is a copy of the minutes of the first, apparently short, meeting of the first council of the Village of Colborne, as taken from Joseph Keeler's ("Little Joe"'s) newspaper, *The Transcript*, January, 1859:

"By authority of Bylaw No. 117 of the Counties Council of the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham under the provisions of the Statues of this Province, 22 Vic, Cap 99, John M. Grover, Esq. was authorized to hold the first election for Municipal Councillors for the Incorporated Village of Colborne for the year one thousand, eight hundred and fifty-nine.

"Messrs. M. K. Lockwood, (deputy clerk of the Division Court) J. S. Scott (wholesale patent medicine vendor), Selim Huycke (harness maker), W. H. Colton and Donald Robertson (both storekeepers) were duly elected and made the necessary declarations before J. M. Merriman, Esq., and took their seats as councillors at the Town Hall, 5 o'clock P. M., on the 17th day of January, 1859.

"Donald Robertson was appointed Chairman Pro Tem.

"M. K. Lockwood, Clerk, Pro Tem

"No. 1 — Nominated by Mr. Scott, Seconded by Mr. Huycke that Mr. Lockwood be Reeve of this council for the ensuing year. Carried.

"Reeve then declared and took his seat

"Bylaw No. 1 was introduced by Mr. Scott, to provide for the appointment of certain Village officers.

"Read 1, 2, and 3 times and passed and signed, appointing:

"Addison Vars, Clerk, \$40, Forty Dollars per annum

"J. M. Merriman, Treasurer, \$20, Twenty Dollars per annum

"Geo. W. Webb, Collector, \$25, Twenty-five Dollars per annum

"Chas. Underhill, License Inspector, \$5, Five Dollars per annum

"Clerk duly declared before J. S. Scott, J. P.

"Mr. Robertson moved

"Seconded by Mr. Colton

"Bylaw No. 2 — That the minutes and bylaws of this council be published in the Colborne Transcript, provided the publishers will insert them free of charge, and the Clerk be instructed to furnish copies for that purpose. Carried.

"Mr. Huycke moved

"Seconded by Mr. Scott

"Bylaw No. 3 — That the Reeve, Mr. Colton, and the Clerk be authorized to procure the necessary books, stationery and seals for the use of this council. Carried.

"Bylaw No. 4 — Mr. Robertson moved

"Seconded by Mr. Huycke

"That this council adjourn to meet in the Town Hall on Friday 21st inst. At 6 o'clock P.M. Carried."

On January 21, 1859, after one meeting, M. K. Lockwood resigned as reeve. His reasons are not recorded. On the motion of Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Lockwood, W. H. Colton (after whom Colton Street is named, and who is generally acknowledged as the village's first reeve) was appointed reeve for the remainder of the first year of the village's life.

Apparently, the first council had its ups and downs, for, by the end of the same year, two more councillors had tendered their resignations and two new names — those of A. T. Maybee and Norman Bennett — appear on the roster of council members.⁷



ca. 1791 (who later married Ozem Strong and died in 1851). Another daughter, Sophia, was born to the couple in 1800, after they had already settled here. (She was married twice, first to a man named Crandell and then to one named Dewey. She died in 1870.) The other members of the household mentioned in the census may have been servants.

Technically, in the beginning, Keeler was "a squatter," the official grant of his land being dependent on the success of the new settlement. It was promisingly located on good waterways, almost exactly midway between the new province's largest settlements, York (Toronto) and Kingston. In the coming years, the energetic and visionary Keelers would spearhead the building of a wharf, a saw mill, flour mill, carding and woollen mill and oil well, a distillery, a tavern and at least two exceptional private dwellings. The old mill, the ruins of which were still visible from Ontario Street at the time of writing, was a Keeler mill, built from limestone quarried in Lakeport. As soon as the new settlers could raise enough crops for export, Joseph Keeler went into the grain-dealing business. Cramahe's first settler was also involved in the building of other mills, including one around which the hamlet of Castleton later grew, and a very substantial one on the Ganaraska River for Elias Smith at present-day Port Hope. As well, he had a part in the settlement of Haldimand Township. He was pioneer, entrepreneur and practical engineer.

There were no major roads in the area until 1799–1800. Before then, and for a long while afterward, the settlers, like the native people before them, relied on local waterways as the fastest means of transportation and communication. That is why Cramahe's location on Lake Ontario near the mouth of Keeler Creek was so important. Many of the local streams and rivers that are no longer navigable were then swollen waterways, teeming with fish and capable of sustaining milling operations. Although they had come to a land rich in resources, the early settlers faced great privation. Apart from the sadness of parting from friends, property and possessions in their former homes, they came to an unsettled area where communications were slow, travel was difficult, and settlements — and even neighbours within single settlements — were at some distance from one another.

It is very difficult for us to imagine today the landscape that confronted Joseph and Olive Keeler, their family and friends, as they clambered ashore in 1793. There were no buildings or roads; dense primeval forest covered practically all of Ontario. New England, their previous home, had been settled for well over 100 years. In Upper Canada the forest had been growing and re-seeding itself uninterrupted for tens of thousands of years. Underfoot, the roots stretched out their long, gnarled toes to trip the unwary and overhead, the interlacing branches shut out the brightest sun. In the forest it was midnight-dark, even at noon. In those few accounts of early pioneers that survive, the awesomeness of the forest emerges as the single most overwhelming factor in their day-to-day lives. The darkness of the forest held danger, too. Although there were no territorial wars with the natives, there are indications that the settlers feared hostile encounters. As well, there were plenty of wild animals — bears, timber wolves and wild cats, among others — roaming free in the forest. Those thoughts, and the anticipation of the labour it would take to carve homesteads and farms out of the wilderness, must have been daunting to the settlers. However, Joseph Keeler didn't suffer long from either indecision or inertia but set to





work virtually at once to build a wharf at Lakeport and to turn the forest to his advantage by setting himself up as a dealer and exporter of lumber.

Little by little, by dint of sheer, back-breaking toil, a few small, stump-ridden patches began to emerge from the eternal night of the forest. The chopped trees were stripped of their branches and the logs were used to build the first primitive cabins to provide shelter during the approaching winter. But the forest would not be significantly diminished for another two generations.

The settlement of the province generally began near the shores of Lake Ontario and gradually spread northward. Lakeport, later variously known as Cramahe Harbour, Colborne Harbour and Cat Hollow, at the mouth of Keeler's Creek, was the first settlement in Cramahe Township.

The settlers would have had their land free — so long as they were able to clear and farm it within the allotted time — as well as food and tools to get them started. But life was very hard.

EXCERPT FROM A PIONEER DIARY



Sir John Colborne's wife, Lady Elizabeth Colborne, lent her sponsorship to a school for girls in Toronto. The author of the following diary excerpt (compiled by the late Jim Bell) was Elizabeth Goslee, daughter of Junis P. Goslee, donor of the land on which Colborne's Trinity Church stands. Elizabeth later became the wife of John M Grover, first registrar in the village land registry office. The Grovers built Seaton Hall, 89 King Street East, and named it in honour of Sir John Colborne who became the 1st Baron Seaton.

"Lady Colborne's Bazaar

"In the lovely month of June (1831), Lady Colborne's carriage stopped at the door. Her ladyship...was a tall, slight, elegant woman....Lady Colborne requested Miss Purcell (the schoolmistress) to give her pupils a holiday and an invitation to attend her bazaar....One of the greatest pleasures of my life was that bazaar. Child of the woods, transplanted into a scene so elegant. It was held at Government House and the band of the 71st Highlanders was there to play. Soldiers lined the rooms and halls, their bare knees and bear-skin caps looked so strange to me....My Grandfather's stories all came back to my mind. General Schuyler, Lafayette, Aaron Burr, Wayne and others, not forgetting Lord Cornwallis....(Her grandfather, Matthew Goslee, had fought — on the British side — in the American Revolution. Her grandmother, Ann Schuyler Goslee, was the niece of General Philip Schuyler, one of

George Washington's most respected officers).

"Perhaps you can imagine the scene. The ladies, as sellers, all in white with little black silk aprons with pocket straps going over the shoulders,...In my last music lesson was "The Campbells are Coming" and when the band played it, I was entranced. We heard little classical music in those days...

"Just try to imagine the scene, beautiful women, gay officers in full dress, fine music, Sir John Colborne, plumed hat in hand, tall and erect as when marching at Waterloo. His son, more like his mother and someone I had read about in the Crusaders, Colonel Phillpotts, aide to Sir John leading Labella and Eliza (the Colborne daughters), their hands full of toys, a maid following and carrying more spoils. Their governess, Miss Sherman, (was) of the family of U. S. General Sherman...I have never seen anything to equal that day in June and Lady Colborne's bazaar."



SUSAN BURNHAM GREELEY

THE LAST OF THE PIONEERS

Susan Burnham Greeley's long life spanned the times from early settlement days into the 20th century (1806–1904). The daughter of Margaret Rogers of Carrying Place and Aaron Greeley of New England — the surveyor who arrived at or near the same time as the Keeler settlers of Cramahe Township — Miss Greeley's remarkable life encompassed the hardships of early settlement, the War of 1812 and the siege of Detroit by the British, and the building of our communities from the Upper Canadian wilderness.

Her story is recorded in the Tweedsmuir History of the Colborne Women's Institute, to which this present account is largely indebted for information. As well, she dictated her own memoirs, which she called "Sketches of the past," to R.Z. Rogers of Grafton, and notes were kept from a school address she gave in 1891. We are fortunate to have found parts of those reminiscences.

Susan Burnham Greeley was born Feb. 25, 1806, at Shelter Valley. Her father, Aaron Greeley, had entered into an agreement with Upper Canada's first Lieutenant-Governor, John Graves Simcoe, to build two mills, one at Presqu'île and the other in Haldimand Township, and to settle 30 families in that area in return for a grant of land. In 1796, Simcoe took a leave of absence in England and never returned. According to the account, one of Simcoe's successors cancelled the agreement, bringing about considerable financial hardship, and probably some ill-feeling. Mr. Greeley took up a position as Surveyor-General of Michigan, leaving his wife and two-year-old daughter here.

To join him, Mrs. Greeley and baby Susan started from Presqu'île in an open boat attended by two men, and coasted around the lake to the Niagara River, crossing the Niagara Peninsula in ox-drawn carts. Susan Greeley remembered the siege of Detroit by the British during the War of 1812; how her family left the front lines and scrambled for safety. When they returned to their home, she later recalled, there were bullet holes in the walls.

Some time after the war Greeley again left his wife and (by this time) four children and went back to Detroit, where he subsequently fell ill of a fever and died. His widow brought their children back to Canada. They stayed at

Picton for a time and then moved on to Mrs. Greeley's brother's home near Grafton. As the daughter of a British officer, Mrs. Greeley was awarded a land grant of 600 acres northwest of Colborne in the neighbourhood known as Linlithgow, (along present-day Telephone Road on the border between Haldimand and Cramahe Townships) and it was to this spot that she moved in June, 1821, when Susan was 15 years of age. They took up residence in a log cabin on two cleared acres. Susan Burnham Greeley would live there for the next 83 years, until her death in 1904 at age 98.

In 1901, Miss Greeley dictated the following first-person account of her young life, when Upper Canada, too, was young:

"That mighty forest, whose unvaried breadth stretches for miles, from east to west, 'from Erie's shore to Hudson's icy wave,'...was very slightly infringed upon when we first came to dwell in it. The first range of townships, from Kingston to Toronto, were but partially cleared, some not at all, for instance Whitby, which was then untouched and was generally spoken of as The Nine Mile Woods....And what a grand and solemn sound proceeded from those glorious woods when the wind blew hard. It...sounded so like the rush of great waters that it was thought to come from the Upper Lakes and was generally spoken of as, 'The lake is roaring, there will be a storm.' But the lakes are here, though the forest is not, and the grand music of the woods is heard no more.

"What splendid trees they were which fell before the axe and were speedily reduced to ashes. Ashes were for a time our chief article of export!....Then came lumbering, a very laborious, expensive and uncertain business, yet many grew rich by it. Masts were a valuable article....Once when my brother and I were coming up from the village of Colborne we met one drawn by 17 yoke of oxen....Another mast was obtained not far from here which took 25 yoke of oxen to draw....

"...as the people increased in number and raised wheat enough, grist mills began to be built. The first, I believe, in the country between Kingston and York, was Vanalstine's



in Fredericksburg..., and my father's in Haldimand, and at Presque Isle, then Mr. Hare's at Grafton and Frint's in Cramahe. When we first came here 'in the wood' there was on every large stream that runs into Lake Ontario a grist mill and saw mill, a distillery, a potashery and often a tannery. All gone now, except the grist mills...

"But the roads! Oh, the roads, you would need some experience before you could imagine what the roads were like. When the project of a gravel road from Colborne to Cobourg was first started a meeting was held in 1846 to discuss the matter, and one young gentleman opposed it, 'for the roads,' he said, 'were perfectly good in the summer and winter and when they were not, people might stay at home.'..."

"How did the people get to church? You do not consider that there were no churches to go to. For some years after the first arrival those who wished to meet together for public worship could be comfortably accommodated in each other's houses, and when this was not convenient, each neighbourhood built a little log schoolhouse which served for the Sabbath meetings, also.

Dictated at Haldimand, Dec. 27, 1901

Miss Greeley was largely self-educated. It was said she valued books above all other earthly possessions, and could be very stern with anyone who mistreated a book. She approached her calling of teaching with a missionary zeal. Not only did she teach in the original red-painted frame schoolhouse that was reportedly established in 1821 in Colborne (south of the "market square") but she also taught Sunday school, or "Sabbath School" at her Linlithgow home for 80 years. Charles Rutherford, VC, was one of her pupils. We are not certain when Miss Greeley began her school-teaching career, but it is recorded that she was teaching in the Colborne schoolhouse in 1850. She also taught in other schools in the surrounding communities as they grew.

In the days before public education, a teacher's remuneration could be uncertain. We read in the Tweedsmuir History of the Colborne Women's Institute: "Miss Greeley once told about a family who brought her a cheese to pay for their children's tuition. She said she did not need it and took it down to the minister."

The Tweedsmuir History also records that Miss Greeley "was a thorough Christian, an humble and devoted follower of Christ, an ardent and prayerful and practical supporter of the missionary cause. It was refreshing to spend an hour



Susan Burnham Greeley at age 92. Photo courtesy of Dora Grant

with her...One felt at once they were in a different atmosphere, far removed from the prevailing spirit of worldliness. She had no desire for fame, cared nothing for riches or display, yet she possessed a certain dignity which impressed all who came in contact with her. In her society one...would never think of repeating to her tales of idle gossip. She loved a simple, quiet life and took great delight in caring for plants and flowers.

"She named her home 'Ellengowan,' a name which was afterwards given to her Sabbath school and to the Missionary Society which she founded and of which she was the president from the time of its organization until her death. (She also served as the first organist of Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, est. 1830, in Colborne.²)

Susan Burnham Greeley's long, eventful, and very public-spirited earthly life ended on September 7, 1904.



CHAPTER THREE

Keelers Were Leaders

THE HISTORY OF THIS AREA MIGHT HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFERENT IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR ONE seminal event in 1804 — the sinking of the schooner *Speedy*. The government of the day was looking at establishing a “district town” for the District of Newcastle (of which Cramahe Township was a part) at present-day Presqu'île. It was to have been called the “Town of Newcastle” and plans were already on paper for its development, when the tragic event occurred. On October 7, 1804, Solicitor-General Robert Gray, Judge Thomas Cochrane, High Constable John Fisk and others, sailed from York to Presqu'île for the trial of a native, Ogetonicut, accused of murdering a trader, John Sharpe, at Lake Scugog. The schooner *Speedy* carrying the Crown representatives and the accused, appeared briefly off the point on October 8, and then vanished

forever. So did the dreams of local settlers for the establishment of a “district town” in this vicinity. The sinking of the *Speedy* made the government change its mind as to the location of a capital town for the area. The nod went to Cobourg, which disappointed many of the local settlers. Cobourg later became the county seat of the United Counties of Durham and Northumberland and, still later, the county seat of Northumberland.

Joseph Abbott Keeler (1788–1855), the only son of the first settler, Joseph Keeler, is credited with the founding of the settlements of both Colborne and Castleton, and with the founding of Norwood, as well. From the time he arrived at Cramahe Harbour (now Lakeport) when he was five years old, until his death at age 77, thriving communities were carved out of a near-impenetrable forest.

To distinguish him from his father, “Old Joe,” the village founder is sometimes referred to as “Young Joe.” Although we do not know of any formal schooling that could have been available to “Young Joe,” he obviously acquired learning, probably from his parents, which he added to his innate intelligence and used to its utmost. He was deeply involved in all the entrepreneurial endeavours of his father and is listed as the builder of the Keeler mill at Castleton circa 1806, around which that settlement grew. The mill was rebuilt near its



Ruin of the Old Christie Mill, so called for a miller who ran it. It was built by Joseph Keeler, the first settler, around 1800, just west of present-day Ontario Street. The same limestone was used for Old St. Andrew's Church, Colborne.

Photo courtesy of Harold Hamden





original site around 1830 and is still standing, a venerable wooden structure on the west side of County Road 25.

The ruin that was still visible from Ontario Street, west of Colborne, at the time of writing was a Keeler mill, as well, built of limestone quarried at Lakeport. This limestone was also used in the building of Old St. Andrew's Church, Colborne.

With the help of settler-surveyor Aaron Greeley, the townsite of the village of Colborne was laid out in the shadow of the hill called Kelwood. The community was planned around a central square, like the New England villages the first settlers had left behind. It is recorded in several sources, and has become a charming local tradition, that "Young Joe" also set aside land for the churches of various denominations, asking in return only that a pew in each be reserved for his use.

In 1815, at age 27, Joseph A. Keeler opened a small store in Colborne that included a post office, and he became the village's first postmaster. His father had served in that capacity before him at the Keeler's Creek settlement in Lakeport. As well as being merchant, builder and postmaster, Joseph A. was also justice of the peace for the whole Newcastle District (later the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham, plus lands to the north that were labelled on maps of the period simply as "Indian lands.")¹ This was a very important political office and it demonstrates the esteem in which the Keeler family was held, not just by the residents of this area, but by people in positions of authority within the government of the day.

In its earliest days, Colborne was simply known as The Corners. Virtually all of the earliest buildings would have been of wood and they no longer exist.

Sometime before 1812, "Young Joe" married Anne (called Nancy) Day. Their children, as listed in the *Keeler Family* history, were: Eliza Jane, born Oct. 10, 1812 (later married M. Gilchrist); Mary Anne, born Sept. 15, 1817 (married B.Y. McKeyes); Harriet Maria, born Feb. 28, 1822 (married P.M. Grover), and Joseph, born May 29, 1824. (Some sources also list two other daughters, Sarah

THE OLD STONE MILL



The crumbling walls still stand so grim and grey,
Each stone a story of the long dead past,
When through the wilderness of trees the settlers came
To Christie's mill before the break of day,
Bringing their grist in heavy ox-drawn carts;
Their cracking whips and lusty, loud-voiced shouts
Break the deep silence of the morn's first light
As each recalls his promise, "Home for sure tonight."

Before the first faint streaks of dawn, we find
The busy miller is astir by candle light;
A dour man is Christie, known by all
As honest and God-fearing, good and true,
A friend of many and a foe of none;
The splash of water and the rumbling stones
Are music to his ears as, bending low,
He lifts the heavy sacks with child-like ease
While calling out, "Aye, Jock, how're things with you?"

The mill pond like a great, clear mirror lies
With morn's bright rosy tints reflected there,
A rooster's clarion challenge rings out clear
And from the pond, as in exuberant joy,
A lusty trout leaps high into the air,
The resounding splash a tribute to its size
As widening ripples ring its hidden lair.

The long, long line of ox-carts come and go,
The last one, now, has slowly disappeared;
Weary, the miller lifts his corded arms
And stretching to full torsion, softly laughs,
Then, closing up the mill, he wends his way
To home and family and to hard-earned rest,
With thankful heart for life so richly blessed

The crumbling walls still stand so grim and grey,
Each stone a story of the long dead past;
Would that they could become articulate
And sing the tales of long ago anew,
The tales with which my father oft beguiled
The tedious hours when I was but a child.

— Jim Bell





Augusta and Margaret, who may have died in infancy.) During the 1820s, Joseph and Nancy built the house that still stands at 7 Church Street East, facing south down Maybee Lane. It has the distinction of being one of the few houses of the period to have been designed by an architect, and bears a distinct resemblance to the Barnum House (now a pioneer museum) in nearby Grafton. At the time of writing, the home is owned by Mrs. Marian Carter. On July 11, 1839, "Old Joe," the first settler, died there, in his son's home, aged 76.



Nancy Day Keeler, photographed from an old painting. The companion picture of Joseph A. Keeler, her husband, was destroyed by fire.

*Photo courtesy of
Chris Campbell*

In 1822, "Young Joe" acquired 500 acres of land in the then newly surveyed Asphodel Township, for services rendered to the Crown — according to some sources, for military duty in the War of 1812. And he purchased an additional 1,500 acres, originally called "The North Woods," giving him ownership of Norwood, now part of Peterborough County. There he built a sawmill in 1823 and a gristmill in 1825, thus founding that community. In 1833, J. A. Keeler was one of the driving forces behind the formation of the Northumberland Agricultural Society, and in 1841, he was instrumental in forming the Cramahe branch of the Constitutional Society "for the maintenance of British supremacy and diffusion of useful political information." He served as the organization's treasurer. Early in the 1840s, he began construction of the home that was intended to serve as his family's monument, Kelwood, at the top of the hill from which "Old Joe" first surveyed the territory back in

1789. But this architectural marvel — a 16-room, two-storey mansion in which both floors opened onto an octagonal "atrium" type of central hall — took 20 years to complete. Joseph A. Keeler did not live to see its completion.

The founder of Colborne and Castleton died in 1855, aged 67. His wife, Nancy, died three years later, at age 68. They are both buried in Lakeport Cemetery, near their daughters Anne and Eliza and their son Joseph.

Joseph, the only son of Nancy and "Young Joe," sometimes called "Little Joe" (1824–81), was about 17 when his grandfather died and 33 years of age when his father passed away. He seems to have inherited — or learned — many of their habits of energy and accomplishment. He is reputed to have been "little" in more than his nickname and a photo that survives (and is reproduced on the cover of this book) shows a man of diminutive stature and small frame.

On Oct. 12, 1848, he married Octavia Phillips, daughter of Rev. Thomas Phillips, D.D., rector of Etobicoke. The Keelers, like many other Loyalists, were members of the Church of England in Canada (Anglican). This affiliation was consistent with their sympathy for all things British. They are listed among the first members of the congregation of Trinity Church, Colborne (est. 1846). The couple had two sons: Joseph, born July 16, 1849 and Thomas Phillips, born Jan. 24, 1852, and one daughter, Annie Sybilla, born March 21, 1854. No further mention is made in any records of the baby Joseph, who must have died in infancy. Thomas married Blanche Elizabeth Boyer of Brighton and Annie married John Boyer, likely Blanche's brother.





In the census of 1856, the Keeler household is listed as including six people, possibly Joseph and Octavia, their children Thomas and Annie, and two servants. "Little Joe" was the owner of considerable property, and in 1856 he established *The Transcript*, Colborne's first newspaper, and served as its editor and publisher. It would be no unhandy thing for a man with political aspirations to be the editor and publisher of a newspaper. He was also a major in the local militia and one of the movers and shakers (along with a man named J. D. Hayes) behind the establishment of the first bank branch in Colborne, the Bank of Toronto, in 1856. To attract this important investment, they must have persuaded many people in the township to contribute to the purchase of the £10,000 worth of stock, which the bank required to open a new branch.² In 1861, upon completion of the mansion, he moved his family into Kelwood, where they lived in lavish style for the next 20 years, as befitted the area's leading family.

In the 1850s, Colborne was a thriving village. A listing of businesses from the time shows Keeler as agent for Imperial Fire, Marine and Life of Quebec, and Provincial Life Assurance House at Colborne Harbour. He is also listed as the builder of the 1872 three-storey Keeler Block (the third storey was later removed) on the north corner of Victoria Square and King Street East. The following year, the block next to it was also built by Keeler to serve as a public hall (second-storey level) with commercial establishments at street level.³

Around 1874, he became the owner of an 84-foot schooner he named *Octavia*, docked, naturally, at Keeler's Wharf at Lakeport. Some sources report that he had a fleet of schooners.

A Conservative, Joseph Keeler was elected Member of Parliament representing the riding of Northumberland East from 1867 — the year of Canada's Confederation — to 1873, and again in 1879 until his death in 1881. He was a strong supporter of Canada's first Prime Minister, John A. Macdonald (later Sir John A., also a Conservative), and sided with him on the importance of building a railway across the prairies to lure British Columbia into Canadian Confederation. MP Keeler's untimely death at age 57 occurred just shortly before the final parliamentary vote on the railway, and it is recorded that the Prime Minister lamented that, "Keeler of Northumberland is very ill." With a close vote appearing likely, the anticipated "yea" vote of the Member from Northumberland would be missed. However, as history records, the Canadian Pacific Railway, the "national dream" was eventually built to link the country that would become Canada "from sea unto sea."

MP Keeler also fought for the creation of the Trent Canal System, particularly for the Murray Canal which joins Weller's Bay to the Bay of Quinte at Carrying Place, about 15 miles east of Colborne. At a time when road travel was uncertain and very uncomfortable, the waterways were still the fastest and easiest way to move goods and people. The Murray Canal cut off miles of water travel and eliminated the need for the centuries-old portage that was the origin of the name "Carrying Place."



Joseph Keeler, MP.
Photo courtesy of Marian Carter





Joseph Keeler, MP, died in Ottawa on Jan. 21, 1881, before the commencement of work on the canal the following year. His widow, Octavia, wielded the ceremonial spade at the official sod-turning, in his stead. Years later, her granddaughter, Ruth Brown, wife of Colborne physician J. Archer Brown, still had the ceremonial shovel Mrs. Keeler used at the ceremony. It was silver-plated with three small gold maple leaves fanning out from the wooden handle. The top end of the handle was "T" shaped and there was a gold-plated piece of filigree work at the top and another small piece of gold pate about halfway down the handle, bearing this inscription: "Presented to Mrs. Joseph Keeler by the citizens of Brighton and vicinity on the occasion of turning the first sod of the Murray Canal, August 31, 1882." A letter was presented to her at that time, which her granddaughter also treasured. It read:



Octavia Phillips Keeler.
Photo courtesy of Marian Carter

"Mrs. Keeler
"Respected Madam: It is with a feeling of the most intense pleasure that we, the residents of this section of the country welcome you here today to perform so important and agreeable a ceremony. The work which occupied the time, attention and talents of your beloved husband our late lamented and efficient representative in his parliamentary capacity finds its fitting inaugural in the events of this auspicious day. We are sure that while it must cause you, as it does us, keen sorrow to reflect that Mr. Keeler didn't live to see the results of his earnest efforts in behalf of the Murray Canal, yet a certain amount of consolation comes to us all when we have you here to take the initial step toward the fulfilment of such an important undertaking. You will therefore please accept this shovel with the inscription thereon, as a memento of the event, and turn the first sod of the Murray Canal. We trust you may, with all assembled here today, see the completion of this great work, and witness the meeting of the waters of Presque'Isle with the Bay of Quinte.
"(Signed) Thomas Webb, Chairman of the Celebration Committee,
"Brighton, 31st August, 1882."⁴

After that time, Mrs. Keeler moved out of this area, back to the Toronto area where she had lived before her marriage. The Keelers' son, Tom, had already moved to Brighton and John Boyer, their son-in-law, became administrator of the estate. It appears that Octavia outlived not only her husband, but her son, daughter, and son-in-law, as well. When she died in 1899, she left her remaining holdings in Northumberland to her daughter-in-law, Blanche Boyer Keeler.

The passing of "Little Joe" marked the end of an era in the history of Colborne and Cramahe Township. After that, the name "Keeler" was heard here only in reflection of what used to be, or what might have been. Although Keelers are greatly to be revered for their leadership role, it should be remembered that it took more than one family to build these communities.



CHARLES RUTHERFORD, VC, MC, MM “BY MASTERLY BLUFF”

“Charlie,” as he was called by all who knew him, was born on a farm in Haldimand Township north of Colborne on January 9, 1892, one of four sons of John Thomas Rutherford and his wife, Isabella Kellie. He and his brothers, Wallace, Arthur and Alex, attended the one-room, eight-grade Dudley School. Staunch Presbyterians, the Rutherfords insisted their sons attend the Sunday school conducted by Susan Burnham Greeley in her home at Linlithgow (Telephone Road) each week. They never forgot her precepts and example.

Charlie worked on the farm until his decision at age 24 to enlist as a private in the Queen’s Own Rifles in March, 1916. The “Great War” was at its height, and Charlie was sent overseas almost immediately. In France, in June of that year, he was transferred to the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles and saw action at Ypres. His unit marched as far as the infamous Somme River where he was wounded during trench fighting and hospitalized in England. When he recovered he went back to join his unit and fought in the great and bloody battle of Vimy Ridge in March, 1917. In June of that year, he suffered another wound during fighting near Amiens, France, and this time he was not able to return to active duty for two months.

The young soldier then served under then-Major G. R. Pearkes at Passchendaele. For his actions in that battle, Pearkes was later awarded the Victoria Cross and eventually attained the rank of Major-General. For his part at Passchendaele, then-Sergeant Rutherford was awarded the Military Medal and recommended for promotion to a commissioned rank.

Sergeant Rutherford left to take a training course in England and soon returned to France as a lieutenant.

On August 9, 1918, while in charge of No. 9 Platoon, his actions in battle earned him the Military Cross. In his own words: “...we captured two towns. The first was Arvillers, the German Division headquarters, where I managed to get a paymaster and a lot of German money...The only things that they left behind were a box of pigeons and 300 new machine guns. This was on the Amiens Front. Then we

captured a little town called Bangor. That was as far as we were to go....”¹

A few weeks later, on August 26, the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Divisions opened an attack on either side of the Arras-Cambrai Road with Cambrai, 20 miles distant, as their objective. Between them and Cambrai lay the critical village of Monchy-le-Preux. At 3 A.M. on that dark and rainy morning, the 26-year-old Lt. Rutherford, “C” Company, 5th Battalion, set out at the head of an assault party, headed for Monchy, over two miles away.

It was rough going. The terrain around the Allied soldiers had been ripped up by falling shells and, as they progressed, Rutherford and his men came upon an enemy battery of four field guns. After they took the 20 German gunners prisoner, most of “C” Company, joined by “A” Company, continued up the hill toward the heavily shelled ruins of the village of Monchy. A few men were detailed

to escort the prisoners back to the rear of the advance.

Telling his own story some 60 years later, Charlie recalled, “I decided to run on up ahead to see how “A” Company was doing. In those days, I could run like a deer.”

When he returned to where he had left “C” Company, it was no longer in place. Unbeknownst to Lt. Rutherford, shelling had become so heavy in his absence that the sergeant had ordered the assault party back to safer ground.



Official portrait: Charles S. Rutherford, VC, MC, MM, in World War I. Courtesy of Dora Grant



Assuming that the party had continued on its advance, Rutherford pressed on toward Monchy, alone.

"I saw some men up ahead, so I went on up," he said. But then: "I realized they were all Germans. I knew if I hesitated, they'd start shooting at me, so I walked on up brazenly and said, 'You men are my prisoners.'"

He gamely waved his revolver, to indicate to the enemy soldiers that they were to come with him, and boldly repeated: "You men are my prisoners."

The German officer in charge of the gunnery installation spoke some English. He argued, "We prisoners? No! You prisoner." He signalled for the young Canadian lieutenant to come to them. This Charlie did, but he declined to enter the German pillbox and reiterated: "You men are my prisoners. My men have you surrounded." To illustrate his statement, Rutherford waved his revolver in a circle.

The German officer hesitated in the face of this bold claim. He entered his pillbox and soon emerged, accompanied by another German officer. We can imagine Charlie Rutherford's relief (and perhaps surprise) when the entire German party of 45 — two officers and three machine-gun crews — cast down their weapons and surrendered! Not a single shot had been fired. His bluff had worked.

In an extra burst of inspiration, Rutherford removed his helmet and waved it at his men, never betraying to the enemy that he had no idea where they were. Miraculously his comrades emerged from nearby shell-holes and other cover, and headed down to take custody of their brave lieutenant's prisoners.

"We then went over to where the other machine gun was and collected about 30 more prisoners there," Rutherford later remembered. Horses, guns and ammunition were taken, too. "Then we went on down the hill through the town. German guns about 1,000 yards out front were firing at us. I had our machine guns trained on them and that soon stopped them. The Germans then galloped out with their guns down the Cambrai Road. I got my machine gunners to fire at them. With my company I went down the hill to find two Germans with eight horses hiding in trenches. That was as far as we went on the 26th of August. A good day's work, I think."²

Indeed, by sunset, some 80 enemy prisoners had been captured without a single Canadian casualty. These actions were deemed responsible for wiping out the German resistance in the village of Monchy-le-Preux; Rutherford and his men had taken the major objective in the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade's battle plan, and greatly aided in the

overall Canadian Corps advance to Cambrai.

The Official History of the Canadian Army in the First World War by Colonel G.W.L. Nicholson, CD, Army Historical Section, reads: "This quick success by the 8th Brigade was not achieved without some difficult fighting in the course of which Lieut. C.S. Rutherford, MC, MM, of the 5th C.M.R, was awarded the Victoria Cross for 'most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty.' During the advance, Rutherford captured some 80 prisoners and silenced several enemy machine guns, singlehanded."

Rutherford's records indicate that he and his men got a day's rest on Aug. 27, 1918, then, "the next day (Aug. 28) my Captain got orders to take his Company across the Cambrai Road and attack the town of Vis'en Artois. We were to start from a sunken road. While there, a sniper shot Captain Wade through the lungs. Our cook was also hit with a shell. I had the company advance and take the town. But the Germans knew that we were coming. They were all out of the town with their guns trained on the town. They shelled us all night with high explosive shells and some gas bombs. We were relieved (the next) morning when some of the British Army arrived. They sent a horse up for the Captain to bring out his company as they did not know Captain Wade had been taken out with...the Red Cross....Wade got over his wound and thanked me for getting him out so quickly. You can imagine how pleased I was to be acting Captain....We had very few casualties and had not fired a shot as the Germans had all left the town. That was the 29th of August."

Rutherford was on leave in Scotland when the armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, and at that time, was unaware that he would be awarded the Victoria Cross. When news of the war's end reached him, he went immediately to rejoin his comrades in France. It was not until later, after he had returned to England, that he was told about the VC by then-Colonel George Pearkes, his former comrade-in-arms, whom he met by chance in London.

Charles Smith Rutherford received the Victoria Cross, the Commonwealth's highest military decoration, from the hand of King George V at Buckingham Palace late in November, 1918. After the ceremony, he rejoined his unit in France and remained with them until they were all returned to Canada in March, 1919.

There was a song popular at that time, "How're you going to keep 'em down on the farm, after they've seen Patee?" but, apparently, this hero of the Great War adapted to life back on the farm happily and with gratitude. In 1921



Charles Rutherford married Helen Haig of Baltimore, who held a degree from the University of Toronto and was a fully qualified dietician. The couple raised a family of four: Andrew, Isabel (Reid), Dora (Grant) and Rosemary (Gormley).

Charlie and Helen Rutherford farmed until 1939 and, at the same time, he served as clerk-treasurer for the Township of Haldimand. But the reflected light of his military honours would always shine on the modest Charlie.

In 1934, he was appointed sergeant-at-arms for the spring session of the Ontario Legislature under Liberal Premier Mitchell Hepburn.

In 1939, he took up the position of Postmaster of the Village of Colborne but he took a leave in 1940, to enlist in the Veteran Guard of Canada after the outbreak of World War II. He was stationed at Centre Lake near Petawawa in 1941. The following year he was sent to the Bahama Islands where one of his duties was to guard the Duke and Duchess of York, and, in 1943, he received his captain's commission while serving at Monteith Internment Camp near Timmins. In 1944, Capt. Rutherford was transferred to Royal Military College in Kingston, where he served until the war ended in 1945.

Then he came back home, ready to take up his life where he had left it. He resumed his post at the Colborne Post Office, which had been left to his able assistant, Miss E.J. Padginton, and his wife, Helen, in his absence. He remained postmaster until 1955 when, at age 63, he and his wife moved to Keswick, Ontario, beside Lake Simcoe, where they ran a dry-goods store until they retired in 1960.

A member of the Victoria and George Cross Association since its formation in 1956, Charlie Rutherford made 11 trips to London to Association events, and met members of the Royal Family, including Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip and Prince Charles. The last reunion he attended was in 1983 when, aged 91-plus, he was the most senior member attending.

Charlie and Helen Rutherford moved to Cobourg from Keswick in 1973 and then back home to RR 5 Colborne, in 1979, when they took up residence with their daughter and son-in-law, Dora and Hugh Grant, not far from the farm where Charlie had been born. There Helen Rutherford died in 1980 at the age of 86.

Charlie Rutherford always had a special place in the hearts of the people of Colborne. At the time of the Rutherfords' 1979 homecoming, a gala celebration was hosted by the Colborne Legion Branch 187, which is named for him. In attendance were many of the heroes of two world wars. Hundreds of spectators from all around the area lined King Street as Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford rode in an open car at the head of a motorcade, waving and smiling at everyone. Two other Victoria Cross holders, both from the Second World War, Col. John Weir Foote and Col. Fred Tilson, as well as the Northumberland MP of the day, Hon. George Hees, and the MPP, Hon. Russell Rowe, were in attendance as well.

Charles Smith Rutherford, VC, MC, MM, died on June 11, 1989, at the age of 97. On Tuesday, June 13, a Legion service was conducted at Colborne United Church by the minister and Legion padre, Rev. Victor Parsons. The following day, after a church funeral, he was buried with full military honours. A military escort, gun carriage and Legion escort accompanied his casket from the church to Colborne Union Cemetery. A rifle salute was fired at the graveside. Col. Fred Tilson VC, was in attendance and about 400 mourners were served at the tea hosted by the Ladies' Auxiliary at the Legion hall following the service. So one of Colborne's — and Canada's — great heroes was laid to rest.

Charlie Rutherford was a pleasant, friendly, unassuming man who seemed unacquainted with guile or trickery of any kind. How ironic that he should have made his place in history, as Col. Nicholson's *Official History of the Canadian Army in the First World War* says, "by masterly bluff."



Charlie Rutherford posed for birthday picture at age 95.
Photo courtesy of Dora Grant

CHAPTER FOUR

By Land and by Water

THE EARLIEST THOROUGHFARES WERE NOT ROADS AT ALL, BUT WATERWAYS. LAKE ONTARIO WAS the superhighway of early settlement days, the fastest and easiest way to get from one end of Upper Canada to the other.

However, as communities were growing, Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe decided the new province of Upper Canada needed roads to advance colonization and for the defence of the settlements. He engaged an American surveyor by the name of Asa Danforth to build a road from York (Toronto) to Kingston, connecting the settlements in between. Work was begun

on this road in late summer of 1799. The first 63-mile stretch was to take travellers from York to Smith's Creek (Port Hope). The entire road took three years to complete and, by that time, the parts built first were already falling into disrepair.

Asa Danforth was born in Dunstable, Massachusetts, in 1746. He was no Loyalist, having served in the Massachusetts Regiment during the American Revolution and risen to the rank of major-general in the State Militia. It is not known when he came north, but he was very much involved in the settlement of Northumberland County. In fact, he settled at Lot 29, Concession 1, Haldimand Township.

Parts of Danforth's road through the county still survive — although, fortunately, not in their original state. Those parts, mainly around Cobourg, bear his name. Through Colborne, as with most places, the Danforth Road was superseded by the Kingston Road which came later. Danforth's crews built the road through Cramahe Township during the summer of 1800.

Danforth's original instructions from Simcoe were to blaze a road 33 feet wide, with a 16.5-foot-wide travelled portion. He was to be paid \$90 per mile. His men cleared a right-of-way through the forest, chopping down trees and either removing the stumps or cutting them down low enough so that it was deemed they would not interfere with wagons and stagecoaches. A



Division Street,
Colborne, ca. 1860.
Photo courtesy of Walter Luedike



"corduroy road" was made by laying logs side by side over the very boggy spots. The trees had to be cleared, anyway, to make space for the road so, rather than burning them, they were put to good use. These corduroy roads were indeed as bumpy as corduroy fabric, and the wagons and stagecoaches that travelled upon them had wooden wheels with iron tires and no springs or shock absorbers! Moreover, the logs shifted with use, or were heaved by frost, leaving black holes of mud. In the muddiest morasses, wagons could sink to their axles and horses (not to mention travellers) to their knees. A good part of any traveller's journey in those days consisted of walking around the bogs to lighten the coaches and wagons. Travel was easiest during the summer when the mud dried up, or during the winter when sleighs on runners could skim over the frozen surfaces.

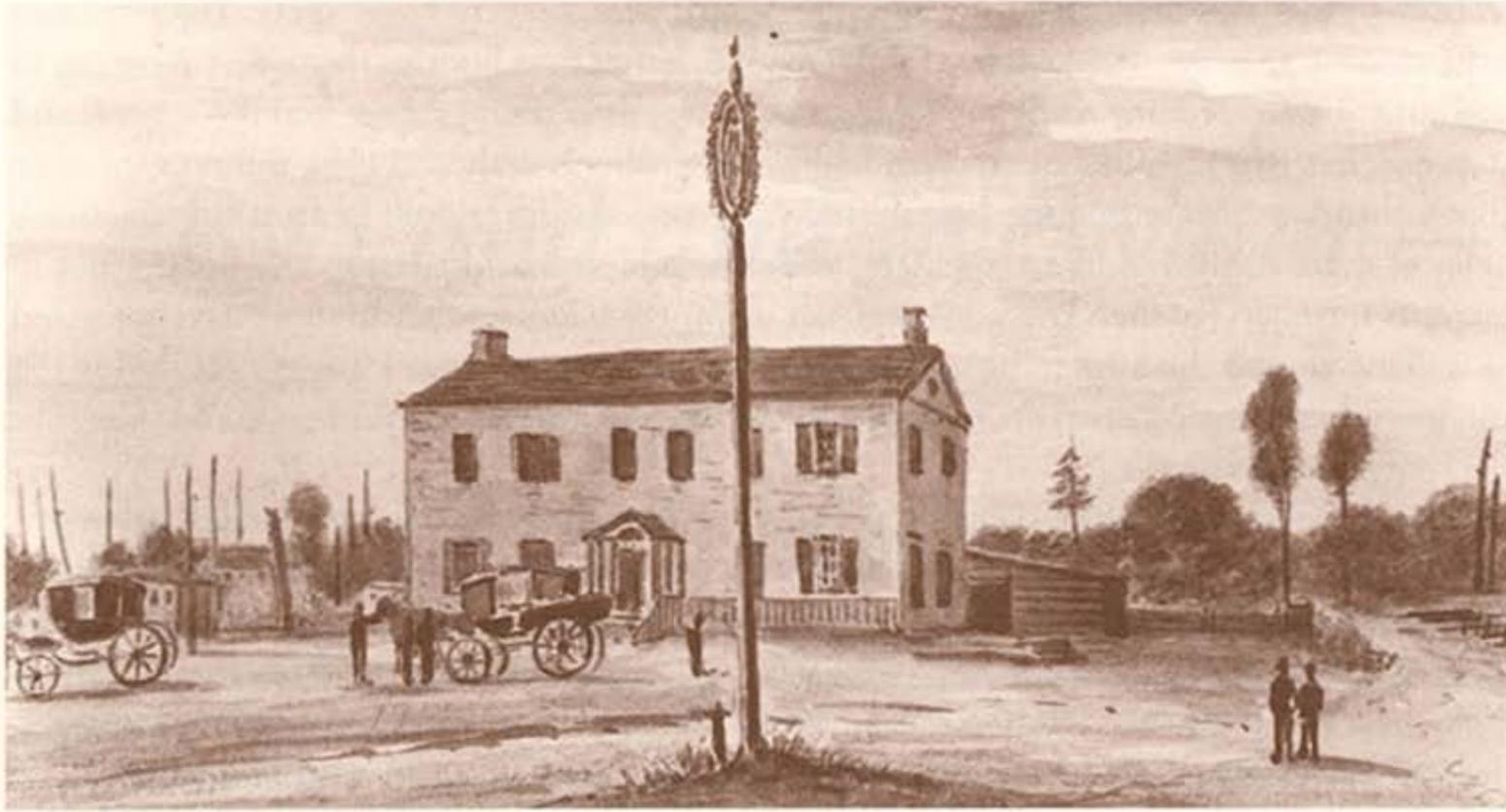
Susan Burnham Greeley, daughter of the surveyor, Aaron Greeley, who laid out the town-site for the village of Colborne, leaves us this account of early road travel through Northumberland County:

"But the roads! Oh, the roads, you would need some experience before you could imagine what the roads were like. When the project of a gravel road from Colborne to Cobourg was first started a meeting was held in 1846 to discuss the matter, and one young gentleman opposed it, 'for the roads,' he said, 'were perfectly good in the summer and winter and when they were not, people might stay at home.' But that could not always be. I have myself been obliged to go to funerals and other occasions when the 'big wagon,' the only carriage we had then, would go down to the hubs of the wheels in the muck. I remember hearing a gentleman telling a stage passenger, who was complaining of having to walk so much of his journey, that we were much better off here than in the upper part of the province, where they not only had to walk, but to carry a rail with which to pry the coach out of the mud holes. There was a place between Colborne and Grafton called Herriman Hill, from the name of the first settler there, which was said to be the worst place between Kingston and Toronto and the terror of stage drivers. This arose from the nature of the soil for it was not much of a hill and, in fact, a 'brick yard' was worked close beside the road for some years. But since the way has been gravelled no one can now imagine what it was once. In the first settlement, all the land travel went on the lake shore, but everything that could be, was done by water, according to the season of the year, and the ice made very good travelling, too, in many places."¹

Aside from major arterial roads, however, rudimentary roads were often hacked through the bush by the settlers themselves. "Old Joe" Keeler, the first settler in Cramahe Township, is credited with the original version of what would later be known as the Cramahe Gravelled Road (which started near the westerly entrance to the village, proceeded diagonally across the slope of Kelwood Hill and then joined the route of present-day Percy Street near the north end of the village) to connect the settlements of Colborne and Warkworth, then known as Percy. To the



Keeler Tavern, a watercolour sketch done ca. 1830 by Lt. Col. James Pattison Cockburn, a graduate of the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, England. He was trained in watercolour sketching and did numerous sketches, including this one, during his stay in Upper Canada, 1826–36.
Courtesy of Tass Corbier



south, another road connected the village with Lakeport, which was first called Cramahe Harbour and then Colborne Harbour or Cat Hollow.

The Kingston Road, the major east-west route that succeeded the Danforth Road, was not completed until 1816–17 and regular mail could then get through by coach, except in the muddy spring weather when only a courier on horseback could get through. These couriers also used to deliver mail to the outlying areas off the major east-west corridor, where there was constant danger of robbery. It was by the side of the Kingston Road that “Young Joe,” Joseph Abbott Keeler, son of the first settler and founder of Colborne and Castleton, built his store and post office. According to local tradition, stagecoaches and travellers often stopped at what is now Victoria Park in Colborne’s village square, to get a cool drink from the well there, and allow the animals to rest and graze awhile in the green space. Other travellers stopped at Keeler’s Tavern (now a private home, but still standing at the northeast corner of King and Parliament Streets at the time of writing and owned by Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Corbier). At the tavern, conveniently located at almost the exact mid-point of the journey between Kingston and York, the visitors could rest, eat and fortify themselves with spirits distilled at Keeler’s distillery. At that time, Colborne was often simply called The Corners, or Keeler’s Tavern.

The government by and large encouraged the entrepreneurial spirit of the settlers in building roads, since there was no Ministry of Transportation in those days. Sometimes, if funds were available, road-builders were paid for their labours. More often, they were not. In fact, the Highways Act of 1793 compelled all settlers to work on roads and bridges for at least 12 days per year or to pay others to perform this statutory labour for them.

In Colborne in 1859, a day of statutory roads labour was worth 40 cents. The village was divided into six sections, or beats, each placed in the charge of an overseer. In 1860, the overseers were



listed as: N. Bennett, G. N. Gordon, W. N. Colton, T. S. Merriman, R.B. Scott and Levi Turney. It was their job to make sure roads were kept up by those appointed to perform labour. Failure to perform this duty (or to hire another to do it) was punishable by six days in the local lock-up.²

A later variation on the corduroy road was the plank road, for which logs were sawn into four-inch boards, laid tightly side by side and spiked to "stringers," or "sleepers," in much the same way that the first railroad tracks would later be laid. A smoother travelling surface was provided by these plank roads, compared to the earlier corduroy variety. Good roads were 16 feet wide, but usually only half was planked. The other half, called the turn-off (like a shoulder on today's roads), would be planked if enough traffic had to use the turn-off to allow other vehicles to pass. Finally the road was given a light coating of sand and then stagecoaches could travel these roads at speeds of up to eight miles an hour. In 1836, the Kingston Road between Cobourg and Colborne was planked. According to records, the sum of £4 was spent on planking in Cramahe Township in 1853. With the passage of time, however, the plank roads, too, would heave and lift. They were not replaced, possibly because, by that time, with the forests rapidly depleting, there was not such a cheap and ready source of lumber. As well, new and improved methods of road surfacing were coming into use.

Around the same time as the plank roads were being built, municipalities and private contractors were also experimenting with a new kind of road: a gravel road. These roads were made by laying a base of fairly large rocks, covered with succeeding layers of smaller stones. Local historian Walter Luedtke leaves us the following account: "Roads were completely impassable from the March thaws until the end of May. Then horse-drawn scrapers would try to get the gravel back on the roads and the whole process would start all over again. Cramahe Township waged a valiant battle in 1853, spending £8 for scrapers and £13 for gravel for all its roads."

(At the time, Upper Canada used both systems of money — the American dollars-and-cents system, which was eventually to be adopted, and the old British system of pounds, shillings and pence.)

Some municipalities began to try to recover their roads costs on a user-pay basis, charging tolls for the use of roads, as allowed by an act of government passed in 1853. Toll booths would be set up every so often and travellers would be expected to pay in order to pass. Mr. Luedtke writes: "There was no charge for crossing the road, exempt too were 'Her Majesty's officers and soldiers on duty, persons attending funerals or going to and returning from worship on the Lord's Day, or farmers passing to and from their work.' On the Cramahe Gravelled Road 'all ministers of the Gospel who obtain their support by virtue of their calling' also travelled for free."

Horse-powered snowplowing: This photo was taken in circa 1950 in the Dundonald area, but reflects early methods of clearing roads of snow using teams of horses. The horses behind the plow are being rested to take their turn when those in front are tired out.

Photo courtesy of Carl Wilce





Some private contractors would discover the advantages of toll roads, which they would build and then operate with tolls taken from the travelling public, supposedly to pay for roads maintenance. However, as may be expected with human nature being what it is, many of these early roads were maintained at a minimum of expense and a maximum of toll fees. Gravel thrown up by wheels and hooves was tossed into ditches and never replaced. On the other hand, there were those who would go to any length — even leaving the road and risking getting stuck on the sidelines — to avoid tollgates. In time, the toll roads fell into disfavour and were no longer used in Ontario (until the 1990s, that is, when Highway 407 was built across the north end of Toronto.)

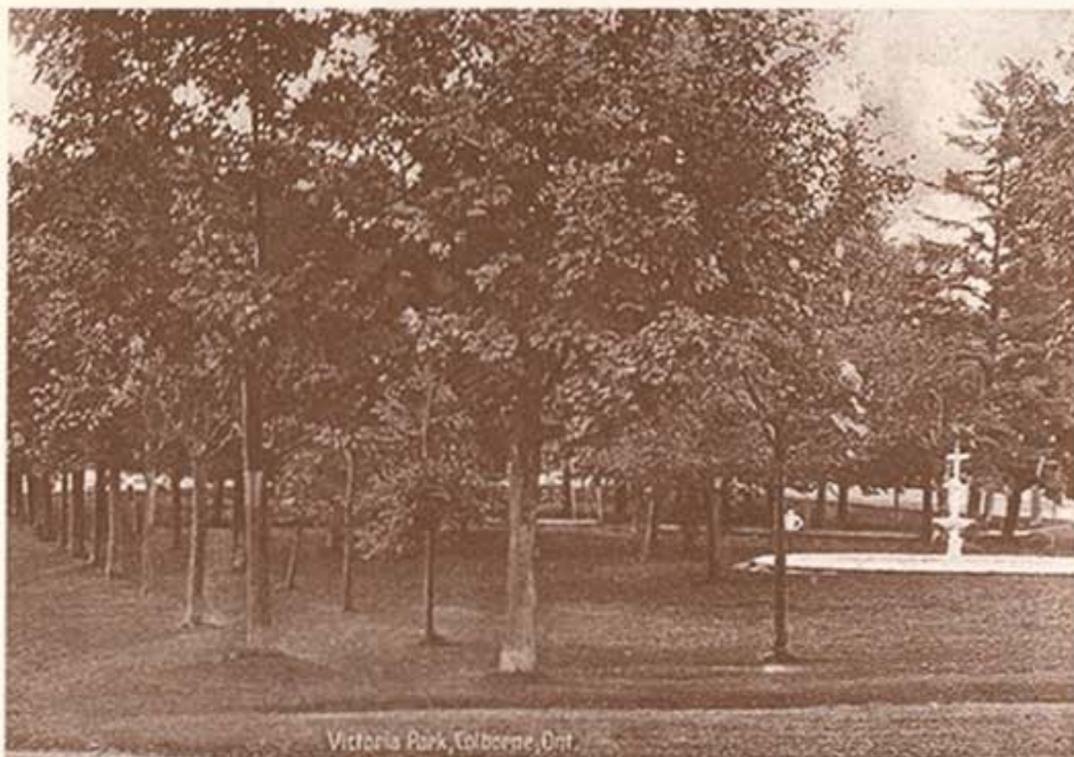
With the coming of better and better roads, stagecoach travel increased. Samuel Purdy of Northumberland County operated the first stage line that ran weekly between York and Kingston, beginning in January, 1817. The trip took three days and the fare was a very steep \$18. Horses for the stages were usually changed every 16 miles, so there was a proliferation of establishments like Keeler's Tavern along the Kingston Road, now County Road 2. The coachman

would blow his horn on the approach to each stop, and that was the signal for stable hands to rush out with fresh horses unless, of course, the coach arrived at evening, in which case the coach, driver, passengers and horses might be expected to stay the night.

In the early 1830s, William Weller (who, in 1850, became the first mayor of nearby Cobourg) entered the stagecoach business. (Weller made his home on Tremaine Street, Cobourg, where it may still be seen. Today the handsome brick structure on the shore of Lake Ontario is known as Villa St. Joseph, home to the religious order, the Sisters of St. Joseph). Weller's Royal Mail Line operated between Hamilton and Montreal, with branch lines forking off in all directions. Its

Toronto (York) office at Wellington and Front streets was known as "Union Station." Although there is an undoubted romance connected with stagecoach travel, we do well to remember that travellers on stages were often obliged to walk for much of their journey and might even be asked (as Miss Greeley's account suggests) to carry a fence rail and help to pry the stage out of the mire.

Possibly the most famous journey of Weller and his stages bears repeating here, since its path lay through Colborne and Cramahe. In February, 1840, the Governor-General of Upper and Lower Canada, Charles Poulett Thomson (later Lord Sydenham), needed to take a quick trip from Toronto to Montreal. Some accounts report that he was going there to reprieve a convict who had been sentenced to death, one says he was needed to quell a political disturbance, but "the most likely explanation is that the trip was made in connection with the process of unifying Lower and Upper Canada into the United Province of Canada."³ Weller



Victoria Park, Colborne, Ont.

Victoria Park, Colborne, circa 1909. In the 19th century, the park was a grazing and watering ground for horses and other livestock coming to, or passing through, the village.

Postcard courtesy of Roseanne Quinn





undertook the challenge, proudly stating that he could deliver the Governor-General to his destination within 38 hours, adding that he “considered it such an honour that he would mount the box (drive the sleigh) himself.”⁴ It was deep winter, the roads were well frozen and Weller anticipated this working in his favour.

Accordingly, two sleighs were prepared, one to carry the Governor-General and another for some members of his staff. The story goes, Weller also had a bet of £1,000 resting on his 38-hour promise. The group left Toronto on a Monday at 6 A.M., travelling fast and changing horses at regular intervals, but with Weller at the reins for the whole journey. On the following day at 7:40 P.M., the sleighs deposited the Governor-General at his destination in 37 hours and 40 minutes — 20 minutes short of the promised time! The *Cobourg Star* of that day reported that Weller came home “none the worse in health or pocket for his late arduous undertaking. He has with him a very neat gold watch, with suitable inscription, very appropriately presented to him by His Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, in acknowledgment of the distinguished public service he succeeded in performing.”⁵

The former Highway 2, now called County Road 2, was paved through this part of the country during the Great Depression of 1929–1939. Mainly local labour was used on all sections of the work, creating jobs at a time when they were desperately needed. Highway 401 followed in 1961.

The earliest large harbours in what is now Northumberland County were built at Cobourg and Port Hope, both in 1830. The Colborne Harbour Company was formed not much later, in 1837.

By the 1850s there were at least three wharves in Cramahe Township, including Keeler’s wharf, which handled salt, waterlime, pork, coal, lumber, cordwood, cedar posts and produce. This wharf saw so much traffic that Joseph A. Keeler applied for permission to build a road from the wharf to connect with the Cramahe Gravelled Road, so that goods for import and export could more easily be transported to and from the docks. Near where the St. Lawrence Cement pier is now located was Samuel S. Cole’s wharf, from which lumber and produce were shipped. A third wharf, at Salem, was Spilsbury’s wharf. A fourth wharf — Campbell’s wharf — was also located in Lakeport, but in the Haldimand Township portion of that hamlet, which straddles the border between Haldimand and Cramahe.

Not just goods, but travellers, could easily get passage across the Great Lake to points in the United States. Steamers left Colborne Harbour for Oswego and Rochester three times a week for a fare of \$2.50 for a cabin, and \$1.75 for deck passage. Since the original settlers of this area had come from New England, many of them and their descendants still had relatives in the U.S. and cross-lake trips were taken for pleasure as well as business.

The coming of the railroad in the 1850s was a boon to shipping, connecting inland markets with the shipping lanes. As well, this era saw the beginning of the “railroad ferry,” by which goods and people could take the train to the shores of a body of water, be ferried across, and meet another train on the other side. But the steam locomotive’s whistle shrilled a death knell for the stagecoach businesses. As merchants and travellers embraced the railroad as the up-and-coming mode of land transportation, use of the stages to transport mail and passengers fell off and by the 1860s they were becoming a rarity in this part of the country.





SIR JOHN COLBORNE UPPER CANADA'S 'ABLEST GOVERNOR'

As Cramahe Township's principal settlement, Colborne deserved a name worthy of its prominence. But in its earliest days, it was known simply as "The Corners," or "Keeler's Tavern." However, legend has it that, after a visit by Upper Canada's Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Colborne, to Joseph Abbott Keeler, it was decided by a committee of the township's worthies that the village be christened Colborne, in honour of Sir John.

Sir John Colborne has the distinction of being named by the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* as "Upper Canada's ablest governor."¹ His early life was not easy. He was born Feb. 16, 1778, at Lyndhurst, Hampshire, England, the only son of Samuel Colborne and Cordelia Anne Garstin, but by the time he was 13 years of age, both his parents had died. He received his education at Christ's Hospital, London, and at Winchester College and entered the army as an ensign at age 14. At a time when it was customary for officers in the British Army, or their families, to buy commissions, Colborne earned all his subsequent military promotions, including the last to the rank of field-marshal, without purchase.

Colborne saw military action in a number of campaigns, and by 1808 he had attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In 1811, he joined his long-time regiment, the 52nd Regiment of Oxfordshire Light Infantry, one of three that formed the famous Light Brigade, later lionized in the poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, for its actions in the Crimean War (1854). After serving under the Iron Duke, Wellington, in the Iberian Peninsula, he was given command of the 52nd in January, 1812, and was severely wounded leading an attack against the forces of Napoleon at Ciudad Rodrigo. Even though his wounds caused the permanent disablement of one arm, Colborne returned to active service the following year and, a little later, reassumed command of the 52nd.

In the peace following the initial defeat and exile of Napoleon, Colborne was promoted to the rank of colonel in 1814, and assumed new duties as aide-de-camp to the commander of Britain's forces in the Netherlands. However, Napoleon escaped from Elba and mounted another attempt

to establish an empire in Europe. In 1815, Colborne was ordered to Belgium, as the 52nd formed part of Major-General Sir Frederick Adam's Light Brigade, charged with responsibility for maintaining communications on the extreme right of the British line at the Battle of Waterloo. In one of the most significant moments of his military career, Colborne decided — without orders or authority — to swing the 52nd out of line. He led his troops in a "daring charge that immediately swept back the Imperial Guard in a rout."² It was this bold stroke by Colborne that has been credited with assuring Wellington's victory at Waterloo, although the Iron Duke never acknowledged this. Colborne, the "colonel of the 52nd" was awarded honours by England, Austria and Portugal.

Following the final defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo, Colborne remained attached to the military, but he took up a succession of civil appointments, including one as lieutenant-governor of the English Channel island of Guernsey (1821–28), that gave him invaluable experience which would later stand him in good stead when he hit the rough seas of government in Upper Canada. In 1825, he attained the rank of major-general, and his administration brought about improvements in Guernsey's road systems and communications.

Colborne owed much of his popularity to his wife, the charming and gracious former Elizabeth Yonge, daughter of James Yonge, an English clergyman. John and Elizabeth Colborne raised a large family; two of their sons were destined to rise to the rank of general. Their household was "notable for its warmth, simplicity and generosity."³ This served to counterbalance Colborne's reputation for military precision and reserve. He believed that a unified religious outlook (such as that provided by the "established" Anglican church) was the best guarantee of order in society. This belief would influence his later actions in Canada.

On August 14, 1828, Colborne was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada; he arrived at York (Toronto), then a village of some 2,200 souls, on Nov. 3 of that year. The colony to which he came had its troubles. Rebellion was brewing against the Family Compact, a



conservative, ultra-British ruling oligarchy resented by the main body of farmer-settlers. With Colborne's arrival, many of the malcontents, including William Lyon Mackenzie (later the leader of a rebellion), Francis Collins, Egerton Ryerson (a non-conformist later to be known as the father of Ontario's public education system) and moderates such as Robert and Warren Baldwin, looked to him to right their perceived wrongs. But they had misjudged him; Colborne's innate conservatism and strong Anglican sympathies were not ones that would stand a colonial challenge to the prevailing constitution. The forward-thinking Colborne was on the horns of a dilemma. Even had Colborne been of a mind to liberalize the political and religious ties of the colony, his old commander, the "Iron Duke" of Wellington, was then Prime Minister of Britain, and if "radical" new views were to take root, either in Britain or her colonies, it would be without any help from him.

Judiciously, Colborne avoided public contact with noted leaders of the Family Compact faction, especially Bishop John Strachan, who was at that time endeavouring to establish an Anglican university in York. He compromised with Reformers, insofar as his conscience and his common sense allowed, and this led to growing confidence in him. As he had in Guernsey, Colborne immediately spearheaded popular initiatives, such as the building of roads, commercial improvements, relief of losses sustained in the War of 1812, and the encouragement of agricultural societies.

He sought to expand settlement in outlying areas, and he established a series of immigration agencies at Montreal, Prescott and Cobourg. It was perhaps during a visit to Cobourg and area that Sir John and Joseph Abbott Keeler met and became friends. Colborne also founded Upper Canada College, a preparatory school for gentlemen.

Colborne believed that Canada's native people deserved a chance at education, but when he found the Anglican Church less than enthusiastic, he turned to the more mission-minded Methodists to accomplish his goal, thereby once again risking the displeasure of the conservative class to which he really, in his heart, belonged.

On the eve of his departure from Upper Canada in 1836, Colborne undertook the most controversial act of his Canadian career, designating 15,000 acres of "clergy reserve" lands and a further 6,600 acres of Crown lands to endow 44 Anglican rectories (ministers' residences) across the province. Radicals, reformers and many moderates were furious, and this action is counted as one of those that prompted the Rebellion of 1837, in which fiery York newspaperman

William Lyon Mackenzie was to take a leading role.

At that time, that rebellion was also fermenting in Lower Canada. Colborne, with his military experience, was removed as Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada and appointed commander-in-chief of all His Majesty's forces in the Canadas, in the hope that his influence would have a stabilizing effect and possibly prevent rebellion. But such was not to be the case. "Seditious" speeches by Louis-Joseph Papineau soon had Lower Canadians up in arms, and on Nov. 13, 1837, Colborne's wife, Elizabeth, wrote, "the whole country has...apparently changed its nature in the short space of the last fortnight and become interested in a revolution." Only a few days later, on Nov. 16, Colborne marshalled the regular and militia forces, importing some of Upper Canada's regulars, as well, to meet the threat. Veterans of his old command, the 52nd, turned out enthusiastically, and Colborne personally led a force of about 2,000 against the rebels. By late December, 1837, the rebellion had been quashed. These events were seen as particularly threatening in light of the relatively recent American Revolution (1776–83).

Colborne was promoted to lieutenant-general and sent to put down a new rebellion, in 1838, in Lower Canada. Because of the swift and decisive actions he took in quelling this new insurrection, Colborne was nicknamed "*le Vieux Brulot*" (the Old Firebrand) by the French. At the same time, he was appointed Governor-General by the British. But the opposition to Colborne among the French contributed to the swift appointment of a replacement, Charles Poulett Thomson. At Quebec, on Oct. 19, 1839, Colborne turned over the office to Poulett Thomson and, a few days later, he left Canada forever. As his ship left Montreal, a large crowd gathered to offer up, according to one witness, "one cheer more for the colonel of the 52nd."

Once back in Britain, he was rewarded for his service, being named a privy councillor, receiving a pension and being created a peer — Lord Seaton of Seaton, Devonshire — on Dec. 14, 1839. From 1843–49, he realized his ambition to serve as lord high-commissioner to the Ionian Islands; in 1854 he was promoted to the rank of general and named colonel of the 2nd Life Guards. From 1855–1860 he served as commander of the forces and privy councillor in Ireland, where he also attended to his estates in County Kildare. In 1860, upon his retirement, he was elevated to Britain's highest military rank, field marshal, and he died on April 17, 1863, at Torquay, Devonshire, England, at the age of 85.



CHAPTER FIVE

'Old Cat Hollow'

LAKEPORT IS THE OLDEST SETTLEMENT IN CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP. PRIOR TO SETTLEMENT, IT IS SAID that natives came to trade east of Keeler's Creek (now called Colborne Creek), and the spot was given the name Indian Landing. There was a trading post in what later became the dining room of the former McTavish homestead, located at the present-day corner where Ontario Street veers west and becomes Lakeport Road. Donald McTavish was a factor of the Hudson Bay Company and he established the trading post there about 1810.

Lakeport, which the Keelers and their fellow settlers named the Port of Cramahe or Cramahe Harbour, grew into a bustling commercial centre with a saw mill, flour mill, carding and woollen mill, oil well and distillery. As well there were three wharfs — the Keeler, Cole and Campbell wharfs, from which goods — especially lumber — were shipped, mainly to markets in the United States. The busy centre was a far cry from the quiet hamlet of today.

As the village of Colborne rose to prominence as the seat of Cramahe Township, Lakeport

came to be called Colborne Harbour. And for some reason that no one seems able to pin down, it has always been known colloquially as "Cat Hollow."

Since it dealt in international trade, Lakeport had its own customs house located on Ontario Street, at the corner near the lake where it veers eastward from its north-south route. The last customs officer's name was Harry Chapin, noted Delbert Peebles in the transcript of an address he once gave to the Northumberland County Historical Society. Chapin's brother-in-law, John Dougherty, was the last harbour master, he adds. There was a grain elevator to the west side of Victoria Street.

During the heyday of Old Cat Hollow, about 42 captains sailed regularly in their ships from this busy port-of-call. When the men (and a few women, mainly cooks) took to the waves, other women and children were left to keep the home fires burning, tending the garden plots, raising geese, or working at the comb factory, owned by a man named Dewey, located at 118 Lakeport



Lakeport Road, formerly known as Factory Road, looking east. The cemetery is on the left, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on the right.

Photo courtesy of Chris Campbell





Road, on the present site of Anamet Canada Inc., also the former site of a large produce-canning factory.

Lakeport, apparently, was famous for its geese, but it was to another kind of bird that many Lakeport sailors owed the safety of their boats and their skins. Lakeport did not offer a snug enough harbour for the boats to shelter in, during a bad storm. Most would "lay to" in Brighton or Cobourg, during heavy weather or for winter mooring. The sailors' unfailing barometer, according to the late Jim Coyle, were the peacocks "which strutted over the lawns of the McTavish homestead." These birds seemed extra sensitive to coming bad weather and would "scream bloody hell by day or by night, forewarning sailors of a coming storm." Then the boats could be moved in time to avoid being damaged by high winds and waves.

At one time there were four taverns in Lakeport, catering mainly to the sailors from home and visiting ports who worked up a thirst on their voyages. Grimes Tavern, later known as The Terrace, at the corner of Ontario and Front streets, was the last to remain. Outside the tavern was a giant, blue goose-egg-shaped boulder. The permanent challenge to all was: "Kin ye budget that stone, stranger? If ye bring it into the bar, your drinks is on the house. If ye can't, divil a drop do ye get until ye treat the boys." Later, Jim Coyle writes, the stone was used as the cornerstone of St. Peter's Anglican Church, Lakeport, which was opened in 1893, with Rev. George H. Webb as its first rector. The church was deconsecrated and subsequently demolished in 1968. The old tavern was torn down around 1930 by Captain Elmer Pettibone, says Arnold Pettibone.



Lakeport store: at the corner of Front Street, undated, but probably ca. 1900.

Photo courtesy of Chris Campbell



Down to the lake in ships: (back, from left) George Kirk, Harry Redfearn, Grant Redfearn, F. McGlennon, Walter Terry, Philip Mathews, Walter Kirk, William Hoskin. In front are: Capt. Rooney, Chas Redfearn, Capt. J. Peacock, Ralph Redfearn, unknown, Capt. Goddard, Gordon Terry. The little boy is thought to be Harry Redfearn.

Photo courtesy of M. Jean Kernaghan





The famous Grimes Tavern (also known as The Terrace) is on the left. In front are logs piled for shipping.

Photo courtesy of Chris Campbell



According to Delbert Peebles' records:

"The Lakeport flour mill was situated on the east side of Front Street....The last use for the building was a cooper shop for making barrels, operated by Fred and Charles Matthews....There was also a cooper shop farther north...on the east side of Front Street.

"The saw mill, woolen mill and plaster mill were north of the Factory Road, just east of the present canning factory (Anamet factory). Limestone for the Plaster Mill was taken from the quarries just south of the Factory Road, east of the creek. The limestone, used in building Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Colborne in 1830, was taken from this quarry, and also an old mill on the Campbell place, west of Colborne, was built of the same stone....

"...the first Post Office in this district was the stone house between Wicklow and Grafton on the western slope of Lockes Hill. The first church was...west of McGlennon (Point). (This was the Haldimand Baptist Church, built in 1798, which was moved in 1824 to the north side of Highway 2 in Wicklow and was destroyed by fire in 1986.)

"...the first schoolhouse was in the corner of Robert Moore's lot and the Moores' house was a tavern in stage coach days, or earlier....

"The men sailed and the women worked in the (aforementioned) canning factory which...operated from strawberry time until winter, when apples were

Front Street, Lakeport, with St. Peter's Church at centre.

Photo courtesy of Chris Campbell



DANCING WITH THE 'DEMON'



Liquid gold. That's what liquor was called by those who made fortunes — albeit in a perilous fashion — running booze across Lake Ontario during American Prohibition (1920–33). Demon rum. That's what it was called by its vocal opponents on both sides of the border. The shores of Cramahe Township, where the Keelers and their hardy band landed in 1793 seeking their fortunes, became a place of embarkation for those who would dance with the demon for a share in the solid gold to be made from smuggling liquid gold.

It was at McGlennon Point southwest of Colborne, just over Cramahe's boundary in Haldimand Township, on March 22, 1929, that one of the great, real-life dramas of the booze-smuggling era was played out. On that day, Aaron McGlennon, 24, was out walking his dog, Bluff, along the beach at the family farm when the collie began barking at something the young man could not see, under a tree. When he investigated, he made a grisly discovery: a human hand and some bones nearby. The hand was tattooed with a single word: "Rose."

The young farmer knew that lawmen on both sides of the border were looking for the notorious rum-runner, Ben Kerr of Hamilton, who had disappeared, along with his accomplice Alf Wheat, the previous month. There was a \$5,000 reward on Kerr's head, posted by the U. S. Coast Guard. In two books, *Booze Boats and Billions*, and *Whisky and Ice*, C.W. Hunt details the exploits of Canadian rum-runners like Kerr, Alf Wheat and Jack Morris Jr., as well as the later findings at Lakeport. McGlennon phoned the Ontario Provincial Police and the remains were temporarily stored in the family chicken coop. Unfortunately, no one had thought to warn his mother, and one may imagine Mrs. McGlennon's shock and horror when she stumbled upon them.

Alf Wheat's son, Leonard, was summoned to identify the remains; the hand tattooed "Rose," the name of the bootlegger's first wife. Meanwhile, Aaron McGlennon continued his walks along the beach — with a new purpose. A few days later, his vigil paid off as he spotted a water-swollen body floating in the water close to the shore. The action of water and ice had torn all the clothing off the body — except for one sock — and the face was unrecognizable. But the sock had been hand-knit for Ben Kerr by his mother, to keep her boy warm on those icy trips across the lake.

On Sunday, Feb. 24, 1929, after years of smuggling, Wheat and Kerr had set out from Presqu'île with a boatload of beer for thirsty Americans. Their boat, the *Pollywog*, did not return the following day as expected and Purtell Quick, of Quick Fisheries, Brighton, searched in vain from shore for sight of the boat. The Quicks were not involved with Kerr but had come into contact with him when Kerr purchased the piano from the former Presqu'île Hotel (run by Grant Quick) for use in his cottage. After a week, all hope of finding the missing bootleggers alive was abandoned, and a few weeks later their bodies, or what was left of them, washed up at McGlennon's Point. Aaron McGlennon, who found them, told author C. W. Hunt in 1995, "It was an awful shock. I had nightmares over it for a long time."

In 1994, two Colborne sport fishermen, Tim Rawn and Tom Nelson, spotted something glinting in the 10-foot-deep waters off McGlennon's Point. Diving down to explore they found the shiny, brass carburetors of a boat, two marine engines and various mechanical parts. It turned out to be the ruins of the *Pollywog*, her hull split down the middle. After 65 years, the finding of the wreck by Rawn and Nelson ended any speculation as to the final fate of these rum-runners.



processed....Skating in the winter was a favourite pastime with the younger generation and the marsh and pond provided ample room. There was also a mile race track — on the ice on the marsh where many a horse race was held. Dancing was a popular evening pastime and there was generally at least one house party every week.

“The population of the community was increased about 1850 by the arrival of a number of families from the Scottish Highlands....No doubt, from these Scottish people came (the impetus for) the (building of the) Presbyterian Church (which) was built on land set aside for church purposes by Joseph Keeler.”

Lakeport's Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's, was still standing at the time of writing but was no longer in use for regular services. The contract to build the church was let on Saturday, May 24, 1884, to contractor Arthur Elliott for the sum of \$1,225. It was completed and

dedicated on Sunday, December 28, 1884. The first elders, installed at a service on June 2, 1888, were Samuel Smith, Robt. Irvine and Thos. McEwen.

In those days, plentiful whitefish and lake trout were caught by men like John Bleakly, the Brown brothers, David Kernaghan, Asa Lapp, Moses Moore, Noble Palmer and James Stevenson, who took their boats out onto the waves and were rewarded with rich catches. The fish were cured, packed in salt and shipped out, mainly to the U.S.

Steamers stopped here on the regular run from Rochester, Brighton, Lakeport, Cobourg, Port Hope and back to Rochester with passengers and freight. And, less regularly, the

Argyle ran passengers to Toronto, the return fare for which was seventy-five cents, or fifty cents excursion rate. The freight-loaded schooners would bring in coal and go out again loaded with grain, lumber, or other cargoes. “It was indeed a beautiful sight to see these schooners sailing along before the breeze or coming in close to shore and out again on a long tack to take advantage of a headwind,” Mr. Peebles wrote.

Lakeport's shipyard, at the foot of Front Street, built and refitted schooners. The earliest was the *Trade Wind*, launched in 1853, according to Mr. Peebles' records. That ship burned at Kingston in 1910. The *Octavia*, owned by Joseph Keeler, MP, (“Little Joe”) and named for his wife, was begun in 1866 and finished in 1867. Mr. Peebles leaves us a story about the *Octavia*:

“In 1870 the *Octavia*, Capt. Jas. Dougherty in command, was unloading at Lakeport dock when a sudden squall broke her lines and drove her clear through



Shot taken from the Campbell Wharf at Lakeport, ca. 1900. The tall buildings on shore are grain elevators; the shorter ones are coal sheds. The customs house is visible behind the coal sheds.

Photo courtesy of Wilter Luedtke





the dock, landing up near the cedars to the west. There the undertow turned her around and she again headed for the wharf and went through again, this time putting her jib-boom through the freight shed on the end of the dock and (coming) out with a brand-new coal scuttle hung on the end.

"She landed on the east beach, but was towed off and back to the dock to finish unloading, then took on a cargo of cordwood for Toronto. There she loaded lumber for Oswego, where she went on drydock.

"The only damage was a piece of plank off the dock at Lakeport lodged between her frames so tight it made it watertight and had to be cut out to repair the hold in the boat.

"When they built vessels in Cat Hollow, they built them — white oak frames and maple bottoms."

The "pride of Cat Hollow" was the twin-masted *Paragon*, which was remodelled into the three-masted *Keewatin* in 1889, for Archie Campbell. The *Keewatin* sank in the Gulf of Mexico during a hurricane in 1917. Many Lakeport ships saw salt-water action during the First World War. Some of the great sailing dynasties of Lakeport included the Taylors, Shaws, Hendersons, Kirks, Redfearns, Keiths, Matthews, McGlennons, Hoskins, Padgintons, Smiths, Seeds, Cuthberts, Browns, McMurrays, Peebles, Conroys, Scotts, Kernaghans, Connachers, Peacocks, Haynes, Hights, and others. But if ships were the backbone of Lakeport, they were also, occasionally, the heartbreak of the little community.

A record left to us by Jim Coyle records the memories of the late W.W.D. McGlennon, who ran an insurance business in Colborne which still bears his name and is run by his descendants at the time of writing. Mr. McGlennon said:

"In 1880 our family lived on the point at McGlennon's Cove between Lakeport and Grafton. They resided there for many years, but no storm such as the great gale of 1880 had ever been experienced.

"My father, on arrival home on Saturday evening, November 6th, 1880, went about his usual chores. He found the cattle in a wild state of excitement as though they sensed something unusual. They were finally stabled and the work done up. It was a wet night and very dark, but the weather was warm.

"The family retired as usual and at one o'clock on Sunday morning, the gale really broke, the wind coming down the lake from the west with hurricane force....

"My father, thinking of the stock, attempted to go to the barn, but found it next to impossible. While outside he looked out over the lake and saw lights of a vessel. He watched through the trees, and as they rose and fell in the tremendous seas



Store at Front St. and Factory (Lakeport) Road. The sign reads, "G. Southon and Sons, General Merchants, established 1882."

Photo courtesy of Barbara Johnston





running, he could see she was travelling east and not far off shore. A number of Cat Hollow relatives were then on the lakes...but they were schooner men, and these lights were without doubt those of a steamer.

"It was felt this was the propeller *Zealand*, in her last struggle to keep afloat, and...she undoubtedly sank somewhere off Lakeport."

The great tragedy of Lakeport was the sinking of the schooner, *Blanche*, with all local hands, on the night of May 28, 1888. She was bound from Oswego with a load of coal for the Brighton lace factory. Accounts vary, with some insisting it was a bright, clear, moonlit night, and others saying a sudden storm blew up before she reached Presqu'île. Somewhere near home waters, the *Blanche*, under Captain John Henderson, 25, passed the outward-bound *Fleetwing*, another local ship under the command of Thomas Matthews. *Fleetwing* mate Jimmy Henderson, twin of John Henderson, hailed his brother across the waves: "Get ready for something hot, like we're doing."

But Capt. Henderson called back, "I've a fair wind and I'll have to make hay while the moon shines." A cloud darkened the scene, a sudden squall bore the *Fleetwing* on her way, and that was the last time Jimmy Henderson heard the voice of his twin.

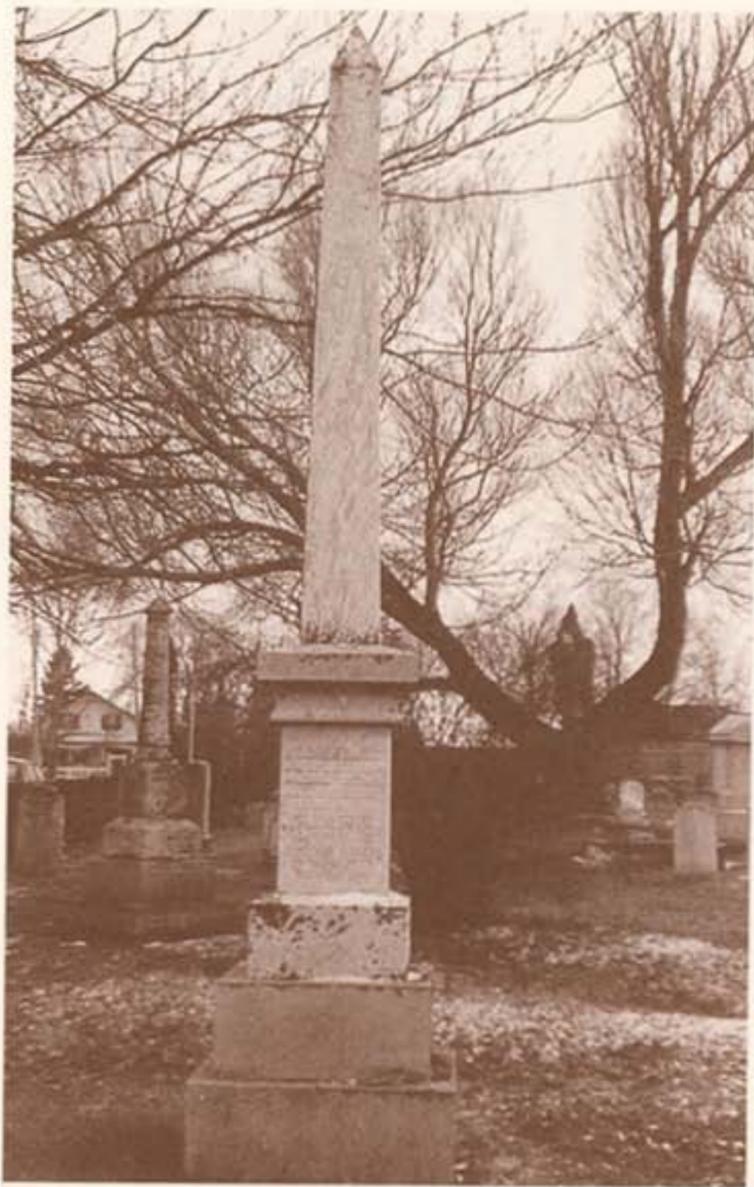
As if the tale of the *Blanche* were not sad enough, the body of John Henderson eventually washed ashore at Lakeport, identifiable only by the socks his mother had knitted for him the previous winter. Remarkably, the yawl boat of the schooner was found far away, at Cape Vincent, New York. No trace was found of the other casualties of the *Blanche*: William Seed, mate; Anne Smith, cook, and Will Haynes, sailor, all of Lakeport.

The monument to those lost aboard the *Blanche* stands just inside the entrance to the Lakeport Cemetery. It was restored and rededicated in 1978, ninety years after the tragedy, through the efforts of a committed group of local citizens led by Jim Coyle, Mac Pettibone, Terry Pettibone and Irvine Post.

Despite the shipwrecks and storms, Lakeport remained a place of happy memory to most who lived there. An anonymous scribe has left his impressions in the form of a poem.

Old Cat Hollow

Take me back to Old Cat Hollow, where I spent my boyhood days,
Where the bright sun gilded everything that met my childish gaze;
There on the hill so nobly, stood one of knowledge's springs
Where we got an education by the rod's persuasive ring.



Memorial to those lost on the schooner, *Blanche*, in Lakeport Cemetery.

Photo by Eileen Argris





Take me back to Old Cat Hollow — let me see the old school crowd,
Where old Johnson spoke in whispers, but the whispers they were loud,
And where Peterson and Carswell and Wilson and McHale
Taught the children new ideas when the old were growing stale.

Old Grimes, he kept the tavern on the corner next the lake,
Where the boys used to gather, and proceed to irrigate.
There Bill would do the fighting stunts dug up for him by Nick
For it was a very husky man the brothers couldn't lick.

O, those were very happy days, those days so far away,
When, to us boys, it seemed, the world was only meant for play;
O, the swimming and the skating, how our pulses they would thrill
When Joe Keeler ran the navy and old Niles he ran the mill.

All the old familiar figures to my memory come and go
As remembrance traces backwards, to the days of log ago;
There comes even Aunt Rose, whose cares would never cease
If she lost sight of the gander that led away her flock of geese.

You can tell the generation now that Lakeport habitate,
That they missed an awful lot of fun by simply coming late.
They may can a few tomatoes, but that is very slow
To the business that was done when Dewey ran the show.

Take me back to Old Cat Hollow, if I thought that I could find
All the faces and the places as I see them in my mind;
Take me back to Old Cat Hollow, when Life's Lesson I have read
But you need not hurry matters, take me back when I am dead.

These last two verses were added by the late Harold Batty, an "old boy" of Cat Hollow:

Times have changed wonderfully down at this well-known spot
And the people who live there now have but one thought at heart;
Just trying to remember when Campbell owned the elevator and the dock
And when Sproule traded his flour mill for an old sand lot.

We would like to mention all the names, but we find we haven't space,
But the Hendersons, Redfearns, Matthews and Shaws were all a sailor race
The others tilled the land and did the best they could
And we can't forget Cat Hollow, the best place that ever stood.





ENID ROGERS

AND THE CAMPBELLS, McTAVISHES, ROGERS OF BELLEVUE

At one time, the corner southwest of Colborne where Ontario Street turns into Lakeport Road, there stood a stately home called Bellevue. From its vantage on the crest of a hill, it allowed its fortunate inhabitants to survey the lakeshore to the south and the once-bustling wharves of the former Port of Cramahe. The well-named manor house did indeed offer a *belle* (beautiful) view. Some sources claim the home was built on the site of an early native trading post. Donald McTavish was a factor of the Hudson Bay Company and some sources claim he established the trading post there about 1810. In 1820 it was purchased by one Donald Campbell and in 1828 it became the home of Campbell and his bride, Maria McTavish, nee Maria Simpson, daughter of Sir George Simpson, the onetime governor of the Hudson Bay Company, famously known as "the little emperor." Both the Campbells and the McTavishes were early settlers in Northumberland County; one Archibald Campbell built one of the great wharfs at Lakeport and David McGregor Rogers was one of the first settlers in the Township of Haldimand, and member of a family which had offered distinguished military service to the Crown.

Neither Bellevue nor the family that lived there for over a century, exist in our midst any longer. Bellevue was totally destroyed by a fire that ripped through the two-storied, pillared home in the early morning hours of September 18, 1949. The estate had been passed from Mr. and Mrs. Campbell to their daughter, Miss Emily McTavish, then to her brother, Archie Campbell of Winnipeg, who bequeathed it to his niece, Mrs. Arthur Rogers

(nee Edith McTavish) who, upon her death in 1947, left it to her youngest daughter, Miss Enid Rogers, the great-granddaughter of Maria McTavish Campbell.

Enid Rogers will be well remembered by many who read this volume at the time of its publication in the year 2000, although she died, aged 86, in 1990. She was born in Winnipeg, the youngest daughter of Robert Arthur Rogers, owner of the Crescent Creamery which supplied dairy products to all parts of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta as well as British Columbia, at that time. Her mother, Edith McTavish Rogers, was the first woman to be elected as a member of the Manitoba legislature, a staunch Liberal who was never defeated in any election.

Though born in Winnipeg, Enid had passed many happy years in Bellevue as a teenager before she went travelling in her youth and saw the sights of Europe and Africa. At one time she operated a beauty salon in Capetown, South Africa, and visited the old white supremacist state of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). Although she was definitely born with a silver spoon in her mouth, as the expression goes, she also knew the meaning and the value of a hard day's work and, as things turned out, that training was to stand her in good stead.

At the outbreak of World War II in 1939, the 36-year-old Enid went to England to enlist in the Red Cross Ambulance Service as a driver. She worked as a FANY, a member of the Female Auxiliary Nursing Yeomanry and, during the Blitz, when Britain was being heavily bombed by the Nazis, she risked her own life to bring aid to victims. Remarkably, she escaped unscathed. She returned to Canada at her



Enid Rogers in 1955, with friend. Photo courtesy of Marian Carter

Life Stories



mother's request in 1946. Enid's father had died in 1930 and her mother continued her political involvements until 1939. In 1941, Edith McTavish Rogers moved back to this area upon the death of her uncle, Archibald Campbell, the owner of Bellevue. His will left the property to the family, but most of his nine-million-dollar estate went to charity. So it was that Enid came to live with her mother in Bellevue, where she had spent many happy times in her teens.

In the home were muskets, swords and duelling pistols, along with antique furniture and many other artifacts of historical value. Mrs. Rogers died in 1947 and two years later, Bellevue burned to the ground. All of its historical contents were destroyed and a newspaper account of the fire notes: "No amount of insurance could purchase the treasures lost." The only loss of life in the fire, however, was that of the family dog, "Mike."

The loss of her home, following so closely upon the death of her mother, must have dealt Enid a heavy blow. She wasted no time in self-pity but rather rolled up her sleeves and got to work. Initially, she lived in makeshift quarters, improvised for her by local carpenter Arnold Ives, from what was left of the driveway for the former estate. Ives also built the small frame home on the site of the former, much grander one, in which Enid lived, and in which she died. She changed the name of the property from Bellevue to Inverawe Farms and set about becoming a

raiser and breeder of champion Yorkshire hogs. Apparently she made quite a success of the venture as her nephew, Jim Lawson of Ottawa, told the *Colborne Chronicle* after her death.

"She and her pigs were written up in breeders' magazines all over North America."¹ She continued in that business until the 1960s.

All the years she lived in this area, Enid Rogers continued to be devoted to the causes of her family, especially to the Anglican Church, and to the Liberal party. She was a pillar of St. Peter's Church, Lakeport, until it was demolished in 1968; then she lent her considerable talents and energies to Trinity Church, Colborne, where for many years, she headed the Ladies' Aid that had been begun by her aunt, Emily McTavish. The priest who conducted her funeral, Rev. Arthur Riguro, noted that she had been among the first of his parishioners to invite him over for tea when he arrived in the parish in 1988. At that time, he said, she had frankly admitted to him that her primary motivation in doing so, was to afford herself the opportunity to "look him over; to see if he was suitable for the church."² He added that such frankness had marked all of her words and deeds.

Enid Rogers never married and left no descendants. But her family names — the McTavishes, Campbells and Rogers — are forever a part of the history of this place.



Bellevue once stood where Ontario Street bends into Lakeport Road. Photo courtesy of Chris Campbell

CHAPTER SIX

The Age of the Iron Horse

THE RAILWAYS WERE TO THE LATE 19th CENTURY, WHAT HIGHWAYS WERE TO THE LATE 20th century — the most convenient, fastest, most accessible means of rapid overland transportation. In nearby Cobourg, local subscribers backed a railway to Peterborough which was started in 1853, but the route was largely abandoned when the trestle bridge over Rice Lake washed away in 1861–62. In Port Hope, in 1853, construction was begun on the Port Hope-to-Beaverton line. In 1858, a branch line was added from Millbrook to Peterborough, connecting all the large settlements of that area. In 1860 this line became part of the Midland Railway connecting the Northumberland lakeshore with Georgian Bay. Brighton caught the railway fever, and in 1873 (with a major east-west line already in place) local ratepayers voted to grant “a bonus” toward the cost of a Presqu’ile and Belmont Railway. However this idea petered out. A later suggested Brighton-to-Norwood route also fizzled.

The Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, incorporated November 10, 1852, joined Sarnia and Toronto with Montreal and Portland, Maine, in the U.S., and ran through Levis (near Quebec City) to the New Brunswick border. On its way, it linked Brockville, Kingston, Belleville, Port



The old Grand Trunk Railway Station, Colborne, as a locomotive pulls in.

Postcard courtesy of Rosanne Quinn



Former Canadian Northern Railway Station, Colborne.
Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke

Hope and Toronto. As it passed through Northumberland County, the Grand Trunk would absorb some of the smaller railways, leasing tracks from the Midland group.

Cramahe Township was not left behind in this forward-looking era. Reeve R.M. Boucher called a public meeting in Colborne, then the township seat of Cramahe, on Dec. 15, 1855, "for the purpose of considering the various matters of great interest to the Township." One of these matters was the railway.

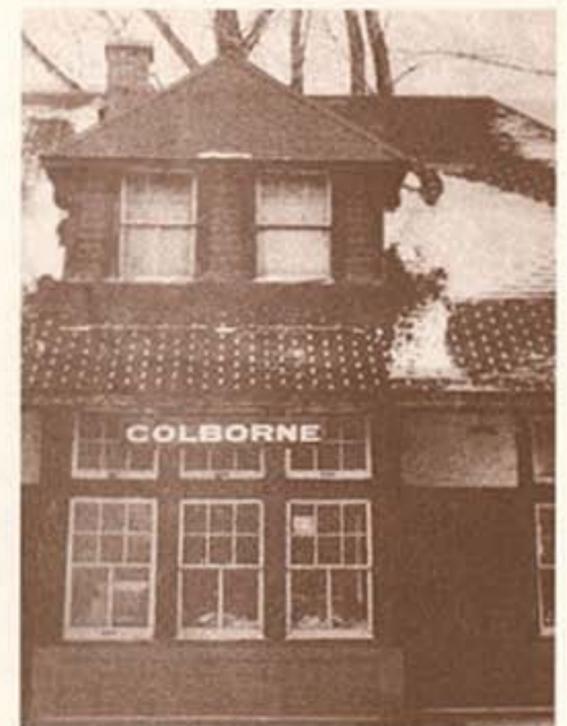
Motions passed during the course of the meeting (the minutes of which were later published in the community's first newspaper, the *Colborne Transcript*, (published by Joseph Keeler) noted, "That Colborne possesses natural, local and artificial advantages...and...for the general benefit of the Township, it is desirable that a committee...be appointed to confer with landowners, railroad company, and steamboat companies to secure permanent and reliable arrangements with them in all matters having any immediate connexion (sic) with the general prosperity of our own locality..."

The town fathers also noted that the "Percy gravel road" would make an excellent land-transport connection with the proposed railway station, and "...from our central position, being half way between Toronto and Kingston and so near the Lake, we view this place as the best locality for a general Railway station for the receipt and distribution of goods, passengers &c, for the country North of us and for shipment upon Lake Ontario..."¹

For a time, there were three railroad stations serving Colborne and Cramahe Township — the Grand Trunk (later Canadian National), the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern.

The first Grand Trunk Railway train went through Southern Ontario, including

Former Canadian Pacific Railway Station, Colborne.
Rephotographed from the *Colborne Chronicle*, 1979





The Canadian National Railway station, formerly Grand Trunk, in Colborne. Note the livery coaches at right, sent to pick up passengers from the trains and deliver them to local hotels.

Photo courtesy of M. Jean Kernaghan

a blue-grey colour, were salvaged and taken to the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto. The local Canadian Northern Railroad station appears in old photos, often with the initials CNR written on a corner. The station for the Canadian Northern, built circa 1911, was located near where the Colborne-Cramahe Centennial Community Centre (arena) now stands, south of the properties that front on King Street West. The built-up railroad bed that once supported the train tracks is still visible in that area. Canadian National Railways took over both the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk in 1923. In that year, Colborne's Canadian Northern station was closed and in 1933, brothers Russell and Ross Teal demolished the building and utilized the materials in the construction of a lumber mill in East Colborne.

The Canadian Pacific Railway came through Cramahe Township around the same time as the Canadian Northern. The station was located near the corner where Ontario Street becomes Lakeport Road, just south of the village. The Canadian Pacific station was taken down in 1979, after having been used as a private home for a number of years. But the Canadian Pacific tracks, along with the Canadian National set, continue to run through Colborne and Cramahe. In the late 1800s and first half of the 20th century, a lot of freight — mainly farm produce and tons and tons of apples — was shipped from Colborne. Now, not only the stations, but also the sidings, are gone.

Colborne and Cramahe, stopping here on October 27, 1856. The railroad had been granted a right-of-way through the township and also was granted the northeastern part of Lot 31, Con. 1 and the north half of Lot 15, Con. 1, a total of 12 acres of land. The station was located at the foot of Colborne's Division Street, south of Earl Street. A double track was added in 1902. The building became the Canadian National station in 1923. Albert Dance of Colborne was the last station master and telegraph operator from 1931 until he retired in 1965. The station was closed in 1968. A few years afterward CN employees gutted the building and John Jouvstra Sr. of Colborne was hired to demolish the two-foot-thick brick shell in 1972. The soft yellow bricks, which he said were covered in a plaster or smooth stucco and painted

a blue-grey colour, were salvaged and taken to the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto.



The first car in Colborne, 1904, even rated a write-up in a newspaper of the day. It belonged to Harry Coyle, front left. Also in photo are: James Coyle, Sr., holding his daughter, Gladys (later Mrs. Gerald Fox). The people in the back are unknown. The car is in front of the Windsor House, which was owned at that time by James Coyle. The car was purchased, even though the Coyles owned a livery stable, to transport passengers from the Grand Trunk train station to the hotel.

Photo courtesy of Lola Fox





GRACE PEEBLES RUTHERFORD

'AMAZING GRACE'

There are the teachers who cover the curriculum and manage to impart some knowledge into the restless brains of the young; then there are the teachers who don't. But, once in a while, there is a teacher who not only covers the course of study, but makes a life-long impression on her students, changing not only what they think, but the way they think. Such a teacher — such a person — was Grace Peebles Rutherford.

She was born in Lakeport, the youngest of five children of George Peebles and his wife, Annie Kernaghan, on July 15, 1891. Looking back from 1999, Grace's daughter, Mary Kellogg, recalled that her grandfather, George Peebles, was a fun-loving man, but Grandmother Peebles "never forgot she was a Kernaghan and never forgot she was a lady." Grace's mother had all her five children before she was 30 years of age and she took seriously her duty to keep the whole family "in line."

Grace grew up and went to elementary school in Lakeport, part of this busy, active, family. And she inherited what her daughter calls, "the twinkle" in George Peebles' eye. She loved to skate and ride horses and do all kinds of active things that her proper mother considered "quite risqué for a girl." To the end of her life, Grace remembered how she had loved to spend time with her "Aunt Mary" (Kernaghan) who lived at 11 Percy Street, at the corner of Norton Lane, in Colborne. At the turn of the century, Colborne was the big town in this area,

and all the action of the area was centered there. Grace would later say that she loved to stay with her Aunt Mary because, "Aunt Mary never asked you where you were going, or when you would be home, she just said, 'Have a good time!'" And that was something Grace always knew how to do. She may have had many occasions to stay with Aunt Mary, since she went to high school in Colborne, at the old continuation school on the corner of King Street East and Kensington Street.

Looking back from the vantage point of her eighth decade, she loved to tell how she had appeared one night on the stage of the Victoria Opera House, in Colborne, dressed in her best, ready to perform. As she stood behind the curtain, waiting for it to rise, unbeknownst to her, the hem at the front of her frilly dress caught on the roller-type curtain, and as it was raised, so was her skirt — right up over her head, exposing her underclothing to the whole town.

Was the 16-year-old embarrassed? "I don't remember, I was laughing so hard," she said.

Grace completed Grade 12 in Colborne and then went to Normal School in Peterborough. Her first school was in Wicklow, in a building that later became an apple-storage plant. One of her former pupils, Arnold Warren of Colborne, wrote in the *Colborne Chronicle* of Oct. 24,

1984: "...there is a story about the day (Grace) took charge (of the Wicklow school).

"Things had not been going well at the school. Some of



Grace Peebles wed MacKenzie (Mac) Rutherford in 1924.

Photo courtesy of Mary Kellogg



the pupils — and I am thinking mostly of the boys — had been in the Senior IV (Grade 8) class for two or three years — big, strong farm boys. The year Grace took over, they had chased out three teachers before the end of September. The first morning Grace called the class to order, sat down at her desk and proceeded to read a lesson from the Bible. She had just nicely got started when a boy in one of the front seats turned around and slugged the boy behind him.

"Grace closed the Bible, got up, walked around her desk, yanked the boy out of his seat, tripped him flat on his back, stood astride him, grabbed him by the shoulders and banged his head vigorously on the floor several times. She had no more trouble.

"Incidentally, education took place. The pupils passed.... (Y)ou say...she ruled by fear. Nonsense! She ruled by winning respect as all great leaders must. And such respect cannot be demanded, it must be won."

In 1917, Grace decided to go to university in Toronto, but she missed her year because she failed Greek. Never one to be daunted long, she returned to Colborne and became principal of the elementary portion of the continuation school in Colborne, one of the first women — if not the very first — to be a public school principal in Ontario. Arnold Warren, looking back on his school years, recalled that he and his contemporaries could refer to Miss Peebles as "Miss Peebles or Old Eagle Eye, but never, never 'Grace'." He wrote:

"Miss Peebles was a fine figure of young womanhood. I say this with hindsight and from the judgment of mature years. She radiated the splendid vigour of perfect health. She had flaming red hair and wonderful eyes. They could be, and often were, very serious; they could sparkle with infectious good humour and, on occasion, flash fire. (Hence, Old Eagle Eye.) As soon as she had her school under firm control — and it did not take long — the infectious good humour mood predominated....

"...One of (Grace's) rules was that we did not step outside the school yard during school hours. I am thinking of a day early in November, 1918 — a few days before the 11th (when the First World War officially ended) — when there were rumours of an armistice which proved to be false. We heard about the rumours at the school and, during the morning recess, we were out at the front of the school yard looking up (west) toward the village and cheering like mad — with one foot on the sidewalk. One foot. No one had two

feet on the sidewalk. We respected our principal and her rules."

Another of her former pupils, Tom Goulding, late of the village of Colborne, in his senior years recalled the day he, as a student, was sent through the village in search of "white lamp black." He went to a number of merchants in the town, telling them Miss Peebles had sent him for white lamp black, before realizing, by the laughter in their eyes, that "Old Eagle Eye" was playing another of her famous jokes. Lamp black, of course, as the name suggests, was only available in black.

Repeating her success in Wicklow, Grace Peebles brooked no nonsense in the school she took over in Colborne. Arnold Warren has penned:

"It was not — it is not — easy for anyone, particularly a young woman, to bring a four-room, eight-grade school under firm control, especially when her predecessor, an older man, had failed to (do so). She took over in mid-term with a serious discipline problem and a prediction from the high school principal — the high school shared the same building at that time — that no one in the Senior IV would pass the high school entrance examinations that year.

"Grace handled the discipline problem with unrelenting, but fair-minded firmness. And she persuaded the senior class to come in at 8:30 A.M. and stay until 4:30 P.M. with the promise that, if they did, everybody would pass.

"Everybody did pass, a few with honours, and this...was in the days when high school entrance candidates had to present themselves at the high school, in their best clothes, to try 'departmental' examinations"

Grace might well have remained "Miss Peebles," continuing to build on her extraordinary early successes as a teacher. However, such was not to be. Arnold Warren recorded:

"Grace had a good voice. She would lead us daily in singing and sometimes she sang to us. One of our favourites was...a ballad about a young man wooing a maid...She rejected his suit scornfully, saying that she would be his 'when apples grew on the lilac tree.' However...the maid changed her mind...in the course of several verses... and...one fine morning the young man did see her 'tying apples on the lilac tree.' I can remember, even yet, Grace's eyes dancing with merriment as she sang it.

"I am sure that Grace never had need to 'tie apples on



the lilac tree.' I remember knocks at the classroom door. A handsome young man would be waiting outside — Mac Rutherford. Grace would go out to meet him. When she returned, her cheeks would be rosy."

Mac, short for MacKenzie, Rutherford was one of the numerous Rutherford clan of Linlithgow, the farming neighbourhood that perched on the border between Haldimand and Cramahe Townships, west of Percy Street, along what is now called Telephone Road. Mac had fought in World War I and had received a serious wound for which he was hospitalized overseas for a year. However, his daughter, Mary Kellogg, recalls that her father "never got a war pension (for the permanent disability). Instead, he got a new pair of (specially made) boots every year."

Mac had been in Vancouver working as an insurance salesman, when The Great War broke out in 1914. He enlisted immediately. After the war, with his foot injury, he felt unable to return to Vancouver and pound the city pavement day by day, so he returned to the old neighbourhood, managed to catch the "Eagle Eye" of Grace Peebles, and the pair were married in 1924. She left her teaching career and they bought a farm on the north side of County Road 2, near Thomas Road, where they raised a family of four: Mary (Mrs. Clare Kellogg); Donald; Margaret (Mrs. Bob Fleming), and Malcolm.

While raising her own family and helping run the farm, Grace still did some supply teaching in Colborne and Wicklow and she became, in the words of her daughter "a community activist," taking active part in the Women's Institute and the United Church.

Having four youngsters to support, Mac Rutherford took over as clerk-treasurer of the Township of Haldimand when his cousin, Charles Rutherford, VC, left that position in 1939 to become Postmaster of the Village of Colborne.

Although Grace had grown up in a staunch Presbyterian

family, which had always attended Old St. Andrew's in Colborne, Grace and Mac "went into union," as the phrase went, when the United Church was formed in 1925. Her daughter, Mary Kellogg, noted: "We were very lucky to have a wonderful minister, Rev. George Campbell (whose son, Mac Campbell, later managed the Colborne Public Utilities Commission for many years). Colborne was a great place to be in the 1930s," Mrs. Kellogg recalls.

Not just the 1930s offered excitement in Colborne, however. In 1951, the notorious Boyd Gang robbed the local bank while Mary Rutherford and her father, Mac, were waiting their turn for service. Three armed men, one of them the infamous Edwin Alonzo Boyd, entered the bank three minutes before closing time on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 27, ordering everyone to lie on the floor and demanding cash. According to an account from the *Belleville Intelligencer* of the following day: "Mackenzie Rutherford, 50,...was slugged with the butt of a gun as he attempted to run out in the street and turn in the alarm. Mr. Rutherford was lying in a pool of blood" when his daughter, in disregard of her orders to lie on the floor, jumped up and ran across the street to fetch a doctor for her injured father. She did, however, come back to the bank and resume her prone position on the floor. The newspaper account continues: "One of the gun-

men slugged manager R. J. S. Virgin and knocked him to his knees just before the trio fled. The gunman hit him when he was unable to open the vault locked by a time-lock mechanism. As Mr. Rutherford was falling to the floor, he remembers one of the gunmen saying, 'Sorry, mister, I had to hit you.'" A smiling Mac Rutherford is pictured in the paper next to the account, a bandage on his wounded head.

Grace was widowed when her beloved husband died in 1970; she moved to Colborne, where she remained active in the church and Women's Institute until she died, at age 93, on Sept. 30, 1984. She was laid to rest in Colborne Union Cemetery, her twinkling "eagle eyes" closed to this world.



Mac Rutherford sporting bandage after being slugged by a member of the infamous Boyd Gang during a bank robbery.

Photo courtesy of Mary Kellogg



CHAPTER SEVEN

The Houses the Keelers Built

WITHIN LIVING MEMORY, THE RUIN OF KELWOOD, THE KEELERS' "MANSION IN THE SUN," OVERLOOKED the village of Colborne and the rolling lands of Cramahe; it was for many years a favourite picnic spot for villagers and township residents. Even the ruins are gone at the time of writing, let alone the glorious mansion that once was.

Kelwood was built on the hill that the township's first settler, Joseph Keeler, climbed in 1789 to get an overview of the terrain. Based on what he saw from Kelwood, Keeler went back to

Vermont, rounded up the requisite 40 families to begin a settlement, and journeyed back here with them in 1793. "Old Joe," however, was dead and gone before Kelwood, the grand monument to his vision, was even begun.

Construction of Kelwood was started by the son of the first settler, Joseph Abbott Keeler, the founder of Colborne and Castleton, affectionately known as "Young Joe." He did not live to see it completed, but his son, Joseph Keeler, MP for Northumberland, known as "Little Joe," must surely have borne the family history close to his heart as he completed the labour of love and vision first seen by his grandfather, who came to these parts from Vermont as a United Empire Loyalist.

"Old Joe" died in Colborne in 1839. "Young Joe" began to build the Kelwood mansion in the early 1840s. However, since it took about 20 years to complete, he did not live to see the finished masterpiece, but died in 1855. It was "Little Joe" who would see the project through to completion and who would live there with his wife, Octavia, daughter, Anne, and son, Thomas.

Mabel Hetherington, late of East Colborne, left the following account of Kelwood, based on her own childhood memories:



Kelwood, the mansion of the Keelers, viewed from the east. The front entrance is at right of the picture.

Photo courtesy of Marian Carter





"Mr Joseph Keeler built the house on Kelwood Hill in the years 1840–1860 — as it took 20 years to build...at a cost of \$35,000 at that time.

"The basement was the full size of the house, the partitions were two feet thick and went right up to the attic, making (corresponding) rooms the same size (on each floor). Each room had a fireplace.

"The front door faced the north, out into a car port (or covered carriage-way). There was a hitching post to tie the horses to. Steps went up both sides to go into the round (actually, octagonal) hall which had six doors to enter each room. The ballroom fireplace held four-foot logs, (there was an oil-burning) chandelier in each room. The drawing room had an ebony piano, also round ebony table and other furniture. The fireplace was of black marble...the floors were (of) narrow, dark hardwood. The parlor was much the same, only with a green marble fireplace. The living room was (of) walnut; most of the interior was wood from his own trees as there is a large bush still on Kelwood Hill. The dining room had lighter-coloured floors, also the kitchen (which had) a lovely view of the lake as well as the woods.

"I must tell you, there were three boiling springs, also a pond that was used to skate on in winter. All the windows were very high and in order to hang curtains, it took a long step-ladder to reach the top.

"There were French windows upstairs as well as down....The ceiling (in the octagonal centre hall) was of very thick, coloured glass (also) the second-storey floor was of this glass and there was a skylight in the attic which gave light down to the first floor, the rooms (of which) were 15 feet high.

"There were hand paintings between each door, these were of different scenes. I remember a winter scene, the snow for background and tall and short green trees and, just in front of the green, was a large white rabbit standing erect, also a lovely deer and fawn. (There was) also a fall-coloured scene....On the open stairway (there was a painting of) a river flowing and on the bank a white horse standing on hind legs, a soldier riding with his helmet on, breastplate and also a sword. You never could forget the painting and (I) always wondered what made the horse so frightened. This work of art was done on the plaster walls of Kelwood by Rev. Dowling, the first Baptist minister of Colborne. The newel post at the foot of the stairs was hand-carved and took a month to make."¹

KELWOOD²



The everlasting hills of Kelwood seem to sleep,
Dreaming of glories long since past and gone
When Keeler built his mansion in the sun
And from its windows watched the sunlight creep
O'er Presqu'ile Point and up the quiet lake,
What wondrous dreams his fertile brain conceived,
What visions passed before his mental gaze,
We can but guess, but this we surely know,
Far as the sweep of blue Ontario,
O'er hill and valley, forest, stream and lake
Then making vows, that never could he keep
Like Kelwood's hills, he, too, fell fast asleep.

The nation grows but does not think or care
Who laid the cornerstone so firmly there."

— Jim Bell





Kelwood: Note the size of the people on the lawn in relation to the house, which had ceilings 15 feet high.

Photo courtesy of Marian Carter



On the third storey, according to local historian Delbert Peebles, was a ballroom and below all, were the wine cellars.

Local historian Walter Luedtke, former history teacher at East Northumberland Secondary School, elaborates further on Kelwood:

“In Kelwood’s heyday, the visitor’s buggy would enter the estate through a gate on Percy Street, proceed through the park and approach the mansion in a fine flourish from the west. The buggy would stop under a covered carriageway similar to one in the “White House” (on County Road 2) in Brighton. Then the visitor would mount a short flight of steps and enter.

“Passing through a small vestibule, he would enter the octagonal hall, the centre core of the building. The two-foot (thick) brick walls of that hall rose from the basement right to the attic. On the ground floor, tapered floorboards of alternating light and dark wood radiated from a centre plaque. A thick glass ceiling on the second floor level allowed the light from the skylight to pass through and to illuminate the hall.

“To the south of the building, the parlour’s eight-foot windows had a commanding view of the surrounding countryside. To fight the chill winds off the lake in winter, the parlour had an enormous fireplace of green marble.

“To the east, the drawing room was the most sumptuous room in the entire building. From its 15-foot ceiling a bronze chandelier cast its light over gilded ebony furniture and knick-knacks of Victorian taste. The centre of the room belonged to





a large ebony table with a marble top. (The ebony grand piano was here, as well.) Again, a black marble fireplace consumed four-foot logs.

"The dining room to the west had less of an undertaker's atmosphere. The room was panelled in walnut throughout and contained a regal dining room table. The kitchen that supplied it, was to the north, next to the entry. Here the cook and the maids were busy around a huge stove.

"Frescoes decorated the walls of the centre hallway and the staircase. Painted by the Reverend (J. T.) Dowling, Colborne's first Baptist minister, they showed autumn and winter scenes, animals and soldiers on horseback. Descending the stairway, one followed the course of a river flowing over rocks. The centre piece of that fresco was a soldier wearing helmet, armour and breastplate, mounted on a rearing horse.

"The servants lived in separate quarters in a wing to the west of the house. The ground floor held the stables and the carriage shed.

"From the house, walkways and bridle-paths led past venerable old trees into parklike woods. Walnut, maple and pine trees had been cut down to build the house, but there were plenty left. In a clearing, springs fed a large pond which was used for skating parties during the winter....

"Kelwood passed from the Keelers into the hands of the wealthy William McNeal. He was present in the house when disaster struck in the summer of 1911.

"Apparently, during a fierce thunderstorm, the house was struck by lightning and was set ablaze. According to local tradition, it was the carriageway that was hit and the fire quickly spread through the woodwork inside.

"By the merest coincidence, the fire was discovered by Dr. (James) Alyea, the Colborne veterinarian, who was driving with a companion down Percy Street near midnight. Dr. Alyea raced up the steep hill and roused Mr. McNeal and (a) Mr. and Mrs. Earl. The Earl children slept in the upper bedrooms and it proved impossible to bring them down the centre stairway. No ladder could be found to reach the upper windows and the rescuers had to improvise, tying two short ladders together with their handkerchiefs. By this device, the children reached safety.

"When morning came, the house was a scorched shell with only the massive walls jutting into the sky. The ruin became a favourite picnic spot and many a Colborner, who had never set foot in the house, had his picture taken in front of the ruin."

"What happened to the gaunt walls of (the ruined) Kelwood? The answer (can be) found in the following advertisement in the *Colborne Express* on September 8, 1919: 'Brick for Sale — good second-hand brick. Estimate 100,000 for building purposes. On Kelwood or it could be shipped to purchaser. (Signed) G. E. R. Wilson.'

"Kelwood's stately trees went the same way. Wilson also had for sale '200,000 square feet of about 60 per cent White Pine and Spruce. Others, Maple Ash, White Oak, Elm, Beech and Cedar. Level Plateau, no underbrush on Kelwood.'"³





However, when MP Joseph Keeler ("Little Joe") died in 1881, he did so in the belief that Kelwood would stand for all time as a memorial to the great vision of the Keelers who led in the establishment of villages, hamlets and farms in what had previously been virgin forest. To our present misfortune, it did not.

Other Keeler houses, however, still survive at the time of writing. The oldest of these is the Keeler Tavern or Keeler Inn on the northeast corner of King and Parliament streets, at this time a private home owned by Edward (Buck) and Melanie (Tass) Corbier. Although the Corbiers have made many changes in the 31 years they have owned the building, the original structure, as pictured in a sketch from around 1830, still stands, looking much the same. (See page 34.)

The Corbiers only know that the old inn was erected sometime prior to 1821, but because there was no land registry office at that time to keep track of documents and no building permits to be issued by a local authority, no one can be exactly sure when the old Keeler Inn was built.

Some reports say there was another Keeler inn or tavern which preceded this one, a wooden structure where the Simmons block stands today on the corner of King Street East and Maybee Lane in downtown Colborne. And this seems not only possible but quite likely. Although the writer can find no concrete information to confirm or deny this report, we do know that the Danforth Road between Kingston and York came through Cramahe Township in 1800, so there would have been need of an inn from that time onward.

The Keeler Inn in East Colborne was built under the watchful eye of the first settler, "Old

Joe" Keeler himself, and perhaps with a little of his own sweat thrown in. It is built in the Loyalist neo-classical style, with a Georgian symmetry that is pleasing to the eye and very functional, in terms of design. No long and graceful lawn precedes the house, for it had to be close to the road to serve its original function as a stage-coach stop at just about the exact mid-way point between York (Toronto) and Kingston, the major settlements of Upper Canada.

One can imagine the scene at the former Keeler Tavern at twilight on a winter's eve. The old Kingston Road built in 1816 was much narrower than County Road 2 today and, of course, unpaved. The horses would come clapping down the frozen trail. As they came in

sight of the tavern, the stable-hands and serving girls would go scurrying. The coachman's horn would sound and a cry would go up; "Keeler's Tavern!" Colborne, in those days, was known by that name, or was simply called "The Corners." The coach, or sleigh, would stop, disgorging its passengers and their baggage for the night. Possibly a good soup or stew would be brought in,



The Keeler Tavern today, a private home owned by the Corbier family.

Photo by Eileen Argyris





or a cold supper of bread and cheese would be offered. The adults would gather in the communal dining room for the evening's repast. Someone might favour the company with a song or two. The men (but most likely not the women) would go in for a tumbler of Keeler's best spirits — straight from his own distillery — to boost their own spirits after the long, cold ride. The women would feed and settle any children for the night. Often in these early Canadian inns there were only two large bedrooms, one for women and children and the other for men; not individual accommodations for each party, as today. Perhaps the closeness was welcome; it would create warmth. It would be early to bed, early to rise for horses, hostellers and travellers, for the next day would likely begin with the dawn. If they were travelling in any season but winter, these voyagers would likely have elected to brave the lake's waves and possible seasickness, rather than face the perils of travel by road.

Entering the old house today, looking at the painted wide-plank floors, one can imagine the high-buttoned boots that trod the planks in days of yore. Pine was to the pioneers what plywood is to us, today. And the modern fashion of stripping old pine floors and varnishing them, while attractive, is not original. Pine floors in any building of note, would always have been painted, as the floors are in the Corbier home.

Characteristic of the Loyalist design are the nine windows in the front of the house, five on the upper storey and four (plus the front door) on the lower. Mr. Corbier has recently replaced the front porch with one that replicates the original shown in an old watercolour sketch. The door's sidelights, which allow sun into the centre front hall and stairway, are flanked by wooden pilasters (flat, pillar-like ornaments) decorated with elliptical sunbursts, another characteristic Loyalist feature. Of the original twenty-one 12-over-12 paned windows, only two remained when the Corbiers bought the house in 1968. They have restored these and they are visible in the upper front storey of the house.

Although they have searched the house and grounds, the Corbiers have been unable to discover any remains of the kind of large, brick cooking fireplace one might expect in an old inn. It is possible that it existed within a back addition (or "tail") that has now been gone so long, that no trace, indeed, remains. However, it is also possible, as Mrs. Corbier points out, that there never was a large cooking fireplace and that any cooking or baking for the inn was done on some other premises, and mainly cold meals were served to travellers there.

In any case, there is a record, left by Phoebe Roberts, one of a group of Friends (Quakers) who passed through Upper Canada in 1821 on a missionary journey. She noted in her diary after stopping here, "At Joseph Keeler's Tavern in Cramahe, the innkeeper treated us kindly, free gratis."

In their own numerous building and gardening projects around the property, the Corbiers have uncovered the remains of the foundations of stables behind the house. At one time, a rear entrance graced the back facade of the second storey, possibly an entrance for servants who would use an exterior staircase, long vanished, to ascend to the door. It is a feature of many Victorian-era homes that staircases and other passageways for servants were positioned so as to be out of sight of the master's and mistress's family and guests. Under one of the boards in the upper storey, the Corbiers found a penny with the date 1820.





"Young Joe" (Joseph Abbott Keeler, 1788–1855) was probably the innkeeper of record at this site from the time it was opened. He is listed as one of the innkeepers (also a still-operator and shopkeeper) for the District of Newcastle in 1818.

According to the Archives of Ontario, the following licenses were issued for Jan. 6, 1818 through Jan. 5, 1819:

Cramahe

Innkeepers...Joseph A. Keeler, Thomas D. Sanford, Schyler Hodge, Jeremiah Wood.

Stills...Joseph A. Keeler

among the regulations for innkeepers in 1818 in the Newcastle District were the following:

"That no Innkeeper shall have less than Three decent Beds in his house for the accommodation of Travellers solely: provide a commodious yard and proper attendance at all times, particularly for Travellers' Horses, Baggage, &c.

"By Order of the Court

"D.M.G. Rogers

"Chs. Js. Jefrious"⁴

The former home of Joseph A. Keeler, founder of Colborne and Castleton, the home of Marian and the late Walter "Nick" Carter.

Photo by Eileen Argyris

The only home of the Keelers that survives in close-to-original state and is still being used for the purpose for which it was built, is the Keeler House, now owned by Mrs. W. A. (Marian) Carter, at 9 Church Street East.



The large, impressive home was the home of Joseph A. Keeler, founder of Colborne and Castleton, postmaster and merchant of the village, distiller, justice of the peace for the whole Newcastle District. It is built in the same style as Barnum House in Grafton (which is, at the present time, a pioneer museum on County Road 2) and was probably constructed by the same architect and carpenter, perhaps a little later than the 1820 date on Barnum House, but probably in the same era.

The house is in the neo-Classic style with pilasters on either side of the fanlighted front entrance, as well as on the two-storey centre portion of the front facade. Two single-storey wings,

each containing a single room with its own small verandah, flank the two-storey centre portion. The original first floor consisted of a hall and parlour in the central portion, a sitting room and library in the two wings on either side, a dining room and kitchen at the rear. Upstairs were three bedrooms and a hall. "Superb craftsmanship is evident in the carving over the door, on the





pilasters, cornices, mouldings, mantel and stairs and in every small detail of the interior trim.”⁵ The timber-framed home is clapboard clad with a flushboard facade.

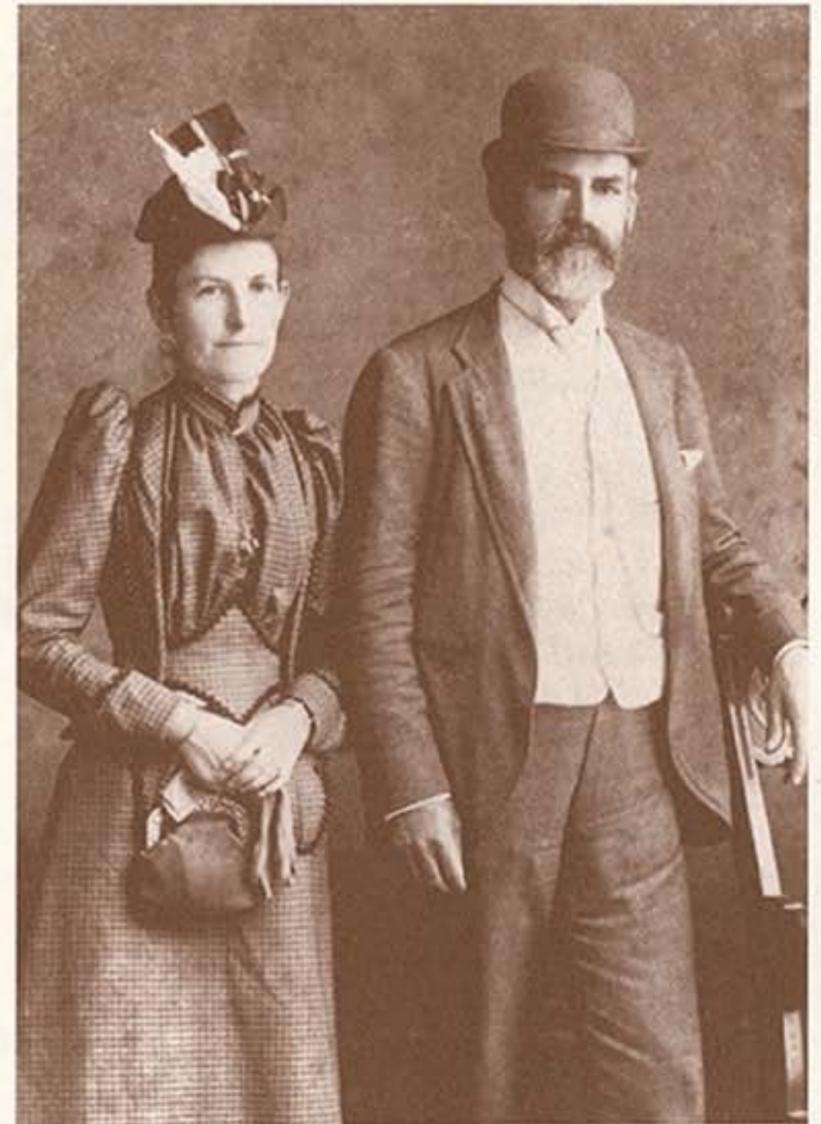
Unlike the Keeler Inn, the Keeler house presents the narrow side of its rectangular shape to the street. The pilasters on either side of the doorway are miniature replicas of those that seem (in a *trompe-l'oeil* — “fool-the-eye” — effect) to support the two-storey portion of the front facade. The doorway is not central, but off to the west side of the main facade and there are two windows on the lower level and three on the upper. Again, like with the Keeler house, we find the elliptical sunburst ornamentation in the woodwork.

Although the property was listed as part of a 200-acre Crown grant made to George Palmer in 1803, the Keelers purchased the property in 1812 and subdivided most of it, perhaps to encourage development in the then-budding village. In 1832, the house suffered some damage in a fire. It is a rare building that has survived as long as this one and has not had some experience of peril by fire, since open fires were used for heating and cooking for so much of its history. It is believed that the damage was confined to the “tail” of the house, a back addition containing a kitchen and woodshed. The present-day kitchen and family room at the back of the house were created from this dirt-floored addition.

It was in this home that “Old Joe,” the first settler died, in 1839 at age 77.

The house was “Victorianized” by owners between the time of the Keelers and the ownership of the Carters. The two-over-two sash windows were probably later additions, since Barnum House features older-style 12-over-12 sashes. Larger panes, however, were regarded as a sign of greater prosperity in the 19th century, and it may have been for this fashionable reason that the windows were changed. As well, the addition of porches on the wings, are an afterthought, not original to the Neo-classic design.

Eliza Gilchrist, a Keeler descendant, bought the house in 1854. After 1880, her stepson Jay Ketchum, a judge, lived there. Judge Ketchum’s wife, the former Margaret Jane Davidson, was related to two former rectors of Trinity Church, Colborne; Rev. Canon John Davidson (who, with his wife, Susanna, is buried on the front lawn of the church) was her father, and Rev. John Cheyne Davidson (incumbent 1888–1890), her brother. The Ketchums had five sons: John Davidson, Edward Jay, Philip Allan Cheyne, Hugh Ferrar and Kenneth George Benson. The house was sold from the Ketchum estate into the family of Robert Coyle, which retained ownership until the 1950s. In the 1960s, there were plans to turn it into a nursing home, but these never came to fruition. W. A. (Nick) and Marian Carter bought the house in 1968 and they kept it with loving and respectful care, as all may see who pass by.



Judge Jay Ketchum, right, with his wife, the former Margaret Jane Davidson, lived in Keeler house on Church Street East, and were also prior owners of the Mutton farm in Shiloh.

Photo courtesy of Pat and Tom Lawson





ROY, ELSIE, WINSTON AND ARGYLE PACKARD

THE PACKARDS WERE MADE OF STERN STUFF

When we say that someone saw a great deal of life, we often mean they are well travelled, or have been exposed to extraordinary sights and experiences. Elsie Mutton Packard of Cramahe Township lived a life that took in the Boer War, the coronations of Edward VII, George V, George VI and Elizabeth II, the abdication of Edward VIII, the First and Second World War, the Great Depression, the coming of the automobile, electricity, and indoor running water. Oh yes, and she also saw Halley's Comet — twice.

She was born Elsie May Mutton in Shiloh, on March 30, 1896, the first of nine children of George Mutton and the former Weltha (Wellie) Powell. She attended the one-room school house that still stands in Shiloh (now as a private home), worked on the farm and became famous throughout the countryside for her strength and daring. Her father used to boast that his Elsie could stand in a bushel measure (i.e. with her feet together) and hoist a 120-pound bag of wheat over her shoulder. She loved riding horses — fast, and bare-back — and won races in area fairs and horse shows. Yet she was always “a wee, tiny thing,” standing about five feet tall, weighing, as one of her daughters said, “98 pounds soaking wet.” Nor was she deficient in the gentle arts; she played the organ at Shiloh Methodist (later United) Church as a young woman, learned to cook and bake, and was very talented at sketching, particularly subjects such as farm animals, which she loved.

In 1910, at age 14, she watched Halley's Comet pass overhead from a hilltop in Shiloh, probably without suspecting that she would live to see it come again, in 1986. In 1918, at the end of World War I, she met the love of her life when a big, strong, handsome young man from the

neighbourhood, Roy Packard, came marching home from war. The story goes that Roy didn't pause to unlatch the gate at the front of his mother's house, but jumped the fence. In that moment Elsie, who had been working in a nearby field, lost her heart to the powerful, good-looking soldier-boy.

Roy was the son of Roy Packard Sr., and the former Elva Down. In 1916, at the age of 18, he had enlisted as a private in the 155th battalion and shipped out for England. A few weeks later the Ontario farm-boy was thrust into the midst of the horror of trench warfare in France. In August, 1917, he was wounded slightly and in September, 1918, during the final weeks of fighting, he was seriously wounded. He always maintained that a billfold he carried in his chest pocket, deflected the bullet that would otherwise have killed him. He did suffer a serious chest wound, however, and the bullet ricocheted out through his arm, damaging it also. On Oct. 9, 1918, just a few weeks before the Nov. 11 armistice, he was shipped to an English hospital, where he was still recuperating when the war ended. He came home the following summer, only to meet a warrior of another sort in the diminutive form of Elsie Mutton.

Elsie and Roy were married on March 24, 1920 by her uncle, Rev. Herbert Mutton, at Bayside. Afterward they farmed at Hilton, in Brighton Township, where their two sons, Argyle and Winston, were born. Later, the Packards travelled out west — to Unity, Saskatchewan, where the family

grew to include two daughters, Shirley May (later Mrs. Cecil Oliver) and Eunice (who became Mrs. George Blyth). Out west Elsie's proudest boast was that she would always have 30 pies baked ahead for the prairie harvesters. Although the wide-open spaces of Big Sky Country suited Elsie very well, Roy became homesick and the family moved back to Dundonald.



Roy Packard during World War II.

Photo courtesy of Eunice Blyth



Few families made greater sacrifices during World War II than the Packards did. Roy, who had already “done his bit” in World War I, enlisted again in 1940 in the Veterans Guard of Canada, and was not discharged until April, 1946. During that time he was stationed all over the country, far from home, and once had to make a trip to England, taking charge of some German prisoners of war. Having joined as a private, he was discharged as a sergeant.



Argyle (left) and Winston Packard during World War II. Photos courtesy of Eunice Blyth

Argyle Packard enlisted in the RCAF at Trenton on April 24, 1940, when he was only 19 years old. He was sent overseas almost immediately — in fact he didn’t even get the customary home leave before shipping out. He joined the No. 1 Fighter Squadron in England and was given the very dangerous job of digging out and disarming unexploded bombs that the Nazis dropped on England. He stayed with bomb disposal overseas for three years then, in 1943, was sent to New York, as a corporal and a bomb-disposal instructor. He was also stationed at Dartmouth and Moncton, in the Maritimes, performing the same teaching duties. After the war, he decided to make himself a career in the armed forces.

Winston, or “Dint” as he was known, was the Packards’ younger son; he was only 14 years old when World War II broke out in 1939. In 1943, at age 18, he followed his older brother into the RCAF, joining at Toronto, and by 1944, he was a Sergeant Air Gunner flying into enemy territory in the tail end of fighter planes. In all, he flew a remarkable 38 missions — remarkable in that tail-gunners were usually the first on the list of casualties in these engagements.

Meanwhile, back on the home front, Elsie was left with her girls to “keep the home fires burning.” The 98-pound farmer’s wife “worked in the fields like a man” her daughters recalled, as well as teaching Sunday school at Eden United Church in Dundonald, serving as Sunday school superintendent for a time, working hard with the United Church Women, and volunteering through the Legion in



Colborne, doing war relief work such as knitting for the soldiers and gathering scrap metal for the salvage effort. Few families in the community had seen all their their men — two sons and a husband — go off to war, but fortunately, in the Packards’ case, the absence was only temporary.

Elsie and Roy Packard continued to farm, retiring in 1967 and moving to Colborne. They celebrated their 60th wedding

anniversary, a joyful occasion, with about 200 friends and relatives on March 24, 1980. After remarking that it had been a “wonderful day,” Roy Packard lay down to rest and died peacefully. Mrs. Packard would also face the loss of her younger son, Winston, a farmer at Dundonald, who died in a traffic accident later the same year. But “she was a brick through it all,” her daughter, Eunice, would observe. “My mother is a very strong person.”

Elsie continued to live in Colborne, at Percy Manor, until 1988 when she moved to Streamway Villa at Cobourg. There she celebrated her 100th birthday in March, 1996. Her well-wishers — in addition to her three surviving children, 24 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren — included Northumberland MP Christine Stewart, MPP Doug Galt, and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

Elsie May Mutton Packard died February 9, 1997, in her 101st year.



Elsie Mutton Packard at her 100th birthday celebrations. Photo courtesy of Eunice Blyth

CHAPTER EIGHT

'Dear Old Golden Rule Days'

THE FIRST PROPER SCHOOL BUILDING IN CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP — ACCORDING TO THE COLBORNE Centennial Book — was a red frame building located “south of the market square” in Colborne. It reportedly was built in 1821. Some sources have located it in the road allowance that is now Division Street, but we have no surviving record of its exact location. However, other documents refer to a building in that location which served as the first meeting place for the Church of England (Anglican) congregation, and it is very likely, at that time, that the two uses would have been combined.

By all accounts, the whole district was very proud of the red schoolhouse, since paint was a scarce commodity. Prior to that, children received what education they could at home from parents, older siblings, neighbours, and life itself. Most likely, even after the schoolhouse in Colborne was built, many children throughout Cramahe Township continued to be schooled at home in the basic elements of the old three “R’s” — reading, ’riting and ’rithmetic. They would simply have been too far away — and perhaps too much needed at home — to attend classes in Colborne.

Although we do not know the name of the first teacher in Colborne’s first schoolhouse, history does record that, in 1850, Susan Burnham Greeley (1806–1904) — daughter of Aaron Greeley, the surveyor who laid out the townsite of Colborne — was the teacher.

Later, and still according to the Colborne Centennial Book, a “grammar school” was built in the village on the northeast corner of King Street East and Victoria Square, in the spot later occupied by the Standard Bank, then Griffis Drug Store and, at the time of writing, by Guardian Drugs. An account penned in 1919 by Colborne’s W. L. Payne, King’s Counsel, for the Colborne High School’s literary magazine, *Vox Nostrae Scholae*



Victoria Square, in the spot later occupied by the Standard Bank, then Griffis Drug Store and, at the time of writing, by Guardian Drugs. An account penned in 1919 by Colborne’s W. L. Payne, King’s Counsel, for the Colborne High School’s literary magazine, *Vox Nostrae Scholae*

Old Colborne School: Early sources say a red-painted school was erected in 1821 south of the Market Square. This photo is not that early, but could be the same school, ca. 1860. Unfortunately, the names of those in the picture are not available. Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke



(The Voice of Our School), states: "The first teacher in the Colborne County Grammar School, ...so far as I have been able to learn from all available information, was a Mr. Holt. I have not been able to learn his Christian name. He taught the school from the first of January, 1854, until the first of January, 1858....The second teacher was J. B. Dickson (or Dixon), who came to Colborne from Brighton, (perhaps by way of Salem) and he had charge of the school from the first of January, 1858, until the first of January, 1868, when he removed to Peterborough."

Mr. Dickson was apparently lured to Peterborough by the offer of a greater salary than the \$800 per year he had received during his last few years in Colborne.

Later, another building on Church Street (Mr. Payne does not specify east or west) was used as a school and, in 1858, a two-storey brick building was erected on the southwest corner of Kensington and King streets, the present site of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 187. According to Mr. Payne's history, Joseph Keeler, MP, was the contractor "and the school board borrowed the money to pay Mr. Keeler his contract price, ...the total amount raised for all school purposes from all sources being the sum of twelve hundred dollars, and two hundred and fifty of that was for a payment upon the building contract, leaving nine hundred and fifty dollars to pay the running expenses of the High and Public Schools (which were housed in the one building)." As the school population grew, a wing was added to the west side of this building in 1888.

By 1919, the Centennial Book notes that pupils were attending Colborne High School from Lakeport, Castleton, Vernonville, Smithfield, Wicklow, Shiloh and Edville (also known as Sharon). Mr. W. Bellamy, was headmaster Miss M. J. Hinds his assistant. The public school staff consisted of Principal Miss Grace Peebles (later Mrs. MacKenzie Rutherford, who was one of the first, if not the first, female school principal in Ontario), Miss Mary Kelly, Miss Isobel Mayhew and Miss Madge Donaghy. Elementary classes continued to be held in this building until 1956 when the current Colborne Public School was built on Alfred Street. (At that time the

Legion bought the older building and occupied it until it burned down in 1975.)

At all times in history, boys will be boys. Arnold Warren, a former pupil at the old school, wrote in the *Colborne Chronicle*, Wednesday, Oct. 24, 1984:

"One Hallowe'en (around 1919) the boys acquired a coffin, manhandled it to the roof of the outdoor privy behind the school, placed a portrait of their principal inside and closed the lid...The next morning, the high school principal came storming down to (Miss Peebles') room and demanded to know what she was going to do about it.

"'I'm not going to do anything about it,' she replied sweetly. 'It wasn't my portrait.'"



Grace Peebles (Rutherford) as a young teacher, ca. 1923.
Photo courtesy Mary Kellogg

Former Continuation School: This building, which later became home to the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 187, was the original Colborne High School and elementary school, all in one building at the corner of King and Kensington Streets. It was destroyed by fire in 1975.

Photo courtesy of D. McGlennon





Colborne High School in 1923: Now the municipal building in Colborne. Pictured in front of their school are: H. Coles, Cecil Peebles, Frank Foley, George Gummer, Charlie Henderson, Jay Post, Grace Dayman, Cora Mallory, Pearl Bellamy, Ethel Sheldrick, Christine Hubble, Thelma Davis, Evelyn Colton, Doris Ventress, Gladys Collins, Vera McCracken, George Clarey, Mamie Grosjean, Madeline Davis, Arnold Warren, George Clarey, Doug Drinkwalter, Katie Post, Yvonne Rice, Marg Purdy, Marion Purdy, Marj Dudley, Mabel Taylor, Helen Yeomans, Helen Mallory, Jean McDougall, Maxine McLaughlin, Bernard Hodgins, Ruth Mayhew, Dorothy Hodgins, Elva Bowen, Marj Davis, Margaret Aziz, Isobel Rose, Gertie Coffey, Velma Arkles, Marion Tait, Arnold Seed, Bill Davis, Kay Judd, Emma Grant, Esther McGlennon, Clara Nelson, Edna Finkle, Blanche Turpin, Marion Tait, Mary Foley, Helen McKim, Willett McCracken, Lola Goheen, Grace Phillips, Eva Murphy, Eleanor Grant, Joe Reid, Doug Mayhew, Bill Hoskin, Clare Wilson, and others unidentified. The scholars' names were recorded by the late Tom Goulding, who appears in the photo seated in the front row, fourth from the right.

Photo courtesy of Arnold Warren

The school at King and Kensington ceased to be used for Grades 9 through 13, when Colborne High School (later the village municipal building, on Toronto Street at the corner of King Street West) was built in 1922. George Kennedy was the first principal of the high school; the well-loved William R. Baxter, B.A., took up the position in 1938 and remained in the post until the school was closed in 1962. In its heyday, Colborne High School averaged a population of 115–120 pupils. A staff of five taught them English, French, Latin, history and geography, math and sciences. The school boasted a fine Cadet Corps and bugle band which marched in the

annual Remembrance Day observances, the boys wearing khaki uniforms, army boots and puttees, the girls in navy skirts and white blouses. The corps held annual "inspections" to which the general public was invited, and a number of the better and more enthusiastic cadets went on to successful military careers. Although it did not have extensive grounds nor any gymnasium, Colborne High School's students were well represented in interschool athletic competitions and team sports. The embodiment of the spirit of the school, former pupils and teachers agree, was its last principal. Mr. Baxter taught all the science classes in the high school and Norm O'Neill, who taught math at the school from 1956, recalls that Mr. Baxter was "a good teacher of teachers, as well as of students." Former

S. S. 22, Castleton, circa 1912. Teacher is Miss Grace Wynn.

Photo courtesy of Roseanne Quinn





Colborne reeve Walter Rutherford recalls that, when he was in Grade 13, it was his principal's perseverance that drove him and his classmates not only to pass their final exams, but to excel at them. The educator came in gladly after hours to work with the students, drilling them in the material they would need to master to pass the dreaded "departmental exams." Although he was revered, Mr. Baxter was unquestionably an authority figure. Norm O'Neill admits, "I never thought of calling him 'Bill' in my whole life. I called him W.R."

Mr. Baxter once wrote that there was "no place in this new world for complacency, illiteracy, ignorance, fears or superstitions. These, for centuries, have been the chief obstacles to man's progress." These are words he seems to have lived by, and imparted to his family, as well as to his students. His son, Donald Baxter, M.D., was named an officer of the Order of Canada in 1995, for his contributions in the field of health care.

After the high school was closed, the pupils were bused to East Northumberland Secondary School in Brighton. Many who remember the years when Colborne High School was a living and vital institution say a great light went out in the village when its best and brightest young people had to leave town for their education.

Students north of Castleton, and some from the hamlet itself, completed their high school education in Warkworth. One of their number was the late J.C. (Clarence) McKague, (1908-1998), who would serve his community as a teacher, school board trustee from 1969-76, member of the Cramahe Township roads committee for over 40 years, Sunday School teacher for over 35 years at Cramahe Baptist Church, local citizen of note, and something of an authority on local history, especially as it pertained to education.

Mr. McKague explained in "The History of Cramahe Township," published in 1988 by the township, that during the 19th century, the township was divided into 26 school sections (abbreviated S. S.) of about 1,700 acres each, situated so that children living in each should have no more than two miles to walk to school. School sections 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 19 and 25 never got schools, presumably because the populations of those sections did not warrant one. However, schools were built in the others, as follows:



Mr. W. R. Baxter, aged 81, at Colborne High School Reunion in 1982.

Photo courtesy
Norm and Kathy O'Neill

Union School in 2000.

Photo by Eileen Argyris



Purdy's School in 2000.

Photo by Eileen Argyris





- ~ S. S. 2, 3, Union School (the building still exists at the corner of County Road 2 and Union Road and now serves as the Centre for Individual Studies, the only one of all these former schools that still serves an educational purpose) at Con. 1, Lot 11;
- ~ S. S. 4, Salem School, now a residence at 13922 County Road 2, Con. 2, Lot 21;
- ~ S. S. 9, Edville (also called Sharon and Little Lake School) now a residence at 14281 Telephone Road, Con. 3, Lot 17;
- ~ S. S. 10 Purdy's School also called Pine Grove, now a residence at 256 Purdy Road, Con. 3, Lot 31;
- ~ S. S. 13, Dundonald School, now a residence at 13979 County Road 21 or Dundonald Road, Con. 4, Lot 20;
- ~ S. S. 14, Black's School, now a residence at 106 Pipeline Road, Con. 6, Lot 35;
- ~ S. S. 16, Morganston Union School, now a residence at 399 County Road 27 or Morganston Rd., at Con. 8, Lot 13;
- ~ S. S. 17 Mount Pleasant School at 1025 Mount Pleasant Road, Con. 8, Lot 25;
- ~ S. S. 18, Pine Grove School, foundation only remaining at the corner of Pine Grove and Darling Roads, north of residence at 590 Pine Grove Road, fronting on Darling Road in Con. 10, Lot 11;
- ~ S. S. 20, Rutherford's School, now a residence at 13170 Dundonald Road, Con. 5, Lot 29;
- ~ S. S. 21, Shiloh School, now a residence at 541 Penryn Road, Con. 5, Lot 16;
- ~ S. S. 22, Castleton School, now a residence at 157 Norway Street, Con. 7, Lot 32;
- ~ S. S. 23, Bush's School (burned) at unnumbered location, corner of Jones and Barlow Roads, Con. 6, Lot 25;
- ~ S. S. 24, Red Cloud School (burned, foundation only remains) at unnumbered location on Red Cloud Road, off Dawson Road, at Con. 10, Lot 31;
- ~ S. S. 26, Pine Woods School, now a residence at the southeast corner of Pinewoods School Road and Tobacco Road at Con. 7, Lot 19.

Stone School at
Shiloh in 2000.
Photo by Eileen Argyris



Mount Pleasant
School in 2000.
Photo by Eileen Argyris





It will be noted that there are two schools called "Pine Grove," and one named "Pine Woods," most likely because they were built primarily of, and among, pine trees.

Local school boards for each school section (three trustees, each elected for three years) were responsible for covering teachers' salaries, cleaning the school, supplying firewood and insuring the buildings against fire or other damage. School boards usually met once a year, traditionally on the "Wednesday between Christmas and New Year's," according to Mr. McKague's research. He adds wryly that "a lot of dirty linen" was washed at these meetings.

The McKagues farmed in the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood. Young Clarence had a number of popular qualities for a teacher, including a great talent and love for playing horseshoes and softball. During his own school days, at Mount Pleasant School, his fellow students recalled that he made his own catcher's mitt and was most competent at stitching up the softball, when its cover came apart. Afterward, at the high school in Warkworth, rumour has it that he and a pal would contrive to be excused from class at the same time, so they could sneak in a little game at the windowless side of the school, where they would not be observed.

But he was also a serious scholar and was to prove a lifelong learner. After high school, Clarence attended Normal School at Peterborough with one Helen Runnels of Dartford, who had also been his classmate at Warkworth High School and whom he later married. After graduation, in 1927, he took on the Red Cloud School at Lot 31, Con. 10, where, it was said, he followed a teacher who ended up in a mental institution. Helen began teaching at another Cramahe Township School, S. S. 18 Pine Grove. Clarence and Helen McKague were much respected members of the Castleton community. Mrs. McKague died in 1984 and Mr. McKague in 1998.

Clarence McKague also taught at Castleton Continuation School, at his old *alma mater*, Warkworth High School, and he concluded his teaching career instructing classes in industrial arts and history at East Northumberland Secondary School in Brighton, retiring in 1966. From his research and recollections and those of Morris Tait, another local educator, we have an account of schools in the Castleton area.

The first school we know about in Castleton, a frame one, was built around 1840 and was located on Spring Street, where the cenotaph now stands. Later, in 1870, a two-room, grey-brick building was erected on Norway Street on land purchased from Mr. and Mrs. James Webb for the sum of \$160. It was notable for its time, being heated by a furnace in the basement when most country schools were heated by a box-stove in the middle of the classroom area. It also had a white-painted tin ceiling, quite an embellishment.



Union School, ca. 1911. The teacher is Fred McConnell. The only scholar known is Clarence Reddick, who is in the second row, left side.

Photo courtesy of Carole Ring

Clarence McKague, 1983.

Photo courtesy of Linda van Will





School records show that, on October 30, 1895, the school board passed a motion "to engage Miss Lottie Pettibone as teacher of the junior department, her application being the lowest, at a salary of \$200 for the year." At that time, two brooms could be purchased for 50 cents and a box of crayons cost 15 cents. In 1903, the total school expenses for the year were \$329. This cost was covered by a government grant of \$20 and local education taxes totalling \$402, leaving a surplus of \$93.

By 1910, Castleton school board's costs had skyrocketed to \$503 per year. At that time, an ad in the Toronto newspaper, the *Globe*, announcing a teacher vacancy, cost 54 cents to run. A ton of coal cost \$6.65 plus delivery costs and no supply teachers were ever hired. In February, 1912, the school register in Castleton shows that students stayed home two and a half weeks, when their teacher was ill.

In 1910 Castleton's grey-brick school building at 157 Norway Street was clad with red bricks over the grey ones. (The building later became the headquarters of the Castleton Orange Lodge and at the turn of the 21st century was a private home). In those years, unless they had family in the

environs, single (mainly female) school teachers boarded with families of students or others in the community. Depending on the rules of their school section, teachers could be forced to move as often as once a month, to allow all who wished to host the teacher to do so.

By 1920, Castleton's school population had outgrown the space in the red-brick schoolhouse and, this being the era before prefabricated portable classrooms, "the old Spencer house" (2202 Spring Street) was rented to hold the overflow. During the annual school board meeting of Dec. 28, 1927, Trustees Quinn and Gaffield put forward a successful motion "to build a new public and continuation school in Castleton." (A continuation school was one that offered both elementary and high-school classes, as had been done at the in Colborne prior to the building of the high school there in 1922).

The board chose the site of the present-day Castleton Public School at 2246 Spring Street and purchased seven acres of the former Castleton fair grounds from the Castleton Agricultural Society. Construction began in the summer of 1929 and employed 16–20 local labourers, whose wages ranged from \$12 to \$15 per week. The Castleton Continuation School, opened in September, 1930, had been constructed and equipped for a total cost of \$29,000.

Prior to the opening of the continuation school, most of the Castleton youngsters who went on to high school travelled to Warkworth or Colborne. Marian Carter (nee Quinn), who attended Colborne High School in the



Sharon School
in the 1940s.

Salem School in 2000.
Photo by Eileen Argyris





1920s, recalled that, in those days, "they never heard of a school bus." At first, she and her friends were allowed to travel by car to Colborne every morning for class, the car being driven by the older brother of one of the girls. But the parents soon decided that the daily trip was "too hard" on the youngsters. She said, "The roads weren't paved, then, and cars were not what they are, today." The Castleton students would board during the week at homes in Colborne, coming home for the weekend.

After Castleton Continuation School was up and running, high school students were ferried to school by a volunteer rota of parents with cars. The students occupied the eastern two classrooms at the top of the two-storey school and the elementary school students had the use of all the others. At that time, there were no classrooms in the lower level. In 1938 by a nine-to-one vote, the Castleton school board voted to supply "scribblers for the students on a one-year trial basis and also to engage the services of a itinerant music teacher, Miss (Myrtle) Hardy (of Morganston), to enrich the students' education." There was an extremely low drop-out rate and the school managed to educate a total of 255 students to the high school level, between 1930 and 1950. In June of 1950, the continuation school became an elementary school, and in September of that year, high school students began being bused from the Castleton area to Warkworth. This was the start of school-board-sponsored busing. Students from this area were bused to East Northumberland Secondary School when it opened in 1955.

The 1950s and early 1960s were a time of school building, school consolidations and the closure of the little one-room schools that had often been the hub of activities in rural communities. The small, rural schools around Castleton were no exception; they were closed, and their pupils bused to the larger centre. These changes have been attributed to a provincial thrust for standardization of curricula and facilities. This was little consolation, however, to the small communities which had lost an important source of neighbourhood identity.

The first school at Morganston was built around 1850, but the building that survives to this day at 399 Morganston Road, was erected in 1883 by David Turney at a cost of \$900. F. Van-Blaricom furnished two cords of pinewood to heat the schoolroom, for the sum of \$1.90 a cord. The bell was added, to hurry stragglers along, in 1887. Apparently, for some students, some lessons had to be learned the hard way as the following account by Dorothy Hardinge, who taught at the school, records:

"In those days (the 1880s) young men went to school. One day one of these became unruly and wouldn't obey. The teacher attempted to make him obey and he decided to pull her around by the hair. The young rascal's mother was notified and she came with an ox whip and tanned his hide till he was glad to obey."



Black's School in 2000.
Photo by Eileen Argyris





Morganston School, 1951-52: In back, from left, are: Ronnie Davidson, Lawrence Massey, Evelyn Massey, Barbara Parker, Sam Dingman, Fred Darling. In middle row: Donald Phillips, Gerald Davidson, David Turney, Teacher Gordon Lovett, Lillian Kemp, Isabelle Massey, Lois Jones. In front are: Calvin Hogle, George Hogle, Kenny Kemp, Linda Hogle, Verlie Massey, Bill Dingman, Bill Puffer, Owen Dingman.

Photo courtesy of Mary Mitchell

thought to be a small log or frame building and the equipment was very primitive....

"The second school was built about half a mile straight south of Highway 2 on Peters Road on the property then owned by Murray Coffeen.... The desks were of the bench style with as many as eight pupils to a bench. The blackboards were... just painted boards. Mr. Chapman was one of the first teachers in this school. Mr. Dixon succeeded him, coming directly from Normal School. (Probably this was the same Mr. Dixon or Dickson, who later taught in Colborne Grammar School, aforementioned). A number of well-known people received their elementary education in this school, including three medical doctors named Johnson, Bradd and Cochrane; two high school teachers, N. and G. Bellamy; three public school teachers, Fred McConnell, Miss Jaques, and Marcus Jaques.

"When the law was passed that school grounds must be of a certain size, it was necessary to choose another school site for Salem as all available land had been purposely set out to orchards at the Peters Road location.

"The third school was directly east of Howard Whaley's barn (on County Road 2 opposite Peters Road) on property donated by Gerard Bellamy. This was a brick building. It was 30 feet long and 20 feet wide. The Blackboards were planed, painted boards and the seats were of the double style. The school faced the south. The yard was terraced and held in place by large squared timbers.

"The foundation of this school was poor and iron rods running from end to end were bolted in place to make the building more substantial."¹

Christine Hubble Chatterson (1907-1996), long-time teacher at the former elementary school in Salem, researched some of the history of that settlement and concluded that there had been four different schools there at different times, the first one being built in 1824 on property on the south side of County Road 2, east of present-day Salem United Church and just off Peters Road. This property, at 13941 County Road 2, was owned by Northumberland MPP Doug Galt, when this book was written.

Mrs. Chatterson's account records:

"At that time (1824) John Coffeen owned the (school) property...this early school...was

Morganston School, year 2000.

Photo by Eileen Argyris





In 1836, Salem's first church had been built on the north side of County Road 2 to serve the local Baptist and Methodist congregations. After Salem Methodist Church (later United) was built in 1861 and Colborne Baptist Church was begun in 1881, the little church in Salem fell into disuse. In 1887, the school section purchased the unused church and it became the school in which Miss Hubble (who later married Salem farmer Bruce Chatterson) would teach for 21 years, from 1930 to 1941 and from 1948 to 1958. The building, at 13922 County Road 2, was standing at the time of writing, and had been renovated for use as a private home.

"The following teachers taught at the Salem School," Mrs. Chatterson recorded, "Messrs. Minaker, Ives, Ryan, Frost, Herrington, Hobbs and Miller; Misses Elliott, Hannah, Purdy, Walker, Free, Ventress, Haig, Coffeen, Gillespie, Murphy, Grant, Hubble, Heckbert, Simpson, Howe, Peterson, Chatterson, Beauchamp and Maleck.

"From time to time, improvements were made in this school, such as slate blackboards, hardwood floors,...chemical toilets, electric lights,...the addition of trees and shrubs and swings....In 1939, the school won the Rural School Beautification trophy for the most improved school grounds in the province of Ontario."²

At the little Salem School, during Christine Hubble Chatterson's time there, she recalled "the children participated in school fairs, school gardens, public speaking contests, musical festivals, sports programs, forestry programs, 4-H calf clubs and Christmas concerts." Parents, relatives and neighbours came out to watch and share the excitement of learning and achievement. The little school was truly a community centre.



Sharon School, 1907-08:
Back, from left: Teacher John Gummer, Ed Cochrane, Lloyd Chapman, Mary Cooper, Florence Ireland, Maude McDonald, John Cooper, Elwood Murphy, Irma Stimers, Hattie Hinman. Second row: Eva Cooper, Nellie Chatten, Floyd Ireland, Fred Cooper, ? Peddlesden, Alida Cochrane, unidentified, ? Ireland, Kay Cochrane, Vivian Murphy, Irene Murphy, Bessie Chatten. Front row: Helen Farrow, Mary Cochrane, Harold Gerow, Ray McDonald, Wallace Onyon, Lorne McDonald, Frank Chapman, Neil McDonald, John Gummer, ? Peddlesden, Grace Farrow, Anna McDonald.

Photo courtesy of Barb Chapman





The Salem School was closed when South Cramahe Public School was opened in 1961. Its population comprised pupils who had formerly attended six township one-room schools: the former Shiloh School, Salem, Sharon (or Edville), Dundonald, Pine Grove and Maple Grove Schools. Mrs. Chatterson taught at Colborne Public School from 1958 until she retired in 1972. She died in January, 1996, believing until the end of her life that a career in teaching was a noble calling and one of the most worthwhile career endeavours of all. So great was her dedication that she inspired many of her students to pursue careers in education.

The Sharon or Edville School (also sometimes called the Little Lake School) was built somewhere around 1871. One of the school's well-loved teachers, Muriel McDonald Reddick (1907–1960), composed a record of the school and community, based on her own and family reminiscences and on those of A. T. Walker, one of the longest-lived souls in the area.

Land for the construction of the red-brick school was deeded to the trustees of School Section No. 9 by two landholders, Eliza Purdy and John Eyre. The building was erected, according to Mr. Walker, by James Stimers, a landowner on the concession road currently known as Telephone Road.

Life didn't change much in the small country schools, even over the course of a century. Carole Reddick Ring, daughter of schoolteacher Muriel McDonald Reddick, has recorded some of her early reminiscences of her school days at old S. S. No. 9, Edville, and, with few changes, they could have been written by any of student of any one-room, eight-grade rural school in Ontario.

Little Carole Reddick started school in 1946. Later she remembered:

"We each had a chair desk with a drawer where we kept such treasures as a 'Mary, John and Peter Reader,' a lined workbook, one pencil, one eraser and one ruler...."

"At any given time there were usually around 20 pupils attending S. S. No. 9, Cramahe. Mom treated all of us like family. Very few children misbehaved, they all loved and respected her.... The older children helped the younger ones academically and outside on the playground.... We took turns as monitors for such daily chores as carrying wood from the woodshed to the hungry box stove, carrying a pail of water from the neighbour's pump, or monitoring the Health Chart. Accomplishing five healthy functions — wash face and hands, comb hair, eat breakfast, brush teeth, clean nails — won a star...."

"...Each pupil stuck a picture of his/her favourite late-model car, cut from a magazine, beside his/her name on the Spelling

Dundonald School,
year 2000.

Photo by Eileen Argyris





Chart....After dictation (we got) five miles for each (correctly spelled) word. The incentive was to get the highest mileage on that final day in June when the prizes were distributed...."

The combined memories of Mrs. Reddick and Mr. Walker reveal that school teachers at the Sharon School included: Ann Irish, Henrietta Chatterson, Joel Williamson, Sam Watson, Alec Sinclair, Mr. McCauley, Lou Day, Harry Tabscot, George Wade, Dr. Bob Wade, Henry Hodge, Minnie McKinney, Maggie McKinney, Ethel Walker, Wm Rutherford, John Gummer, Miss Scarlett, Bessie Breeze, Jerry Bellamy, Alida J. Lapp, Flossie Buck, Beatrice Hinman, Jack McDonald, Lydia Coolie, A. Geo. Cracknell, Amy Adams, Irene Murphy, Mabel Cunningham, Lloyd Johnson, Muriel McDonald, Doris Mutton (later McLaughlin), Clarence Massey, Howard Orvis, Mrs. Gay, Mary Cochrane Bell, Muriel McDonald Reddick, Miss Wells/Taylor, Joan Cannon Ettinger, Sharon Ludlow Stone. But the Edville/Sharon school, like Salem and the schools around Castleton, fell victim to school consolidations in the great movement toward standardized and centralized facilities in the 1950s and '60s.

The six acres on which South Cramahe Public School was built were purchased for \$2,000 from Margaret VanWicklin of Salem. The first building was much smaller than the one that stands at Lot 3, Con. 20, Cramahe Township, today. The approximate cost of its construction was \$120,000, which was a considered a tremendous cost, especially when compared to the cost of the buildings it replaced. The school was expanded in 1966 at a cost of \$78,000. A kindergarten was added in 1967.

Colborne Public School has continued to grow since its opening in 1956, with fluctuations in population and enrolment. In the year 2000, it had need of several portable classrooms in addition to the modern facilities in the main school building. In the fall of 1999, there were 285 pupils enrolled at the school, with 15 teachers and two special education assistants in addition to custodial and office staff. Castleton and South Cramahe Public Schools successfully fought closure in the mid-1980s when declining enrolment made the Northumberland and Newcastle Board of Education think that the township needed only one elementary school.



Majorettes of the Colborne High School cadet corps: from left, Carol Connors, Marg McGuire, Betty Chatterson, Lil Rutherford, in 1955.

Photo courtesy of Carole Ring





HECTOR THEOPHILUS CRAMAHÉ

HOW CRAMAHE GOT ITS NAME

Cramahe Township is named for a man of conviction in war and compassion in victory. Colloquially accepted is the pronunciation Cram-ee, but our best information is that the original pronunciation was Cram-a-hay. Hector Theophilus Cramahé, the man in whose honour the township was named, never saw the township named for him and had passed from this earth before the first white settlers arrived here.

Back in the early days of settlement — when the post of governor (from which the positions of Lieutenant-Governor and Governor-General were derived) was an administrative, rather than a ceremonial, office — Cramahé bore a huge responsibility. From 1770–74, he held the reins of government in the absence of the governor, Sir Guy Carleton. By all accounts he was a man of rare ability and uncommon modesty.

Hector Theophilus Cramahé was born October 1, 1720, in Dublin, Ireland, the tenth and last child of Hector-François Chateigner de Cramahé et des Rochers and Marie-Anne de Belrieux de Virazel, Huguenots who had left France toward the end of the 17th century for religious reasons. Cramahé was baptized Theophile-Hector de Cramahé in the French church of St. Patrick in Dublin. He died June 9, 1788, in England.

Cramahé's father entered the service of his adopted country, England, and Hector Cramahé followed in his footsteps. Beginning British military service in 1740, he attained the rank of ensign and then lieutenant the following year. He served at Cartagena, Colombia and in Cuba (1741–42), in Flanders at Ostend (Belgium, 1745) in Brittany at Lorient (1746) and then at Rochefort (1757).

On March 12, 1754, Cramahé was promoted to the rank of captain, and, in 1758, he and his regiment took part in the siege of the French fort of Louisbourg on what was then called Ile Royale, now Cape Breton Island. Positioned at the seaward side of Cape Breton, Louisbourg dominated the mouth of the St. Lawrence River and was the first line of defence in an invasion of Quebec, then called New France. Cramahé was now not just on the side of England, he was fighting for his adopted country, against that of his forebears.

Cramahé arrived at Quebec in 1759, the year that victory in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham delivered New France into the hands of the British. He was to remain in Quebec for more than 22 years, wrapping up the purely military phase of his career and entering the world of politics. He became secretary to Brigadier-General Sir James Murray. The two former comrades-in-arms enjoyed a solid friendship, as well as an excellent working relationship. Murray once observed of Cramahé, "There does not exist a man of more Integrity and Application," and wrote, "No man has the good of this colony more at heart." To Lord Halifax he described Cramahé as "one of the best men I know." When Murray became the first governor of the colony, Cramahé obtained the post of civil secretary, which he held from 1764 to 1780.

Murray's letters reveal that Cramahé was timid, almost to the point of awkwardness, yet when he felt free to speak, he gave good counsel, and Murray came to rely upon his advice. In fact, Murray once told Cramahé that he made provisional decisions only in his right-hand man's absence, waiting "til you (Cramahé) can provide better" advice. Sir Guy Carleton, who succeeded Murray as governor of Canada, enlisted the services of Cramahé, as well, and appointed him acting receiver-general in 1767 and judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1769.

In July, 1770, however, Cramahé gave up these two offices to preside over the colonial government when Carleton left for a trip to England. Cramahé's term as acting head of the colony was to last four years. On June 6, 1771, ten months after Carleton's departure, he received his commission as Lieutenant-Governor of this "very important colony." He was to hold this office until April, 1782. As Lieutenant-Governor, Cramahé made his mark as a defender of the rights of *les Canadiens*. He warned that the exclusion of Catholics from public office, along with the high costs, "confusion and perplexity" of the legal system, and the fact that all legal business was conducted in a foreign language — English — were partially responsible for the loyalty *les Canadiens* still felt for France.

In addition to working toward making the civil authorities



more responsive to the needs of the French-speaking populace, this son of Huguenot fugitives was a strong advocate of freedom of religion in order, he said, "that (French Catholic settlers') affections could be won from France" and toward the new ruling powers. He took annual tours of the province to bring himself into contact with the people and learn their needs and feelings. He suggested, in 1773, that the fur trade, on which a considerable portion of the economy of the colony depended, be taken into consideration when establishing the boundaries of Quebec. Thus the boundaries of "Quebec" were extended to include virtually all of present-day Ontario as well, the former limits of what was then called "Canada." In July, 1774, (as rebellion against Britain was already beginning to foment in the Thirteen Colonies to the south) Cramahé warned Britain that the "Old Subjects...have in general adopted American ideas in regard to taxation (i.e. that they were opposed to taxation without representation)."

With Carleton's return on Sept. 18, 1774, Cramahé's stint as Lieutenant-Governor ended. But the siege of Quebec by American revolutionaries in 1775 was to bring Cramahé into the forefront of policy-making once again. It fell to Cramahé to ready the defence of Quebec City against the rebels. It was no easy task. A hastily trained local militia was brought up to guard the city but was "not much to be depended on," in Cramahé's own words. British merchants in the city were as reluctant to take up arms as *les habitants* (farm labourers) in the countryside. Cramahé counted on the support of the clergy, especially, as he said, those born in Canada, and that of the nobility and the local merchant class. But even with the help of these, he was unable to overcome the reluctance of *les habitants*.

Tension mounted as an intercepted letter from American Benedict Arnold to Quebec merchant John Dyer Mercier, confirmed Cramahé's suspicions of betrayal from within the walls. It also revealed that Arnold's army was advancing and would soon be on the Chaudière and at Pointe-Levy (Lauzon and Lévis) at the very gates of fortress Quebec. To prevent the enemy from crossing the St. Lawrence River, Cramahé quickly had all ships removed from the south shore and Ile d'Orléans. Thanks in no small part to his

actions, the first critical phase of the invasion, in the autumn of 1775, was held off.

But the arrival in 1778 of a new Governor to replace Carleton, Swiss-born Sir Frederick Haldimand (after whom nearby Haldimand Township is named), spelled no good for Cramahé. Ill-feeling developed between the two men. When in 1780, Haldimand, alarmed by the poor harvest of the previous year and the possibility of food shortages, asked the Legislative Council to issue an ordinance fixing the price of wheat, Cramahé joined the merchants in opposing the measure. Based on his previous experience in the colony, Cramahé feared *les habitants* would either hide their wheat (to avoid selling it at the fixed price) or go over to the enemy, the American Revolution (1776-1783) being by this time well under way. Unable to get his views accepted, Cramahé resigned as civil secretary on Jan. 5, 1781, pleading ill-health. Two months later he was summoned to England, supposedly to answer for the state of the province's accounts. However, even though the order for him to return was issued, it appears to have been merely an excuse to get Cramahé out of the colony. In April, 1782, three months after his arrival in London, Cramahé stressed to the Home Secretary, Lord Shelburne, that he had never been asked to make the requested accounting before the Treasury.

Before he left Canada, Cramahé had the satisfaction of receiving a stirring tribute, which would not occur when Haldimand left in 1784. "The Address was signed by all the principal citizens, both French and English," the *Quebec Gazette* recorded. This represented a contrast to the previous custom of old and new subjects remaining separate in their public demonstrations. Satisfying as this must have been, Cramahé was now reduced to the salary of a judge advocate. He asked his former superior, Sir Guy Carleton, to use his influence on his behalf. In 1786, Cramahé was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Detroit (which was then a British fortification), but he only held the commission for 16 months, as his widow, Margaret, indicated in her petition for a pension after his death on or about June 9, 1788, at Exeter in Devonshire. So private a man was Cramahé that history has yet to learn his wife's full name or whether they had any children.



CHAPTER NINE

Lest We Forget

C RAMAHE TOWNSHIP HAS CONTRIBUTED VOLUNTEERS IN THE CAUSE OF NATIONAL DEFENCE since the War of 1812, in which Canadians defended their borders against invasion from the United States, then a country only 36 years old.

On June 18, 1812, war was declared against Britain by the American Congress. There was some belief among the Americans that Canadian settlers would welcome an American invasion that would “free” them from British domination. They soon learned differently. The Canadians, British regulars and their First Nations allies fought fiercely. Sparsely populated Cramahe Township, with Lake Ontario between her and the enemy, was spared direct invasion as advantage in the fighting see-sawed, with Americans sometimes snatching victory, at York and on Lake Erie, and the British taking Detroit.



Militia drilling in Colborne's wide main street, King Street East, prior to 1870.

Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke





One of the nearest battles to Cramahe Township was the Battle of Crysler's Farm near Morrisburg on Nov. 11, 1813, a British-Canadian victory over a superior American force. But local historian, the late Delbert Peebles, has recorded, "It is certain that British troops came along this shoreline (by Lakeport) to oppose any landings (that might be attempted by Americans)." He notes that "a bayonet of that period was found in the garden of Lot 47 (in the Broken Front Concession in the late 1940s)." In one local history (of Norwood) it is stated that Joseph A. Keeler, founder of Colborne and Castleton, was rewarded for his service in this conflict with a grant of land where present-day Norwood stands. In various records we find reference to the Northumberland Militia's service during the War (including service by Lt. Col. John Peters and Nathaniel Gaffield of Cramahe Township). And the house that still stands at 152 King Street East, at the corner of Durham Street, is believed to have been used as an armoury or barracks for soldiers during the War of 1812, or even earlier.¹

Captain Francis Brockwell Spilsbury took part in the Battle of Stoney Creek and was Surgeon of the Fleet in the War of 1812. The bronze mortar he used to mix his medicines was later donated to Barnum House Museum.² His son, F.S. Spilsbury, served under Admiral Sir James Yeo, at Kingston, toward the end of the War of 1812. His command, the HMS *Beresford*, "by a sharp and well directed fire," captured American batteries, camp equipment and supplies at Forty Mile Creek. Later, despite enemy fire that damaged his 21-gun frigate, *Melville*, Spilsbury was able to go on fighting. When the peace was reached, Spilsbury was promoted to the rank of post-Captain and retired on half-pay, aged 31, after 20 years active service. He received a land grant in Salem; the family once owned a house (no longer standing) on Blyth Road.

The Treaty of Ghent officially ended the War of 1812 on Christmas Eve, 1814, and both sides had to settle for the status quo. But the results of the war had other important implications. There is general agreement

TO COLBORNE VETERANS³



To Cameron, Willoughby, Cockburn, Brown,
From Africa returning,
The grateful people of this town
In heart and thought are turning.
Wherever Britain's banners wave
Her sons are one in spirit;
And as her soldiers true and brave
Her honors you inherit.

While patriot fires sublimely burn,
And flames are upward leaping,
To celebrate your safe return
This banquet we are keeping
That day we each remember well
When you this land were leaving;
Deep sighs were heard, and tear-drops fell,
While loving hearts were grieving.

You were committed to His care
Who guards His own anointed.
In your behalf He answered prayer,
And none were disappointed.
Upon the ocean's vast expanse
He all your course directed;
From shipwreck, fever, sword and lance
His hand your lives protected.

And in the dreadful battle-line
You were from danger shielded —
The sceptre of His love divine
In your behalf was wielded.
Of victories won in Freedom's name
All nations know the story;
Your valor spreads Great Britain's fame
And is your country's glory.

We honor those who in the grave
In Africa are sleeping;
We leave them there as soldiers brave
In God's most sacred keeping.
A welcome home your native land
To you most gladly tenders;
Through coming years your names shall stand
Amongst her brave defenders.

— Thomas Watson





This home at
152 King Street may
have served as a
barracks in War of 1812.

Photo by Eileen Argyris



among historians that it was not the sturdy Canadian farmer-army which had set the invaders back on their heels, but the British regulars and their native allies. However, the myth of the Canadian militia heroes served its purpose in helping to forge a nation and Canadian nationalism.⁴

Canadians served King and Country in the Crimean War (1853–56) but those who wanted to support the Mother Country and her allies in their fight against the expansionist efforts of tsarist Russia, had to enlist in the British Army. Alexander Dunn, a Canadian from Toronto and troop officer with the Eleventh Hussars, won the Victoria Cross, the British Empire's highest decoration for military valour, in the famous Charge of the Light Brigade, immortalized in the poem of the same name by Alfred, Lord Tennyson.⁵ According to an article by Mrs. M. Latimer, published in the *Trentonian* newspaper, Centennial Edition, June 30, 1967, the cannons that still hold pride of place in Colborne's village square were brought here after the Crimean War. Research confirms these could be ship's cannons as local lore has always had it, but, unfortunately, there is no plaque upon them, nor any found records concerning them.

Trouble broke out in what is now the province in Manitoba, then called The Northwest, in 1870 and again in 1885. In 1885, Frank P. Strong, Chas. S. Strong, George Delaney, Dan McDonald, George Armstrong and a man named Haynes whose first name was not recorded,⁶ left their Colborne-area homes to fight on Canada's prairie against the Métis and native forces, led by Louis Riel, who were contesting claims to land and hunting rights. The Colborne Centennial Book records that Frank and Charles Strong served as part of Riel's escort after his surrender. It also records that, after the fighting was over, Frank Strong and one Inspector Casey of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police (forerunner of the RCMP) demonstrated the Gatling





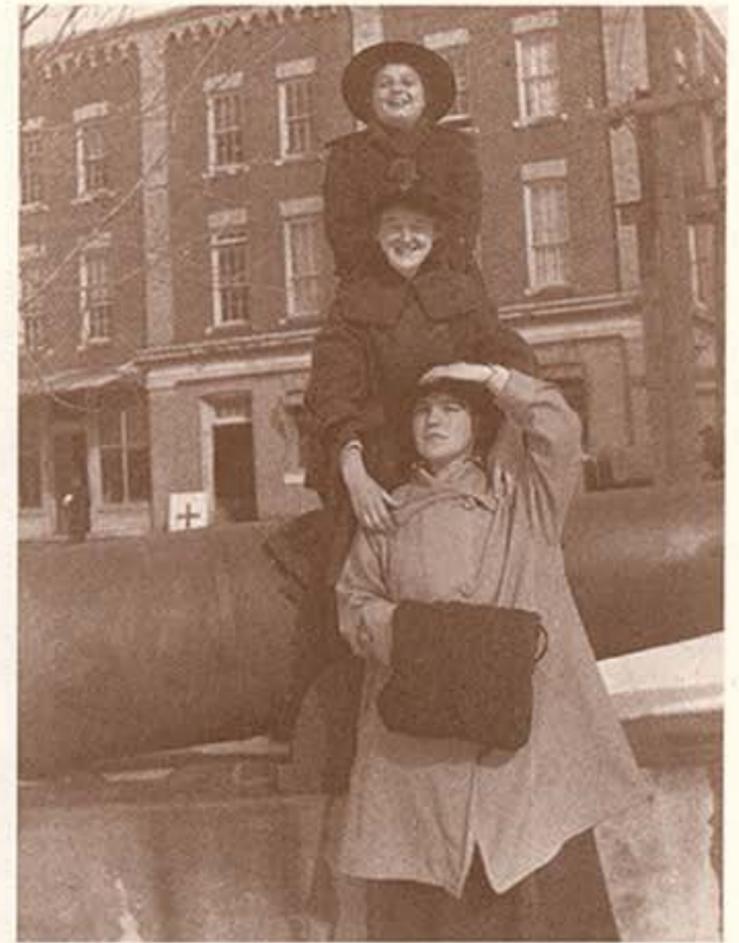
gun, first used during this uprising. It was shown first in Colborne and then at fairs in surrounding communities until it frightened horses and further demonstrations were banned.

During the South African War (1899–1902), widely known as the Boer War, nearly 9,000 Canadians fought alongside their British comrades-in-arms, against the Afrikaaner (Boer) forces. Either in battle or from disease, 284 Canadians gave their lives and 252 were wounded; 261 Canadian dead were buried in South African soil.⁷ This marked the first time Canada sent out an expeditionary force of its own. During this conflict Miss Eliza Jane Padginton of Colborne began her campaign to spread cheer among the soldiers by sending regular letters, newspapers and packages with news of home. Hometown boys who died in the Boer War were: Col. W. W. Brown, Tpr. Ira Brown, Tpr. Harry Cameron, Tpr. Ambrose Harden, Capt. Tpr. A. F. Willoughby, Tpr. W. Fowler, Sgt. Frank Armstrong, Pte. F. Hodges, Capt. E. E. Latta, Pte. C. Bugg, and Tpr. Gordon Cockburn.⁸

The Colborne Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History records portions of a letter written by one Leslie Whitford to the *Colborne Chronicle* (date unspecified) "concerning a famous Canadian Militia Cavalry Regiment that was part of (this) community for a number of years..., the 3rd Prince of Wales Canadian Dragoons: 'A' Squadron of this regiment existed in Colborne from at least 1903 (Charles P. Brown states 1897) to 1928, possibly longer."

The uniform of the said Dragoons was described as a full dress scarlet tunic and brass helmet with black and red plumes. The Tweedsmuir History records that "Col. Brown, Capt. Casey and Chris Smith were members of the Dragoons. Chris Smith represented the Colborne Squadron at Queen Victoria's Jubilee (1897) and received a Commemorative Medal."

When, on Aug. 4, 1914, Britain's ultimatum to Germany to withdraw from occupied Belgium expired, the British Empire, including Canada, was at war, allied with Serbia, Russia, and France against the German and Austro-Hungarian empires. It was called the "war to end all wars," or The Great War, but we now know it as World War I. It marked Canada's coming-of-age as a military power and as a nation, but at terrible cost. New twentieth-century weapons and tactics of destruction, including aircraft and tanks, were used for the first time. Once again, during World War I, Eliza Jane Padginton



The cannon in Victoria Park (shown here with Stella Gale, top, and two friends) is reputed to have come from British ships in the Crimean War.

Photo courtesy of Phyllis Diebolt

Soldiers on Colborne's King Street East during World War I., probably photographed from the balcony of the present-day Queen's Hotel. Captain W.J. Troop is in lower left corner. The apparatus behind is a field kitchen. Photo courtesy of Fred Troop





Charles S. Rutherford, VC, helped guard the Duke and Duchess of Windsor in the Bahamas, among other assignments, during World War II.

Photo courtesy of Dora Grant

kept in touch with “her boys” overseas. When the war ended in 1918, four of the five dominant European empires — the Russian, German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires — had been toppled.

Local heroes distinguished themselves; Charles Smith Rutherford of RR 5, Colborne, won the Victoria Cross. But although “Charlie” did come marching home again, many of his comrades were not so fortunate. In the muddy, bloody trenches of Ypres, the St. Eloi craters, Mont Sorrel, the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, and in other foreign spots, 60,661⁹ Canadians died. Many of those who returned were maimed in body, mind and spirit.

The Armistice ending World War I occurred on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month — Nov. 11, 1918, the time we now honour annually as Remembrance Day.

When in 1918–19, Canada received back her service personnel, the country was ill-prepared to meet their needs. Many were suffering from disease, especially tuberculosis, and many others lacked financial security, skills and/or employment prospects. Some had been so deeply scarred mentally and emotionally that they were never able to put the horrors of war behind them and resume their workaday lives.

The Royal Canadian Legion was formed in 1926 (nationwide) for the purpose of uniting veterans and helping those who were disabled or sick. Its membership came to encompass veterans of all wars; its mission was to help the wounded, the aged and the needy. The Royal Canadian Legion lobbied governments effectively for improved veterans’ pension legislation, treatment and

appeals procedures, returned soldiers’ insurance and all kinds of assistance needed by veterans and their families, both in the aftermath of war, and, in some cases, for the rest of their lives.

The Colborne Legion, Branch 187, was chartered Feb. 26, 1931. Charter night celebrations were held the same year on March 5, under charter president Charles Bugg. Prior to that, a number of Colborne and Cramahe Township veterans had attended the Brighton Legion meetings. Sixteen of these servicemen, including Charles Rutherford, VC, MC, MM, after whom the branch was named, formed the charter membership of the Colborne Legion.

In 1931, life was tough for more than just the veterans. The country — in fact, the world — was in the grip of the Great Depression (1929–39). The Canadian Prairies and the American mid-west were suffering through the “dust-bowl,” years of drought in which relentless winds blew seed away and stripped the farms of topsoil. Little would grow and many local families with relatives “out west” were striving to send donations of money and food to help keep them alive. Money was scarce everywhere and fighting for aid for needy veterans was an especially important priority for the Royal Canadian Legion.

Despite the Depression and the advent of World War II (1939–45), the Colborne Legion





continued to grow, meeting in various locations around the village; sometimes in members' homes, and later in the commercial building that stands at 33 King Street East on the east side of Maybee Lane, in the Coyle block.

Some of the local men who had volunteered in the first war, answered the call in the second, as well; men like Charles Rutherford, VC, and Roy Packard of Dundonald, were members of the Veteran Guard. During World War II, Canadians served overseas in Dieppe, Hong Kong, Sicily, mainland Italy, the invasion of Normandy (D-Day), Belgium, the Rhineland and the liberation of Holland. The Canadian Air Force, born in 1920, served in every theatre of the war from bases in the United Kingdom, North Africa, Italy, Northwest Europe, Southeast Asia and in North America in anti-submarine offensives. The Royal Canadian Navy (which had begun with a few ships bought from Britain in 1910) expanded greatly during World War II, enlisting over 100,000 personnel, participating in the Battle of the Atlantic, and supporting Allied landings in North Africa and Normandy. In all armed forces, over 40,000 Canadians lost their lives during World War II.

The Colborne Centennial Book records that, during World War II, the Colborne Ladies' Auxiliary was the only one in Ontario that gathered, sorted and sold salvage and papers to raise money. The Auxiliary sent over 2,000 parcels to soldiers overseas, helped to put an ambulance in the field, and sent bedding to overseas hospitals. And, as she had in two previous wars, Colborne's Eliza Jane Padginton sent cheering letters and parcels. Orletta (Harnden) Kernaghan of RR 3 Colborne, remembers that, especially at Christmas, the home front didn't let the troops down. Women from Colborne and Cramahe "knit socks, gloves, sweaters and scarves, sewed pyjamas and baked cookies and Christmas cake....(Elsie Mutton Packard of Dundonald) said her reluctant goodbyes, not only to her husband, but to both her sons, as well. She (and her two daughters) kept the home fires burning and ran the family farm and still found time to do her part in the making of these Christmas parcels." A local chapter of the Red Cross, formed in 1939, aided in these war works.

The membership of Legion Branch 187 expanded when the local soldiers returned from World War II. Some veterans from the northern portions of Cramahe joined the Warkworth



Irene Corbyn (left) of Colborne, served as a nursing sister in North Africa during World War II.

Photo courtesy of Connie Flagg





Arnold Warren (right) with his mother Annie Warren Quinn of Colborne, during World War II.

Photo courtesy of Arnold Warren

Legion branch, chartered just after the end of World War II. It was a testimony to the determination and management skills of Branch 187 that, when the former public school building became available in 1957 (after the present Colborne Public School building was erected) the local Legion branch was able to purchase the former school at the corner of Kensington and King Street East. The old building (erected in 1858) was tragically destroyed by fire in 1975, and the current Legion building, which occupies the same site, was dedicated July 3, 1976. Unfortunately, some of the Colborne branch's records were lost in the fire, and their loss leaves gaps in our present knowledge of the branch's history.

The Branch 187 Ladies' Auxiliary was chartered on May 5, 1935, under charter president Maggie Mackie. They held their charter night celebrations on June 24 of that year.

The Korean conflict (1950–53) saw 45 to 50 servicemen and women from the area between Cobourg and Brighton, go overseas to serve. Locally, their sacrifice was formally honoured when a portion of the World War II monument in Victoria Park was dedicated to the veterans of the Korean conflict in November, 1987.

Charter President of Branch 187 was Charles Bugg, who remained in office from 1931 until 1937. In 1938–39, Ben Moore was president; in 1940–41, it was William Theobald Sr. A gap in the records leaves the

years 1942–46 unaccounted for but in 1947 Jack Armstrong took office — the first World War II vet to be branch president — followed by Alex Harvey, 1948, and Cecil Burleigh, 1949. Another gap in the records leaves 1950–52 blank. Then followed: Ford Cowie (1953), Roy Packard (1954), John Cotter (1955–56), Edward Island (1957–58), Winston Packard (1959), Bernard Fox (1960), Tom Cuthbert (1961), M. J. Coumens (1962), Len Dickens (1963), William Kilner (1964), Ray Mutton (1965), George Blyth (1966), Vern Bickle (1967), Claude Goodrich (1968), Vern Bickle (1969), Victor McMahon (1970–71), John Dunk (1972–74), Edward "Ted" Rimmer (1975–77), John Dunk (1978), Bev Lewis (1979–80), Malcolm "Mac" Pettibone (1981–82), John Dunk (1983), Arnold Goodrich, first president to be taken from the ranks of associate members (1984–86), Don Prentice (1987–89), Patti May, first woman to be president of the branch (1990–95), John Boreham (1996–98), Ira Wile (1999).

The Branch's Ladies' Auxiliary was chartered May 5,

Charles Smith Rutherford, VC, presents his own World War I-era portrait to the Legion that bears his name. Colborne Legion's Bernard Fox, left, receives presentation while John Weir Foote, VC, for whom the Grafton Legion is named, looks on. The Colborne Legion is the Charles S. Rutherford branch.

Photo courtesy of Lola Fox





Cenotaph in Castleton: Dedicated August 11, 1920, a joint project of Cramahe Council and the Castleton Women's Institute. The World War II veterans' names were added later.

Photo courtesy of Roseanne Quinn

1935 and the first president was Maggie Mackie (1935–36), followed by: Ellen McGregor (1937–38), Ada Warner (1939–45), Flora Mallock (1946), Ada Warner (1947–55), Elsie Packard (1956), Eileen Cotter (1957), Elsie Rush, (1958), Pat Morrison (1959), Lillian Mutton (1960–61), Florence Lee (1962–63), Kathy Dickens (1964), Violet Peebles (1965–66), Ann Colling (1967–68), Lillian Baitley (1969), Florence Lee (1970), Violet Peebles (1971), Lillian Mutton (1973), Florence Lee (1974), Connie Stirling (1975), Marjorie Varley (1976–78), Helen Dekeyser (1979–80), Audrey Lewis (1981), Jean Myles (1982), Helen Dekeyser (1983), Ruth Meihm (1984–85), Barbara Grills (1986–87), Florence Lee (1988), Bernice Stickle (1989–92), Louise Sheldrick (1993–94), Bernice Stickle (1995), Judy Sabins (1996–98), Rose Anne Nelson (1999). In 1956, the War Department, Ottawa, presented Ada Warner with a gold pin in recognition of her long and faithful service as president.

Though Canadians continue to serve, mainly as peacekeepers in the world's trouble spots — but also in active service during the Gulf War, 1991 and the Kosovo conflict, 1999 — the number of war veterans is diminishing. But the Royal Canadian Legion branches continue to serve veterans and their families and to educate young Canadians about their country's military past.





BERNARD FOX

HEROIC YOUNG MAJOR

Many people who live in and around Colborne at the time of the writing of this book, remember the smiling, handsome face of Bernard Fox, founder of Fox IGA. But Bernard Fox was also one of the youngest Canadians ever to attain the rank of major, and a highly decorated veteran of World War II.

He was born Aug. 31, 1921, the son of Gerald Fox and the former Gladys Coyle. Gerry and Gladys ran the Parakeet Restaurant at 21 King Street East. While Gerry drove taxi, Gladys baked her delicious pies and her aunt, Mrs. M. Elliott, who had also once owned a restaurant in the village, helped with the cooking. During World War II, the Parakeet was where young men gathered and talked war talk.

Bernard Fox grew up in Colborne and attended Colborne High School in the building that now houses the municipal offices. He began working for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in 1939, at the age of 18, and served at several different branches in the province of Ontario. He married Lola Bell, also of Colborne, in August of 1942.

But 1939 had marked the beginning of World War II, and Bernard Fox answered the call of his country, enlisting in the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders (SD&G), on Nov. 3, 1941, gazetted as a lieutenant.

Bernard Fox served with his regiment in England and later landed with the Allied Forces on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. His was the first regiment to enter Caen, France, reaching that city on July 9, 1944. In less than two months, 112 members of the SD&G had been killed in action and 312 more were wounded. Fox took part in all actions, serving as Anti-Tank Commander and Infantry Company Commander until the end of the Allied invasion of Hitler's "Fortress Europe." He attained a field promotion to the rank of Captain on Aug. 1, 1944. In battle conditions, as officers fell, able soldiers from among the ranks were quickly promoted to assume the commands their predecessors had so tragically left vacant.

His regiment fought its way across France by way of Rouen, Eu, Le Hamel and Boulogne, and moved into Holland to take part in the amphibious landing across the Savoyaards Plaat, advancing to Knokke via Breskens. It then

moved to relieve the airborne troops at Nijmegen and helped to guard the Rhine bridge while an Allied crossing was mounted. The SD&G then fought through the Hochwald and north, crossing the Eros River and capturing the city of Leer.

Bernard Fox was promoted again, to Major, in March, 1945, just a few months before the end of the war. He was 23 years of age.

Of his regiment it was said that it "never failed to take an objective; never lost a yard of ground; never lost a man taken prisoner in offensive action." Its fighting men won 74 decorations and 25 battle honours. But the price was great; of 3,342 officers and men serving overseas in the SD&G, 278 were killed and 781 were wounded.

Later, after the Allies defeated Nazi Germany, Major Fox served in the Allied Occupation Force in Germany until May, 1946. He was slightly wounded in this endeavour, but never missed a day in action.

Bernard Fox served his country with great distinction, being mentioned in despatches "in recognition of gallant and distinguished services" (Oct. 6, 1945). The Belgian government appointed him Chevalier of the Order of the Crown with palm and he was awarded the Croix de Guerre 1940 with palm "In recognition of Distinguished Services in the Cause of the Allies."

The official citation reads:

"At Hoofdplaat (Belgium) on 15 October, 1944, Major Bernard Gerald Fox, then Officer Commanding the Anti-Tank Platoon of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders, despite heavy enemy artillery, mortar and small arms fire which was holding up the forward Companies, brought his guns to bear on enemy bunkers from a range of fifty yards, with such conspicuous success and disregard for his own safety that the strong points were overcome and the Battalion enabled to advance in the vital Scheldt pocket operation. The forward Company of The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Highlanders had reached the main cross-roads of the town of Hoofdplaat with only a few casualties, and the second Company was advancing on the left flank



against heavy opposition. The third Company, advancing up the sea wall to secure the right flank, ran into heavy opposition and were pinned down and unable to get on their objective. The reserve Company with anti-tank guns under the command of Major Fox were ordered to take the objective of the pinned-down Company. This Company was itself unable to advance until Major Fox volunteered to take a gun into the forward position from where they could get their piece to bear on the enemy pillbox which was holding up the advance. Major Fox personally directed the siting of the anti-tank gun to such good effect under the most desperate conditions that ten rounds were put into the concrete stronghold, knocking out the enemy defenders. Throughout this engagement Major Fox so inspired his gunners and the forward infantry that the operation, which was in danger of failing, was carried through to a successful conclusion.

“Major Fox’s individual courage, leadership and initiative far beyond the call of duty were responsible for success of the operation which led to the ultimate liberation of Belgium.”

It is no small thing to be credited with even a small part in the liberation of an entire nation. But such is the war record of Major Bernard Gerald Fox of Colborne.

After the war, Fox came back to Canada and rejoined the service of the Bank of Commerce in Toronto, where he and his wife lived for a time. Later they moved to Montreal, where he went into the greeting-card business. Eventually, they came back to their hometown, in 1951, with their little son, John (born 1947) and Bernard purchased a butcher shop, even though he readily admitted he had previously had no experience in the meat-cutting line. The shop was on the north side of King Street in the downtown shopping core.

Being enterprising in civilian as well in military life, Fox wanted to expand the butcher shop to include groceries, as well, so he did that and moved to a 450-square-foot location on south side of King Street, becoming one of the first businessmen to join the Independent Grocers Association, or IGA, in the early 1950s. But the business kept expanding

and, by 1965, Fox was back on the north side, this time purchasing the entire block where his first butcher store had stood (5-11 King Street East, the second Keeler block) and opening the new and improved Fox IGA, the anchor store of downtown Colborne at about 3,500 square feet.

Three generations of the family worked in the store; Bernard and his wife, Lola, their son John, and Bernard’s father, Gerald. Then the enterprising Foxes bought the five-and-dime store just east of their shop (at 15 King Street East) and Lola managed that shop until it was sold in the early 1970s. John took over Fox IGA in 1976 when his mother and dad retired and in 1984, with the combined population of the village and township at about the 5,000 mark, Fox IGA moved to a brand-new 10,000-square-foot location at 25 Toronto Street, at the western entrance to the village, where it stands at the time of writing, still a family-run business where

John Fox and his wife, Fran, employ a staff of 27, full- and part-time staff.

Bernard Fox was a lifelong member of the Royal Canadian Legion and served as president of the Colborne Branch 187 in 1960. He died on July 21, 1983, leaving his wife, Lola, daughter, Julie (born 1957) and son, John, as well as his father, Gerald, and his many friends, Legion comrades and customers, to mourn his early passing.



Maj. Bernard Fox. Photo courtesy of Lola Fox



CHAPTER TEN

Cramahe's Rural Communities

WITHIN THE LARGER ENTITY OF CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP SMALLER COMMUNITIES OFTEN GREW wherever there was water, especially running water, to power a mill. The area depended for its survival, in early settlement days, on the lumber and grain industries. Lumbering was natural for the area, since the land had to be cleared of trees before it could be put into cultivation. That meant sawmills were needed. And once farms were established, grist mills were needed to grind wheat into flour and create “chop” to feed animals. First among Cramahe’s settlements, of course, was Lakeport. It not only had streams to power mills; it had Lake Ontario lapping at its doorstep — the transportation and communications gateway to the world. Joseph Keeler early established lumber, grain and woollen mills in the vicinity of the docks, and Lakeport became the cradle of settlement for the entire township; two townships, actually, for Lakeport is



Haldimand’s cradle, too. The 1848 census notes five grist mills and 17 saw mills in operation in Cramahe Township at that time, with five or six new saw mills planned for the following year. Colborne, the largest settlement in Cramahe, was conveniently situated upon streams for mills, and on the great east-west Kingston Road which then was Upper Canada’s “main street.” The other rural communities — Castleton, Edville, Shiloh, Morganston and Salem — each has its legends and lore, history and pride of

Birdseye view of Castleton, taken by Vance Pomeroy, a Castleton native who worked for the Kodak company of Rochester, New York, circa 1920. In left foreground, the former mill pond can be seen and in the middle left, Castleton United (then Methodist) Church. The barn-like building near the mill pond is an apple evaporator. The building was destroyed by fire in 1926. Also identifiable, by those who know Castleton, are the hotel on the four corners (just right of centre) and the rear of the present-day Castleton General Store (the white building cater-corner to the hotel).

Photo courtesy of Roseanne Quinn





place. In each, people helping people played key roles. Much was accomplished by "bees." From large events like barn-raising, to smaller ones like quilting and threshing which were virtually daily occurrences, neighbours got together to get the job done. Many a senior citizen still very much alive as this book was being written, remembers how people "neighboured" in bygone years. As well, before cars and paved highways made overland travel fast and easy, it was very important to have the necessities of life close to hand. The modern reader may be amazed at the number and variety of goods and services that were once offered in small hamlets. In the end, however, if the mills were the engines that drove the settlements' economies, the schools and churches were their heart's blood. In some cases, the histories of the churches *are* the histories of the communities, or at least the most detailed written accounts that survive.

Castleton

Castleton has been the township seat of Cramahe since Colborne became a separate municipality in 1859, but the origins of the hamlet go back further. The earliest mention we find of Castleton is that Joseph A. Keeler (1788–1855), the founder of Colborne and son of the original settler of the township, built a mill there around 1806. In that year, Joseph A. would have been 18 years of age, perhaps a bit young to be getting into the building business but certainly, in those days, he would have been considered to have reached manhood. At first the settlement was called Piper's Corners, with Piper's Creek running through it, and later it was named Centreville, but with the increasing prevalence of the word "centre" in local place names, the inhabitants later settled on the English-sounding name of Castleton, reflecting their Loyalist roots.

That original mill, built on Piper's Creek (it would then have been more like a river) was located just south of the present four corners (Percy Street and Spring Street). It was probably built farther west, before the current Percy Street, or County Road 25, was in its present location or at its present width. The structure has not survived, but we know that there was a mill on the property in 1830. It has been recorded in some sources that the mill of 1830 is the building now known as the Purdy Mill on the west side of Percy Street just south of Castleton's main intersection. It is certain that the rural community grew up around that mill. To create a millpond with a 30-foot fall of water to drive the mechanism, it was necessary to dam Piper's Creek. The original millstones were of the best quality, imported from a quarry near Paris, France. These "French Buhr" stones were valued for

Purdy Mill is one of Castleton's outstanding landmarks. This photo, taken around 1900, shows local farmers and their wagons pulling up to unload and reload. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Scott





Samuel Purdy, miller, ca. 1926. He was born in Salem in 1842, son of John and Anna Purdy.
Photo courtesy of Carolyn Scott

their hardness and their ability to retain a sharp edge for grinding. There were about 20 stones, held together in an iron hoop in a pattern similar to a wagon wheel's spokes and rim. They were used in the mill until 1906, when they were replaced by a metal grinder, but one of these original stones remained in the mill at the time of writing, still intact. Samuel L. Purdy acquired the property in 1875. It has been known as the Purdy Mill since that time. The house on the property was built by Purdy around 1880 and the house and mill were owned by three generations of Purdys until 1948 when it was sold to John Kulaga. The mill continued to operate until 1968, although the old water wheel was replaced by a diesel motor in 1934, built by the Beatty company of washing-machine fame. One stormy night in the 1970s, when the property was owned by the Clifford Quinn family, a dull roar was heard from the mill. When the Quinns investigated, they found the swollen waters of the creek had started up the old mechanism and they had to allow it to continue until the waters subsided.¹ The dam on the mill-pond remained in place until it was washed out by a severe rainstorm in 1980. The present owner, Wayne Mullins, has done some research on the property and has learned that the property was owned in 1830 by a group of women: Martha Byrnes, Sara Stevens, Jayne Byrnes, Rebecca Pruyne and Catherine Williamson. It has been suggested they were daughters of property speculators. According to assessment records the property, owned by Joseph A. Keeler, was leased to one Samuel Turney in 1833. Succeeding recorded operators included: Ebba Wright (1834–36), James Bowan (1840–42), Wm. Blakeley (1843 — at this time the mill property consisted of 200 acres, including 10 cultivated, one grist mill and one "run of stones"), Gilbert Weller (1846–47, also lists a sawmill on the property), John Banta Miller (1848, mill, two stones and 1,500 barrels of flour). The 1861 map of E. C. Caddy records two saw mills and a steam grist mill operating on the property.

The *Northumberland County Directory* of 1870 listed quite a few mills in Castleton. The A. T. Dorland Company had saw mills and grist mills, as well as a stave and shingle mill (staves were used in the barrel-making industry that supported local apple producers). Thomas Newcombe and Charles Lapp also ran grist and saw mills in the Castleton area. Another early mill owner of the area was named William Coon, who came to Castleton about 1821, according to the Colborne Centennial book. And south of Castleton on County Road 25 at what was known as Brown's Corners, or Greenly's Corners, was another mill, originally called Venning's Mill, built circa 1830. The property was purchased in 1880 by Jacob Henry Brown, willed to his daughter Agnes Greenly in 1929, and is presently owned by John and Heather Stubbs. The mill was torn down in 1921.

A cheese factory was once located in the village, on the southeast corner of Spring and Cedar streets, probably built and operational prior to 1885. It was operated, in turn, by Joe Taylor, J. L. Mullett, and Byron Gaffield. The last cheese maker in Castleton was Andrew Kemp;





the factory was destroyed by fire in 1920. Local children loved the cheese factories because a handful of curd could always be obtained for free, either for their own enjoyment or to feed to the fish in the trout pond that once was across the road from the factory site.

The *Gazetteer and General Business Directory of Northumberland and Durham* for the year 1865, lists the following description of Castleton: "A post village, situated on lots 32, 33 and 34, 7th concession, township of Cramahe...contains...three general stores, two groceries, one grist and two sawmills, one carriage and wagon shop, two blacksmith shops, one cooper shop (barrel maker), two shoe shops, two tailor shops, one harness shop, two hotels, three churches, one common school, taught by A. Gould. The township of Cramahe Council meets here monthly in the Town Hall — G. S. Barrell, reeve; Wm. Alger, deputy-reeve; J. C. Pennock, clerk; John Barker, collector; Wm Easton, treasurer and assessor. Businesses and business operators in Castleton are listed as: B. A. Bowen, steam sawmill; C.P. Cameron, agent; R. A. Cole, tailor shop; C. Cole, general merchant; D. Coleman and Son, harness shop; Hiram Coleman, shoe shop; Farmer's Hotel, Geo. Welton, proprietor; Mr. Fisher, tailor; C.M. Gould, M.D, 'electic physician &c;' N. Hutchison, cooper; N. Ingersoll, general blacksmith; Willis Jones, 'billiard table;' Jas. Jones, 'apple-tree dealer'; Chester Lapp, sawmill proprietor; Henry Martin, M.D., physician, surgeon, &c; Sanford Moore, grocer &c; G. W. Pennock, general merchant; J. E. Pennock, assistant PM (post-master?); J. Philips, shoe shop; J. Pomeroy, groceries &c.; G. Robson, shoe shop; Edward Scarlett, county superintendent of schools; J. Smith, general blacksmith; Gilbert Weller, Castleton Hotel; Chas. Wiggins, grist mill proprietor."

In addition to the more conventional types of business and industry, Castleton, like many communities, was home to cottage industries that were born wherever talent met necessity. As an example, one Nicholas Dennis Richards of Castleton (1852–1918) hoped to be a doctor but his family was not a wealthy one. His seven older sisters, Lucretia, Eliza Ann, Alice, Margaret Ellen,

CRAMAHE STARTED OUT LARGER



When the township was first created by proclamation in 1792, Cramahe was quite a bit larger, geographically, than the approximately 49,000 acres (19,845 hectares) it possessed at the time of writing in 2000. According to documents accessed at the Archives of Ontario, in 1797, when the first "legal" (i.e. non-squatter) settler is recorded in the township, Cramahe Township comprised 68,600 acres (27,783 hectares).

But in 1851, portions of Cramahe and the former Murray Township (now Murray Ward of Quinte West) were given to a new township under the name of Brighton. In area, Brighton Township, at 46,719 acres (18,922 hectares) was not as large as Cramahe. But the appropriation of land for the creation of the (then) village and township of Brighton is the reason that Cramahe Township begins in the east with Lot 11, instead of Lot 1: the first 10 lots became part of Brighton and Brighton Township.

In its original configuration, the township of Cramahe stretched eastward to a north-south line running down present-day County Road 30 in Brighton Township, and Prince Edward and Cedar Streets, Brighton.

Cramahe lost some more territory in 1858, as well, in preparation for Colborne's incorporation as a separate municipality. Approximately two square miles, the south halves of Lots 27 to 32 in the second concession and the north halves of the same lots in the first concession, officially became the newly incorporated Village of Colborne on Jan. 1, 1859.

When Colborne and Cramahe are reunited as a single municipality on Jan. 1, 2001, the township will regain the two square miles it lost in 1859. As for the land lost to Brighton, who knows what new boundary configurations the future may hold?





Castleton Methodist
(later United) Church,
built in 1865, for
\$1,600. Photo ca. 1920.

*Photo courtesy of
Roseanne Quinn*

Drusilla, Wilhelmina and Mary Rebecca operated a small carpet factory on the Richards farm just outside the village in order to support him through university. Nicholas graduated as the silver medalist student from the University of Toronto in 1877 and, once he was established as a doctor (practising in Warkworth and Belleville) he purchased a large house on the northeast corner of Norway and Spring streets in Castleton (1903) where four of his sisters who remained unmarried could live out their retirement years. At the time of writing the house is owned by Rick McKague, great-great-nephew of the sisters, who bought it without knowing it had been in his family before. And, as a further coincidence, Eric and Margaret McKague purchased an older home at 1798 Percy Street, Castleton, in which one of the upstairs bedrooms was carpeted, wall to wall, with the product of their ancestresses' industry. The carpet remained in service until damaged by a house fire in 1980 and even at the beginning of the 21st century, the Richards sisters' great-great-niece, Linda van Will, cherished a piece of it which appeared to be indestructible.

At first, the main stagecoach route which connected Warkworth with Colborne and the docks at Lakeport, passed through Castleton by way of the Mount Pleasant Road. Later Percy Street or County Road 25, became the main route between the lake and the lands to the north. Being fairly centrally located in the township, and on these main north-south routes, Castleton was chosen as the township seat and the council met in various locations, including the hotel at the four corners, before the municipal hall was erected in 1893. Prior to the building of the township municipal building, apparently any place council was meeting, appears as the "town hall" in clippings and writings before 1883.

By July, 1908, the Canada Directory listed Castleton's population as 500 and the following businesses in the village: Charles M. Allen, grocery store; R. B. Dawson, gristmill; Henry S. Clarke, butcher; A.W. Drinkwater, general store, W. A. Gerow, undertaker, Charles Ghent, agricultural implements; A. Grady, general store, G. W. Harnden, blacksmith; Riley A. Hart, butcher; Mrs. S. Hart, general store; George E. Kelly, Jr., groceries; Newman Company (W.S. Newman), general store; William Nichols, blacksmith; S.L. Purdy, saw and grist mills; John A. Robinson, shoemaker; J. E. Wolfraim, Temperance Hotel; Standard

George Harnden's
Blacksmith Shop,
Castleton, ca. 1920.
The blacksmith is
fourth from the left.

Photo courtesy of Carl Wilce





Bank of Canada. At one point in Castleton's development, its bank was open six days a week and required the services of a full-time manager and assistant. Some sources indicate the population of Castleton peaked at 800, but if it ever reached that level it must have been before the turn of the century, since every indication points to a decrease in the population as the land was cleared and the lumber trade declined.

Religion has played an important role in Castleton's history. For a time in the late 19th century, the *Canadian Christian Magazine* was published in Castleton by Rev. Thomas Garbutt. The settlement has been home to five churches, of which only one remained active at the time of writing. About 1906 the Hornerite, or Holiness Movement (colloquially known locally as the "Holy Rollers") fitted up a church in a frame building that had housed a machine shop immediately north of the municipal building at 1780 Percy Street. This same building was used as a church by more than one denomination over the years, but for about the last 40 years of its existence, it was used as a storage shed. The building was taken down in 1983, destroying some wonderful original circus posters that had been pasted on the north wall.

The former Castleton Pentecostal Church was located in a building that is now used for residential purposes, but was standing at the time of writing at 2208 Spring Street. Cramahe Baptist Church was located at 1014 Mount Pleasant Road; in the year 2000, it was in use as a private home. And the dip in Pine Street (near 128 Pine Street) is known as English Hollow, because there once was an English (Anglican) church there.

The Castleton United Church, which at the time of writing shared its minister, Rev. Randy Banks, with St. Andrew's United Church, Grafton, had its beginnings around 1853 as a branch of the Colborne Methodist Charge. Some of the founders' names were: Mrs. J. Pennock, Mrs. G. Weller, Nelson Ingersol, Morgan Sellar, T. H. Black, Mrs. Jay, Henry Blakley, Elisha Alger, John Jones, Joseph Jones, Mr. Williams, Philander Williams, Alex Palmer, Carney Burr, Peter Hart, Mr. Watson, Mr. Allen, Mr. Whiten, Vincent Coleman, F. G. Strong. These early Methodist faithful probably carried on meetings in homes or barns before they were able to build their red-brick church, which was dedicated December, 1865. The *Christian Guardian* of January 31, 1866, describes the building and the opening day:

"Sabbath morning, 3rd December, 1865, is a time long to be remembered in the village of Castleton, on the Colborne Circuit. A new, neat comfortable Wesleyan Church with tower, spire, bell, aisles carpetted (sic), communion furniture and an



Cramahe Baptist Church, Mount Pleasant Road, as it appeared at the time of writing.

Photo by Eileen Argyris





excellent Bible and Hymn book was dedicated to the worship of Almighty God by our much respected and honoured President, the Rev. R. Jones at ten and a half o'clock; Dr. Nelles at two and a half; and Dr. Aylsworth at six and a half o'clock.

"All the services were times of refreshing, and will long be remembered by those who had the privilege to listen to three plain, practical, Methodistical sermons...."

The \$1,600 new church was opened almost free of debt; by the time the opening ceremonies were over and the proceeds from their attendant collections and teas amassed, the church members had raised enough to clear the mere \$200 debt that had been outstanding.

Records left by the recording secretary of 1891, Alonzo Huycke, reveal that the caretaker of the church would "light, heat and keep clean the Church for \$65 yearly, for Sabbath Services, Sabbath School, funerals, trustees' meetings, Bible Society Meetings, Women's Missionary Society Meetings, prayer meetings, except special revival meetings, for which (he) is to receive a dollar a week extra. He is to furnish good wood, oil, lamps, brooms, lamp glasses and lamps if broken are to be replaced at his own expense."

Of three buildings that were once hotels in Castleton, at least one is still standing. Apparently, a red-brick building that once stood on the lot immediately south of the township hall was a hotel at some point early in its existence. Torn down around 1960, the building, since the 1920s, had been known as "Tait's Snack Bar," run by G.B. Tait. Another hotel is referred to in sources simply as a "large grey and white house on the main street." But the square, two-storey frame building on the northeast corner of Percy and Spring streets has played an important role in Castleton's history. Various called the Orient, the Temperance, the Castleton and the Union Hotel, it has been the temporary home of travelling salesmen, bankers, even performers of questionable repute. Built in 1890 by Timothy S. Giroux who is listed as an hotelkeeper in Norham

Northwest corner of Spring and Percy Streets, Castleton, ca. 1927.

From left are: G.B. Tait's store, the township municipal building, a white frame building originally built as a machine shop but which served as home to several religious denominations, a small frame building that was John Wolfraim's blacksmith shop and a white frame house, formerly the home of Dr. A. Crichton. Standing in front of the store are (from left) Andrew Wolfraim, Douglas Tait, Lois Tait, and George B. Tait. The store was demolished around 1960.

Photo courtesy of Roseanne Quinn



Photo next page:
The township municipal building in Castleton (centre) about 1960, when the wooden building to the north (right of the picture) was still standing. The wooden building had been home to churches of various denominations. The town hall is now surrounded by open space (the building to the north having been demolished in 1983) and is designated as a heritage structure by the township's LACAC.

Photo courtesy of Roseanne Quinn



CRAMAHE'S MUNICIPAL HALL



After 1859, when Colborne became a separate municipality, Cramahe councils often held meetings in the Orient Hotel, now a private home at 13 Spring Street, in Castleton. But in 1892, land (part of village lot 25) was acquired for the purpose of building a township hall at the address currently known as 1780 Percy Street, Castleton. The previous owner, Jane Gaffield, sold the property to the municipality for \$150.

In 1893, the town hall was built at a cost of \$3,900. According to the articles of designation prepared by the Cramahe Township Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, LACAC, the building is constructed of patterned solid brick with blind rectangular arcades or bays on the face and sides of the building.

(Arcades resemble gables, but are windowless). The facade features four brick pilasters (built to resemble pillars) and a projecting blind rectangular arcade, or bay, which holds the double front doors and elliptical fanlight transom encased by a brick gothic arch. Oval medallion lights (windows) in the upper storey are located below gabled pediments.

Another oval window is located in the gabled pediment on the face of the building to give light to the interior. Additional light is provided by two arched windows in each bay on the front. It is reputed to have been constructed by an architect or contractor named Crowe. Other significant architectural features, unchanged from the time of its erection, include: six brick pilasters running the depth of the building on both sides; three large, arched windows on both upper and lower floors of sides; exposed stone foundation; wooden eaves; and a slate hip roof, repaired in 1988 at a cost of \$17,400.



When it was first built, a store was located to the south of the hall property, on land that the township subsequently acquired from Willett and Rhoda Peebles for \$2,000 in 1966. An old red-brick, two-storey building, latterly home to Tait's Snack Bar, had been demolished around 1960. This property became a lawn and annual display area for the township's decorated Christmas tree. To the north of the hall was the former Free Methodist Church building, which was acquired in 1983 from Don and Emily May, then the owners of the Castleton General Store, for \$3,000. This old frame building, which had long been used only for storage, was demolished immediately

after its acquisition to make way for a parking lot for the town hall. Residents of Castleton from that time remember that the remnants of posters for a long-ago circus were destroyed with north wall of that building.

In the days before police protection was supplied by the Ontario Provincial Police (as it is in the village and township today) Cramahe had its own lock-up. After it was no longer needed as a lock-up, the cell was used

for storing township documents. In the early 1970s, a fire started in this storage space which almost gutted the basement, and a number of township records were lost. As well, a large part of the upper floor was damaged. When the damage of the fire was repaired, panelling was applied to the interior walls and an open gallery on the second half-storey, was enclosed.

At this time, the beginning of the year 2000, the main, upstairs room is a hub of activity; used for council meetings, flower shows, community dances, club and public meetings and the stage is used for concerts and plays put on by the children of Castleton Public School.



in the *Northumberland and Durham Directory* of 1865–66, the building was owned by Hamlet Wolfraim and then by Ziba Harnden, father of George Harnden, a village blacksmith. Then it was run by four more Wolfraims before it ceased to be a hotel. It is said in the village that one of those long-ago inhabitants may still be around....

Ziba Harnden lost a daughter, Margaret, age 21, to tuberculosis. She died in the hotel on Feb. 1, 1903, shortly after she was married to Edmund Quinn, also of Castleton. The two had been sweethearts and had planned to marry, but then she became ill and faded fast. They had to hold the wedding in her sick room, with the tragic young bride wearing the top of her wedding dress, having the skirt draped across the blankets as she lay in bed. As her illness worsened, she reportedly saw visions of fields of lilies. She died only two weeks after the wedding, and her gravestone in Vernonville Cemetery coincidentally bears the biblical quotation: "Consider the lilies" (Matt. 6:28). Several subsequent residents of the hotel have reported experiencing

the mild presence of what could be the spirit of Margaret Harnden Quinn. A piano, thought to be out of tune, one day, inexplicably, was found with a tuning fork on it, and there are other similar non-threatening but inexplicable evidences of her continued influence. Those who have lived there say one never feels quite alone in the place, even when there is only one living person present.

In the 1920s the Union Hotel charged 50 cents for a meal and a dollar for a night's lodging. There were special rates for local farmers who could get a meal for a quarter and, according to the reminiscences of the late Eleanor Wolfraim Young, the hungry farmers really ate their quarter's worth. The Ontario Temperance Act outlawed the sale of liquor in the province from 1916–27 except for "medical, mechanical, scientific and sacramental purposes."² Before then, a milk-pan full of whiskey could be



Mrs. Andrew (Bessie) Wolfraim, proprietress of Castleton's hotel, circa 1920, stretching curtains in the yard on the east side of the hotel. Behind her, the building on the left is a machinery store owned by Henry Bound. On the right is a butcher shop owned by Harvey Hart. Later it became an egg-grading station owned by Lawrence Naish.

*Photo courtesy of
Roseanne Quinn*

purchased for a quarter at the hotel. Andrew Wolfraim, Eleanor's father, was the hotelier, but his wife, Bessie, really ran the place in the 1920s. On the main floor was a lobby, bar and ice cream parlour and another room where travelling salesmen, or drummers, displayed their wares. The bank manager usually lived in the hotel and so did the local teacher, if he were male. Female teachers were expected to board with local families. The local bank was then located in the Naish block (demolished 1992) that stood directly across Spring Street from the hotel. Also in this two-storey, three-sectioned building were, at various times, an ice cream parlour, harness shop, feed store, egg grading station and farm machinery dealership office. The second storeys of the building were mainly residential apartments, but a millinery (hat-making) enterprise, another of Castleton's cottage industries, flourished there at one time. The most recent business to occupy the Naish block was the Sun-Fresh Bakery in the late 1980s.

In a "bird's-eye" photo of Castleton taken around 1920 by Vance Pomeroy, a Castleton native





Castleton's hotel when it went by the exotic name Oriental Hotel.

Photo courtesy of Carl Wilce

employed by the Kodak Company of Rochester, New York, an apple evaporator is visible on Old Percy Road. It was built in 1910 by F.C. Whitcomb and apples dried there were sent to troops during World War I, to give them a taste of home. The building was destroyed by fire in 1926.

The hotel, however, remained a hub of activity. Most fascinating for the neighbourhood children in the 1920s were the performers who travelled with "medicine shows." These people were regarded as being on the fringes of respectability, particularly by the decent farming folk of Castleton and environs. The medicine shows featured female impersonators and "popularity contests" in which the

purchase of one of the proffered remedies entitled the buyer to one vote. Courting lads would load up on medicinal preparations in order to be able to ensure a victory for the young lady of their fancy.

Mrs. Marian Carter (the former Marian Quinn of Castleton) remembered how her friend Eleanor Wolfrain, daughter of the hotel owners, once had a scandalous tale to tell about one of the fascinating women travelling with a medicine show.

"You'll never guess what she was doing — and on Sunday, too!" the shocked Eleanor confided. "She was knitting!"

The young Marian was scandalized. "In those days," she explained many years later, respectable Castleton folks "didn't do anything — even cook — on Sunday."

Colborne lawyer John Carter, son of Marian Quinn Carter and later owner of the hotel, reported hearing from Castleton old-timers that inquisitive locals had devised a method to spy on the nocturnal doings of the guests in the establishment, by spreading a little flour outside the door of a suspect character, and then, in the morning, noting by the tell-tale footprints what rooms that person had visited during the night.

In the late 1930s, with the stagecoaches and the lumber mills long gone, the hotel ceased to be a hotel and became, at various times, the home of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the Cramahe Township Public Library. It has been designated as an historical site by the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC). Owners at the time of writing were Graham and Carol Norcutt and family, who did extensive restorations to the building, including the stripping of some very unfortunate asbestos siding to reveal the original clapboard beneath.

Newman Company general store in Castleton in the 1930s. The proprietor, Richard Newman, is standing outside.

Photo courtesy of Roseanne Quinn





While the hotel was still in operation, however, the single-storey building behind it, visible in old pictures, was used as a drive shed. Behind (north of) that, was a building that was used for many years as a bakery operated by a number of different families, including the Doyles and Pomeroy's. The next building to the north facing Percy Street, was a tailor's shop owned by Mr. Linquist, a barbershop operated by Herman Ellis and later by a Mr. Brown, the second floor of which was used as a meeting place by Free Methodists. In the late 1940s, the more northerly

of these buildings was being used as a turnip-waxing plant, and the extremely flammable substance took light, resulting in a fire that destroyed both the turnip factory and the bakery. In later years, a small house that replaced the bakery was used as Castleton's post office until the 1980s, when the postal service was located, under protest from locals, in the Castleton General Store at the four corners. This store was known as the Newman Company from the time it opened at 2121 Percy Street in 1891, having moved there from Morganston. It is a Castleton landmark to this day, having changed very little from its early photos, and still possessing some of its original counters and display cases at the time of writing. The store was purchased by



The Naish block used to stand on the southeast corner of Spring and Percy Streets. When this photo was taken, ca. 1936, the three sections on the ground floor housed, from left, the Standard Bank of Canada, an ice cream parlour and a harness shop and feed store. In one second-floor apartment was a millinery shop. Farther down Spring Street (to the left of the photo) are Lawrence Naish's egg grading station and the farm machinery business of Henry Bound.

Photo courtesy of Roseanne Quinn

Donald and Emily May in May, 1976, from David Dingwall, Sr., whose wife, Marjorie, was the granddaughter of the original owner, Mr. Newman. The purchase by the Mays represented the first time that the business had left family hands. The Mays continued to operate the business under the name Newman Company. It was purchased by Keith and Eileen Olan in June, 1987, and they changed its name to Castleton General Store. It continues to operate under their ownership, and under that name, at the time of writing.

Sharon, a.k.a. Edville

Sharon, meaning "level place," or "plain" refers to a specific spot in the Holy Land, well watered by streams, that is referred to in the Bible.³ In the arid lands of the Middle East such a place would be seen as favoured, indeed. And there can be little doubt that such an association influenced those who settled in and named "Sharon," in the area midway between Brighton and Colborne, about three miles north of County Road 2, slightly east of Little Lake, in the middle of the last century.

Later, the inhabitants of Sharon came to call their neighbourhood Edville, in honour of Edward "Ed" Cochrane, a local farmer who rose to be Warden of the formerly United Counties of Durham and Northumberland in 1880, and also served the riding as its federal Member of Parliament (Conservative) from 1882 until his death in 1907, a total of 25 years, less a few





months when he was out of office. His great-grandnephew, James Franklin Cochrane, also from Edville, would be Warden of the County of Northumberland 100 years later, in 1980. Like most all of Colborne and Cramahe, the main difference between the Edville neighbourhood of today, and the one encountered by the first pioneers, was forest. But while there are fewer trees today, the spot still offers natural beauty in addition to well-groomed farms on rolling land, punctuated by woods and streams and wetlands, like the Sharon of biblical fame.

We have a good accounting of life in early settlement days of Sharon left by A. T. Walker who, at age 93 in 1947, dictated some of his memoirs to the teacher at the Sharon School, S. S. No. 9 Cramahe, Mrs. Muriel McDonald Reddick. The account Mr. Walker left has been carefully treasured and preserved by Mrs. Reddick's daughter, Carole Ring, who still lives near Sharon.

"In the pioneer days, these wooded slopes...were covered with virgin forest," Mrs. Reddick has recorded. "The first settlers built their homes of hand-hewn logs. Then to make a clearing for cultivation the giant trees were felled. The logs were cut into cordwood (and) drawn to Brighton and sold to the Grand Trunk Railway at Two Dollars and fifty cents a cord, as all locomotives were driving by engines fired with wood."

This narrative places the first settlements as just preceding the coming of the Grand Trunk Railway, which passed through Colborne and Brighton in 1856. The Walker-Reddick record continues:



Confirmation group outside former Sharon United Church: (from left) Cecil McQuoid, Colleen Whitehouse, Rev. Cumming, Carole Reddick, Marilyn Reddick, Russell Cochrane, July 5, 1953.

Photo courtesy of Carole Ring

Sharon School group shot, Sept. 20, 1946: (back, from left) Colleen Whitehouse, Jean Chapman, Marilyn Reddick, Eva Montgomery, Jean Penfold, Gordon Bender, Lyle Honey, Russell Cochrane, Teacher Muriel McDonald Reddick. In front are Bobby Mulhall, Carole Reddick, Verna Montgomery, Beatrice Walker, Leonard Chapman.

Photo courtesy of Carole Ring





"...the...beautiful, fertile valley...supports many families and which is drained by Factory Creek (also known as Bidy Creek and Cold Creek) flowing from Little Lake (called Bidy Lake on some maps.)

"Little Lake extends over an area of two hundred acres surrounded by maple and cedar-wooded slopes fed by springs from these hill sides.... To the east, a large cranberry marsh lay. This marsh probably covers one thousand acres. It is thickly wooded with hardwoods and evergreens. In the central part is a bog of shallow water and quicksand bottom. In 1937 an old flying boat aeroplane...made a forced landing here. They crashed in the top of a huge spreading tree which uprooted and broke the force of the fall. The plane was badly damaged but the men were uninjured....

"Orchids grow here in a secluded spot. Miss Hazel Farley used to make an annual pilgrimage to secure these precious, delicate flowers. Her path was marked by newspapers stuck on the dead tamarack branches.

"Social life consisted of gatherings in the school (now a private home at 14281 Telephone Road). Religious worship was held there, too (at first). The minister travelled a circuit of one hundred miles, administering to the spiritual needs of the scattered settlers who, in turn, befriended the minister by affording him shelter, food and transportation to the next school.

"In those days, neighbours were neighbours, helping with the building of homes and barns. Husking bees, quilting parties, old-time square dances, spelling matches and concerts of home talent comprised their social life.

"Today we enjoy much the same pleasures but the car is the main mode of travel and adds outside places of entertainment. The first car introduced to this neighbourhood was owned by Geo. McDonald in 1914.

"The church of this community (Sharon United Church) was built in 1872 (the building no longer exists, but it was located across Telephone Road from the school, at the corner of Deelee Road — the foundation only remains). The Episcopalian and Wesleyan amalgamated. The land for this was donated by E. T. Farrow's father...E. T. Farrow did faithful service as the Superintendent of the Sunday school for 25 years and Orton Purdy...was secretary for the same length of time, while Miss Annie Hinman, a blind girl, capably acted as organist. During the same time Ed Hinman, Richard Chatten, Misses Nina and Alma Lacey, Mrs. Ross Walker and Maude Hoare were worthy Sunday school teachers. (Sharon Church was closed in 1965.)

"Before this an Episcopalian Church was the place of worship on Mr. Reuben Waite's place (on the Cramahe-Brighton Boundary Road, north of Telephone Road) near the Waite Cemetery, which (was) about one hundred years old (in 1947) and a



Circa 1910, shot of
blacksmith shop at
Sharon (Edville).

Photo courtesy of Mary Pearson





Wesleyan Methodist Church was about three miles west on Thomas Walker's place.

"At one time this community must have been quite flourishing. A blacksmith shop did considerable work for the farmers in this settlement under the capable hands of Messrs. Hicks, then Armstrong and later Barrett. This shop was on the north side of the road on a steep slope just west of Mr. A.T. Walker's home. (A.T. Walker lived east of where Cold Creek crosses Telephone Road).

"A cheese factory by Factory Creek was built by the farmers of the community to accommodate their production of milk....

"Just back of the factory is an old kiln which once made bricks for the erection of many buildings in the district.

"A sawmill for the lumber industry and fulling mill which carded wool and fulled cloth was doing business on the Ira Brintnell place (west of the creek on the south side of Telephone Road)....

"Another saw mill was built by Mr. Yule across a creek flowing through his farm, later owned by Sam Brown and then by Geo. Gummer and later by Jas. Cochrane. It was built to saw into lumber the great pines which covered his property. This was hauled by horses to Cole's Wharf (in Lakeport) and shipped to the States. Great piles of good wood (were) burned in pioneer days, just to make a clearing.

"A store once did business in Mr. Fred Pearson's house, then owned by Charles Ireland. Since 1935 a store owned by Thomas Verity on the west shore of Little Lake has been doing a thriving business, especially during the summer months when the campers inhabit their cozy cottages which cluster about the shores.

(This store was still in existence at the time of writing on the west side of Lake Road across from the public swimming area at Little Lake. Mr. Verity also once owned the Little Lake Pavilion, which also still exists, although greatly changed. The private roads to the cottages, McDonald Road and Reddick Road, were created when Mrs. Reddick's family, the McDonalds, and her husband's family, the Reddicks, created cottage lots on farmland they owned around the shores of Little Lake in the 1940s and '50s). Mr. Walker's narrative continues:

"An evaporator for apple-drying once did a flourishing business, just east of the present school. Most of this produce was shipped to Toronto....

"When Ed Cochrane was a Federal Member of Parliament he named the settlement Edville and a Post Office distributed mail from Mr. Barrett's house. But for some years the daily mail had been delivered to the box-holders from Colborne. Mail drawer (in 1947)...is Lloyd Vanslyke....



Baby Edith Pearson (later Peters) outside cheese factory in Edville. Her father, Fred Pearson, ran the factory.

Photo courtesy of Mary Pearson





"The Community has many natural resources — the lake furnishes some good bass in summer, the ice-cutting industry flourishes in winter.

"Nearly every farm furnishes its own fuel and many have maple-sugar-bearing trees for their own use. Muskrat is trapped along Factory Creek by Ted Walker and the odd coon and fox is shot during the winter, while jack-rabbits abound and furnish good eating. A new resident to Little Lake, Adrian Bender, is introducing mink-raising (which turned out to be a short-lived enterprise).

"Some of the close residents to Cranberry Marsh are able to procure a basket of cranberries...its fastnesses, which are nearly impenetrable, produce wild raspberries where the wood has been cut off the year before. Most farmers have an apple orchard and small fruit. They grow (canning) factory crops of tomatoes, corn, peas, pumpkins, onions, carrots and beans. Nearly all produce their own grain and hay for stock and some have surplus for sale.

"The first crop pea-dusting by aeroplane in Canada was carried out over the fields of Sharon.

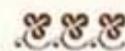
"A spring of some renown bubbles from the ground from Mrs. A. A. Murphy's place (east of where Cold Creek crosses Telephone Road, east of the former Sharon school). It is walled in on the roadside and accommodates the passers-by...Thus the community never lacks for spring water when the wells go dry...

"Telephone lines were introduced in 1900. Wm. Wade built the line. Geo. Gummer later bought it and then the Cramahe Township afterwards controlled it.

"Electric power was introduced to the community about 1938. John Cochrane and E. T. Farrow were the first consumers. It has made a revolution in the life of the farmer and his wife: electric lights were first installed then many bought milking machines, grinders, saws and water pumps. The housewife now has the luxury of washing-machines, irons, electric stoves, (vacuum) cleaners and refrigerators.

"From the top of Drury Hill (on Telephone Road near the Brighton Township border) this fertile valley may be viewed. None other could be more picturesque. Little Lake nestles in its hollow. Trees in groves and laid-out orchards, cultivated fields, a school and a church spire are all included in the rolling landscape dotted with farm homes and red barns."

Mr. Walker's pretty picture of life in Sharon/Edville concludes: "How could one ask for more?"



The Walker home at Edville, ca. 1910.

Photo courtesy of Mary Pearson



It may be hard to believe for any person who knows Colborne and Cramahe well, but the numerous Chapmans who fill the phone books, the schools, the churches and the streets, are all descended from one man. The historic seat of the Chapman family lies, in a way, between two neighbourhoods, Dundonald and Edville, but the family has enough members to populate a small community of its own.

Francis John Chapman (1829–1926) was the only child of John and Ann (Tinney) Chapman, who emigrated from Kent, England, when Francis John was a child. Francis John married Florence Evelyn McDonald and they bought a house and eight acres on what is now Telephone Road, east of County Road 25. The house burned in 1891 and the couple and their growing family (they had four children by then) lived in the drive-shed for four years until local builder John Pomeroy had time to build them another. The house was built in 1895. Francis John expanded his holding when his neighbour, John Eddy, sold him 47 acres of land in 1899.

After Francis John and Florence had both passed away, the farm was bequeathed to their youngest child, Francis Clifford who, with his wife Dora Mae (Herrington), came there to live in 1930. His brothers and sisters, Walter, Archie, Edward Roy, Bertha Ann, Clara Bernice and Lloyd John were settled nearby. Roy, who married Alice Anne Cochrane, contributed greatly to the proliferation of Chapmans in the area. The couple had 17 children, all of whom lived. The Chapman brothers farmed together, sharing their assets. Occasionally, the family annals record, disputes broke out when two or more of them felt the need of a cultivator, a manure spreader, binder or thresher, at the same time. But, somehow, they always managed to work out their difficulties and find strength in their numbers that enabled them to survive the tough farm life.

Since 1976, the original home of Francis John and Florence has been owned by Doug Chapman, and his wife, Barbara (nee Ellis). He is the grandson of Francis John and the son of Francis Clifford. Although it is surely one of the smallest century farms in existence, the Chapmans point with pride to their original eight acres, where there used to be an orchard, producing giant Wolf River apples until, as Doug recalls, "it wasn't profitable anymore, because the 'little guy' can't compete."

Doug Chapman attended school and church at Edville (Sharon) but the Chapmans are also looked on as part of the Dundonald community, as well. They now belong to Eden Church in Dundonald, since the Sharon Church has been closed since 1965.

Other family members live on the aptly-named Chapman Road, which connects Telephone Road with the Dundonald Road (County Road 21).



Early 1900s Chapman family portrait: In back, from left, are Lloyd, Clara, Roy and Archie. In front are Bertha, Francis John, Francis Clifford, Florence and Walter.

Photo courtesy of Barb Chapman





Dundonald

There are various stories about how Dundonald got its name. One is that the community was named for two Scottish brothers, Duncan and Donald Campbell. Donald Campbell emigrated to Canada circa 1826, bringing with him his own personal groom and piper. It appears these Campbells were connected with the influential Campbells of Lakeport, for according to the story, he lived there on an estate where he raised fine horses and accumulated wealth from a number of investments and loans. (There is a record of one Donald Campbell bringing his bride, Maria McTavish, to the Bellevue estate in Lakeport around this time.) Those Campbell loans and mortgages helped finance a number of farms in Cramahe Township and, according to

reports, at the time of his death in 1892, he held mortgages worth a total of \$180,000 — a fabulous sum in those days — on lands stretching for miles in all directions, including Dundonald.

But a history of Dundonald's Eden United Church reveals that the first known name of the place where the church is now, and which we know as Dundonald, was "Dudley's Neighbourhood." A little settlement, christened "New Dundonald," was located a bit to the east, where Shiloh Road joins County Road 21 (also called the Dundonald Road). There is a part of Belfast, Northern Ireland, called Dundonald, probably all that is left of a small Irish village by that name, swallowed up by Belfast as it grew. There could well be another Dundonald in Scotland. It is possible that immigrants from that part of the world, named the local settlement to remind them of home.

Dundonald appears in the Northumberland Directory of 1870–71 as having a population of 20. This reference, most likely, is to "New Dundonald," the neighbourhood at the junction of Shiloh Road and County Road 21. Today, ironically, most of the folks in the community refer to that neighbourhood as "Old Dundonald," or "Chesterfield's Corner." The community had a post office (the first postmaster was named John Barker), a dry-goods store, two blacksmith shops, a wagon-maker's shop operated by Robert

Sprentnall; a shoemaker's shop run by Harry Chesterfield (from which, most likely, the name Chesterfield's Corner arose) and Goodrich's grist mill, east of Cold Creek, also called Bidy Creek. The Goodrich family lived east of the mill. Names of early blacksmiths include Hicks, Irish, Fife and Marks. As early as 1841, two mills, one owned by Donald Campbell and another by a man named Coulson, were powered by the creek near Chesterfield's Corner. In the early days, the settlement derived much of its activity and prosperity from the lumber trade.⁴

Mary Pearson — whose great-grandparents were early settlers in Dundonald — says her mother, the former Edna McDonald, born in 1874, attended the earliest school in the area, built on County Road 21, near Mutton Road in the Chesterfield's Corner neighbourhood. This schoolhouse, which no longer exists, had no proper seats for the students, just benches around the sides, Mrs. Pearson was told.



Eden United Church as it appears today, is the centre of activity in Dundonald.

Photo by Eileen Argyris





Sometime later, probably during the planning and building of the present-day Eden United Church, the hub of activity shifted from Chesterfield's Corner to "Dudley's Neighbourhood," the centre of Dundonald as we know it today. A vote was taken among the householders in the community, and it was decided to erect a brick school on a half-acre of land that had been owned by Austin and Nancy Dudley, in 1874, the same year construction of the church was begun. This school, however, was later deemed to be of poor construction, and in 1897 the brick building was replaced with a frame one on the same spot, still standing at 13979 Dundonald Road (County Road 21), and now in use as a private home. As well, the post office was moved from the former Chesterfield's Corner location to the former Monroe Dudley home, still standing at 13773 Dundonald Road, across the road from the church.

The land on which the Eden Church is built was purchased from Thomas G. Murphy and his wife, Martha S. Murphy, for the sum of one dollar. Austin Dudley, William Walker, Schuyler Tompkins and Almond Drinkwater were purchasing agents acting on behalf of the (then) Methodist Episcopal congregation. Local residents Monroe Dudley, Donald (called "Dan") McDonald and Malcolm McDonald did much of the physical work of building of the church. Malcolm McDonald is the person credited with settling on the name, "Eden," in 1884. Prior to that time, it was simply referred to as "Dudley's Charge."

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Sinclair McDonald — great-grandparents of Mary Pearson, parents of Malcolm and "Dan" — came from Scotland, we are uncertain in what year, but it is recorded in the family history that the journey by ship across the cold, dark, dangerous Atlantic took 16 weeks. They cleared land and built a log cabin on a farm south of where Walker's Cemetery is located at the time of writing.

In 1874, their son Dan built one of the first brick houses in Cramahe Township, and it still stands at 290 Trottman Road. The distinction of having the very first brick house in the township, it is said, belongs to Levi Dudley, father of Monroe Dudley, grandfather of Clarence Dudley, who built a house just east of where Mary Pearson's house stands today, at 13800 Dundonald Road. Moreover, according to one account, Mr. Dudley also made the bricks for the house. It is no longer standing.

The red-brick church took two years to build and was dedicated Thursday, June 29, 1876, when the guest preacher was Rev. Bishop Carman. Dinner was served in the hall adjoining the church and the general public was exhorted, in an advertisement of the day, to come hear Rev. J. R. Jaques, D.D., of Belleville, deliver his popular lecture entitled, "The Two Lamps, or the Philosophy of Education." Tickets to the dinner and lecture were offered for 50 cents each. The invitation concludes with the following recommendation: "This may not be the largest, but it is claimed to be the prettiest church on the Colborne Circuit. In style and finish it is a model. Come and see it."



McDonald's portable sawmill working at Dundonald.

Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke





There were Methodists of various stripes at that time. While the Methodist Episcopal congregation met at Eden, the Providence Methodist Church — located south of Walker's Cemetery, about one and a half miles west of the Eden Church — was home to Methodists of the Wesleyan variety. It continued to be active until 1885, when various Methodist sub-denominations were brought into one fold. The building was then sold; it has not survived. After "church union" in 1925 formed the United Church of Canada, Eden, along with Sharon, Hilton and Shiloh, became part of the Hilton pastoral charge of the United Church, served by one minister who lived at Hilton, in Brighton Township.

Meanwhile, Dundonald continued to grow around its church. In 1895, Henry Marks built a blacksmith shop across the road from the church, in the three-cornered lot bounded by Dundonald, Broomfield and Trottman Roads. In 1902, it was purchased by Mark



The Dundonald store, post office and telephone central when it was owned and operated by the Broomfield family, ca. 1911.

Photo courtesy of Mary Pearson

Broomfield, father of Mary Pearson, and he continued to operate it as a smithy until his death in 1949. Mr. Broomfield also built the house on the property, when he married Edna McDonald in 1905. The house and the former smithy were still standing at the beginning of the year 2000, although the blacksmith shop was no longer in use.

A general store was built by a man named Brisbin just west of the church in 1898. This store was later operated by Henry Marks, then by Clarence Dudley. In 1911, it was taken over by blacksmith Mark Broomfield and his wife, Edna. The family also lived on the property, and the post office came to be located there, as well. The Broomfields' daughter, Mary, who later married Stan Pearson, recalls being installed as assistant postmistress when she was 18, in 1938. Prior to that time, she could wait on people in the store but, if they asked for their mail, she had to call her mother; the swearing-in of postal employees was a federal regulation. After telephone service came to Dundonald in 1910, the telephone "central" had a home in the Dundonald store. When motor vehicles became more prevalent, gas pumps (originally, the old, gravity-fed variety with glass globes on top) were installed. Afterwards the business was owned by the Irwin brothers, Earl and Fred, who added a garage. Later it was owned by Charlie and Marion Moran, then by Lloyd and Phyllis Chapman, then by Walter and Edith Pearson. The last owners were Harry and Jean Darke, who got caught in the squeeze between rising wholesale prices for small businesses and a more mobile customer base. They closed the store in 1972 because, as Mr. Darke said, "people could travel to malls and buy things on sale cheaper than we could buy them wholesale." The same fate befell many small stores in Cramahe's rural communities around the same time. The building still stands, a private home, at 13776 Dundonald Road.

In 1965, Dundonald's Eden Church became part of the Colborne pastoral charge, as it is, at the present. The church remains in structure and appearance, very close to its original form.





A 30-foot steeple was removed in the mid-1920s because it was thought to be in danger of toppling, and for a number of years, the church was without a steeple. A cement front step has replaced the original wooden one and the front doors have been replaced. In 1945 electric lights were installed at a cost of \$77.30, the main ceiling was lowered and tiled in 1966 because the original plaster ceiling collapsed, and two old wood-burning stoves, with pipes running the full length of the church, were replaced by an oil furnace in 1973. The hall has undergone more changes. With the passing of the horse-and- buggy days, a drive-shed that was originally located under the hall, has been removed and the building was lowered to near-ground level in 1952. Other modernization included panelling, new flooring and the installation of running water in the kitchen in 1972. Until then the willing workers in the kitchen were obliged to haul water for cooking and dish-washing. The congregation celebrated its 125th anniversary in 1999 and at present services are held in the church on alternate Sundays. The current minister is Rev. David Timpson.

Shiloh

Shiloh, in biblical times, referred to the place where the Israelites' Ark of the Covenant, the "holy of holies" rested after the victory of Israel over the Canaanites. The land of the Canaanites was the "promised land, flowing with milk and honey." These were comforting — through largely contrary — images to offer to a pioneering people coming to a land of trees, promising mostly hard labour.

The first name of Shiloh, north and somewhat west of Sharon, was Penryn, a reflection of Cornish ancestry in the first white settlers. Cornish names often begin with "Pen," meaning "fort", for example Penzance, Penwith and others. The motto of the Cornish village of Penryn is: "With God, everything; Without God, nothing." Cornwall is now a county in the southwest of England, but in ancient times it was a duchy (ruled by a duke) and had its own language, related to the Welsh and Breton tongues.

The Cornish people were slow to accept the Protestant Reformation but, once they did, they embraced Methodism with fervour. And it was from the name of the tiny Methodist church these Cornish settlers founded — called Shiloh — that the settlement took the name that it bears to this day.

In the early 1940s, Mary Ann Mutton Down was inspired to begin writing the history of Shiloh. It took her 20 years — she was 93 by the time it was done — and the resulting book called, "Ours to Remember, A History of Shiloh, its pioneers, their forebears and descendants," furnished most of the early information about the settlement given in the following account.

Among the first families to settle in Shiloh were the Wilces, Philps, Dunnetts, Strattons and the prolific Muttons, whose family name is still dominant upon mailboxes in the area today. Among the earliest immigrants from Cornwall to settle in the area were William Mutton, son of



Looking west along the Dundonald Road (County Road 21) from the store about 1911.

Photo courtesy of Mary Pearson





Mutton Family Reunion: At the home of George and Weltha Mutton, birthplace of their nine children. It was built in 1875 and destroyed by fire in 1934. This photo was taken about the turn of the century.

Photo courtesy of M. Jean Kernaghan

Dummer Township, near present-day Peterborough, where he chopped down trees for fifty cents a week. But after he married Belinda in 1836, the pair bought a farm that had belonged to Judge Jay Ketchum, and moved to Cramahe Township.

For four years prior to this, Belinda had worked at Squire Barnum's (now Barnum House Museum) in Grafton. She had been able to save enough from her four-dollar-a-month salary to purchase a cow, which would have made a good start for the young newlyweds, but it died the night before their wedding. Later, they were able to obtain a steer, but it fell prey to a wolf. When they managed to get a pig, a bear carried it out of its pen, screaming all the way.

The couple kept trying, however, and they managed to clear enough land to plant potatoes. William, apparently, was an able woodsman, having cleared a goodly space in Dummer Township that was known as "Mutton-Choppin'" for many years thereafter. Belinda boiled up the potatoes in a big sugar kettle and used them to fatten pigs, when they were able to get more of them and keep them safe from bears. The couple lived in a log cabin whose floors were made of lumber that William had sawed by hand. To earn money to pay for his farm, William made staves for barrels which he sold at the wharves in Lakeport.

While William was forging a home (and even a dynasty) in Canada, his mother in far-off Cornwall worried daily about her son. A book she read, called "William the Little Woodman," was pretty much guaranteed to keep her thoughts upon the son who

Ann Stuart and Henry Mutton. As a child, before he came to this country, William was bound out as an apprentice shoemaker, a trade at which he never made a living, but one which furnished him a skill that came in handy when he started rearing a family in the isolated, rural regions of Cramahe Township. Not for him the old saw about the cobbler's children going barefoot; even when other young ones in the community had no shoes, his had. And he made slippers for his wife and youngsters out of the tops of his own outworn high-top boots.

His wife was the former Belinda Philp, whom he had met on board ship as she sailed with her parents from the same part of the world to the new land. William had come alone — leaving his parents and siblings in England. At first, William worked in

Loading eggs onto the wagon for the trip to Colborne from the Lawrence Mutton farm in Shiloh, early 1950s.

Photo courtesy of Beryl Mutton





had emigrated to the lonely Canadian woods. One night, William had a dream — or perhaps one might call it a vision. He told his family he had seen his mother standing at the foot of his bed, in Cramahe Township, though she was far away in the Old Country. He took note of the time and, when he next heard from his Cornish relations, he learned that his mother had died at precisely the time he saw her. To the end of his own life, he believed that a benevolent Deity had allowed her to pass his way to see him one last time, and perhaps assuage her worries, before she passed away from this Earth. William and Belinda raised a large family, five boys and three girls named Henry, John, Mary Ann, Edward, Elizabeth, William, Catherine and Charles. John married Sarah Honey, who had come from Bowmanville when that place was a settlement of seven homes, and Mary Ann Mutton Down (author of *Ours to Remember*) was their daughter.

Sometime after William Mutton settled in Shiloh, three of his brothers and one sister came from Cornwall to take up homesteads in the area.

From William and from his brothers are descended the numerous progeny bearing the name of Mutton that populate the area to this day. And Belinda's family, the Philps, who had come to Canada on the same boat as William Mutton, had numerous descendants, as well. Around 1839, Belinda Philp's family moved to Shiloh to be near Belinda, who had married William Mutton three years before. Mary Philp, Belinda's mother, was not impressed with the rough life of the Canadian frontier but she survived it well. It is unlikely she found much use for the riding habit she had brought with her from England, since her family only discovered it when they sorted through her possessions after her death at age 93, in 1884.

Mary Mutton, William's sister, married James Newson, a widower with six children who had no money with which to buy a wedding ring, or even a dress shirt in which to be married. The story goes that Mary cut up one of her own petticoats to make him a fine, white shirt. And after their marriage, she was able to save enough from the sale of butter and eggs to buy herself a ring. But she seems not to have minded any of the economies she was forced to endure as a member of the large Newson family. When a visiting nephew brought in a few apples for a treat, he was disappointed not to have one for himself, because Mary took them all and made them into apple dumplings so that everyone could have a share. Also, in the Newson household, people were served one potato each, always boiled, to save on fat. But in that new and fertile land, it was said, potatoes each grew "as large as a man's foot," so no one needed more than one.

Henry Wilce (1822–1910) was another of Shiloh's pioneers. He came from England and married Sarah Kershaw in 1851 in Cobourg. Sometime afterward, they came to Shiloh and it is quite amazing what the Wilce family was able to accomplish on their farm in less than 20 years, as the 1871 Census Report for Henry Wilce and family demonstrates:



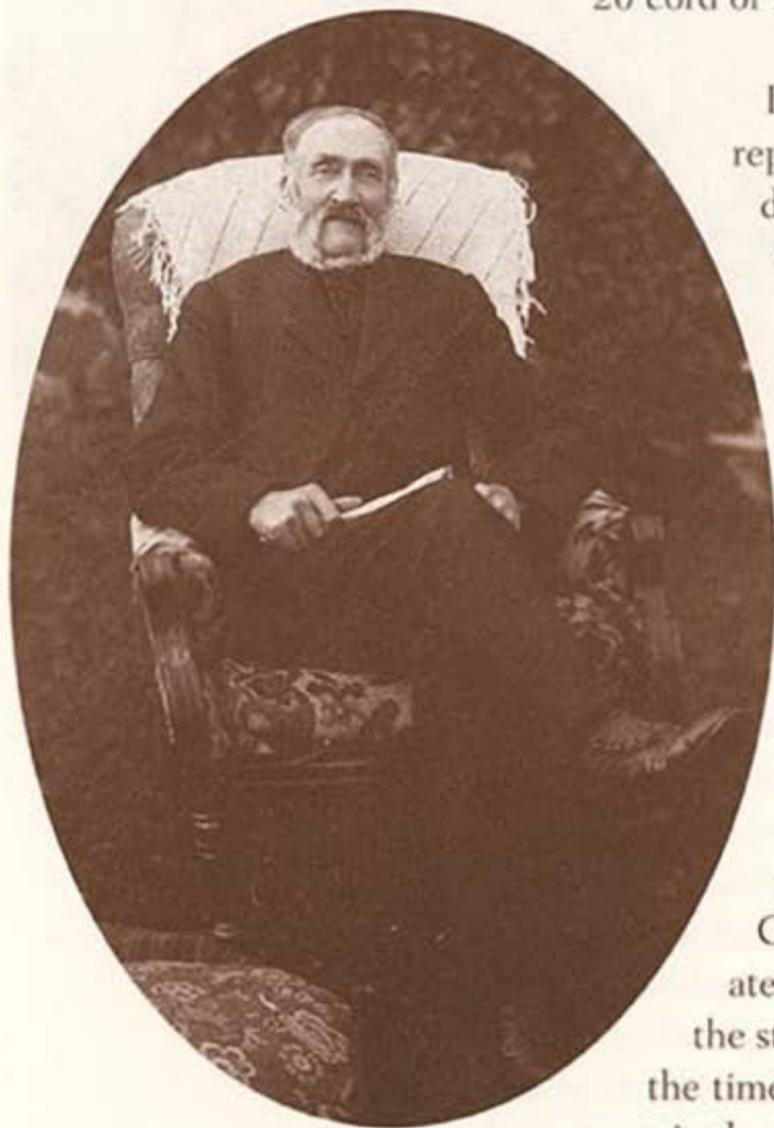
Shiloh Memorial Church: Built in 1863, the church served as a place of regular worship until 1965 when most of its congregation joined the Dundonald congregation at Eden United Church. The church still hosts at least one service per year.

Photo by Eileen Argyris





Cramahe Twp District No. 55 Sub Division 2 Concession 6, Lot 17, owner of 100 acres, 40 improved, 12 pasture, ½ acre in garden or orchard, 6 acres of wheat producing 37 bushels of Spring wheat. 60 acres of fall wheat, 30 bushels of oats, 35 bushels of rye, 40 bushels of peas, 4 bushels of beans, 15 bushels of buckwheat, 30 bushels of corn, ½ acre for potatoes producing 200 bushels and 300 bushels of turnips and 6 acres for hay producing 5 tons. Produced 50 bushels of apples. Three horses over 3 years of age, 4 milch cows, 9 other horned cattle, 23 sheep, 10 swine, 4 bee hives, 5 sheep killed or sold for slaughter, 9 pigs sold for slaughter, 300 pounds of butter, 40 pounds of honey, 50 pounds of wool, 12 yards of cloth and 20 cord of firewood.”



Henry Wilce came to Shiloh in the 1850s, built a log home and established a thriving farm within 20 years.
Photo courtesy of Carl Wilce

Like most pioneers, the Wilces first built a log house, which was later replaced by a brick dwelling erected by their son, J.K. Wilce. It was destroyed by fire on March 15, 1928, and many precious family records and photographs were lost with it. Carl Wilce, who lived on the same property at 186 Wilce Road at the time of writing was a baby when the fire occurred, the result of a leaky gaslamp. He and his brothers remember hearing tales of how their grandparents, coming home from Colborne by sleigh one winter's evening, were chased by timber wolves ("not the brush wolves or coyotes you see around here nowadays," said Carl's brother, Bert Wilce). The couple drove their sleigh into their barn ahead of the pursuing wolves, then secured the doors and spent the night in the barn, in fear for their lives. Their uncles told the youngsters of seeing Indians camping in the area on hunting expeditions, around 1900.

As with her sister settlements, mills were important to the development of Shiloh. Coon's (later Wallie's) sawmill was located on Cold Creek near Penryn Road. It was unusual in that the water wheel operated in a horizontal position. At one time, according to *Ours to Remember*, the stream was large enough that squared timber could easily run down it; at the time of writing, of course, it is greatly diminished, as with all other waterways in the area. However, in early settlement times, Mrs. Down records there were four mills within five miles on the creek: the Coon Mill, Slater's grist mill, Potts saw-mill and Newcombe grist mill. Residents living in the area at the start of the 21st century remembered the so-called Mud Mill on Dingman Road west of Cowie Road which had two dammed ponds, one of which operated the mill in the morning, and the other in the afternoon. This mill was located on a tributary of Cold Creek.

The early settlers held religious meetings in the sugar bush at William Mutton's farm. The Wesleyan Methodist church was built at Shiloh (at 544 Penryn Road) in 1863, four years before Canadian Confederation. Land for the church was donated by Robert Dunnett from a section





of his farm. In 1925, when the United Church of Canada was formed, it became a United Church, which remained active, part of the Hilton charge, until 1965. At that time, the charge was declared ended at a meeting of the church presbytery in Cobourg, but permission was granted for Shiloh to continue as a Memorial Church, offering services once a year or on special occasions. At these times, clergy of the Colborne charge (including Colborne, Salem and Dundonald) conduct services. The church and its surroundings have remained remarkably unchanged and unspoiled over the years, so that it was at the time of writing an excellent example of a mid-19th century rural Canadian church. The original clapboard siding remained intact, along with the gothic-style multi-paned, clear-glass windows, pews, wainscoting, window trim, wide-board pine floors and the rear doors, which serve as a wind-barrier, and exterior double doors. The pulpit and railings, too, are original, but the tin ceiling is a later addition.

Shiloh got its own school in 1855; prior to that time, the children had walked beyond Dundonald to attend classes. The early frame school was replaced by a stone school, with walls three feet thick, that still stands (now in use as a private home) at 541 Penryn Road. By 1915, the students of Shiloh School were bringing exhibits to their own school fair, under the direction of Mr. H. Sirett. A school garden project was started in 1930 and a porch was added in 1935. In 1946, the little stone school was closed, and the building was used as a community hall for a time. Carl Wilce remembered being inside the school building when Hurricane Hazel came through in 1954. He said he could see that the trees were "whipping around" outside, but so solid was the building that he could not hear the roar of the wind, nor feel any other effects of the intense storm. He also recalled a mining company drilling for iron ore in Shiloh, near the T-intersection of Shiloh and Penryn Roads, and down Feeney Road, during World War II, but no mining operation ever resulted.

Shiloh's (then Penryn's) first post office was located in the home at 560 Penryn Road, owned at the time of writing by Robert and Lesley Owen. The house was built in 1863 and by 1878 was owned by J. Newson. From November 1, 1903, to November 21, 1912, the post office was operated by William Newson.

Salem

Salem is another Cramahe Township community with a name taken from the Bible. It is generally interpreted as meaning "place of peace," and, considering the fact that many of her first settlers got their land grants for service in war, the choice of name may have offered a hope, even a prayer, for the future. Some of Salem's early settlers were: Stephen Turney, John Coffeen, Ira Brown, Gerard Ballamy, John Bradd, William Bidwell, Ballard McConnell, Andrew Swain, "Old Dutch" Snetsinger, Major Burell, William Jackson, Timothy Silver; others bore the family names of Mason, Scott, Wilson, Ventress, Webb, Fraser, Peacock, Bellamy and Cochrane.⁵

After the end of the American Revolution (1776-1783), about 8,000 men who served in the Provincial Corps of the British Army, more commonly called the "Loyalist regiments," qualified for grants of land in Upper Canada. Some of Salem's earliest settlers came to this district in this way. Colonel John Peters, who had been in charge of the Queen's Loyal Rangers, received a





Wood bee at Salem, 1899: In early settlement days, neighbours often got together to help one another with big projects. These lumbermen were photographed by Dominion Photo and View Co. of Brighton, F. B. Jones, photographer. We have been able to identify the following: Albert Cochrane, second from front left; Frank Ventress, third from back left; Sanford Brown, fifth from back left; Duncan Church, centre of back row; Mason Bellamy, with the upright saw, fifth from the back right; William Henry Bellamy in the middle row at left; George Armstrong with the big moustache in the middle row, middle of the row.

Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke



1,000-acre land grant from the Crown. It fronted on the lakeshore in Cramahe Township and was roughly one mile square, the area today bounded on the south by the lake, on the west by Peters Road and on the east by Bellamy Road. Col. Peters and his descendants farmed the land for generations, subdividing it when necessary to give another scion of the family a farm. Patricia Peters Westrope, deputy-reeve of Colborne at the time of writing, still owns the 26 acres left of this original grant. She is a direct descendant of Col. Peters, who was sheriff of the district and a leading citizen of the area in his day.

Another important name in the early development of Salem was that of the Spilsbury family. Dr. Francis B. Spilsbury, who was born in England in 1756, the son of an English physician, entered the Royal Navy as Assistant Surgeon in 1778. He served in the Mediterranean and in North Africa, later in England and, during the War of 1812, on the British fleet in the Great Lakes. He retired on half-pay at the end of the war and took up a practice in Kingston, where he lived until his death in 1823, writing a number of medical treatises. His son, Capt. F. S. Spilsbury, born in England in 1784, entered the Royal Navy at a very early age. He served with distinction in Mediterranean and Middle East during the Napoleonic Wars, suffered a head-wound from a musket-ball which necessitated the removal of a portion of his skull and its replacement with a silver plate. He rose to the rank of Commander at only 28 years of age. After that he fought in Canada, during the War of 1812 between the Crown and the United States, where he served brilliantly, was promoted to the rank of post-Captain and retired on half-pay, aged 31,





after 20 years active service. The same year, he married Fanny Bayly, in Kent, England. The couple emigrated, settling first at Kingston, then at Cobourg, and then "near Colborne," where he called his home Osmondthorpe Hall. He and his wife had a family of six sons and three daughters. The Spilsburys were members of Trinity Anglican Church, Colborne, and a letter written by F. S. Spilsbury to his two sons, Brock and Henry, is printed in the history of the church published on its 100th anniversary, in 1946. It advises the younger boy to be mindful of his elder brother, and requires that both boys "go to none but the church of England,...both morning and evening." As well, their father tells his sons, "We have been hard at work getting the mud out of the millpond and dressing the land with it. I got two premiums for sheep at our cattle show. We have fine crops this year... This week we shall be very busy getting in our potatoes and next week shall be equally so in electioneering, as I have offered myself as a Candidate."⁶ In 1830, Spilsbury was the Tory candidate to represent the District of Newcastle but was defeated. His eldest son, Francis Brockwell Spilsbury, also a Royal Navy man, inherited the property at Salem, and was identified with milling and agricultural interests. This F. B. Spilsbury was also listed in the Canada Directory of 1857 as a "wharfinger," and it was he who owned the Spilsbury wharf, near which a store was located, on the shore of Lake Ontario at Salem. He was married to Selina Marks of Barriefield and they had three daughters. The last one living was Emily (Emma), who died in 1947.⁷ The Spilsbury family operated a grist mill located at the mouth of Salem Creek.

Mills were very important to Salem, as they were in the history of most of Cramahe's communities. In the *Colborne Transcript* newspaper issue of Jan. 19, 1856, a "Valuable Property" is offered "For Sale, The whole of Lot No 31, in the 3rd Con., Township of Cramahe, Containing 200 Acres — over 100 Acres Cleared and Fenced, and under Cultivation; One Mile from the Village of Colborne, The Premises Known as the Frient Mills Property."

The Freints (their name was also spelled Frint and Frent) had been associated with Cramahe Township since the first surveyor, Augustus Jones, filed his report on this area with the government of the day in the late 1700s. On the 1812 assessment, according to *The History of the Township of Cramahe*, John Frint is listed as having one grist mill and one saw mill. These were powered by the Salem Creek that ran through his property. Frint's Mill is mentioned in the memoirs of Susan Burnham Greeley, excerpted in this book. This could have been the present-day Shanahan property at 13854 County Road 2. There is also a record of a Mr. Gaffield owning a

OLD CEMETERY AT SALEM



My kindred sleep beneath this quiet earth,
Making no mark upon life's busy page.
The quiet stars look down,
The blizzards howl and rage,
Yet no rude sound disturbs their lowly bed
In this small ancient garden of the dead.

I sometimes think the grass is greener here,
And earth is lovelier because they sleep,
Dreaming the quiet centuries away,
Where roots of tall white lilies burrow deep
In the rich dust where some forefather lies,
The sun forever in his dreaming eyes.

Between the quiet rows we seek and find
A little headstone furred with tender moss,
The quaint old lettering is worn and dim,
The tiny sprigs of lichen trail across
As if to veil the names engraved thereon:
William and James... Ursula... Benjamin... John.

— Edna Jaques





Salem Church gets a new steeple, summer of 1979.

Photo courtesy of Patricia Westrope

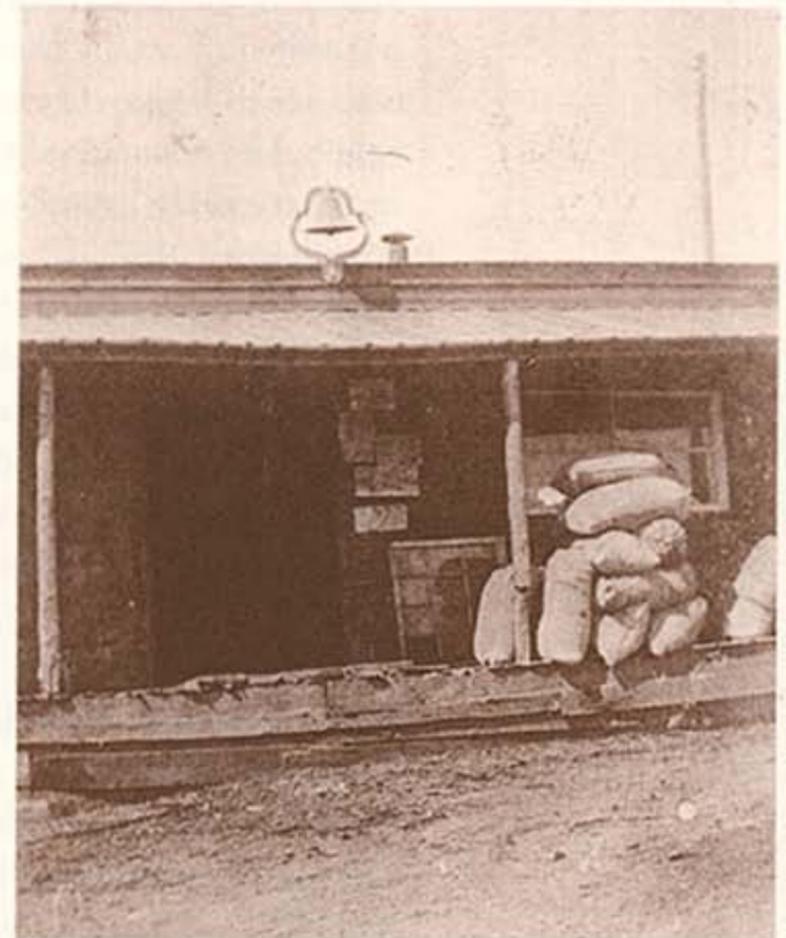
saw mill where the creek crosses County Road 2. This was probably about at the spot presently occupied by Milan Motors at 13537 Little Lake Road. The Gaffield sawmill was later sold to a Mr. Blacklock who reportedly employed 40 to 60 people there, spinning and weaving cloth. Riley Terry later converted it to a grist mill, which was destroyed by fire and replaced by a smaller mill operated by Frank Ventress. A cheese factory and Fowler's pottery operated nearby. Much later, in the 20th century, the building on Little Lake Road was occupied by Canadian Cannery, which processed local produce, mainly tomatoes.⁸ Another cannery, owned by the Branscombe family of Salem, was situated on Union Road, south of Highway 2. It was later bought by Canada Packers, but closed in the 1950s. The property on the south side of Highway 2, just west of Blyth Road has long been a commercial site, with first a general store, then a small variety store and snack bar located

there. At the present time, the Salem Restaurant is in search of a new owner.

A bit north and west of the corner of County Road 2 and Little Lake Road, lies one of the few old-time mills still complete in the township. Colloquially known as "Everden's Mill," the structure is currently owned by the Bassett family at 154 Bailey Drive. Phyllis Everden Hubbs says the original mill, an undershot water-wheel-powered grist mill, was built between 1880 and 1890 and was first owned by a man named Rowney. About 1918, the mill was acquired by Harry Grant who installed a water turbine (horizontal wheel) for greater power so he could operate a saw mill and a sash-and-door business on the property. In the mid-1920s, it was bought by Willis Heckbert who switched the business over to the production of other wood products, and also added a grain-grinder and a press for making apple cider. Tom Everden Sr., who would buy the mill in 1931 and operate it for 50 years, worked there from the time he was a boy of about 16. In the 1940s, a partial dam collapse caused damage to the mill, but totally destroyed the apple-pressing equipment, bringing an end to the cider press. This news dismayed some of the local growers who had, with the addition of some sugar and yeast and the investment of a little fermenting time, been able to produce some pretty good apple jack (hard cider) from the pressed juice. In the mid-1950s, the mill building was reconstructed, and since the turbine remained intact, the business expanded into the production of crates for the shipping of apples and berries and apple ladders, to be used by

This old mill in Salem was built around 1880-1890 and used an undershot water-wheel for power. The bell on the roof was used to summon the miller when customers were waiting.

Photo courtesy of Tom Everden Jr.





pickers before the introduction of the present dwarf and semi-dwarf apple trees. Demand for apple bins kept the mill busy, still powered by water, until Mr. Everden sold the property in 1980, one of the last — perhaps the very last — water-powered mill in operation in Ontario. Today, the dam is gone, but all the mill works stand in readiness to run, the current owner confirms.

If Salem extends from the eastern boundary of the village of Colborne (Colton Street) to the western boundary of the Township of Brighton (Union Road), then the history of the old Rose Lane Inn belongs here. The symmetrical, centre-hall Georgian-style frame house, not very different from the former Keeler's Tavern building in at 171 King Street East, Colborne, is thought to have been built around 1824, but the history of the inn goes back to 1815 when the then owner of the property, Rosewell Comstock, petitioned the Crown for a licence to operate a tavern called the Rose Lane Inn. That original log building was probably erected around 1812 and, like the Keeler Tavern, was located on Upper Canada's main east-west road linking York and Kingston. It was also at the half-way point between Colborne and Brighton and thus was a handy watering stop for stage-coach horses on short trips. The original deed from the property was issued to Oliver Campbell on May 17, 1802. Campbell had petitioned in 1797 for a grant of 300 acres for his military service to the Crown during the American Revolution. When Comstock operated the Rose Lane Inn, the property was reached by a semi-circular drive bounded by rose bushes. In 1990, Clinton McGinnis of Salem did restoration and renovations on the Georgian house at 14596 County Road 2, and reopened it under the name "The Loyalist Inn," as a bed-and-breakfast and restaurant establishment. He had purchased the property from the Branscombe family who had owned it since the 1930s. At the time of writing, it was a private home owned by the Chris Campbell family, who carry on the restoration work.

In 1836, Salem's first church was built on the north side of County Road 2 (at present-day 13922 County Road 2) to serve the local Baptist and Methodist congregations. In 1861 the Salem Methodist Church (later United) was erected and in 1887, the local school district acquired the former Baptist-Methodist church building at for use as a school. But Salem had had three previous schools, dating back to 1824, when the first was erected on property on the south side of County Road 2, east of present-day Salem United Church. This property, at 13941 County Road 2, was owned by Northumberland MPP Douglas Galt, at the time of writing.

After it opened in 1861, the Methodist (later United) Church became the social, as well as the spiritual hub of the Salem community. Architecturally, it is typical of the design and workmanship of rural community churches in the mid-1800s. The building and its pews came from



Everden's mill, Salem, reconstructed by owner Tom Everden in the mid-1950s. It is still standing and the works are complete, though it has not turned a wheel since the early 1980s.

Photo courtesy of Tom Everden Jr.





oak timbers cut, drawn and donated by Mark Ventress, an English immigrant who purchased the farm that had been owned by the Jaques (or Jacques) family since 1835. (A scion of the Jaques family later moved his family to Moose Jaw, Sask., where poetess Edna Jaques was born and raised. Although most of her work was about her prairie home, Edna Jaques also wrote a poem about the cemetery in Salem where a number of her ancestors rest.) Local workmen, under the supervision of a master-joiner, erected the wood-frame church on a rock-and-mortar foundation with large cedar posts supporting the main beams. The bell tower originally held up a graceful spire, but the ravages of time took their toll, and the spire was replaced with a more squat steeple in 1979. The plaster walls were fashioned with lime taken from a pit on a nearby farm. At the north end of the church a gallery spans the width of the building, accessible by staircases on east and west. The first choirs sang from this gallery, where there was also located a small pump organ, acquired around 1900. Two woodstoves, on either side of the vestibule, sent out their warm, black arms the length of the church, providing the worshippers with heat. The stoves remained in use until an oil furnace was installed in 1957. Evening services and "church socials" were lit by oil lamps until electricity was installed in 1932, when some members of the church considered it "an unnecessary luxury." In 1919, the church hall and Sunday school room was added to the back (south) end of the church, thanks to fund-raising by the Ladies Aid, later called the United Church Women, and a kitchen was added at the very rear in 1928, to facilitate church teas and suppers

Prayer Meeting Night was the first midweek activity to be held in the new church, after its erection in 1861. A youth organization was formed in 1893; this group formed its own choir and played football and baseball on the grounds of the Salem school. They had their own community theatre group and debating society. Indeed, there was "always something going on at the church."⁹

Salem has always been farming country; corn was one of the first grain crops grown in the area and hops, for beer, were also grown in pioneering times. And Salem has long been a "red" community, growing tomatoes in the era of the canneries, and apples from early times up to the present day. As well, extensive strawberry operations, especially Peter and Elizabeth Hughes' Salem Farms, have been added in the 1980s and 1990s.

Morganston

In the early 1830s, Morganston, at the crossroads of County Roads 25 and 27 was known as Snyder's Corners, presumably because the first home in the area, a single-storey log dwelling, was built by William Snyder, who later sold out and moved on. The name of the settlement was changed to Morganston around 1868, to reflect the dominance of the numerous Morgan family in the area. The first school in the settlement was built around 1850 and the schoolhouse that still stands at 399 Morganston Road, now a private home, was erected in 1883.

In the early 1830s, religious services were held on the Sabins farm at Lot 16, Con. 7, and the worshippers were known as "Sabins' Congregation." Another group met at the first schoolhouse, on the Bound farm at Lot 12, Con. 9. Some names from those early congregations recur





again and again in accounts of the growth of Morganston. They include: Davidson, Carr, Platt, Bray, Hardinge, VanBlaricom, Morgan, Moore, Begg, Massey, Bradley, Darling, Dingman, Reycraft and Turney, to name a few. VanBlaricom has died out as a family name in these parts, but lives on in the given name of VanBlaricom ("Van") Darling, whose mother was a VanBlaricom.¹⁰ The first Methodist ministers were circuit riders, who braved all weathers to bring the gospel to rural settlements, riding on horseback.

In 1867, R. S. Newman opened a general store and post office on the southwest corner of County Roads 25 and 27, in the same building that still stands on that site. Newman moved his business to Castleton in 1891, selling the Morganston store to John Anderson.

Soon after, in 1896, property for a Methodist church was purchased from Marcus W. Massey for \$40. Church trustees at the time were Richard Moore, James Morgan, John Morgan, Richard Newman, Marcus Massey, Hiram Carr and Richard Morgan. It would be 14 years, however, before the elegant brick church would be completed and opened on the west side of County Road 25, just south of the General Store and the four corners of Morganston. Incidentally, the extensive Massey family of Morganston is related to the famous Masseys of Canadian history who founded the Massey-Harris — later Massey-Ferguson — farm machinery empire, and gave the world Vincent Massey, Canada's first native-born Governor-General, and his brother, Hollywood actor Raymond Massey.



Bird's-eye view of Morganston, circa 1900.
Photo courtesy of Bill Begg

Christian Church, a simple structure built in 1884 on Morganston Road.

Photo by Eileen Argyris



In the 1890s, financial returns for the Methodist charge (which included Castleton and Morganston) averaged \$140 to \$150 per quarter; the minister's salary was \$700 per year. By 1906, that had been raised to \$810 and there were 355 members in the congregations of the charge, which had by then expanded to take in the Oak Heights neighbourhood. At that time, one could ride the stage from Colborne to Hastings for 60 cents and Morganston's barber, William Dingman, charged 10 cents for a haircut.

In 1884, another congregation, calling itself, simply, the "Christian Church" erected





Cheese factory at Morganston: This building was still standing at the time of writing, albeit in disrepair, north of the four corners of Morganston. Standing outside are cheese makers Egbert Demorest, Byron VanBlaricom, Ezra Demorest and Burnham VanBlaricom.
Photo courtesy of Bill Bezz

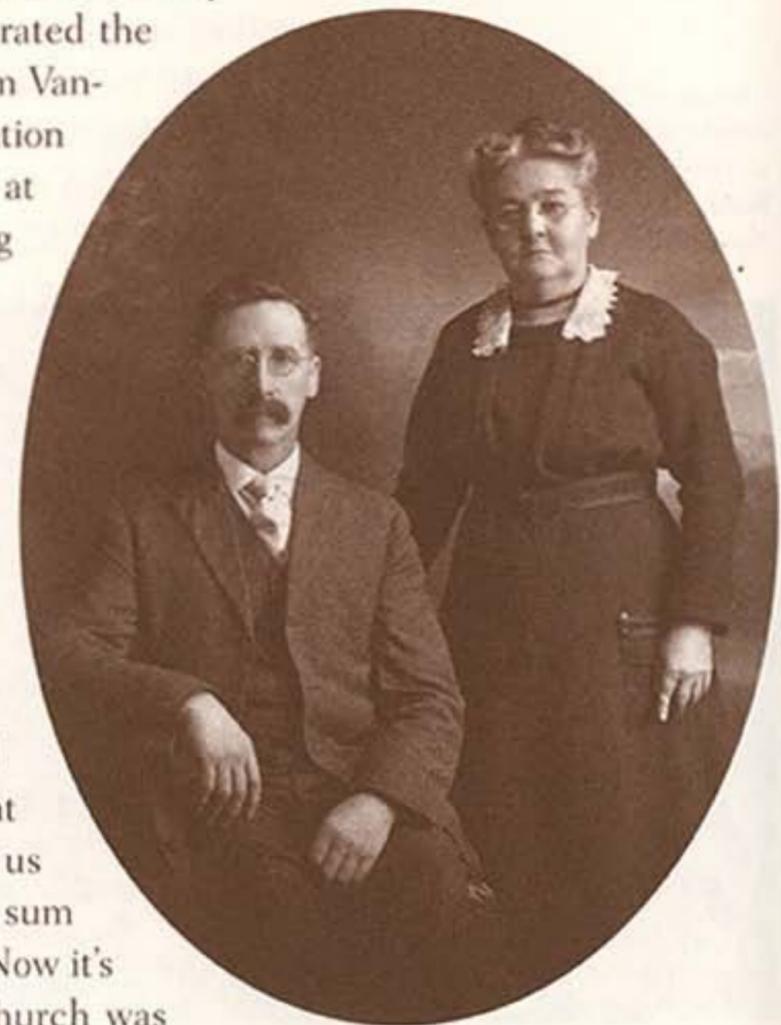
of the year, with cheese being made the rest of the time. But after a few years, Darling found the practice unprofitable since most housewives made their own butter. Then Frank Wilson, who later moved to Colborne, made cheese at Morganston in the cheese factory, the remains of which are still standing on County Road 25, just north of the junction with County Road 27. Between 1915 and 1928, Egbert and Ezra Demorest operated the cheese plant, assisted by another set of brothers, Byron and Burnham VanBlaricom. Doug Turney, a local farmer, made cheese in the same location with his son, Bill. Fred Remington, an experienced cheesemaker, lived at Warkworth but made cheese at Morganston. John Fitchett and Doug Remington, grandson of Fred, and Leslie Poole worked together making cheese in the same factory in 1947–48. Doug Steenburg, formerly of Norham, was the last Morganston cheese-maker. Local residents said the operation ceased in the late 1950s or early 1960s.

Between 1900 and 1910, a telephone office was added to Mr. Anderson's general store, pigs were worth seven cents a pound, and a barrel of apples could be purchased for a dollar. Eli Sabins operated a sawmill and David Turney was a first-class carpenter. A.B. VanBlaricom was one of two local blacksmiths, shoeing horses and sharpening plowshares. In 1907, the skeptical men of the neighbourhood challenged the Methodist Ladies' Aid to raise money for the church that had been planned since the land was purchased in 1896. "Show us \$1,000 and we'll do the rest," the men promised. The ladies raised the sum within three years and presented it to their men with the comment: "Now it's your turn." The red-brick Morganston Methodist (later United) Church was

a plain white wooden building on the north side County Road 27, a little east of the Morganston crossroads. There is a substantial cemetery at this church, indicating that it was the church of choice for many in the surrounding countryside. The building was still standing at the time of writing, at 340 Morganston Road.

Around 1885, the first cheese factory in the area was begun by Alonzo Huycke, on land he leased from John Morgan south of Morganston's four corners. It was sold to Allan Darling and continued in operation until 1901, when it was destroyed by fire. At one time a butter plant was added and butter was made between November and May

Levi Allan Darling and his wife Ida Jane Walker (married 1883) at one time ran the cheese factory on County Road 25. They farmed on the Carr Road. They are the grandparents of George Darling who lived across the street from the Morganston store at the time of writing.
Photo courtesy of George and Viva Darling





designed along structural lines of churches visited by the pastor of the day, Rev. A. H. Foster. It was completed and officially dedicated on October 30, 1910.

An important person in the history of the church, and of Morganston as a whole, was Myrtle Hardy, ACTM, LCCM (1901–1986) who taught music in Cramahe, Percy and Brighton Township schools for 40 years (1930–1970), helped found the Northumberland Music Festival in 1937 (still occurring annually in 2000) and was church organist and choir leader for many years. When Miss Hardy retired from teaching, in her seventieth year, she was hailed as “Miss Music of Northumberland.” Longtime local resident and former school board trustee Don Massey was quoted in a local newspaper: “Without a doubt, Miss Hardy contributed more than any other person to the cultural development of the past two generations in the Morganston area.”¹²

On the subject of music, sometime prior to 1920, Morganston acquired its own band; Ethel Copperthwaite was pianist, the violin section included Harriet Hardy, Arthur Hardinge, Jim Anderson and Darcy Davidson; Lily Darling (Mrs. Lorne Darling) played the autoharp alongside Mrs. Clarence Massey. Pearl Davidson on zither, Mrs. Frank Wilson on bass viol, Lorne Darling and Clarence Massey on mouth organs, Frank Wilson on trumpet and Walter Hardinge on flute, piccolo or clarinet, rounded out the orchestra. They were much in demand for local house parties and community get-togethers, over the time of the band's existence.

Meanwhile, Morganston's general store went through a number of owners over the years. Between 1911 and 1919, it was owned and operated by Clarence W. Massey. Around then, a competing store did business across County Road 25 and slightly north, but the small community could not support two general stores and the newcomer soon folded his tents. Lorne Darling, longtime clerk of the Township of Cramahe, purchased the store from Massey and ran it for about 40 years until his nephew, George Darling, and his wife, Viva, took it over in 1960 and ran it until 1975. At the time of writing, it was no longer a general store, but was occupied by an antiques shop belonging to Ray Cobbing.

Behind (west of) the store and on the same property, Lorne Darling once operated a grist mill which was powered by a diesel motor. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1939, although a bucket brigade of local residents — including women — tried valiantly to save it. According to an account in *The History of Cramahe Township*, the village of Warkworth at that time had its own “fire engine,” consisting of two tanks mounted on the chassis of a Model T Ford. While one tank was in use, the other would be in the process of being filled or refilled. The tanks held water



Morganston United Church is now a private home. It opened to great celebration in 1910, and served the community for over 90 years.

Photo by Eileen Argyris





and soda and sulphuric acid, which produced the carbon dioxide to build up pressure and shoot the water out. This machine is credited with saving the store from burning as well. The west wall of the store was blackened, but the building was intact.

After that, Mr. Darling purchased property across the road, on the east side of County Road 25, from Walter Hardinge and started another mill in an old building, thought to have been a former blacksmith shop. Harrison George, a World War I veteran from Fenella, took over ownership of the house on that property, and the mill, in 1941 and he ran it until he retired in 1957.

The mill building is no longer standing but the house remains, a fine example of an early Ontario farmhouse with elegant bargeboard decoration and unusual diagonal tongue-in-groove interior panelling, owned by Mr. George's daughter and son-in-law, Viva and George Darling.

In 1940, the National Radio Farm Forum shows began in Canada and local farm groups, one from Mount Pleasant neighbourhood north of Castleton, and another from Morganston, met weekly to listen to the radio broadcasts and discuss the topic of the week. Their discussions were then written up by the secretary and sent to the National Farm Forum Secretary in Toronto. The Morganston group included



Morganston store
circa 1910-15.
Photo courtesy of Bill Begg

members of the Philp, Bray, Phillips, Reycraft, Welton, Moore, Massey, Begg, Bradley, Fitchett and Duberry families. The Mount Pleasant group included the Ducies, Fitchetts, Kemps, Alec McCombs, Lorne McCombs, Bruce McCombs, Marvin McCombs, McKagues, Nelsons, Campbells, Glenneys, Taites and Turneys. The groups sometimes competed against one another in putting on dramatic and musical entertainments. One year the Mount Pleasant group won the prize for Northumberland County with its rendition of a play called "Neighbours," another year, the Morganston group won with "Ethel Gives First Aid." The National Farm Forum Radio Show was taken off the air in 1965; presumably television had by then eclipsed the popularity of radio as a venue for dramatic entertainment.

Today, many of the same family names that appear in Morganston's history, still appear on its rural mail-boxes. Morganston United Church was closed in 1995 and the building was sold for private use. The congregation donated its beautiful oak pews to St. Paul's United Church, Warkworth, and most of Morganston's former members attend there, as well, or at Castleton United.





BUFF JACK

A FIGHTER TO THE END

E. V. "Buff" Jack was a warrior, descended from warriors, and she was proud of it. Born in 1919, the daughter of Rev. Roy Bagshaw, a Methodist minister, and his pharmacist wife, Buff was orphaned in her childhood and raised by her aunt, Dr. Elizabeth Bagshaw. Dr. Bagshaw was a pioneer of the "planned parenthood" movement. She was brave enough to go to jail for her convictions, teaching women about birth control when it was illegal to do so. "She was a real feminist," Buff said, admiringly.

Buff enlisted as a nursing sister in World War II. She survived after her Italy-bound ship was sunk in the Mediterranean, by clinging to a piece of wreckage. The slim, striking-looking, six-foot nurse married Major Ralph Jack (who died in 1989.) He was a barrel-chested engineer who had once played football for the Ottawa Roughriders. They had three children: Peter, Adrienne, and Cathie (Ainsworth).

The Jacks moved to the Colborne area in 1974 and Buff joined Legion Branch 187 in 1976. From 1978 to 1993, she was elected to the branch's executive committee every year. A Legion Life Member, she organized the Christmas Hamper program for needy families in Colborne and Cramahe, actively participated in poppy campaigns, and faithfully visited sick comrades. She was one of a charter group to form a Seniors' Drop-In Centre for Colborne and area which became East Northumberland Community Care, and she

sat on the Community Care board until prevented by her own failing health.

As well, she served as a volunteer with Women in Crisis (Northumberland Services for Women) providing counselling and support services. In 1983 she was the very deserving recipient of the Colborne Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year award.

A diabetic, Buff Jack was virtually blind at the end of her life, but it barely slowed her down. Her daughter Cathie recalls, "The house used to be covered in boxes of stuff (for the Christmas Hampers), even after she was pretty well blind, but she still wanted to do it. "She had Buffy (Buff's granddaughter and namesake) helping her. She was a great mom; she really cared for people."

Even after her health began to fail, Buff still loved to ride motorcycles, perhaps a reminder of her war days. Her son-in-law, Doug Ainsworth, would take her down to the Legion on his bike; she never cared if the wind mussed her hair. During the last years of her life, Buff lived at the Golden Plough Lodge in Cobourg, where her daughter

says she had a number of "cronies," with whom she shared smokes and jokes. Until she died on February 12, 1998, Buff Jack fought to wring the most out of every day.

When her mother was buried in Lakeport Cemetery, Cathie Ainsworth chose the fitting headstone inscription, "A Fighter to the End."



Nursing Sister E. Vourneen "Buff" Jack during WWII. Photo courtesy of Cathie Ainsworth

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Keeping the Faith

The Churches of Colborne

EVEN MORE THAN THE SCHOOLS, THE CHURCHES WERE CENTRAL TO THE COMMUNITIES THEY served. The stories of the churches are inseparable from the stories of settlements like Dundonald, Morganston, Shiloh, Sharon and Castleton. But in Colborne, there were a number of churches located within a small area, each with its own story.

Within the village of Colborne at the turn of the 20th–21st centuries, there are seven church buildings: Anglican, Baptist, Missionary, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and United,

to list them alphabetically. During this past year, the Baptist and Roman Catholic churches have been closed. Another congregation, called Northumberland Christian Outreach, meets in a storefront at 33 King Street East.



barns, or whatever location was suitable. Travelling clergy performed services. The first written record we have of these missionary visits comes from the journal of one Rev. C. T. Wade who wrote on September 16, 1836: "I proceeded this day to the village of Colborne in the township of Cramahe....On the evening (Friday), I read prayers and preached to an attentive congregation of about 50 persons...."

That congregation, which included families named Rogers, Peters, Spilsbury and Keeler, soon began to think of a permanent place of worship. With the donation of 50 acres of Glebe land from parishioner Junis P. Goslee in 1843, those plans could begin to take form. Most of the Glebe

Methodist Church Choir of 1913: (back from left) Mr. Prater, Dr. Latta, Mr. Johnson, Frank Mallory, Florence Clark, Rev. Foster, Mr. Lemon, Mr. Lemon's brother, unknown, Pat Gale. Second row, Mrs. Colton, Mrs. Lemon, Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Irish, Mrs. Brintnell, Ada Locke, unknown, Mrs. Edwards, Stella Gale. Front row, Pearl Coyle, M. Cochrane, M. Prater, unknown, Mae Morden, Mrs. Sam Dudley, Mrs. Foster, Mr. Bellamy, Miss Ives, Maude Morden, Myrtle Edwards, Nellie Yule, A. Louie.

Photo courtesy of D. McGlennon



land, bounded on the north by King Street, on the east by Elgin Street, on the west by Victoria Street and on the south by the old Grand Trunk Railroad line, has been sold during the intervening years. The lumber for the original church building was also donated by Mr. Goslee.

In 1844, Colborne and Grafton were paired as one mission, with Rev. John Wilson as their first incumbent; he served for 30 years. Trinity Anglican Church at 76 King Street East was officially opened by John Strachan, first bishop of the Diocese of Toronto, on August 31, 1846. The style is typical of church buildings of that period; it is of frame construction, rectangular, with a square tower topped by a short steeple. The chancel was added some years after the main building was erected and the grey-brick parish hall added in 1910 when a former incumbent, Rev. John Cheyne Davidson (1888–90), opened the door with a ceremonial silver key. (This priest's father, Rev. Canon John Davidson, also served as incumbent of the parish from 1890–92; he is buried, beside his wife, Susanna, on the front lawn of the church, according to his wishes.) The parish hall was constructed and furnished at a cost of \$2,500 and a frame hallway was built to join the church to the parish hall building. In this hallway is a stained-glass window from St. Peter's Church, Lakeport, which was deconsecrated in 1968 and later demolished.

There have been two organs in Trinity Church; the first was the only one of its kind in the countryside when it was purchased from Hamilton at a cost of £75. Elizabeth Goslee Grover, daughter of Junis Goslee and wife of J.M. Grover, land registrar and one of the village's leading citizens, solicited subscriptions for its purchase, going from house to house determinedly in her pony cart. As well, Mrs. Grover played the organ in the church for 25 years, without payment. The second organ, still in service at the time of writing, was a Williams Tracker organ, purchased in 1892.

Trinity Church is noted for its seven beautiful stained-glass picture windows, "The Presentation in the Temple, The Ascension, The Good Shepherd, The First Easter, Our Lord and the Centurion, The Resurrection" and "Mary Magdalene at the Tomb."

A number of structural changes have taken place over the years. In 1963, a new block foundation replaced the original fieldstone, which had started to crumble. A new floor was laid at the same time, following the replastering of the interior. In 1966 the old steeple was repaired, covered with aluminum siding and the former weathervane was replaced with an aluminum cross. The entire steeple was removed in 1997, on the advice of a consultant, and replaced with



Trinity Anglican Church, colloquially called "The English Church," Colborne, circa 1919.

Postcard courtesy of Roseanne Quinn





a fibreglass replica. The church was covered with aluminum siding in 1976, and in the early 1980s the sacristy was enlarged.

After many changes over the years, Trinity Church again shares a minister with St. George's Grafton. At the time of writing the two parishes are served by an interim minister, Rev. Roy Shepherd.

Baptist

Area Baptists obtained their first meeting place west of Lakeport at the end of Thomas Road on the shore of Lake Ontario in Haldimand Township in 1798. One Reuben Crandall was the first minister. The little building was moved in 1824 to the King's Highway (now County Road 2) in Wicklow. There the Haldimand Baptist Church remained, the oldest surviving Christian church in the county, until it was destroyed by fire in 1986. A miniature version of the old church was erected in 1991, as a memorial.

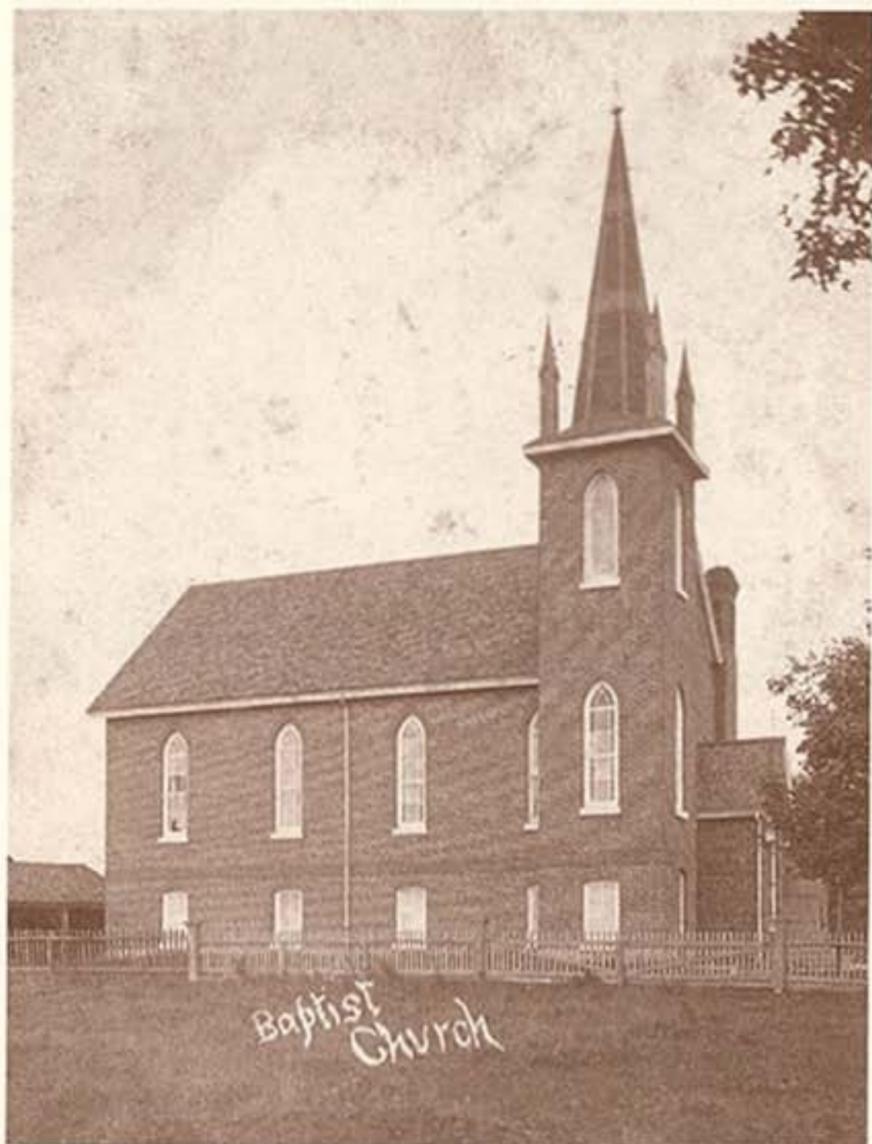
In 1836, a frame structure was built on the north side of County Road 2 in Salem to serve local Baptists and Methodists. After 1861, when the Salem Methodist Church (later United) was built, the Baptists had the structure to themselves until, in 1882, the Colborne Baptist Church, a fine brick building on the north side of the highway, at 139 King Street East, was

erected on land donated for the purpose by a man named Reuben Crandell. (Not the same man who had served as the Haldimand church's first minister nearly 100 years before. R. Crandell is shown in the Atlas of the United Counties of Durham and Northumberland, 1878, as the owner of most of the eastern half of the block of land located on the north side of the highway, extending from Durham Street to Elgin Street.) The former Baptist Church building in Salem fell into disuse after that and in 1887, the Salem school section purchased the building and it became a school which remained in use until 1961. The former church-school building at 13922 County Road 2 was a private home at the time of writing.

Colborne Baptist Church was built of red brick in a style common to churches of the late 19th century, with a square tower to the left of the main entrance. It was originally topped with one main central spire and four smaller ones on each corner of the tower. The first service was held July 16, 1882, and Rev. J. T. Dowling was the first minister. (Rev. Dowling painted some of the frescoes that adorned the interior walls of Kelwood, the Keeler mansion that once overlooked the village). A later minister, Thomas Watson, wrote poetry that was published in 1901 in a book called "Canadian Crystals." Some of it is reprinted within this book.

Colborne Baptist Church, built in 1882, has recently been sold and is now a private residence.

Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke





The church's memorial windows are of frosted glass with coloured, stained-glass panels bordering each. They were fully restored in the 1990s by Linda Whaley of Salem. The basement is high enough to allow for full-sized windows. The building was planned to accommodate a raised platform above the church floor which provided space for a tank, sunk in the platform floor and normally covered with planks, to allow for full-immersion baptism of those who had attained an age of discernment. For the baptism ceremony, a ladder led down to the bottom of the tank which allowed both the minister and the candidate to walk into the water.

That the church remained open until the fall of 1999, is largely a tribute to the dedication of one woman, Rev. Agnes Lee. Rev. Lee served the church, on and off, for nearly 20 years prior to that time, coming back to Colborne, her childhood home, in 1982. Once a thriving centre of activity, hosting many activities, such as Sunday school, Explorers for junior girls, Canadian Girls in Training for older girls, a Young People's group and Women's Missionary Society (begun in 1882 and ongoing at the time of writing), the church population had declined in the latter part of the 20th century to about a dozen regular attenders. Despite the fact that Rev. Lee had served from 1991 without pay, she and her little flock had to face the harsh truth that they were simply unable, financially, to keep the building open any longer. A service of thanksgiving was held October 11, 1999, to remember 117 years of service to the community. Rev. Lee turned 80 shortly after the final service in October.

In January, 2000, the church was officially for sale, but had received a serious offer to purchase. The prospective buyer was an individual who hoped to use the building as a home and private studio.

Missionary

The building at 75 King Street East, which has served as the meeting place for the congregation of Prospect Missionary Church since 1943, was originally built in 1869 by contractor Arthur Elliott for the Wesleyan Episcopal congregation of Colborne and area. In 1884, the Wesleyan Episcopalians merged their congregation with that of their Methodist brethren and the building was remodelled into a dwelling of 12 large rooms. One of the tenants who lived there was Miss Margaret Hinds, a former assistant principal of the first Colborne High School.

In 1936, one Rev. Brubacher of Stouffville visited two of his former parishioners who were then living in Colborne, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Brown. As a result of this visit, the United Missionary Church (then known as the Mennonite Brethren in Christ)¹ authorized the opening of a branch in the village. In November of the same year, the first meeting was held in the Victoria



Prospect Missionary Church on King Street East, Colborne, as it appeared in 2000.

Photo by Eileen Argyris



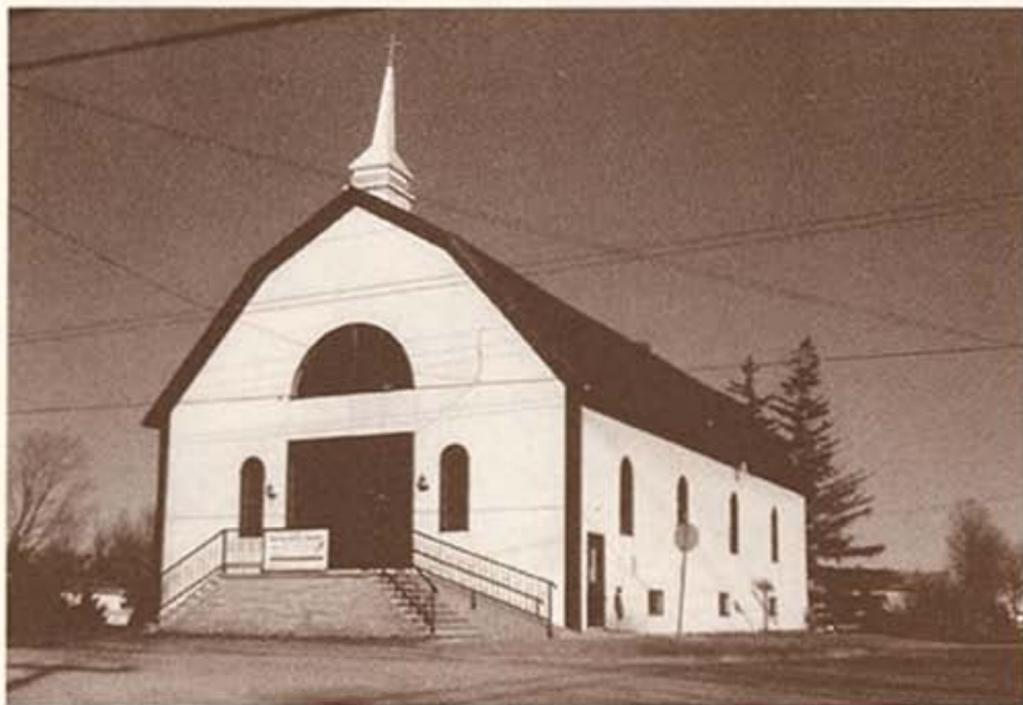


Opera House. In January, 1937, regular weekly services were held in a vacant storefront at the corner of Victoria Square and Church Street. In December, 1943, the congregation purchased the building at 75 King Street East and began restoring it for use as a place of worship. A two-storey verandah was removed from the front and a vestibule was constructed to provide an entrance to the main auditorium and to the basement, which was enlarged by raising the main floor about three feet and excavating the earth below to create a Sunday school room. At the dedication service in 1944, it was named Prospect Church, the name being taken from a white stone slab in front of the building which called it "Prospect Place."² Church records note that the offering from that first service totalled \$328.22, a goodly sum, considering the entire property had been purchased the year before for \$1,500. The first pastor was Rev. J. W. Colley.

A second building, a former residence to the immediate east of the church, was purchased in 1976, and dedicated in 1977 as Friendship House. In the 1990s the church donated the use of the building and it became the Cornerstone Fortress youth centre. A third building adjoining the original church property, and facing onto Elgin Street, was acquired about 1984. It was the home of the former Emmaus Full Gospel Assembly, a congregation that was active between 1949 and 1957. In 1959, its name was changed to the Gospel Oasis and it continued into the early 1960s. Prospect Church's current pastor is Rev. Isaac Flagg of Colborne.

Colborne Pentecostal Church: The building on Division Street was once a fruit house, built to store apples for local consumption from the time of the harvest through the winter months.

Photo by Eileen Argris



Pentecostal

The work of the Colborne Pentecostal Church is considered by the congregation to be a continuation of that of the Castleton Pentecostal Church which dates back to 1937, when the church was begun by Rev. Charles Rotz. (Castleton Pentecostal Church congregation met in the

building that was standing at the time of writing at 2208 Spring Street. It has been renovated for residential use and a number of additions have been constructed.) The congregation faced its ups and downs and eventually the church was closed, only to be reopened by popular demand in January, 1975, by Rev. Jack White. It was he who recommended to the church authorities that the headquarters be moved to the more densely populated centre of Colborne. In the fall of 1978, Pastor White turned over the administrative responsibilities for the church to Pastor Frank Bond, who was instrumental in establishing the church at its current site, in a refurbished "fruit house" at 89 Division Street, Colborne, under the name of Colborne Christian Centre. The first

service in the newly refurbished building was held in December, 1979.

The name was changed to Colborne Pentecostal Church in the early 1980s. At the present time, the congregation is led by Pastor Elvin Stuckless of Peterborough.





Presbyterian

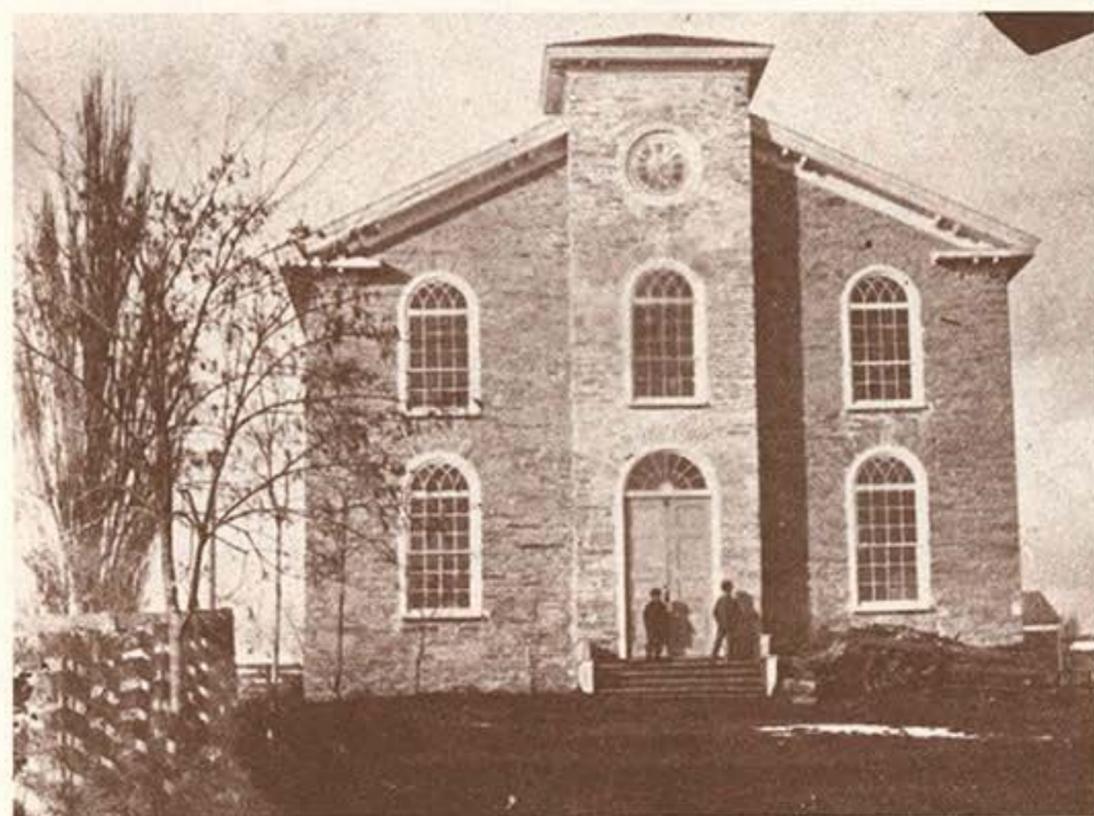
Old St. Andrew's is the oldest surviving church building in the village of Colborne or the Township of Cramahe. It had its beginnings during the winter of 1829, when its limestone was quarried in Lakeport. In general, this limestone is deemed too brittle for building, but this church, thanks to attentive upkeep and oversized protective eaves, had weathered the storms of about 170 winters and summers, at the time of writing. An old limestone mill built around the same time, the ruins of which were still visible early in the year 2000 from Ontario Street, has fared less well against the ravages of time and weather. Stone for the church was hauled by ox-carts, driven by congregation members to the building site. The land for the church and grounds, on the northwest corner of King Street East and Victory Street, was donated by Joseph Abbott Keeler, founder of the villages of Colborne and Castleton and son of the area's first settler. Mr. Keeler asked in return only that a pew be saved for his use when he visited for services.

Archibald Fraser, a Scot, designed the structure and supervised the ongoing building. Work began in 1830; on the pulpit and steeple, two years later, and the building was completed in 1833. The first minister was Rev. Matthew Miller, who arrived in 1832. His incumbency came to an early and tragic end when he fell through the ice and drowned in the Bay of Quinte during the winter of 1834.

Susan Burnham Greeley (1806–1904) was the church's first Sunday school teacher; in fact she had been teaching "Sabbath school" from her home prior to the church's establishment. She was also the church's first organist, and the founder of its missionary society, the first in Colborne. Miss Greeley was the daughter of Aaron Greeley, one of the area's earliest settlers and the man who, with Joseph A. Keeler, laid out the townsite for the village of Colborne.

The congregation, however, as with most churches in the area, predated the building of the church. In the early 1800s, Robert McDowall, a dedicated missionary of the Presbyterian faith, established a number of congregations in this area. It was owing to his work and example, that the Presbyterian flock of this area decided to undertake the building of a place of worship.

Rev. Peter Duncan is a well-revered figure in the history of Old St. Andrew's. He came to Colborne in 1857 and ministered here for over 50 years, into the 20th century. During his incumbency, in 1890 the congregation celebrated its Diamond Jubilee (60th anniversary) by installing stained-glass windows to replace the former small leaded-glass panes, and by purchasing land adjoining the building to the east. A fire in 1895 did extensive damage to the interior of the structure, but fortunately, limestone is not flammable and the exterior walls remained intact. The



Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the oldest church still standing in the village or the township, was built in 1830 from limestone quarried at Lakeport, like the Christie Mill, now a ruin, west of Ontario Street.

Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke





roof, however, had to be replaced. The Sunday School hall on the north end of the building, and the belfry were added in 1911.

Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor of the day, Hon. W. D. Ross, and his wife attended the church's 100th anniversary celebrations in 1930. Preacher for the special service was Thomas Aikin, principal of Knox College; at that time the minister was Rev. C. G. Graham.

The church's appearance has changed little since 1911, with the exception of the addition of two memorial stained glass windows, the "Risen Christ" was erected by Gordon Rutherford in memory of his parents and "Christ, the Good Shepherd," was erected in memory of Elgie Broomfield, a local barber, by his widow, Irene (nee Nelson), a former local school-teacher.

During the incumbency of Rev. Iona MacLean, the church's first female minister, Old St. Andrew's celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1980. In preparation for the festivities the stained glass windows were restored and extensive repairs were made to the limestone. A number of special events, to which the entire community was invited, were undertaken to mark this milestone. The climax was the anniversary Sunday when two services were held with special music and speaker, Rev. Dr. Alex MacSween, the Moderator of the 106th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Later that year, an historical plaque was erected on the lawn of Old St. Andrew's, marking it as one of the oldest Presbyterian Churches in Ontario. In 1983 a new organ was donated to the church by Charles Head, in memory of departed members of his family.

The minister of the church at the time of writing was Rev. Ruth Draffin who is also the incumbent of Old St. Andrew's sister church, St. Andrew's, Brighton. St. Paul's, Lakeport, is also part of the Colborne charge.

Roman Catholic

As early as 1850, history records that one Father Madden came into this area to serve the spiritual needs of the few scattered Roman Catholics who were among the settlers here. Masses were celebrated in homes. The names of two of the hosts have survived: Patrick Barry and Matthew Mulhern. About 1862, Father Madden was succeeded by Father Brettagh, pastor of Trenton. On August 12, 1875, the cornerstone for St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Grafton, was laid, giving the area's Catholic families a permanent church home. Colborne became (and remains) part of the Grafton parish, but the Diocese of Peterborough, to which Colborne and Cramahe Township belong, continued to receive requests for a place of worship in Colborne. During World War II, when commodities such as gasoline and tires were rationed, these requests became more persistent. Accordingly, in 1942, the search for a site was commenced. Property the Church owned on "the Castleton Road" (County Road 25) was inspected, but deemed unsuitable. But Monsignor Francis O'Sullivan, Vicar Capitular of the Diocese, found a commodious lot and dwelling on the corner of Elgin Street and King Street East in Colborne with a large "For Sale" sign posted upon it. It was the property of the late G.E.R. Wilson, a local insurance broker, and his widow, and was part of the estate of Hon. Dr. W. A. Willoughby, MPP for East Northumberland from 1889-1908: Msgr. O'Sullivan lost no time calling on Mrs. Wilson





and, when he had explained the nature of his quest, she readily agreed to sell the property to the Church for the sum of \$2,000.

Tuesday, December 8, 1942, was the day of the opening and First Mass at St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church, celebrated by parish priest, Rev. John V. Ryan, with sermon by Msgr. O'Sullivan. Miss Stella Drumm played the organ and a group of local ladies sang hymns. The first Solemn High Mass was celebrated in the new church by Fr. Ryan on Christmas Day, that same year. At first, the chapel occupied only the east side of the building, with the west side serving as a small church hall, but it was quickly obvious that this arrangement would not serve for the long term.

The men of the parish held wood-cutting bees to remove 15 or 20 unwanted trees from the church's front lawn. The timbers were hauled to the back of the property, split and piled in cord-wood lots using a machine loaned by Ed Roddy of Lakeport (who later was reeve of Haldimand and, in 1974, became the first Warden of the County of Northumberland). The ladies of the parish served lunch in the kitchen every afternoon while the work went on. Some 50 to 60 cords of stove-length firewood were cut and sold to G. McKay of Colborne, a coal and wood dealer. The parishioners raised enough money to pay for two "I" beams to support the second floor of the chapel. Charles McGuire of King Street West negotiated with the steel controller in Ottawa (this was still wartime) for permits to purchase two "I" beams which were installed on concrete pads. The tower was transformed to a peaked roof and topped by a cross and a bell which was donated by Charles and Agnes Grosjean of East Colborne. The Stations of the Cross and statues of the Sacred Heart and Blessed Virgin Mary were donated anonymously. The organ was given by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barry. Memorial windows were installed in August, 1943.

The Catholic Women's League of Colborne was formed January 4, 1953, with Mrs. Frank Hart as its first president. Meetings were held in the homes of the members. Annual teas and bazaars became its hallmarks.

Despite all the work and hopes of those times, St. Francis de Sales Church was closed because the Catholic population in the Colborne area did not increase as expected after the war. Fifty years later, the congregation was no larger than it had been in the 1940s. As well, the church building needed extensive — and expensive — renovations. The last priest to serve at St. Francis was Father Allan D. Hood who, at the time of writing, continues to serve the parish as incumbent of St. Mary's, Grafton. The last mass at St. Francis de Sales was held August 8, 1999.



St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church was converted from a private home and now stands to turn into a private home, again. At the beginning of the year 2000, it was for sale and the Catholic congregation worshipped at St. Mary's, Grafton.

Photo by Eileen Argyris





United Church

Colborne United Church is the largest church building in Colborne or Cramahe Township, and serves the largest congregation. True to their pioneer roots, the majority of the families in the area continue to belong to this denomination, which was created by the union of the Methodist, Congregationalist and many Presbyterian congregations, in 1925.

But more than a hundred years prior to that, the Methodist congregation in Colborne held the official opening of their church, on May 23, 1823. In less than 10 years, the burgeoning congregation could no longer be accommodated in the original building and another church was raised in 1830 or 1831.

Among those early Methodists were family names such as: Simmons, Merriman, Percy, Rankin, Lyons, Strong, Webster, Weble, Jaques, Herman, Scripture, Dunnett, Philp, Mutton, Bellamy, Turney, Gould and Dudley. The Colborne circuit included Castleton, Wicklow, Salem, Lakeport, Grafton and Sharon (Edville). In 1869, the Colborne and Castleton circuits were separated. The Colborne charge at the time of writing, included Salem and Eden (Dundonald) United Churches, while Castleton and St. Andrew's United Churches, Grafton, share one minister.

The first parsonage for the early Colborne circuit was a house on the south side of Norton Lane acquired by the church on November 12, 1855. It was lost in a fire. The present parsonage, on Church Street East, was purchased for \$1,800 in 1890.

By the early 1860s, the ever-expanding Methodist congregation had outgrown its second church building and the present church, at the corner of Percy and Church Street East, was erected. It was constructed of red bricks, manufactured locally on Keeler lands just west of the 20th-century boundaries of Colborne. Prior to 1884, there had been a Wesleyan Episcopal Church in Colborne, headquartered in the building that is now occupied by Prospect Missionary Church.

A unification of all Methodists in that year brought the two congregations together.

Over the years, numerous renovations were made to the church building. In 1889-90, the floor of the sanctuary was raked, the east and west walls were removed and the church was widened and on April 14, 1901, the Sunday school hall on the northeast was officially opened.

In 1967, the congregation was asked to contribute to a redesign of the sanctuary and this work was completed at a cost of \$18,000. A new Baldwin organ was purchased. The original red bricks, which had been painted white for many years previously, were covered in stucco in 1975. At the time of writing, the minister of the Colborne charge, including Eden United Church (Dundonald), as well as Colborne and Salem United Churches, is Rev. David Timpson.



Colborne Methodist (now United) Church: The original red bricks were made at the Keeler brick works, then painted white, as shown in this picture. At the time of writing, the front part of the church had been covered in white stucco, and the back in white siding.

Photo courtesy of D. McGlennon



DON CAMPBELL

DESIGNER OF THE PRINCESS'S DRESSES

It's a long way from the Colborne United Church manse to the palaces of British royalty, but that's how far his fashion and design talent has taken Donald Dean Campbell.

"Donnie" Campbell came to Colborne at the age of eight, the youngest of six children of Rev. George Campbell, incumbent of Colborne and Salem United Churches from 1941–53, and his wife, Maie Ivory Campbell. Rev. Campbell was a popular incumbent who was known for the power of his "social gospel" preaching, and for practising what he preached. One of Donnie's brothers was Malcolm "Mac" Campbell, who worked 44 years for the Colborne PUC, 29 as manager, and sang in the choir of Colborne United Church for 57 years. Born in 1933, Donnie, the adored "baby" of the large family loved to be told stories as a small child, but always asked for them to be repeated, this time with "different clothes on the people."

Donnie had an early fascination with dressmaking, and he often watched his mother at her sewing, to learn how this magic happened. He was particularly intrigued by the Monarch butterfly costumes his sisters once wore for a school play, and loved to play with cut-out paper dolls that were popular at the time, except that he designed his own clothes for them, as well as accessories like luggage and jewellery.

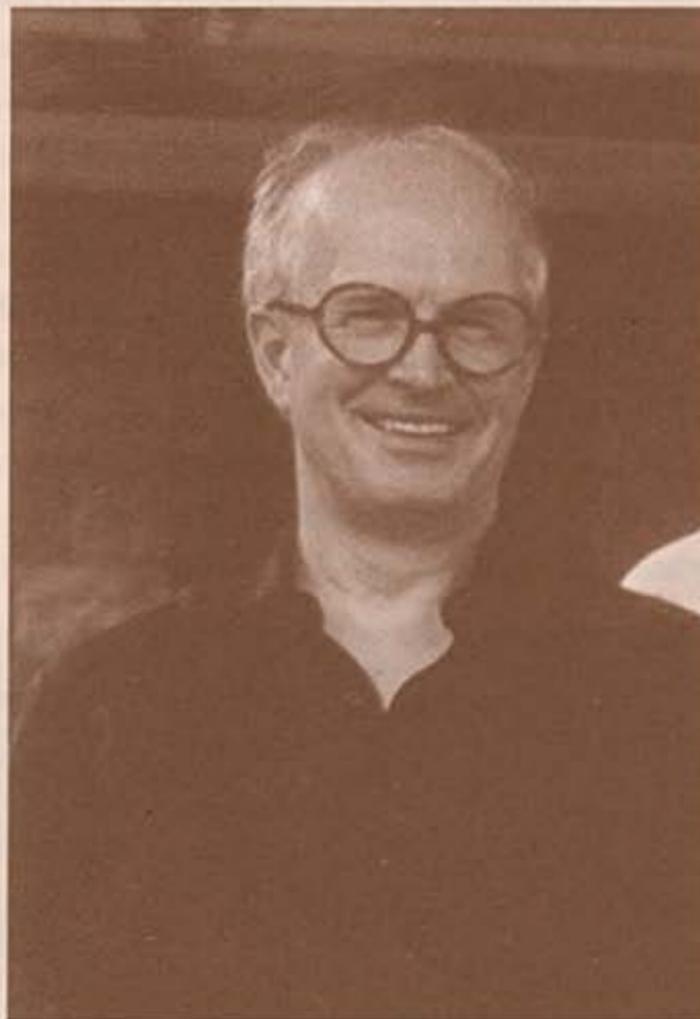
Young Donnie attended Colborne Public School and Colborne High School, took part in the annual Northumberland Music Festival, and created costumes for local skating carnivals and school plays. When he announced his

intention to study for a career in clothing design at Ryerson Polytechnical School in Toronto, he ran into opposition from his father, who felt that it was not a fit profession for a young man.

But Don Campbell persevered. He did go to Ryerson and afterwards started at the bottom of the "rag trade," packing clothing for a Toronto dressmaking firm. Then he took off for Paris, France, and London, England, where he trundled his sketches around from designer to designer until he persuaded one firm to take him on as an unpaid apprentice for three years. During those lean times he was aided by his family, especially his twin sisters, Isabel and Margaret, who were teachers in Toronto.

He was spotted and snapped up by London designer John Cavanagh, and later, he went out on his own with a line of ready-to-wear ladies' garments that caught the discerning eye of young Lady Diana Spencer (the future wife of Charles, Prince of Wales) and her sister Lady Jane Spencer. In one newspaper interview, he was quoted as saying of the late Princess Diana, "She *likes* clothes! And she has an incredible fashion sense, with very much a mind of her own. If there's a renaissance of fashion here (in Britain) she's focused it."

After her marriage, he would take his designs directly to the princess at Kensington Palace. He has also designed clothing for Princess Alexandra and for the Duchess of Kent, as well as others in the top echelons of British society. He continues to live and work in London.



Don Campbell. Photo courtesy of Grace and the late Mac Campbell

CHAPTER TWELVE

Dedicated Healers

CERTAINLY, THE LONG-AGO PEOPLE WHO SETTLED CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP AND, IN FACT, THIS country, were hardy specimens — they had to be. Anytime they weren't feeling well, they usually medicated themselves using home remedies, and hoped for the best. Midwives or “grannies” delivered babies, and those with a flair or gift for healing, took care of others. But when serious illness or injury occurred, the local doctor — assuming one were available — was a friend in need, and a friend indeed. In those early days, some doctors served as dentists, as well, and we may imagine that many a septic infection was avoided when doctors came with clean instruments to remove decayed teeth that might otherwise have been wrested from screaming jaws with any old pair of pliers.

In the very early days Doctor William Lee is recorded as having received 200 acres of land in Cramahe Township, at Lot 22, Con. 8, in 1816. In the *Gazetteer of Ontario*, dated 1856, a Doctor Henry Martin is listed as having a residence and practice in Castleton.¹



Inside Griffis Drug Store: In this early 1920s shot, Frank Griffis is on left, Dr. Archer Brown is in the middle and the man on the right, partially obscured by the flash-back from the camera, is unknown.
Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke



A brick house on Percy Street, Castleton, once the home of Canada's second female senator, Iva Fallis, was known as "the doctor's house," because Doctor E. E. Latta made his home there at the turn of the 19th–20th century and Dr. P. H. Huycke lived there in 1911. A Dr. Joliffe, who had his main practice in Warkworth, had a branch office in the Orient Hotel (corner of Spring and Percy Streets) in Castleton but the name of Dr. Archibald Crichton (pronounced CRAY-ton) of Cramahe Township recurs again and again in lore about bygone days.²

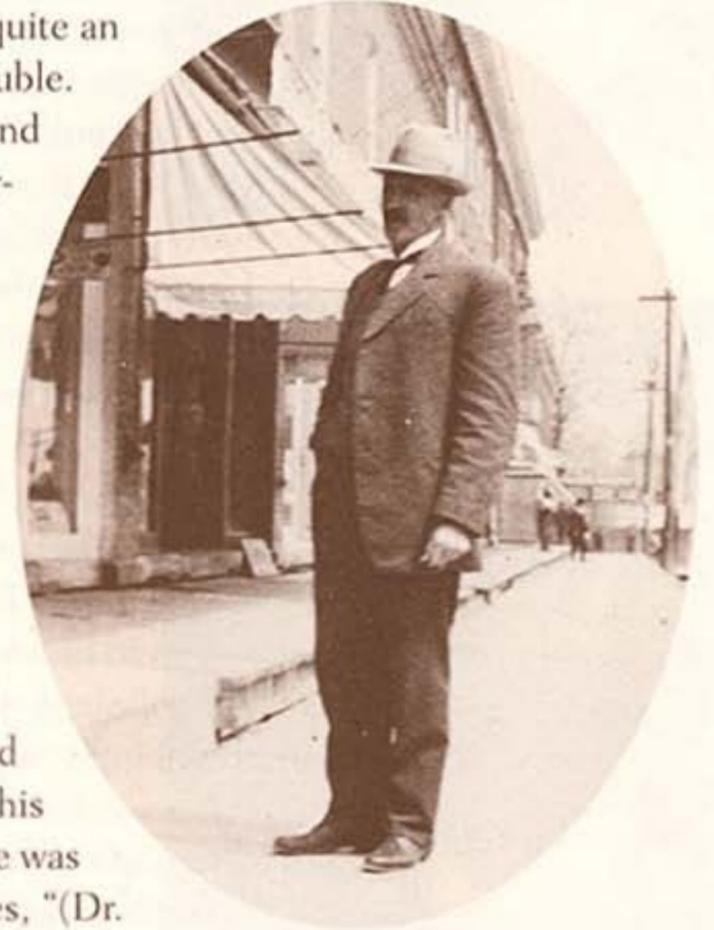
Dr. Crichton was born at St. Catharines and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1883, at the head of his class. A bachelor, he lived in a large house at 1790 Percy Street. Some of his former patients recall that Dr. Crichton's rooms were "difficult" to get into, stacked with all kinds of reading material, papers, medicinal bottles and books, in spite of the fact that his sister, Aggie, was an immaculate housekeeper. There is a story that, once, the doctor was a patient in hospital, and Aggie seized the opportunity to "organize" his rooms. Apparently, Dr. Crichton raised such a fuss about it that she never, ever again attempted anything of that sort.

Cliff Quinn, a member of the large Quinn family that once owned a number of farms around Castleton, recalls in his memoirs, "The doctor's visit was quite an event in those days (early 20th century) as it meant that there was big trouble. We (the Quinn family) had our share of all the diseases going around and we even all had the hepatitis, which we all survived, though we were horribly sick with it. It was amazing how fast Dr. Crichton would get there when he was needed.... He was a kindly man and when he'd arrive with his satchel he'd usually spread quite a few bottles here and there."³

Dave Dingwall Sr., a longtime resident of Castleton, remembers that when he was a student at Mount Pleasant School in 1926, Dr. Crichton would come to the school to take samples of the well water to test it for safety, and would do health checks on the pupils.

In 1903, Dr. Crichton developed a "cure" for pneumonia, frequently a killer disease at that time. Reportedly, his patients would recover in one-quarter the time if they took this secret formula which he guarded closely. The authorities apparently did not endorse Dr. Crichton's cure, and he advertised and sold it independently. For this, he at one time lost his licence to practise but, when he took the case to court in 1906, the licence was reinstated and it was found he had done no wrong.⁴ Cliff Quinn writes, "(Dr. Crichton) invented a cure which he called Grippe Medicine. He said no one needs to die of pneumonia if they will take my medicine as directed. The ironic part of all this is that he died of pneumonia himself in Cobourg Hospital."

After his death, the formula was sold to R. S. Newman of the Newman Company Store, at the four corners in Castleton. He reportedly sold more than 4,000 bottles of the remedy.⁵ Members of the Dingwall family, descendants of Mr. Newman who later ran the store, recall that people were still coming in asking for Dr. Crichton's medicine when they sold the business in 1976. The Dingwall family, which still lives in Castleton, retains the formula for Grippe Medicine



Dr. W. A. Sargent on the sidewalk on King Street East, Colborne.

Photo courtesy of D. McGlennon





(patent no. 19801) to this day. They say it tastes terrible, but it works. When he died in 1936, Dr. Crichton's only living relative was a nephew in Toronto. After a funeral in Castleton United Church, his body was taken to the city for burial.

Another beloved healer in the Castleton area was Christina Campbell (1866–1938) a midwife who practised homeopathic medicine. Born Christina McGregor in a small settlement simply called The Ridge, south of Bancroft, she married George Campbell of Cold Springs in 1895, and settled in Rose Island, west of Coe Hill. They farmed there until their homestead was destroyed by fire in 1904 and they decided to try their luck in Cramahe Township. In the Coe Hill region at that time, lived an English doctor named Hardinge, who practised a blend of allopathic and homeopathic medicine. At a farewell party for the Campbells, Dr. Hardinge presented Christina with a book and a few of his "powders," and thus sparked her lifelong study of homeopathy. Almost as soon as the Campbells settled north of Castleton, she began to apply her new-found knowledge to maternity cases, eventually midwifing over 200 babies. Her reputation spread, and she even treated illnesses among farm animals whose health could mean the difference between survival and ruin for farming families. Sometimes grateful people would offer her meat or eggs in gratitude for her treatments, but very often she did her merciful work with no material reward.

In 1918–19, there occurred a worldwide epidemic of influenza, a terrible blow to a populace already depleted and demoralized by the effects of World War I (1914–18). Christina wrote to Dr. Hardinge and followed his instructions, and many of her flu patients were known to have recovered, provided she was able to reach them soon enough with her remedies. When she died in 1938; a victim of heart failure, her obituary in an area newspaper read: "The whole community of Castleton and surrounding district was greatly shocked upon hearing of the sudden death of Mrs. George Campbell...every home in the community feels they have met a personal loss."⁶

Dr. James "Archer" Brown was born in Colborne, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Brown. His wife, the former Ruth Boyer, was the granddaughter of Octavia and Joseph Keeler, M.P. Dr. Brown received his elementary and secondary school education in the village and took his M.D. at Trinity College, Toronto. He took further training at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Edinburgh, Scotland, and practised for a time at Blackpool, England. He returned to his home and native land to open a practice at Cannington but he was not there long before he came back to his boyhood home and took up the practice of Dr. Bruce Hewson in Colborne. (Dr. Hewson owned the large, red-brick home at 17 Division Street around the turn of the 19th–20th century.) Dr. Brown is described as a handsome, dapper man, a great lover of sports, a dedicated member of Trinity Anglican Church and a "real humanitarian."⁷ Although active in village life, he was again bitten by the travelling bug and in 1928 sold his practice to leave for California. After six months in the sunny south, Dr. Brown returned to Ontario and practised medicine in the Oshawa area until his death in 1948. A funeral was held for him in Trinity Church, Rev. R. E. Lemon presiding. Pall-bearers included Dr. O. G. Mills, Dr. C. E. McIlveen of Oshawa and Messers Frank Griffis, H. J. Mayhew, W. W. D. McGlennon, and Leslie Rice, all of Colborne.

It so happened that, when Dr. Brown placed advertisements in Toronto newspapers, calling





for a young physician to come to Colborne to take over his practice, it seemed like a lucky coincidence to young Dr. Frank Pember who had recently completed his medical training and had interned in the U.S. for two years. Dr. Pember had just then been advised to leave the city for the good of his health.

Frank Pember was born near London, England, on April 29, 1902, the son of Frank and Margaret Pember. The family emigrated to Canada in 1907. Even back in the 1920s, when streetcar tickets in Toronto were four for a dollar, young Frank walked four miles to classes at the University of Toronto, and four miles home again, every school day for seven years — to save on carfare. While studying for his Bachelor of Science degree, he did some work for two doctors named Banting and McLeod — their research later led to the development of insulin as a treatment for diabetes. Dr. Pember attended a banquet in their honour in 1923.

In 1925, he travelled to Boston and worked as a student-intern in the Boston Psychiatric (or Psychopathic) Hospital, training which, he said, stood him in good stead later in life. One snowy night, after he had been in Colborne for awhile, Dr. Pember was called to go out to the country where his sleigh was met by a barefoot boy who guided him to a farmhouse where the boy's uncle was "on a rampage." When the doctor entered the home, he found the boy's terrified family being held at knifepoint by the large, deranged man. Many years later, remembering the incident, Dr. Pember says, "I believe my work at the Boston Psychopathic Hospital helped me that night. I was able to persuade him to give me the knife and get a hypo (hypodermic needle) into him."

In 1928 Cobourg had a 25-bed "cottage hospital," and often people paid their medical bills with chickens, eggs, butter, potatoes, vegetables — when they were able to pay at all. As a widower with a small son, Dr. Pember married Marion Chapin of Colborne, a member of the famous cabinet-making and wood-working Chapin family. (Many a piece of furniture, each now a treasured antique, bears the Chapin mark.) There was no night relief or stand-by doctor; and the doctor's wife had to learn the skills of a practical nurse to accompany her husband to all corners of Colborne and surrounding township areas, at all hours of the day and night, in all kinds of weather.

Dr. Pember quickly built a reputation as an exceptional maternity doctor. Although at that time most women had their babies at home, a full 10 days of hospital maternity care, including care for the newborn, cost \$25. But that was before government medicare, and it had to be paid by families. The average wage for a working man at that time, was about seven dollars a week. Dr. Pember quickly established a rule of not taking maternity cases if mothers had not been in for prenatal check-ups. This was a drastic departure from the status quo, at a time when many women did not see a doctor until practically the moment of giving birth. The young doctor's insistence on prenatal care paid off. To the



Dr. Frank Pember (top) at his graduation from medical school in 1928, and (bottom) on his 80th birthday.

Photos courtesy of Marion Pember





end of his life he remained proud that, in 51 years of providing medical care and over 2,500 maternity cases, he never lost one mother.

The Great Depression (1929–39) made scarce money scarcer than ever, and Dr. Pember often collected less than 40 per cent of his billable fees, and that often in kind, rather than in cash. "People would pay me with chickens, eggs, butter, . . . vegetables, even little pigs," he told the *Colborne Chronicle* newspaper in his ninety-first year. "By the time (a labouring man) paid to keep a family," he noted, "there was nothing left for the doctor."

Those were hard years. During the Depression, the young doctor — who had left Toronto for the good of his own health — often found himself covering 25 miles a day in a horse and cutter along unplowed and drifted-in country roads, caring for the sick in rural areas. Later, when he had a car, he would often be called out on emergencies in the middle of the night. But the car wouldn't make it on the deep snows north of where Highway 401 now cuts through Cramahe Township. A farmer named Purdy (for whose family Purdy Road was named) would meet the doctor at the corner of Purdy Road and Percy Street, with a horse and sleigh in readiness. Then the doctor, often accompanied by his wife as nurse, would continue on through the dark, cold night, behind the faithful animal.

Nor were severe weather and unpaid bills the only causes of hardship. In those days, Dr. Pember was the only qualified surgeon in the area between Belleville and Port Hope. Normally, in surgical cases, he had a helper, one Dr. Peacock, to administer anaesthetic to patients. However, he had one case in which a man was brought into his office suffering from a large abscess on one arm. Dr. and Mrs. Pember were exhausted, having worked steadily for almost 24 hours without rest prior to the patient's arrival. Mrs. Pember dutifully began to administer the anaesthetic, but it was not long before weariness simply overcame her and she was forced to stop. The man who had brought the patient in was seconded to serve as anaesthetist but when the doctor commenced lancing the abscess, the untrained companion couldn't take it.

Years later, Dr. Pember recalled, "There I was, my wife out in the kitchen, and this fellow flat out on the floor." He finished the surgery unaided, and the patient made a full recovery.

During World War II, Dr. Pember served in the Canadian Army as assistant director of Canadian Medical Services overseas. From October, 1940, until February, 1946, he served in England. He entered the service with the rank of lieutenant, was promoted to captain and, before the end of his service, had risen to the rank of major.

The "country doctor" retired in 1978, after 50 years' devoted service to his hospital and community. "I never drank, never smoked, and never swore," he told the *Colborne Chronicle* at the celebration of his 90th birthday, in 1992, explaining how he believed he had enjoyed such a long and fruitful life. "As a Methodist, those were things you didn't do." Dr. Frank Pember died on June 2, 1994, at the ripe old age of 92.

Dr. W. J. D. "John" Eberlie served Colborne and surrounding area for 20 years, retiring in 1985. Originally from England, Dr. Eberlie was a World War II veteran. He and his wife, Doreen, and their children Peter, Susan and Bill, had lived in various places around the world, including Africa; they came to Colborne in 1966 and bought the large, old red-brick house at 17 Division





Street, the former home and surgery of Drs. Hewson and Brown. Dr. Eberlie held hospital privileges at Cobourg hospital and, even after his retirement in 1985, continued to see his longtime patients there, in their homes or in his old Division Street office twice a week, until he was prevented by his own ill-health. The Eberlies moved to Cobourg and then Port Hope after the doctor's retirement; he died on March 26, 1999.

With the village's population nearing the 2,000 mark, the township at over 3,000, and several local plans of subdivision on the books, public pressure was brought on Reeve Walter Rutherford and the Colborne council around 1980 to recruit a full-time family physician, to take on new patients. The village underwrote the expense of creating a Medical Centre on the ground floor of the Masonic Hall building at 42 King Street East. Soon Dr. Michael Morris offered to divide his practice between Colborne and Warkworth and he located temporarily in Dr. Pember's home-office at 19 Division Street, while the Medical Centre was being readied. In 1982, he was joined by Dr. Trevor Hearnden, a recent medical graduate who had committed himself to come to an "underserved area," which Colborne then was. In the summer of 1982, the new "Colborne Medical Centre" was opened on the lower level in the Masonic Hall. Dr. Morris remained in the centre on a part-time basis for a couple of years then left to consolidate his practice in Warkworth. Dr. Hearnden was on his own in the Medical Centre and council began a search for a dentist. In 1990, Dr. Hearnden, seeking more space, opened the Colborne Clinic in a house at 91 King Street East, next door to his home, Seaton Hall. Another family practitioner, Dr. Iris Noland, a resident of Salem, opened an medical office in a downtown storefront at 21 King Street East, in 1991 and remains there at the time of writing. Dentist Dr. ToVi Luong came to the Medical Centre in March, 1990, and was happily filling cavities and caring for the oral health of village and township residents at the turn of the 21st century.

Other doctors and healers who served Colborne and Cramahe at various times in the past have included: Dr. G.H. Wade, Dr. R. J. Wade, Dr. J. M. Clemminson, Dr. N.D. Richards, Dr. J.R. Thorburn, Dr. A.W. Stinson, Dr. C.M. Sanford, Dr. E. J. Free, Dr. J. Yourst, Dr. Knight, Dr. A.E. Mallory, Dr. Charles A. Page, Dr. T. Bruce Hewson, Dr. Edmison, Dr. W.A. Sargent, Dr. G.I. Black, Dr. C. C. Armstrong,⁸ Dr. Iles, Dr. A. McGlennon, Dr. W.A. Willoughby, Dr. Porte Marshall and dentist Dr. William G. Robertson.



Opening of Colborne Medical Centre, 1982: From left, Dr. Trevor Hearnden, MPP Howard Sheppard, Village Reeve Walter Rutherford.

Photo courtesy of Trevor Hearnden





IVA FALLIS

THE FIRST CONSERVATIVE FEMALE SENATOR

She was born on a farm outside Castleton,¹ and grew up in that village, her father was a former reeve of Cramahe Township and Warden of the United Counties of Durham and Northumberland (1892), and she rose to be a Canadian Senator.

Iva Fallis was born Iva Campbell Doyle, on June 23, 1883, one of two children of Irish Catholic immigrant Michael John Doyle and his wife, Jessie Stewart, a woman of Scottish heritage who was very active in the local Methodist church. The Doyles also had one son, Stewart. The family lived in Castleton at two different locations, one the house which still stands at 1804 Percy Street, opposite Castleton United Church, and by 1886 they were known to inhabit the "house on the hill" at 1862 Percy Street, onetime home of Hudson P. Gould, another former township reeve (1878). When Iva was a teenager, the family moved to Colborne. An article in the *Enterprise of East Northumberland*, published in Colborne in 1956, states that the family "resided in Colborne for many years and occupied the dwelling which is now the United Church Parsonage," at 6 Church Street East.

The young Iva attended Colborne High School and Port Hope Model School and appears to have taken a lively interest in public affairs from her youth. An article in the *Cobourg World* newspaper of Oct. 11, 1901 (when she was 18) notes: "The Literary Society of the Model School, Port Hope, held its first meeting on Monday afternoon in the High School....A debate was ably conducted by Miss Doyle and Mr. Byers, Miss Gardiner and Mr. Murphy, concerning 'Which is greater, the pleasures of hope or the pleasures of memory?'..."

She became a teacher and took her first school in Pickering Township, later moved to Cobourg, and then she assumed charge of a two-room rural school at Bethany, northeast of Bowmanville. There she met Howard Taylor

Fallis, an eligible young farmer living in the district. They were married in Colborne Methodist (United) Church on December 8, 1909, when she was 26. The couple moved to Saskatchewan, where they grew prairie wheat for eight years. The years, 1914–18, during the First World War, were tough for prairie farmers. But it was here that Iva's political interests came to the fore. In Saskatchewan, she cast her first vote and it was while she was living there that her full political consciousness was awakened. In her own words:



Senator Iva Fallis. Picture of a photo by Karsh, Ottawa

"I have never been a Suffragette (crusader for women's voting rights) or felt that there was need for women actively entering political life. I had been brought up in a family where the men did the voting and had very definite ideas about (that)...."

"One day, however, I drove across the Saskatchewan plains with my husband to the polling booth, but as I was at that time only a woman and not 'a person under the meaning of the Act' (women were only recognized, legally and officially, as persons in Canada in 1929) I deferentially sat outside

while only the members of the male sex entered the sacred precincts of the polling booth.

"Lined up at the booth were scores of men from other lands, who could neither read nor write the English language; who knew little of our laws and ideas. But before we left the West I had the joy of exercising my full citizenship, because Saskatchewan was the first province to give women the vote."²

Civic duty was something to be taken very seriously, she believed. She also said, "It is very important that women realize they are not living in the same world their grandmothers lived in. Their vote and influence is needed, both in the international and the national field."³

Around the end of the First World War, Iva and Howard



Fallis returned to Ontario and settled on a farm near Peterborough known as the "Old Bayley Homestead." There they carried on a mixed farming operation and she continued her political involvements. She was reportedly an excellent public speaker. "I would rather get on my feet and make 50 speeches than write a 15-minute radio speech," she once said.⁴ She became well known for her platform work on behalf of the Conservative party in various locations; in Ontario, in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, as well as in the prairie provinces. At the party's National Convention in Winnipeg in 1927, she was chosen to speak on the agenda, becoming the first woman in Canada to do so for either of the two major political parties of the day.⁵

When she was called to the Senate under Prime Minister R. B. Bennett in 1935, at age 52, she became the first woman to sit on the Conservative side of the Upper Chamber. Senator Cairine Wilson, a Liberal, had been appointed in 1930. Senator Fallis was described as an attractive woman of imposing height. Several sources make reference to her lively, "twinkling" eyes.

In the *Canadian Magazine*, September, 1935, she attributed her interest in politics to her upbringing. "...It was in my blood. My father's home was at all times 'the gathering place of the clan' for members of the Conservative Party and in fact for all and sundry who were interested in public affairs. From childhood their talk had a peculiar fascination for me, and I cannot remember the time when I would not rather go to a political meeting — or any political party — than go to a dance.

"I was early in life imbued with the idea that every Canadian citizen interested in his or her country's welfare, should endeavour to render some form of public service. To do so, one must have a medium of expression and the most natural medium for me to use was the Conservative Party."

In November, 1936, she was interviewed by Lotta Dempsey for *Chatelaine* magazine and she said at that time: "The Twentieth Century woman has opportunities that have never before fallen to the lot of her sex... But she is in the gravest danger of being carried by the ebb-tide back to the sea of oblivion... because she's too passive in her political interests." She expressed her opinion that "Women have as much right to be gainfully employed as men," and noted that "Today, as never before, we need capable women in government bodies, municipal, provincial and Dominion, because we are faced with agitation... to discharge women from factories, shops and industrial life generally and replace them with unemployed men." (This was during the Great Depression.)

She believed, "The only reasonable plan is to give work to those who need it, and then, those who are best fitted to do it. Whether they are men or women is immaterial."

Asked during the same interview whether she felt, as a Senator, that she represented "the woman's viewpoint," she replied, "Definitely, no. I represent the people."

She maintained that she found housekeeping a relief from public life. "I think it has enabled me to stand the strain," she once said. "When you are working with your head it is restful to be able to work with your hands for a while." She denied that discrimination on the basis of sex, even existed. "We (women) stand on our merits," she believed.

Iva Fallis was a member of the Women's Conservative Club of Peterborough, the Soroptimist club, the Women's Canadian Club, the East Central Conservative Association (vice-president), Ontario Provincial Conservative Association, Dominion Conservative Association, a life member of the Local Council of Women, an international honorary member of Beta Sigma Chi and a member of the United Church of Canada. She died on March 7, 1956, in Peterborough, aged 72.⁶



Onetime home of Iva Fallis at 1804 Percy Street, Castleton. Photo courtesy of Mario and Roberta Albert.



CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Colborne Was the Heart of Cramahe Township

THE 1850s WERE A TIME OF GROWTH AND PROSPERITY FOR CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP AND FOR THE rest of Canada West (as Upper Canada, later Ontario, was then called). Residents enjoyed almost total freedom from taxation, about one penny to the pound. Orderly farms had been established on lands that were less than a century removed from total wilderness. The Reciprocity Treaty then in effect with America was good for trade; the docks at Lakeport were busy.¹

Colborne, with a population of about 1,100, was thriving — the jewel in the township's crown. With a railway and telegraph station, a grammar school, a harbour, reasonably good roads, a bank and a newspaper (Joseph Keeler's *Transcript*), Colborne had "arrived."

If the present-day resident or visitor could be transported back in time to see the Colborne



Traffic in front of the Marion Hotel, probably around 1870–80. This hotel was at the corner of Toronto and Church Streets, the present site of Mr. Convenience store.

Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke





Colborne businessmen, 1904: Top, from left, C. A. Herington, art studio; E.P. Cox, tailor; E.G. Griffis, druggist; George Keys, (sic) founder and proprietor Express; Joe Cochrane, postmaster; G.L. Shaffer, Hotel Brunswick; G.W. Davis, groceries. Second row: Robert Coyle Jr., cooper; John Coyle, cooper; Thos. Brown, merchant; C.A. Outram, hardware; W.A. Willoughby, M.D.; Chas. H. Craig, barber; C. Larke, Standard Bank; W. Burleigh, livery; John Morrow, collector of customs. Third row: A. Mulhall, Hotel Bristol; D.H. Barton, saddler; W. Barton, saddler; V.G. Cornwell, tailor; M.J. Doyle, loan agent; R. Coxall, merchant; James Coyle, Hotel Windsor; Joe Harnden, butcher. Fourth row: H.J. Mayhew, jeweller; W.L. Bailey, manufacturer of Bailey Soap; George LaFlauer, barber; S.J. Tucker, undertaker; J.B. Jones, jeweller; A.D. Martin, baker, flour and feed; John Rooney, blacksmith; A. Beatty, merchant; F.M. Brintnell, insurance. In the lower left corner the name and occupation cannot be made out. In lower right is Steve Edwards, cooper.

Photo courtesy of D. McGlennon

of the mid-nineteenth century, built landmarks of Colborne, especially the brick buildings of the downtown core, would be conspicuous by their absence. The municipal building, for instance (the former Colborne High School), was not built until 1922. The Mansion House, also called Leith's Hotel, must have been located somewhere on or very near where the municipal building currently stands, on the west side of the square. Early village and township council meetings were often held in there.

The Keeler Block — the longest-standing of Colborne's brick commercial buildings at the corner of Victoria Square and King Street East — was a three-storey red brick building with fancy lighter brick quoins (resembling imitation pillars) at the corners when it was erected in 1872. The third storey was removed in 1970. The two-storey block beside it, also a Keeler investment, was built in 1873. These two buildings are now home to Guardian Drugs and the Gifford flower shop. The second-floor rooms in the second Keeler block — in the present-day home of Cliffcrest Jewellers — were used for Colborne council meetings from 1873 until the former "municipal centre" at 42 King Street East, now known as the Colborne Masonic Hall, was erected at 42 King Street East, in 1915.

A wood-frame hotel stood where the Simmons Block (15-29 King Street East) stands at the beginning of the year 2000. The former wooden structure was destroyed by fire and was replaced





by the present brick building erected in 1882 by D. L. Simmons. At the beginning of the year 2000, it houses the Yum Yum Shoppe bakery and coffee shop run by Jack and Vivian Wannell, Necessities clothing shop, Arlis O'Neill Campbell, proprietor; the Gingerbread House, a sweet shop also run by Jack and Vivian Wannell and Diane Patterson; Newman Oliver McCarten Insurance company, and Second Helpings, a used-clothing store run by Northumberland Big Sisters. Also in the Simmons block are residential apartments on the second and third storeys. The Simmons Block originally was topped with a belvedere (also known as a lantern, for it resembled one) on the roof. Photographs of the building in the first third of the 20th century show the belvedere, which might have been used to give a view of the harbour to the south.

Moving east, across Maybee Lane, the Coyle Block was not built until 1899. It is currently the home of the Northumberland Christian Outreach Centre, the Colborne Coin Laundry, and residential apartments. Between this block and Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at the corner of King Street East and Victory Street, are low brick blocks bearing no names or dates. In this location, where the law offices of Peter Hustler are located at the present time, was the spot where Addison Vars, the first clerk of Colborne, had a carriage factory, according to the Colborne Centennial Book.

Other brick structures which do bear dates include the N. Gordon Block, a three-storey building at 24 Victoria Square which, at the time of writing, houses part of the Colborne Home Hardware outlet. It was built in 1874. The R. Coyle block at the corner of Victoria Square and Church Street East where, at the turn of the present century, the MinCom Real Estate office was headquartered, was built in 1892.

The commercial buildings that are familiar in the early 21st century on the south side of King Street East, were not in place in the 1850s. Most of them have either been built or drastically renovated following a number of fires. One exception might be the present Queen's Hotel building on the eastern corner of King Street East and Division Street, which appears in many old photos. The original downtown sidewalks were wooden boardwalks; most of Colborne's cement sidewalks were installed in stages, starting around 1920, and rebuilt during the 1970s and 1980s.



The corner of Toronto and Church Streets has changed greatly since this photo was taken about 1880. This is the Marion Hotel. This very attractive building was obviously of frame construction; we have found no record of what became of it. The Windsor House Hotel was later erected on the same site.

Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke

Corner of Percy and Church Streets, circa 1870-1880. The building on the corner (at right) is the Methodist (now United) Church. The small house that seems to poke out from under the church's eaves, is still standing there at the time of writing. On the hill beyond (at left), the large house amid the trees is Kelwood. The red brick of the church was made locally at the Keeler brick yards.

Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke



COLBORNE WAS BOOMING IN 1857



The Canada Directory published in 1857 contains the following listing: "COLBORNE, C.W. (Canada West) — A Village in the Township of Cramahe and County of Northumberland. It is two miles from Colborne Harbour or Port of Cramahe (Lakeport) on Lake Ontario and near a station on the Grand Trunk Railway. Distance from Cobourg 14 miles, from Montreal 240 miles, and from Toronto 84 miles. There is a daily stage to Castleton, 7 miles. Fare 50 Cents and a tri-weekly stage to Norwood, 30 miles, fare \$2. Daily Mails. Population about 1,100."

A "business directory" of the village is then listed as follows:

Allan, J. T., Grocer	Keeler, Jos., J. P. Editor and Proprietor of <i>The Transcript</i> , Agent for Imperial Fire, Marine and Life of Quebec and Provincial Life Assurance Co. House at Colborne Harbour (Little Joe)	Scott, Jos. S., Wholesale patent medicine vendor and Clerk of Council
Barnett, Alex. G., Mason and Builder	Kennedy, A. S., Shoemaker	Scott, Reuben B., Iron Foundry
Beacon Fire and Life Insurance Co., R. M. Boucher, Agent	King, Adam, Agent Provincial Insurance Co.	Scougal, James, Carriage Maker
Campbell, Donald, Mill Owner	King and Strong, Storekeepers	Scripture, S.L.J., Iron Foundry
Chadburn, Richard, Saloonkeeper	LeBoutillier, G. T., Cigar Manufacturer at Colborne Harbour	Seed, Samuel, Blacksmith
Chapin, Otis, Cabinet Maker	Leith, Robert, Proprietor of Mansion House Hotel	Shannon, Richard, Tailor,
Colton, Wm. H., Storekeeper	Lockwood, M. K., Deputy-Clerk, Division Court	Shannon, William, Storekeeper
Cox, George, Operator, Montreal Telegraph Co.	MacDonald, R.D., Tailor	Sim, William, Baker and Confectioner
Dixon, J. B., Principal Union Grammar School	Male, James, Builder	Sinclair, James, Tailor
Dudley, A. W., Nurseryman	McDonald, Sydney, Colborne Hotel	Smith, Dana, Grist Mill
Dudley & Simmons, Brickmakers	McDonnell, Wm. H. Storekeeper	Spilsbury, F. B., Wharfinger
Edwards, Francis H., Watchmaker	McRae, Francis, Shoemaker	Steele, W. and J. S., Proprietors and Publishers Northumberland Pilot
Equitable Fire Insurance Co., G. Goslee, Agent	Merriman, Hiram, Sash and Cabinet Maker	Strong, J. S., Commission Merchant
Fortune, Thomas	Merriman, J. M., Collector of Customs	Strong, O. H., Harness Maker
Fowler, Orchard J., Pottery	Montreal Telegraph Office, G. Cox, Operator	Taggart, Rev., Wesleyan
Gordon, George N., Tinsmith	Mories, Samuel B., Carpenter and Joiner	<i>Transcript</i> , The, Annual Subscription \$1. J. Keeler, Editor, Proprietor and Publisher
Goslee, George, J.P., Storekeeper and Agent for Equitable Fire and International Life Assurance Co.	Nobles, Wm. H., Harnessmaker	Tuttle, Leonard, Pumpmaker
Howard, John, Railway Saloonkeeper and Grocer	Northumberland Pilot Weekly, Annual subscriptions \$1.50, J. S. Steele, Editor, W. and J. Steele, Proprietors and Publishers	Underhill, Charles, Wholesale and Retail dealer in Drygoods, Hardware, Groceries, Produce, Etc., and Auctioneer
Huycke, S., Harness maker	Power, John S., M.D.	Union Grammar School, J. B. Dixon, Principal
Imperial Fire, Marine and Life Insurance Co., Of Quebec, J. Keeler, Agent	Provident Life Assurance Co., J. Keeler, Agent	Vars, Addison, Carriage Maker
International Life Insurance Co., G. Goslee, Agent	Pugh, Frederick, M.D.	Webb, George W., Cabinet Maker
Inglis, George, Blacksmith	Robertson, Donald, Storekeeper	Webb, Thomas T., Councillor and Issuer of Marriage Licences
Inglis, Peter, Blacksmith		Whitby, Henry C., Importer of and Wholesale dealer in Dry Goods, Hardware, Groceries, Produce, Etc.
Jacques & Armstrong, Tanners		Yeoman, John L., Blacksmith and Livery Stable Operator
Keeler, Jos. A., Postmaster & Commissioner in the Queen's Bench (Young Joe)		Young, John, Shoemaker



The faithful little Land Registry Office has stood in its familiar place on King Street East at the corner of Victory Street, since the 1850s, although Victory Street was not an open road at that time. If we could visit that little building around 1850, we might meet J.M. Grover, the first land registrar, and an important personage in the village. Mr. Grover married Elizabeth Goslee, daughter of Junis P. Goslee, who donated the land on which Trinity Anglican Church is built. The registry office is unmistakable with its round-headed windows and Neo-classic style. However, the visitor from the future would note that the building was smaller, then, than it is at the time of writing. Two additions have been made in the interval. Up to its closure in 1992, the land registry office held records of all property transactions in East Northumberland. After that time, it was turned over to the Village of Colborne and, at the time of writing, is home to an art gallery, showcasing the talents of county-based artists, and a community mini-museum or archives.

The modern visitor to the Colborne of the mid-1800s would recognize some of the private homes. The Keeler home, for instance, at 7 Church Street East, was built in the 1820s. The maple tree in front of the house, planted by Joseph A. Keeler, would have been a slim, young thing in the 1850s. If one chanced to meet a member of the Keeler family, one might have been favoured with a trip to the top of the hill known as Kelwood, off Percy Street north of the village, where the Keeler mansion would then have been under construction. Presumably any member of the family would jump at the chance to show off this architectural marvel to an appreciative visitor. At the eastern end of the village, in what was then always called East Colborne, the visitor from the future would be nearly sure to recognize the Keeler Tavern at the corner of Furnace Street, now called Parliament Street. (There is some speculation that Parliament Street was renamed in honour of a local family and indeed the Atlas of the United Counties of

Durham and Northumberland of 1878 shows a "Parliment" holding east of the village). In the late 1850s, the old stage-coach inn would have been reverting to use as a private home, since the advent of the railroad in 1856 rang the death knell for the stages.

John M. Grover, the land registrar, and his wife, the former Elizabeth Goslee, built one of the largest and most imposing houses in the village. Mr. Grover originally planned it as a school for young ladies, but that college located in Whitby. The Grovers named their house Seaton Hall, in honour of Sir John Colborne, who was appointed 1st Baron Seaton after his retirement. The house, at 89 King Street East, is occupied at the time of writing by Dr. Trevor Hearnden, his wife, Maria, and their family. A third-floor ballroom was one of the highlights of this stately home, which was owned from 1915 to 1954 by the Robertson family. Dr. Wm. George Robertson was a local dentist who represented Northumberland as the Liberal member of the provincial parliament from 1926-29. His son, Frederick Greystock Robertson, M.D., was the Liberal member from this riding in the federal government from 1949-57. When the Robertsons owned the home, there was a canning factory in an out-building to the

Seaton Hall, at 89 King Street East, as it appeared when fairly new.

Photo courtesy of Trevor Hearnden



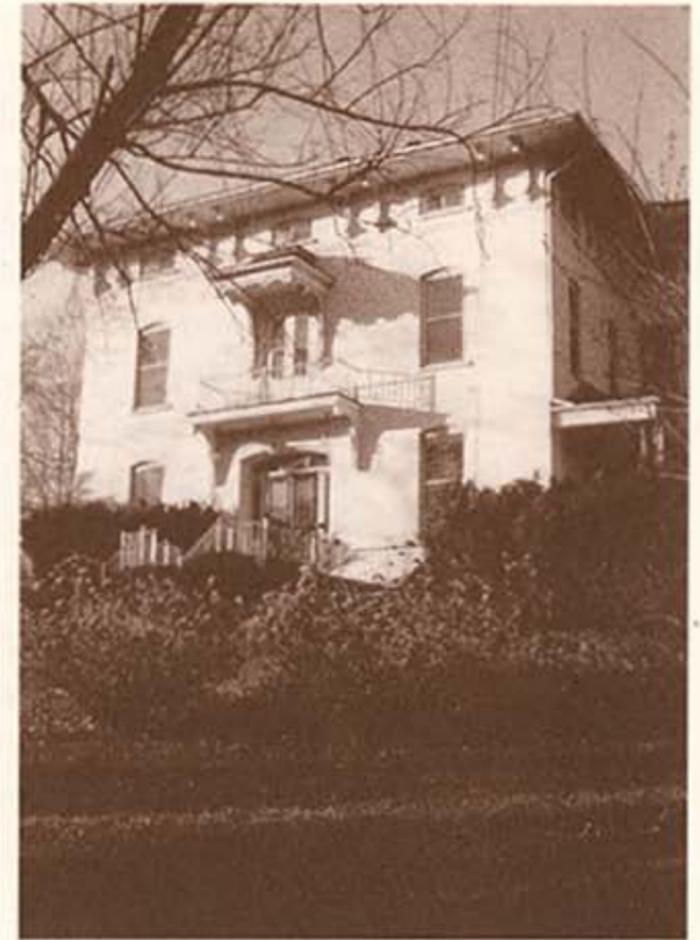


rear of the dwelling. At that same time, other canneries in the village included. McKenzie Cannery on Toronto Street near Ontario Street; Canadian Cannery had a factory at 8 Durham Street North, the present site of the Colborne Curling Club. They also had plants in Lakeport and Salem. And one former reeve of Colborne, Delbert McLaughlin, operated a cannery at 29 Kensington Street, now the site of Tripex Manufacturing Ltd.

At 101 King Street East was, and is, Chestnut Lawn, built (according to Colborne's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) about 1850 by timber merchant J. D. Goslee (uncle of Elizabeth Goslee Grover) and George, his son, an insurance agent. At the time of writing, it is owned by Duncan and Betty McGlennon. This storey-and-a-half red brick building has elaborate barge board (gingerbread) trim on its peaked gables and eaves. It is set well back from the road and, in the 1850s, would have been clearly visible from the street, because the trees that make the lot so attractive in the year 2000, had not yet grown. Later, it was the home of George W. Webb, a cabinetmaker and general merchant. The McGlennons, who had owned the home for three generations at the time of writing, believe that the outbuildings behind the house once housed a cooperage and apple-packing business.²

The story of the Goslee family is an interesting one. Elizabeth Goslee Grover's grandmother (and J. D. Goslee's mother) was Ann Schuyler, a niece of Philip Schuyler, one of George Washington's most respected generals during the American Revolution (1777–1783). Ann's father was also a member of Washington's army; in fact, Washington was her godfather and often visited the family home near Albany, New York. On the other hand, Matthew Goslee, Elizabeth's grandfather, was the son of a wealthy American family who were Tories (Loyalists, supporting King George III) during the Revolution. For this loyalty — or disloyalty, as the American patriots saw

it — the Goslees forfeited all their American holdings. As a child, Elizabeth was often told the story of her grandparents' first meeting. Her grandmother, Ann, was alone in the house near Albany, listening to the distant sounds of battle. Her mother had already died and there was a chance her father and brother would be killed in the fighting and that the British troops would burn their home. In fear, she saddled her horse and rode off in search of her uncle, Gen. Schuyler, but the first army encampment she came upon, was a British one. A tall, handsome redcoat with a wounded and bloodied arm, escorted her to a spot near the American camp; this, of course, was Matthew



Seaton Hall, 89 King Street East, as it appears today, with original red bricks painted white. The hall is home to Dr. Trevor Hearnden, his wife Maria, and their family.

Photo by Eileen Argyris

Chestnut Lawn, 101 King Street East, as it appeared when G. W. Webb (on lawn in front) lived there. Since that time, it has been home to three generations of the McGlennon family.

Photo courtesy D. McGlennon





Goslee. They were attracted to one another instantly. Ann remained with her uncle, the general, until the end of the war. One evening, Gen. Schuyler brought in a redcoat prisoner — none other than Matthew Goslee. After Ann and Matthew were married, they left the U.S. with the Loyalists. According to one source, Matthew Goslee swore he would never again break bread in the United States, and he never did.³ In Colborne the Goslees built a large log house and they always kept the saddle she had been using the day they first met.⁴

Across the street (at the modern address of 152 King Street East, corner of Durham) stands a house which dates from the War of 1812. Some sources say it was used as a barracks in that conflict, and later as a school. In 1828, it was turned over to King's College as part of what was to become the University of Toronto, however, the University did not establish campus buildings this far east, and in 1851 it was sold to one Peleg Wood. When Wood brought his bride home, "a pretty girl with dark eyes," Elizabeth Goslee Grover recorded in her diary that "Twenty young girls and men from Belleville accompanied them. The party danced to 'violin reels and country dances — all the girls wore white caps and the men in dancing would spring from the floor, slap their heels two or three times and fall into place — kicking dancing steps, that was the style then, and Mrs. Wood was called the best dancer in the settlement.'"⁵ The house is very similar in construction to the Keeler Tavern and may, at some time in its history, have been used as an inn, especially given its location on the former major east-west thoroughfare of the province.

At 45 Parliament Street stands the eight-sided house constructed by Reuben Bartlett Scott — an industrious young man who operated a grist mill, soap factory, iron foundry and evaporator — upon his marriage to Maria Huycke, about 1850. Scott's parents were Reuben Scott and Sarah Louise Keeler. There are indications that Reuben knew of the theories of Ogden Squire Fowler, the American eccentric who penned a book touting the virtues of the eight-sided house.

The fountain in Victoria Park, circa 1909, showing the Alexandra Hotel and the south side of King Street East, in the background.

Postcard courtesy of Roseanne Quinn





Fowler wrote: "How much fretfulness and ill-temper, as well as exhaustion and sickness (can be attributed to) unhandy house occasions. Nor does the evil end here. It often, generally by perpetually irritating mothers, sours the temperament of their children, even before birth, thus rendering the whole family bad-dispositioned by nature, whereas a convenient one would have rendered them constitutionally amiable and good."⁶ According to Fowler, the obtuse angles of the octagonal house would prevent the necessity for small corners which he regarded as an intrinsic evil. How far Reuben Scott subscribed to these theories is a matter of conjecture, however his family was to occupy this house for 125 years, so presumably, they were happy there. The youngest of Reuben and Maria's 12 children, Annetta, who married George Mallory, inherited the house. For this reason, and also because Mallory attained some fame as the owner of the first herd of purebred Jersey cattle in this part of the country, it is often referred to as the Mallory house. Since then, the house came down to daughters of the family, including Cora Mallory Greenfield and then to Cora's daughter, Joy Greenfield Gifford. After that, it passed out of the family. In 1989, the property was purchased by the Prins-Hagedorn family who have been slowly restoring it to an appearance closer to the original one, after a number of drastic changes by a previous owner. The Mallorys' creamery and the original woodshed survive.

At 3 King Street West stands the house reputed to be the oldest surviving dwelling in Colborne. It was the home of John Steele, who came from Scotland in 1820, and his wife, Mary Spalding. Because the registry of land deeds does not record the history of buildings but only property, it is not possible to state in what year the house was built, but clues lead students of architecture to conclude that it was erected in the early 1820s, perhaps by John Ogden who received the grant of this land from the Crown in 1809. The house may have been built a little before the Keeler house on Church Street East. Mr. Steele was purportedly a friend of Joseph Keeler, and he was a newspaperman as well. Steele founded the *Northumberland Pilot*, and was also involved with the *Watchman*, published in Port Hope. As a staunch Presbyterian, he fought against the establishment of the Anglican Church as the state religion of Canada, helped to found Queen's University and was a member of its first board. In 1843, John and Mary Steele moved from Colborne to a red brick house beside Mary's father, Thomas Spalding of Grafton.⁸

COLBORNE⁷



The tide of progress onward flows,
And nature's wealth of beauty glows,
And choicest gifts each year bestows
On those who live in Colborne

There childhood's mirthful years are spent,
There home and school alike are meant
To win the treasures freely sent
For all the homes in Colborne.

Each office, store and restful seat
Where earnest friends and lovers meet,
Presents some charm to make complete
The pleasant streets of Colborne.

And in its churches, where is heard
The message of the sacred Word,
There comes rich blessing from the Lord
To aid his cause in Colborne.

Though none may yet distinctly see
What in the future is to be,
From earnest hearts ascends the plea
For brighter days for Colborne.

Those who have left kind friends behind,
And gone far hence new homes to find,
Have pleasant seasons brought to mind
By welcome words from Colborne.

— Thomas Watson





Next door, at 7 King Street West, stands a red-brick Ontario (or Regency) cottage erected by the Steeles when they lived in Colborne and owned this land. The cottage was intended for the Steeles' son and his bride. It was purchased in 1844 by Cuthbert Cumming, the year after his retirement from the Hudson's Bay Company. Cumming, born in 1787, had joined the North West Company as a clerk in 1804. After 1824, when the Hudson's Bay Company absorbed the North West Company, Cumming continued as a company clerk and fur trader at Swan River, Alberta. In 1827, he was promoted to Chief Trader. He married Jane, daughter of Thomas McMurray, a Chief Factor of the HBC, in 1842. He was 55 and had reportedly abandoned a native "wife" in the Red River country some years before; Jane was 38. Upon his retirement from the HBC, Cumming was awarded a Crown grant of 200 acres in Colborne (Lot 29, Con. 1) bounded by the Toronto and Kingston Road on the north and Durham Street on the east. Their house originally was one storey with symmetrical windows and doors to allow air flow in the classic plan of the Ontario cottage. The original house had four fireplaces, including one in the basement where servants would have toiled preparing meals for the family. At the time of the census in 1861, the couple had three children ranging in age from five to 14. The Cummings built a two-storey brick addition at the rear in 1864,



The north side of King Street East, circa 1909. Roads are unpaved; the Keeler block on the corner is at its original three storeys, the horse-drawn "bus" at centre was used to ferry passengers uptown from the railroad station at the foot of Division Street.

Postcard courtesy of Roseanne Quinn

which contained one additional fireplace. The family was prominent in Colborne. Their final resting places are in the cemetery at the rear of Trinity Anglican Church, of which they were members. The house remained in the Cumming family until 1912 when it was sold to a George Shaffer for \$4,000. The Wilson family bought it in 1921 and in 1935, it was purchased by Dr. Porte Marshall whose family lived there 46 years.⁹ At the time of writing, it is owned by Nick and Elizabeth Hathway and their family.⁹

Colborne in the early 20th century was starting to take on the appearance the time traveller from the year 2000 would recognize. Although it was no longer a part of Cramahe Township (having been incorporated as a separate municipality in 1859) it was still an important centre for the surrounding rural area. Most of the major brick buildings of the downtown core were in place by 1900, although, as mentioned, a fire in 1906, and another in 1912, would damage much of the south side of King Street East in the downtown core. From an article written by longtime local resident Arnold Warren in the *Colborne Chronicle's* 125th Anniversary heritage edition, we get a word-picture of downtown Colborne in the early 20th century:

Shortly after the end of World War I, (around 1919) Coyle and Son's Grocery Store (one of three grocery stores in the village at the time) was located in the Coyle block on Victoria Square, across from what is now Colborne United Church.





"It was a double store; the grocery store was in the north section and the south section was the Palm Room Ice Cream Parlour... (which was) decorated with tall, potted palms and furnished with attractive tables and chairs. There was a battery of ice cream tubs kept frozen with liberally salted melting ice, an old-fashioned soda fountain with the big globe on top, dispensers for the various goodies used in making ice cream sundaes and a long showcase offering various kinds of chocolates for sale. Shelves of good china lined the north wall.

"Sometime before... 1925, the front part of the ice cream parlour was separated from the rear by a partition and became the telephone exchange. This was in the days when you called 'central' to ask for a number.

"To the south (at 24 Victoria Square), then (as at the time of writing) was a hardware store, Barfett Bros. Hardware, run by the dapper Joe Barfett.... Next (in what is now part of the hardware store) was an open space partially filled by a single storey wooden building housing a Chinese laundry. Then there was Donaghy's furniture store (18 and 18A Victoria Square). Between (18 and 10 Victoria Square) were the show windows and traditional inset entrance of W. H. 'Whack' Edwards' grocery store. (At 10 Victoria Square) was... a harness shop... run by Art Phillips. As demand for harness and harness repair declined, he moved into the repair and sale of boots and shoes... Bob Martin had a butcher shop (at 4 Victoria Square)... The floor was kept covered with fresh sawdust....

"Across the lane, in the rear of what (at the time of writing was) the rear of Downey Pharmacy (in the Keeler block) and with entrance off Victoria Square, was another butcher shop run by Tom Riley. Later it was a small grocery store run by the Seed family.

In the year 2000, in those same locations, we find Colborne Home Hardware, Darke Heating, Colborne and Area Community Care, Co-Operators Insurance, the New Wave hair salon and J&R Variety.

"Around the corner at what would now be No. 1 King St. East, was the Standard Bank," Mr. Warren's narrative continues. "Bank boys' were a feature of small town life. They came into the community for several months — sometimes a few years — then were sent on...."

"Next, at No. 3 King St. East, was Griffis Drug Store...." This business was founded by Wm. C. Griffis in 1874 (just two years after the building was erected) as the "Colborne Drug Store" but was known in the early 1900s as the "apothecary hall." In 1908, Wm. C. died and his son, Wm. Frank, took over its management. In 1910, it became the third Rexall drug store in Canada. Frank Griffis ran Griffis Drug Store until his retirement in 1945 and his son, Wm. C. "Bill" Griffis became the third generation of the family to run the business. When he sold it to Bert Downey in 1970, it had been in the Griffis family for 96 years.



Yeoman's Livery on the south side of King Street East. Next door is the insurance office of G.E.R. Wilson, the man whose home later became St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church and next to that is the Express Printing office, run by the Keyes family.

Photo courtesy of Walter Luedike





"Next (to the drug store) to the east was a men's wear store. In my earliest recollections," wrote Mr. Warren, "it was run by Bobby Coxall and later by Fred 'Toby' Hawkins....Fred sold out to Harry Vandervoort...."

"Beside the men's wear store was the Enterprise Printing Office where one of our two village newspapers, the *Enterprise of East Northumberland*, was published by Hartley (known as 'Pat') Gale...."

"Next to the *Enterprise*, there was a double store owned by C.P. 'Charlie' Brown with men's wear on the west side and ladies' wear on the east, the two sides being connected by an inner archway. In the early days it had an interesting system of handling cash and accounts. The clerk making a sale would put the money, or the bill, into a cup which was screwed to an overhead trolley. A pull on a handle sent the cup flying along a wire to an upper office where change was made, if necessary, or the account recorded, and the trolley sent back. In 1917, according to an old copy of the *Enterprise*, this store was owned by Fenton & Smith...."

"Continuing east (there were) premises...once occupied by Douglas Drug Store, then Gould's Drug Store and later Simmonds Drug Store. Then (at No. 17) there was 'Harry' Mayhew's Jewellery. He took over the business from his father-in-law, Mr. Rutherford... (Mayhew) was famous as an engraver. He received engraving commissions from as far away as Toronto"¹⁰ In 1982, Harold and Joan Harnden of Harnden's Jewellery celebrated 100 years of continuous operation of a jewellery store in that shop-front. Mayhew operated the store from 1888–1954, when it was taken over by Ed Rimmer. The Harndens bought Rimmer's business at the beginning of 1970. Although they attempted to sell it as an ongoing business, they were unable to do so, and it went to other uses when they retired in 1991. At the time of writing, it houses the offices of Newman, Oliver, McCarten Insurance.

"(East of the jewellery store) was the Misses Culver's millinery store where hats were made and sold....At one time there were rooms at the rear of this store in which highly skilled tailor, V.G. Cornwell, fashioned made-to-measure suits and also ran a class for apprentices...."

"(Also in the Simmons block) was G.E.R. Wilson's Insurance Agency. He was a small, very dapper man — (who used) a cane, very skillfully, as an item of dress....He lived in the mansion (on the northeast corner of King and Elgin streets) which...became the Roman Catholic Church. (It was from Wilson that the McGlennon family bought the insurance business that remains in operation in the village in 2000.)"

"Elgie Broomfield's barber shop was, for a long, long time (in the Simmons block). He and Charlie Post, on the south side of the street, were barbers from the days when

most men did not shave themselves. They were village institutions. (Charlie was the grandfather of Tim Post who is a councillor in Colborne at the time of writing.)

The Windsor House Hotel, corner of Church and Toronto Streets. This business was run by the Coyle family for a number of years. The Coyles were also into apples, barrel-making and livery.

Photo courtesy of D. McGlennon





"The last business on this block was the Brunswick Hotel, at one time called the Wolfrain Hotel after a (former) owner. A wide hall ran back from the front entrance with the lobby on the right and the old bar behind the lobby. The bar was not then in use (because of) the Ontario Temperance Act (which prohibited the sale of liquor in the province between 1916 and 1927, except for "medical, mechanical, scientific and sacramental purposes"). A wide staircase with metal treads led from the left side of the hall to the upper floors. Behind the staircase was the dining room and kitchens.

"That same shopfront — 33 King East — was also once the location of the Colborne Public Utilities office...and...the first office of the *Colborne Chronicle* newspaper.

"An old picture indicates that the centre store (35 King Street East) was a grocery...In 1927...Reynolds and Keating took over the centre and east stores. The centre store was a grocery...and the east store handled dry goods. Later they sold out and moved to Victoria Square to take over Barfett Bros. Hardware, which became Reynolds and Keating. The grocery store they vacated was carried on by Charlie Allen."¹¹

On the south side of the street, beginning at the Gordon or Scougale Block on the west side of Division Street, at King, the Scougale Bros. ladies' clothing stores, which also dealt in yard goods and hats, was located in the eastern storefront which was later taken over by tailor V.G. Cornwell, who reportedly continued to do business there, well into his nineties.

In the westernmost storefront was a grocery store operated at one time by J.A. Lemon and later by Fred Mellow.

"Behind Cornwell's store and with entrances off Division Street, were two offices. One was the telephone exchange, before it moved up to the R. Coyle block. The other was Frank Strong's coal office. Almost everybody burned coal in those days."¹²

The Queen's Hotel was then the Alexandra (prior to 1903, it was called the Bristol). Mr. Warren writes, "My grandmother told me of a local young man of good family who was alleged to have 'abused' a chambermaid, then strangled her. He was tried for murder and acquitted.

"The next door to the east...may have been once a feed store catering to farmers, but I remember it as a creamery. The door beside it gives access to an apartment above (14 King Street East which once) was a bake shop owned by my father, W. B. Warren, who died in 1917....Charlie Post's barber shop was east of the bake shop (at 16 King Street East, where the Town and Country barber shop and hair salon sits at the time of writing)...practically all of the 'regulars' had his own personal shaving soap mug in Charlie's shop...kept in a row on an open shelf.

"Next, to the east, was the Colborne Post Office (18-20 King Street. East), Miss E. Padginton, Postmistress....Bert Waller's bicycle shop came next, a haven for the many bike riders of the village. Finally, John Carter's law office (26 King Street. East) was the home of the *Colborne Express* newspaper published by Harry Keyes. He was assisted by Howard Free.

"The south side of King Street East from the Toronto Bank (at 32 King Street East) down to but not including the...house...(on the west side of Victoria at King which now houses Bea Mutton's Colborne Needle Craft shop) was wiped out by fire in 1912...subsequent to the fire, a 'modern' garage was built east of the Toronto Bank where the Post Office now stands. It was





operated... (by) Rupert Clarke and Sam Dudley. More or less behind the new garage was a long, narrow building which I understand was erected as a livery barn. We used it in winter as a skating and hockey rink. Natural ice, of course.... (This rink, where so many area residents met and

courted their spouses and created happy memories of great times with best friends, was torn down shortly after the end of World War II in 1945.) Next came a corrugated metal building with a roofed porch all across the front from which John Reeves sold fencing.

"Then came the (building known at the time of writing as the Colborne Masonic Hall). It was built in the early days of World War I (in 1915) as a municipal centre. Downstairs were offices and council rooms, with the fire department and jail on the east side. The upstairs was open.... Dances were held there. Prior to this, the village jail, called the "black hole," was just south of my boyhood home (at 7 Victoria Street).

"Toward the east end of this section, and set back from the street, was the curling rink. Then, as now, Colborne had an active curling club. Sometimes it was made available for skating. I can even remember playing hockey there, an interesting

experience. Not only were there no sideboards, there was a wooden walkway around the ice. If a player was body-checked into the 'boards,' he had to run like hell on his skates along the walkway until he could get back on the ice. Another square, two-storey, tin-sided building completed the block... and housed, among other things, the cobbler's shop of Mr. Bugg."¹³

On Saturdays, prime time for rural residents to come into the village, most stores remained open until midnight and the sidewalks of Colborne were crowded, busy, bustling places. This persisted into the 1950s, for we find a story in the *Globe and Mail* of June 5, 1954, in which the clerk of the day, Leonard Gordon, refers to Colborne as a "Saturday night town," and notes that many in that day were looking "forward to the day when a future four-lane highway (401) will by-pass the hazardous bottleneck" at Victoria Square. Back in 1919, however, there were very few automobiles, most of the shoppers arrived in town by horse and buggy or wagon. The streets at this time were gravel. Because they would get very dry and dusty in the summer, they were regularly watered by "Chief" Jamieson who served the village as chief of police and an early roads foreman of sorts, as well. Arnold Warren recalls that Chief Jamieson "sat on a high seat driving the team with a pedal under each foot. One pedal released a fan-shaped spray of water from the left rear of the wagon and the other released a similar spray from the right. Together they would cover the normal width of a road. (Colborne's streets were first paved about 1925.) The water wagon was filled from a large, elevated circular tank which included a horse watering trough, on the east side of Percy Street (opposite) what is now Cedar Street. (Cedar Street, Robertson Street and Burnham Avenue did not exist then.)

"Chief Jamieson, in his capacity as policeman, patrolled the downtown streets on busy



Donaghy's furniture and picture framing shop was located on the east side of Victoria Square around the turn of the 20th century. The carriage in front is called a phaeton; it is driven by Dr. James Alyea, veterinarian (front left). The boy beside him is Vernon Westfall; the other man in front is unidentified. Behind are (from left) Mrs. Alfreda Westfall, Cliff Alyea, Mrs. Mary Catherine Alyea. Dr. Alyea is the gentleman who first detected the 1911 fire that destroyed Kelwood. He helped to rouse the families inside and get everyone to safety.

Photo courtesy of Walter Luedtke





evenings. He carried a knobby blackthorn cane and boys needing correction received many a whack across the butt with it. Very effective."¹⁴ Other chief constables, were hired from time to time by the village, but today policing services are supplied by the Ontario Provincial Police.

Two commercial livery stables served the horse-driving public; Bradleys, located behind 20 King Street East, and Morrow's, on the same side of the road, a little farther east. As well, for horses, there were drive-sheds to protect the animals from extremes of weather while their owners shopped, transacted business, or went to church. These were located behind the Colborne United Church, beside Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on King Street East, behind the Brunswick Hotel (Simmons block, 15-29 King Street East), behind the Queen's Hotel (southeast corner of King Street East and Division Street, then called the Alexandra) and behind the Windsor Hotel, an imposing brick building that once stood on the northeast corner of Church and Toronto Streets, the present location of the Mr. Convenience store. And horses drew the milk wagons from the Colborne Dairy, operated at the northeast corner of Simmons and Victoria Street, first by Fred Harnden and then by Bruce Spencer, picking up and delivering milk all through the village and surrounding areas.

A blacksmith shop, operated by Harry Moore, stood on the spot now occupied by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) outlet, south of the Victoria Opera House (11 Toronto Street) which today houses Whistlers Restaurant and Winners Sports Bar. At the time of the smithies, Mr. Warren recalls, "The clang of hammer on anvil was a familiar sound in the village." A second smithy was located on Percy Street, about where the Bell Telephone depot is now, at No. 12. It was run by William Grant, the father of the late Hugh Grant who married Dora Rutherford, daughter of Charles Rutherford, VC.

Mr. Warren writes: "We went to the Victoria Opera House to see stage shows, both professional and amateur, and, later, movies. I saw my first movie in the old opera house, 'Birth of a Nation.'"

Colborne had its own power generation system, even prior to 1900. Two steam-powered dynamos, one at the end of Toronto Street and the other on Victoria Street, were able to generate electric power. In 1900, the generation and sale of power was taken over by the Home Life Insurance Company. J.A. Stratton, onetime premier of Ontario, was president of the company. Sid Turpin of Elgin Street, Colborne, worked in the old steam plant and on October 1, 1905, he bought it. However, most homes at that time were not equipped with electricity. On April 1, 1908, Messrs. Goodrich and Peebles bought the business, which was eventually entirely run by Milton Peebles. After his death in 1921, his brother-in-law, Rufus Keyes took over.

In 1931, with the installation of waterworks in the village, F.J. Smith, C. M. Finkle and



The Victoria Opera House, built in 1906. According to Barbara Johnston, one of the little boys in front is her father, the late Tom Brannigan. The sign at the right notes the building is also home to S. Edwards' cooperage.

*Photo courtesy of
Barbara Johnston*





F.M. Brintnell were appointed to manage the system. In 1933, Colborne Public Utilities was formed under the Public Utilities Act, for both hydro and water; the hydro portion was purchased from the Peebles estate. The first commissioners were Ira Edwards, C.M. Finkle and S.E. Turpin. F.M. "Fred" Brintnell was appointed secretary-treasurer, which position he held until his death in 1956, when he was succeeded by Malcolm (Mac) Campbell, who was succeeded by Alvin Ramer in 1984. Mr. Ramer retired in 1994, and a co-operative agreement was

made with Cobourg Public Utilities for joint management of the system, although an office was still maintained in Colborne. Gord Dudley was the first manager after this agreement, followed by Bruce Craig, who was manager at the time of writing. Water comes from the Oak Ridges Moraine, a prehistoric gift of nature to Cramahe Township. The moraine is a gravelly ridge, naturally capable of filtering fresh underground spring water. However, water for use in the village undergoes further treatment, as required by regulations, before it is distributed to each home and business in the village.

Longtime Colborne residents, like Mr. Warren, remember the village bell. "A distinctive Colborne sound was the town bell. A clapper, hinged under the bell,



Living better electrically: G.M. Keys' electric light store in Colborne, ca. 1910. The shop was on the north side of King Street East, in the downtown core.

Photo courtesy D. McGlennon

enabled the bell to be rung rapidly by pulling a separate rope. This was our fire alarm.... It stood on a tall, open metal tower in Victoria Park and was rung at 7 A.M., 12 o'clock noon, 1 P.M., and 6 P.M. (The bell ringer) took the time from the big clock in the store window of our jeweller, Harry Mayhew. The bell's principal function — to mark off the hours of the day — is no longer important.... But the village lost something when the bell was silenced. Its musical sound floating out to the far reaches of the community drew us together as a community. It did not say only that it was 7 A.M., for instance. It told us that it was 7 A.M. *in Colborne*. Those of us who remember it, miss it. (In 1953, the bell tower was found to be in need of repair and, rather than go to that expense, the council of the day had it dismantled. A fire siren was installed for alarm purposes, and, presumably, people were expected to wear watches to tell time. At the time of writing, the bell had been rescued from obscurity and there were plans to mount it atop the new public library building west of the municipal building.)

"No tale of Colborne would be complete," Mr. Warren's narrative continues, "without a few words about the Robertson 'girls' (no relation to the Doctors Robertson). The story of their lives, quite true to the best of my knowledge, would beggar the imagination of a Victorian novelist. There were four of them.... Annie and Joey were older. Jennie and Bella were quite a bit younger. Little is known of the younger girls except that, perhaps, they existed. I remember Annie and Joey as little old ladies. I never saw the other two and don't know anyone who did. The 'girls' ran a store on Toronto Street a little bit north of where the Johnston Motors office is now located (at 17 Toronto Street — nearby Robertson Street is named for this family).





"Annie was a musician and taught music to supplement their income. Joey was a painter and the store was hung with her canvasses. The building was of wood frame, old, unpainted and eloquent of sad neglect. A sagging, roofed verandah extended all the way across the front....In the centre was a wide, weathered door with a once-gilded nameplate bearing the name of Donald Robertson, their father, (who had been a member of the first council of the Village of Colborne, and was also a former reeve.) On either side were large windows with many tiny, dusty panes of glass guarded by heavy shutters. The interior of the store was as dingy as the outside with an eerie sort of gloom deepening with distance from the windows until it enveloped the rear. They sold threads for sewing and embroidery, crochet cotton, etc....Donald Robertson and his wife lived and raised their family in this place. They must have been people of refined and scholarly taste, because the girls were taught music, painting, embroidery and other ladylike accomplishments. But they never went to school. Donald taught them at home....Annie and Joey were just reaching maturity when their mother died and Donald followed a couple of years later. Before he died (so the story goes) he exacted a solemn promise from them that none of them would ever marry, that Annie and Joey would take charge of the home and the guardianship of the younger sisters, that the latter were to live in the strictest privacy, never leaving the home nor appearing in public....It seems these promises were kept faithfully. The 'children,' as the younger sisters were called, never appeared in the shop, let alone in the community. After dark, when the weather was fine, they might be taken for a walk in the closely fenced-in garden....It was all very unreal and I have known young people who would not go into (the Robertson's store) even when accompanied by an adult."¹⁵

Close to the end of the 20th century, Colborne council, under Reeve George Boycott, undertook to preserve slices of bygone days in Colborne by commissioning murals with historic themes, painted on the sides of buildings. Some local property owners got on the bandwagon, and had their buildings decorated. The first of these was created on the side of the building behind the village municipal building at 1 Toronto Street. A firehall scene was painted on what was then the firehall and is now the Colborne Public Library. It depicts a circa-1931 idealized village and featured the village's first motorized fire truck, the 1931 Ford Bickle firetruck, when it was new. Queen's Hotel owners Tim and Liz Gilligan had the side the hotel adorned with a 19th-century village scape featuring a hopeful lady awaiting the arrival of her lover on the expected stagecoach, scenes from the interior of the former land registry office (19th and 20th centuries) were painted on the side of 43 King Street East, facing east, and a montage of the history of the Colborne Rotary Club was depicted on the western wall of Guardian Drugs, at 1 King Street East, facing Victoria Square. Gary Warner, owner of Warner's Auction Hall, commissioned his own mural on the side of his building, east of the village on County Road 2; a depiction of a country auction in days of yore.



After the fire was over: A fire on September 23, 1906, damaged buildings on the south side of King Street East. This photo of the middle of the street, shows the debris and the merchandise and supplies that were removed, before the fire could destroy them. The building at the extreme right is labelled "post office and telegraph office."

Photo courtesy Walter Luedtke





ELIZA JANE PADGINTON

A WOMAN OF LETTERS

When she retired from the postal service in 1951 at the age of 89, Colborne's Eliza Jane Padginton captured a headline in Canada's national newspaper, the *Globe and Mail*, as the oldest serving postmistress in the nation. To local folks, she was far, far more.

Especially to "her boys," Miss Padginton (they always accorded her this title) was a beacon of light and hope, in peacetime and during four wars. For it was she who supervised the religious training of generations of young Methodists in the Colborne area, nor did she forsake them when they found themselves far from home, serving their country in wartime.

Born in Lakeport in July, 1862, five years before Canada's Confederation, Miss Padginton entered the service of Her Majesty's (Queen Victoria's) Royal Mail as assistant to Postmaster C. R. Ford in Colborne in January, 1883, at the age of 21. The post office for the village was then in the Globe Hotel on Percy Street. The stage left the Colborne Post Office with mail for Warkworth and Hastings at 10 A.M. every weekday morning and made the 60-mile round trip in time to get back and meet the outgoing mail in the evening — in all weathers.

Though Miss Padginton would serve the post office more than 70 years in all, she never missed a postal connection. Early in her career, she was transferred to Trenton where she served as assistant postmistress. Upon her departure in 1895, the merchants of Trenton presented her with a hunting-case gold watch in appreciation of her courtesy, dedication and service.

From 1895 until 1918, Miss Padginton served as assistant to Colborne's Postmaster Cochrane. The Colborne post office was forced to move when fire wiped out the whole block in which the Globe Hotel had been located. It relocated on the north side of King Street East, later moving to the south side (18-20 King Street East). When Postmaster Cochrane died in 1918, Miss Padginton was invited to assume the top job, entailing heavier duties and very long hours. She remained as postmistress until 1939 when the Postmaster General's office, noting that she was past retirement age (she was 67), appointed Charles S. Rutherford,

VC, MM, MC, to the post. Many years later, in 1972, Mr. Rutherford recorded these remarks about Miss Padginton, whom he called "Miss E.J.":

"...Miss E.J. made the P.O. her life work and no one could do it better. She must have worked over 60 years steady in the P. O. (It was actually over 70). Even on Sunday they had to make up the mail and she worked when she had the P. O. from 7 in the morning till 7 at night. Then she had to come back and make up the mail at 9 P.M., so you see, it was no easy task. It would take at least four full time to do the same now, as they would only work a few hours..."¹

In addition to the long hours she put in at "the P.O.," Miss Padginton taught the young men's Sunday school class at the Methodist (United) Church for a total of 75 years in both Colborne and Trenton, and she made sure "her boys" received letters from home during the Boer War (1899-1902), the First World War (1914-18), the Second World War (1939-45) and the Korean War (1950-53). She also sent newspapers, magazines and parcels and worked with the local Red Cross.

Arnold Warren of Colborne, one of Miss Padginton's "boys" and a veteran of World War II, recalled that, in her nineties, she was able to consult her records and determine that she had taught, in all, 374 young men. Among those in her first class were names well known to longtime residents of Colborne and Cramahe, such as Elmer Griffis, Elgie Broomfield, Archie McGlennon and Pat Gale.

In 1923, she presented to the Sunday school a flag and honour roll and a standard embroidered with a six-point star. In 1949 a second honour roll was added for those who "served King and Country" in World War II.

"It must have been a wonderful and rewarding thing," Mr. Warren wrote many years later, "to have been able to direct the lives of so many young men toward the real and enduring values....She did it by imbuing them with a profound respect for the principles which guided her own life. It followed that they felt the same respect for her, the living embodiment of those principles, and such respect is closely akin to love."



If Miss Padginton's boys loved her, there is little doubt she returned their regard. Jim Bell of Colborne once wrote, "...some (of her pupils) who lived outside the village would walk one, two or three miles through snow, mud or rain, rather than miss (her class)" He also said, "Although Miss Padginton's ministry to the Sunday school was great, I think her contribution to the spirit and morale of the many young men who fought in both world wars, was just as great, if not greater. I have had many fellows whose folks were not letter-writers, tell how they looked eagerly for the long letters Miss Padginton would write..."

In March of 1946, Colborne Legion, the Ladies' Auxiliary and a number of church and community organizations from Colborne and area, jointly sponsored a banquet for veterans of World War II. The highlight of the evening, one observer recorded, was the presentation of flowers and a Victory bond to Miss Padginton from the veterans. The address was made by Dr. W. Porte Marshall who stated, "When our community goes to war, Miss Padginton does likewise." She also received a letter of appreciation and commendation from Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King.

In keeping with her interest in the postal service, Miss Padginton also somehow found time to make a thorough study of philately (stamps) and her work resides in the Canadian Archives. She received letters of commendation from Chief Postal Inspectors who came and went during her long career, as well as a Long Service Medal from the Postmaster General in 1950. Also in 1950, she received a gold watch from her Sunday school class. In 1953, she was honoured with a Coronation Medal from Queen Elizabeth II and she proudly wore it when she led the Armistice Day (Remembrance Day) parade in Colborne later that year at age 92.



Miss Eliza Jane Padginton at the dedication of the World War I monument, Colborne, 1919. Photo courtesy of Dotu Grant

The *Colborne Enterprise* of Nov. 18, 1954, notes that on Armistice Day that year, Miss Padginton was publicly presented with a letter of appreciation from the Postmaster General of the day, Alcie Cote, made by G. E. Macklem, district director of the Ottawa District Postal Service. Mr.

Macklem reportedly told the audience that Armistice Day was a very appropriate time to pay tribute to a woman who had done so much for the morale of Canada's soldiers during the country's great conflicts. On the same occasion, Colborne's Postmaster, Charles Rutherford, also made a presentation to Miss Padginton: an expression of "appreciation of the faithful and meritorious service rendered" by her during her long employment, written by W. J. Turnbull, Deputy Postmaster General. And Colborne Reeve Irvine Post presented her with a purse on behalf of council, the Colborne Legion and the Ladies' Auxiliary. Wallace S. Peterson, veteran mail courier, then put the icing on the cake, giving Colborne's grand old lady a bouquet of flowers from appreciative members of the staff of the Colborne post office.

But perhaps one of the most touching and enduring tributes to Miss Padginton came after her death in 1961. In 1969, the *Colborne Chronicle* ran an article calling for subscribers to underwrite the cost of a fitting headstone to mark Miss Padginton's grave in Lakeport Cemetery. Irene Corbyn and Jim Coyle, both of Colborne, led the drive to purchase and erect the handsome monument, which was done June 7, 1970. The inscription reads:

ELIZA J. PADGINTON
 Lakeport 1862 Colborne 1961
 AT REST
 Remembered by friends and veterans of
 Boer War, World Wars I and II and Korea

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Word Gets Around

Communications in Colborne and Cramahe

THE EARLIEST FORM OF LONG-DISTANCE COMMUNICATION AVAILABLE IN COLBORNE AND Cramahe, of course, was the Royal Mail. Boats and stagecoaches had carried people and mail to the earliest settlements in the province from the 1600s, and later, when communities began to grow farther away from the main ports and thoroughfares, riders on horseback carried mail through the woods and trails. It was a slow and laborious process, and often news was not very “new” by the time it reached the recipient. It was also dangerous to send negotiable or legal documents in this way, as they could be stolen by robbers who hid in the woods and ambushed unsuspecting riders. An article about Colborne in the *Globe and Mail* of Saturday, June 5, 1954, mentions “centenarian Edward Carter” who said he could recall the days when local messages were delivered by passenger pigeons, but it is unlikely this was a very common mode of delivery.

Colborne’s present post office at 34 King Street East was completed in 1953 and Charles Rutherford, VC, was its first postmaster. Prior to that, the double store-front at 18–20 King East, served as post office under Postmistress Eliza Jane Padginton, and before that, it was located in a hotel at an unrecorded location on “Percy Street.” At that time the east side of Victoria Square was also referred to as Percy Street. The hotel burned around 1888. We do know that the village’s first post office was in a store that was opened in 1815 by Joseph A. Keeler, founder of the village. We may be sure it was in the downtown core but it was a wooden building and has not survived.

After the Grand Trunk railroad through Cramahe Township in 1856, mail was delivered to Colborne by train. “The trains — principally the Grand Trunk — offered convenient passenger and express service several times a day and far, far better mail service than anything available now,” wrote long-time village resident Arnold Warren, who was 91 years of age in 2000. “A horse-drawn stage, operated by George Cockburn, carried passengers and mail between Colborne and Warkworth six days a week, around the seasons.”¹

Of the same George Cockburn, Cliff Quinn of Castleton remembers, “This man hauled the mail and various other things (passengers, bread, etc.) from Warkworth through Castleton to Colborne and back each day except Sunday. A more accommodating man you could not find in this wide world.... I first remember him in the 1920s. In winter it was horses and sleighs. George



would change teams at our place (a farm on County Road 25, east of Castleton) and go on to Colborne. Coming back he'd leave our horses and get his own to go on to Warkworth. We used to hitch a ride with him to school in Castleton and, if we could, back home too. We sat on the bread box, usually. This box was fairly big and was filled with Harry Pomeroy's delicious bread going to Morganston each day."²

Cockburn was hailed, in the *Family Herald* of March 24, 1960, as having been "Warkworth's only regular link with the outside world." His father, Pete Cockburn, was granted the mail contract between Colborne and Warkworth, which included Castleton and Morganston, in 1906; he handed over the reins to George in 1910. George was out of bed at 4 A.M., picked up mail from rural mail boxes all along the route and arrived at Colborne in time to exchange mail with the 10 A.M. train. In winter, despite a robe of buffalo skin, he often suffered frostbite. One day when the mercury registered 40 degrees below zero (Fahrenheit) his brown team of horses was completely white within five miles. But he got through.³

Wallace (Wally) Peterson of Colborne had similar stories to tell. He met the midnight mail trains in Colborne from the early 1920s, every day except Sunday, ever mindful of Postmistress Padginton's watchword: "The mail must go through." Later, the mail train would arrive at 4 A.M. and he would rise in the middle of the night to meet that deadline, for nearly 40 years, getting the mail to the post office from the station, and out to the homes and farms along RR 3, Colborne. The mail couriers, like Cockburn, Peterson and Lloyd Vanslyke (who had the Edville route) were a very important communication link.

A very important station-to-station communications link was the telegraph (first patented in 1836). It was a revolution, allowing the instantaneous transmission of information over long distances and each of Colborne's three railway stations would have been equipped with one. Dora Rutherford Grant recalls when Albert Dance, station master (from 1930 to 1955) at the original Grand Trunk (later Canadian National) station at the foot of Division Street, sat at his desk taking and sending "endless" telegraph messages. Written or spoken messages were translated into Morse Code and tapped out in that system of dots and dashes that represented the letters of the alphabet, over the miles. They were received at another telegraph station, translated and either printed or written out for the recipient.

The history of local newspapers begins in 1856, when Joseph Keeler III ("Little Joe," who later became MP) founded and published *The Transcript*. In it were published the minutes of early township and Colborne council meetings, social happenings, and local advertisements, as well as news of the world. *The Transcript* proclaimed its mission statement proudly upon page one of the first issue:

"The Colborne Transcript is published for the purpose of promoting the Local Interests and Improvements of Colborne, Castleton, Percy, Hastings and Norwood; the development of the great Natural Resources of the Townships adjacent; and devoted to AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, STATISTICS, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, GENERAL INTELLIGENCE, also furnishing the latest News, foreign and domestic, State of the Markets, &c., &c."





Henry Gale purchased the Enterprise newspaper, in Colborne, in 1886. The office was about four shop-fronts east of Victoria Square on the north side of King Street East, not far from the Colborne Chronicle office, today. However, printing was done on the premises in the Enterprise office.

Photo courtesy of D. McGlennon



Soon after, in 1857, the *Northumberland Pilot*, published by John Steele (a Scottish immigrant who once lived at 3 King Street West, reputedly the oldest house still standing in the village) began its life. Mr. Steele was purportedly a friend of the Keelers'; he was also involved with the *Watchman* newspaper, published in Port Hope. As a staunch Presbyterian, he fought against the establishment of the Anglican Church as the state religion of Canada, and would have used his newspaper as a vehicle to publish his political views, for such they were. Certainly Keeler, as an aspiring member of parliament, would have done the same.

The *Colborne Independent* started life in 1860; at that time there would have been three competing newspapers based in Colborne — the *Transcript*, *Pilot* and *Independent*. The publisher of the *Independent* was Wm. R. MacArthur.

The *Colborne Times*, Vol. 1. No. 29, was published April 22, 1864. Its first issue probably came out the previous year, but we have been able to find no further information about this publication.

One of Colborne's longest-lived newspapers was the *Colborne Express*, first published under the name *The Express and Gazetteer*, by George Keyes, circa 1865–66. It was in continuous circulation for over 90 years. George passed it on to his son, Harry S. Keyes. Howard Free, an employee of the paper since 1911, took over ownership after Harry Keyes' death, in January, 1944. Editor of the paper was his wife, Willena Keys (no relation to the Keyes family), and they ran the publication from the Colborne office, until the end of 1958. The Express office was located at 26 King Street East (south side of the road, in the downtown core).





The *Enterprise of East Northumberland* was at one time published under the name of *Northumberland Enterprise*. The earliest known copy known was dated 1881. Apparently, the paper was more or less in a state of liquidation when Henry Gale and his brother, James, who together ran the *West Durham News* in Bowmanville, came to look at the paper to see if it could be purchased and resurrected. Henry Gale made a down payment of \$500 on the paper and then took it over, himself, about 1886. He moved to Colborne in 1888 and bought the house that still stands at 28 Toronto Street.

"At one time," Arnold Warren recalled, "the press was run, quite literally, by horse power. Mr. Gale would drive his horse and buggy to the office, park in the laneway behind, unhitch the horse and put it on a treadmill. The horse would walk on the treadmill, providing the power to run the press."⁴

Henry's son, Hartley, who was always called "Pat," took over management of the *Enterprise* in the 1930s. The paper was published continuously by the Gale family, until the end of 1958 on the north side of King Street, about four shop-fronts east of the corner of Victoria Square. Pat Gale was a well-known banjo player and a man who loved a party. There were (and still are) many stories around Colborne regarding Pat Gale, the parties he had, and the jokes he loved to play. He used to invite school children in to see the press and ask them if they could see the minuscule "type lice" that supposedly lived among the tiny, metal letters. He would then laugh when they got so close as to get their noses blackened by the printer's ink on the type. In 1958, the *Enterprise* and its competitor, the *Express*, were both purchased by General Printers Ltd., (*The Times*) of Oshawa.

The two papers were combined, and the first issue of the *Colborne Chronicle* hit the streets at the beginning of 1959. Early editions of the *Chronicle* bore the crossed names of the *Express* and the *Enterprise* to signify its continuity with papers that had gone before. William T. Harrison was the first editor and publisher. Foster Russell, founder of Northumberland Publishers Ltd. and author of several local historical books, purchased the *Chronicle* in the early 1960s. Under his ownership, William G. "Bill" Self, a British-trained printer and onetime Dundonald-area farmer and former chief constable of Colborne, took over as editor and printer. The first office was situated at 33 King Street East. Bill Self worked for the paper again, from 1984–87, when Eileen Argyris was editor. In the late 1960s, Kaye and Les Cunliffe, who lived in the Salem area at the time this book was written, undertook the editing and printing of the *Chronicle*. During their tenure, the *Chronicle*, along with the rest of the Northumberland Publishers chain of papers was purchased by publisher Dr. James Johnston. Johnston began printing the *Chronicle* in Cobourg at the offices of the *Cobourg (Sentinel) Star*, and, for a time, it was included in the *Star*



A young Hartley "Pat" Gale carries copies of the *Enterprise*, hot off the press, across an unpaved King Street East.

Photo courtesy of Phyllis Diebolt





as a weekly supplement. In the meantime, Conolly Publishing (the *Brighton Independent*) brought out the *Colborne Citizen*, from 1973–1980. Conolly currently publishes *The Independent*, which has universal free circulation throughout eastern Northumberland County, including Colborne and Cramahe.

In October, 1983, all the newspapers in the Northumberland Publishers chain, including the *Chronicle*, the *Star*, *Port Hope Evening Guide*, *Newcastle Reporter* and *Campbellford Herald* passed out of local ownership for the first time when James Johnston retired and they were sold to H.B. Burgoyne of the *St. Catharines Standard*. In the late spring of 1996, all the Burgoyne holdings, including the *Standard* and three surviving Northumberland Publishers papers — the weekly *Chronicle*, and the daily *Star* and *Guide* — were sold to Southam Inc. which shortly afterward became part of the international newspaper empire controlled by Conrad Black's Hollinger Inc. The *Chronicle's* editor at the time of writing is Mandy Martin. The paper is sold by subscription and comes out once a week, on Thursday. The local office is located on King Street East, pre-print work is still done at the *Cobourg Daily Star* building and the paper is printed at *The Trentonian* in Trenton, another Hollinger holding. In 1997 the company also began producing the *Apple Gazette*, serving the Brighton area.

Each of Colborne's newspapers, in its time, has served the surrounding township and immediate area, as well as the village.

Telephones are such a part of everyday life at the turn of the 21st century, that it is difficult to imagine how people managed without them. Yet, of course, they did. The first telephones did not come into use in Colborne until the early years of the 20th century. At that time, when there were no dials on the phones, one called the operator at "central" and asked for the (one- or two-digit) number of one's choice, or asked for the resident or business by name.

Cramahe Township's first telephone system was set up in 1904 by John B. McKague and Robert B. Dawson, who had had some previous experience with telephones in Percy Township. The first lines were strung from a mill operating on the south half of Lot 27, Con. 9 to the north half of the same lot. Wires were not then mounted on high poles, but were on fence posts. Later, subscribers paid for the erection of poles as part of the charge for phone service. At first, phone service cost \$5 per year; in 1914, it went up to \$20 per year.

The Mount Pleasant System, as it was called, had lines running to Morganston, Colborne, Warkworth, Fenella, Roseneath, Hastings, Percy Boom, Meyersburg and Orland. In 1913, they linked up with the Murray-Brighton Telephone Company so that subscribers on one system, could talk to subscribers on the other.

There was a telephone exchange office in Colborne; first located on Division Street near King Street West, and later on the east side of Victoria Square. In Castleton, the "central" was located in the Newman Company Store (at the time of writing, the Castleton General Store on the southwest corner of Percy and Spring streets) which had been in Castleton since 1891. The switchboard had 15 lines with 20 phones on each. Any member of the Newman family who happened to be on hand when the switchboard signalled a call, would patch it through, at the rate of two cents for three minutes. Each call was recorded in a notebook, like store transactions.





Later the central for Castleton moved to a private home on Spring Street. Most of the operators were young women from the community. There was also a central in Morganston, with 10 lines capable of carrying 10 phones each, at the general store which still stands on the corner of County Roads 25 and 27. For a time, there was a central in Dundonald, as well.

Unless there was an emergency, no calls were to be made after 10 P.M., but the provision for emergencies was the "night bell" which was supposed to wake the operator. If she forgot to activate the night bell, however, and someone was unable to get a call through, the operator responsible would be in real trouble at the next subscribers' meeting. But one of the great advantages of the old phone system was its built-in fire alarm; in case of fire one simply turned the crank-handle on the side of the phone continuously to produce one long ring which went out over the whole line, alerting everyone on the system, as well as central.

It was easy to eavesdrop on these early phone systems, as everyone was on a "party line" and one would only have to lift the phone when it was in use to overhear a two-way conversation. But because the phones needed batteries to operate, it was easy to tell who the busybodies were, as they would have to replace theirs more frequently.

The Mount Pleasant telephone system clashed with the Railway Board, which had charge of communications, by virtue, likely, of its link with the telegraph system, and it was reluctant to provide long-distance calling service to local phone companies, perhaps fearing a loss of business in the sending of telegrams.

Local telephone systems were being bought out by municipalities by the time of the First World War, mainly because demand for service was growing and the private owners did not have the funds to make necessary improvements. In 1962, the municipal system was sold to Bell Telephone (now known as Bell Canada). Then trunk cables were buried underground (with individual lines on overhead wires). Another innovation made at that time, was that subscribers obtained rotary-dial phones. There were still many "party" lines, however, especially on rural lines, well into the 1970s.

At the beginning of the 21st century, every phone subscriber has a private line, sometimes several in one home or business. Rotary dial phones are largely a thing of the past, and touch-tone phones are the thing. People use phone lines for computer Internet access and there is talk of this access being provided through the same cables that bring cable television into subscribers' homes and businesses, however that has not yet occurred in Colborne and Cramahe. The World Wide Web affords easy access to information on virtually any subject, instantly, by way of the home computer. Rural homes are not able to access cable, even for television, but TVs in Colborne are served by Quinte Cablevue, based in Belleville and Trenton. Bell Canada still provides local phone service, but customers now have their choice of long-distance service providers. With international phone service at our fingertips, practically no one uses telegrams anymore, so it seems the fears of the Railway Board, so many years ago, that long-distance phone calls would make their business all but obsolete, were well founded.





GEORGE BLYTH

A 'BLYTH' SPIRIT, IN WAR AND PEACE

George Blyth has served his community, his province and his country in many capacities: soldier, farmer, chief of police, recreation director, councillor in the village and the township, developer, school board trustee (1973–78), member of the Northumberland and Durham Legal Aid Board for over 20 years, member and past president of the Colborne Legion Br. 187, Reeve of Cramahe Township (1980–88) and Warden of Northumberland County (1985).

He was born, one of twin boys, near Castle Douglas, Scotland, on December 1, 1918. The First World War, in which his father and an older brother had served, had ended only days before, on November 11, 1918. His parents, Annie (nee Peacock) and Robert Lewis Blyth, named their two newborn sons Victor (for the victory of the British and their allies) and George, for the then King of England, George V. The Blyths emigrated to Canada from Scotland in 1924 — mother, father and 12 of their 15 children. They first lived in Brighton, but settled in Cramahe Township, in Salem, in 1926, on the historic homestead that had once belonged to Loyalist Capt. F. B. Spilsbury, on the road now called Blyth Road.

George attended school in Salem and grew to manhood working on the family farm raising tomatoes in four large greenhouses, and growing raspberries, strawberries and feed for the farm animals. When only 20 years of age, in February, 1939, he faced the loss of his twin brother, Victor, who died as the result of a wood-cutting accident on the farm. George buried his grief and went on with life, but never really got over the loss of his twin and best friend. The Second World War broke out in September, 1939, and early in 1940, the 21-year-old George enlisted in the Midlands Regiment. He also served overseas in the Glengarry Highlanders as well as in the Canadian Provost Corps, the military police, where he attained the rank of Sergeant and won the British Empire Medal.

Documentation with the medal reads:

“During the fighting in and around Caen (France) in the latter part of July and the first week in August, 1944, this NCO was in charge of a section of Provost on the bridges

built across the Orne River. Despite enemy fire and bombing action, he stayed on duty for periods as long as 24 to 36 hours, without sleep, and did all in his power to rally his men and keep the heavy flow of traffic moving. Throughout the whole period of this operation he was most cheerful and, but for the fine example (he) set in fortitude, devotion to duty and leadership, there is not a doubt that the men of his section would not have worked the hours required of them, which would have had serious consequences in keeping the bridges open and the traffic flowing smoothly.”

He also received a personal congratulatory letter from London from future Governor-General, Vincent Massey, who was at that time High Commissioner for Canada. After the end of the war, George received the British Empire Medal from the hand of Canada's Governor General of the day, Field Marshal Alexander, 1st Earl Alexander of Tunis, in a ceremony at Kingston, Ontario.

Then it was back to Cramahe Township. He and his wife, the former Eunice Packard of Dundonald, raised a family of six children. He became chief of police of the village of Colborne, and recalled that, on holiday weekends before Highway 401 came through in the early 1960s, “traffic could be backed up all the way from Colborne to Wicklow,” quite a challenge for the officer directing traffic. After that, he served as Colborne's recreation director (1965–72) and served for a time on both the village and the township councils. He remained active in Colborne Legion Br. 187, serving on the executive committee in 1963, '64 and '65, and was president of the branch in 1966. After a 1975 fire destroyed the former Colborne Public School building which had then become the Colborne Legion Hall, he served on the building committee that saw the establishment of the Legion Hall that stands, at the turn of the 21st century, at the corner of King Street East and Kensington Street. While acting as community recreation director, he fought for a swimming pool for the village, which was constructed in the early 1970s on Elgin Street, across from Alfred Street. But the pool was later closed and filled in.

A devoted worker for the Conservative Party, George was



a close friend of Hon. George Hees, to whose campaigns and constituency work he devoted a good deal of time. He served on the council of the Village of Colborne and on Cramahe Township council, as well, and worked in a volunteer capacity for the formation of Colborne and Area Community Care. Every summer for at least 30 years, he hosted a corn roast for area senior citizens, first at Blythwood Acres campground, which he owned, developed and later sold, and later at other locations, including the Colborne Legion.

On the Northumberland and Durham (later Northumberland and Newcastle) Board of Education, his was a tireless voice raised in support of what he saw as relief for the beleaguered taxpayer. He championed alternate full-day kindergarten and other measures he saw as cost-savers. His constant refrain to naysayers was, "All I demand is the right to be wrong."

As the colourful and controversial reeve of Cramahe Township from 1980–88, George was responsible for many innovations, among them, moving the meetings from Friday afternoons to Monday evenings, so that working people could attend them, opening meetings to greater public participation and revamping township planning guidelines to encourage greater development and industrial expansion. During his reeveship, the Colborne Area Industrial Park (in Cramahe Township) became a going concern with a number of high-profile companies locating there, yet it was also the time when residents of the township fought a battle against the establishment of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) development by Consumers' Gas (which he and his council had supported, but which

was finally ruled unnecessary by the Ontario Energy Board). Also during the years of his reeveship, parents, neighbours and Cramahe council fought the Northumberland and Newcastle Board of Education's attempts to close either Castleton or South Cramahe Public School, County Road 25 between Colborne and Castleton was rebuilt after many

deferred promises by the County of Northumberland, the township offices were modernized and new council chambers added to accommodate the public, and the township published a book called "The History of Cramahe Township," edited by J.W.D. "Scotty" Broughton of Brighton.

He received the Centennial Medal from the Government of Canada in 1967 and the Ontario Bicentennial Medal in 1992. At the presentation, Northumberland MPP Joan Fawcett remarked: "This medal is for those who have made a significant contribution to the community. It recognizes the values of service in an individual respect and in community effort. There isn't anyone who has been more involved than George, albeit sometimes controversial,...he always gets the job done."

His years as reeve over, George ran again for public office, this time as councillor of the township, and he served in that capacity until 1997. He was a charter member of the Castleton-Colborne Optimist Club and member of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association's insurance board.

He received the Senior Achievement Award in 1998 from Ontario's Lieutenant-

Governor, Hilary Weston and, at the time of writing, lives in retirement but continues to take an interest in Cramahe Township.



George Blyth (right) receives the British Empire Medal from Governor-General Alexander. *Photo courtesy of George Blyth*

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

'A' is for Agriculture, and Apple

"Food is the first want of man, and the necessity for its production is pre-eminent and irresistible; luxuries may be dispensed with; but life-supporting nutriment must be supplied, and for that, in its most compact form and most beneficial state, the whole world must look to the Agriculturalist."

— *The Cobourg Star*, March 29, 1848

THE EARLIEST FARMS WERE OF A SUBSISTENCE TYPE; EACH FAMILY ENDEAVOURED TO PRODUCE everything the members would need to survive. Farms had some livestock, including cows for milk and meat; they raised pigs and chickens and grew vegetables for the table, wheat for flour, flax to make linen cloth, sheep for meat and wool, and grains to feed the stock. Some kept a hive or two of bees; some left some maple trees on the land made maple syrup. By the 1820s, farming in Upper Canada had become a business. The first Agricultural Society in Northumberland was formed at Kent's Tavern, Colborne, on May 17, 1828. The first general meeting of the Society was held at John Grover's Inn, Haldimand, on May 18, 1829, and the following were elected: Benjamin Whitney, president; Captain F. B. Spilsbury and Charles Powers, vice-presi-

dents; Joseph A. Keeler, treasurer; John Steele, secretary, as well as numerous directors. The Society held its first show or "fall fair" at Colborne on October 19, 1829.

By 1839, the Agricultural Society was sponsoring a semi-annual fair, exhibition and ploughing match at Colborne, on the old "fairgrounds," south of Arena Road between Division and Earl streets. By 1847, horses were shown; as well, oxen, "milch cows, heiffers" and calves, bulls and sheep, including "the introduction of improved breeds to take the place of the old scraggy, lank-sides, razor backed race heretofore the produce of the province."¹ The "good housewives" had a part in the annual fair, exhibiting "specimens of cloth of domestic manufacture."



Apples: the crop for which this part of Ontario is best known. Fortunes were made and lost in the apple trade, and spin-off industries, in Colborne and Cramahe Township.

*Photo courtesy of
Harold Hamden*



During the First World War (1914–18) a group of farmers in the Castleton area formed the Castleton Agricultural Society that ran annual fairs on the “agricultural grounds” (now the grounds of Castleton Public School) on Spring Street, until 1929 when the school opened. Sulky races and a steam-operated merry-go-round were popular features. Various competitions for all members of the family were held, and prize money was offered. Apparently, the prizes helped bring about the demise of the fairs that once were a feature of most small communities. Organizers would do their best to collect donations from local businesses, but often the prizes fell short of the advertised amount, disillusioned entrants would not enter again, and the fairs began to decline.

Changing farming methods, increased size and productivity of individual farms and genetic improvements in crops and stock have made the modern farmer much more efficient than his colonial counterpart. At the time of writing the average Canadian farmer feeds 120 people, compared to 12 people in 1900.² Today, the main crops in Cramahe Township are corn, soybeans for oil and livestock feed, wheat, oats, barley and hay. The number of dairy farms is declining, but the production per farm is greater than ever. A few farms in the north end of the township do intensive production of pork; there is some beef production, as well. Since about the mid-1990s, the production of peas has dropped off, owing mainly to the disappearance of a co-operative processor in the area. And, where in the 1930s, '40s, '50s and '60s, tomato-growing and market gardening were widespread, this also has declined. McKenzie Cannery Ltd., Canadian Cannery and a number of independents were located then in Colborne. And Lakeport, Salem, Castleton all had food processing plants, but no more.

One notable crop that rose and fell dramatically in Cramahe during the 20th century was tobacco. In 1951 one Northumberland farm grew tobacco; by 1961, there were 57. The sandy soil of this (then) relatively inexpensive land, coupled with high returns, made tobacco a popular crop, despite its labour-intensive nature. About the mid-1980s, the number of growers declined sharply after health concerns prompted governments, the Canadian Cancer Society, and other agencies concerned with public health, to mount aggressive anti-smoking campaigns. The resulting decrease in tobacco use, along with higher cigarette taxes, and stiff competition from foreign growers, led to the death of the local tobacco-growing industry. Since 1996, no tobacco has been grown in Cramahe.

Strawberries have emerged as a popular crop in the 1980s and '90s, but, by far, the crop for which this area is best known, is apples. Some of the best apple-growing conditions in the world prevail here; this is “apple country.”



Tobacco kilns on Mount Pleasant Road: They are not only deserted in winter, but all year long, since no tobacco is grown in Cramahe Township, anymore.

Photo by Eileen Argyris





Apple team: Preparing to start picking in the extensive Coyle orchards around Colborne, early in the 20th century.

Photo courtesy of Harold Hamden



The proximity of this area to Lake Ontario ensures a moderating effect on the extremes of the Canadian climate. The winters along the lakeshore are milder, and the springtimes warm up more gradually, allowing apple blossoms and buds to come to bloom and preserving them, for the most part, from a sudden late frost that could damage or destroy the crop. Apple trees are not indigenous to Canada; the seeds came to North America with the Pilgrims in 1620. They flourished in the maritime climate of New England, and were brought north with the Loyalists. In the latter part of the 19th century farmers found that local conditions were ideal for apples, despite the disadvantage of the slow return; older apple trees could take from five to 20 years to reach maximum production. By 1900, springtime in Colborne offered an uninterrupted view of apple blossoms to the passerby who glanced down any side street.

Not just farmers made a living from apples. Around the turn of the 19th–20th century, local and out-of-town speculators would “buy” orchards, perhaps in July, when the fruit was just taking form. They would gamble on the weather and the market, organize the harvest, pack the fruit, arrange for shipping, and either make a killing or lose their shirts on the venture.³ Joe Persofsky of Colbright Orchards was a big apple buyer, packer and shipper in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, without being a grower. There were times in the autumns of those years, when tons of apples would be sitting in railway cars along sidings and near the Colborne CN railway station on Division Street, waiting for the trains that would transport them to big-city markets all over North America. They bore the names of Knights, British Fruit and Mack Mackenzie, among others. The railway was a great asset to the apple business.

The apple-growing industry has changed, and yet, in comparison with other crops, the





technique remains remarkably close to the practices that were followed by our forebears. It is still a labour-intensive activity. In bygone days, grafting was more prevalent; now apples are grown mainly from new stock. Before the era of numerous, highly effective pesticides, there were greater numbers and varieties of insects, especially wild bees, so apple growers did not have to worry about pollination, the carrying of the fertilizing pollen between the blossoms. Modern farmers have formed a mutually beneficial relationship with apiarists, keepers of honey-bees. In spring, around Colborne and the lakeshore area of the township, you can see the wooden "hives" being carried into the orchards by the beekeepers. The bees are turned loose among the blossoms. As they flit about, gathering nectar for honey, their bodies carry the pollen and do the fertilizing work that will ensure a good crop of firm, sweet apples.

Many of the varieties of apples that were grown at the turn of the 19th–20th century are no longer with us — the Baldwins, Baxters, Starks, Greenings, Alexander, St. Lawrence, Yellow Harvest and Bèn Davis varieties, for example. In an era before refrigeration or artificial climate controls, apples were prized for how well they "kept." Consumers in the latter half of the 20th century became more fussy about having bright red apples, with keeping no longer such a concern. Today, appearance, colour, flavour, and juiciness are paramount qualities sought by the apple connoisseur, and the McIntosh is a preferred local brand. Also popular are Empires, Spies, Cortlands, Idareds, Paulareds, Mutsus, Spartans, and the early Jersey Macs.

The winter of 1933–34 was a legendary one in the local apple trade. That year, the mercury dipped below minus-40 degrees Fahrenheit and it stayed cold enough, long enough for Lake Ontario to freeze solid all the way across to the U.S. That killing cold damaged, even destroyed, many trees and some growers never recovered.

In the 1960s and 1970s, a revolution of sorts occurred in the orchards of our area, with the introduction of the so-called dwarf and semi-dwarf trees. These shorter, smaller trees, are more efficient because their smaller branches present more of the fruit to the benefits of the ripening, sweetening sun. They also allow for easier picking and pruning, since often no ladders are needed for an average-sized adult to reach even the uppermost and innermost branches. They are easier to spray, as well. Yet, the dwarfs and semi-dwarfs offer about the same yield per acre as the older, full-sized trees. As well, the semi-dwarfs require less growing time and are ready to produce in as little as two to three years, or five to six, at most — much sooner than the older varieties. This earlier return is a big plus for the grower. As the big, old trees were phased out in this area and the new semi-dwarfs phased in, many orchardists discovered a secondary industry in the selling of fragrant apple wood for use in home fireplaces and wood-burning stoves.

In the early days, individual farmers planted orchards on part of their farms, and most farms



Harvesters: bringing in the bushels of juicy apples from Colborne.

Photo courtesy of Harold Harnden





around the area south of where Highway 401 passes through today, had orchards. There were some north of there, but most were in the parts of the village and the township nearest the lakeshore. Families like the Williamses, Rutherfords, Mortons, Snetsingers, Coyles, Whaleys, Browns and Chattersons, grew apples. With increased specialization in farming, as in every other area of life, the era of the orchard-farm arrived and people like the Knights and the Deleeuws of RR 3 Colborne (Wicklow) grew their businesses to enormous size, putting dozens or even hundreds of acres into apples. Knight's Appleden exports apples all over the world. The Williams orchards (Pete Williams Sr. and Jr.) still have large orchards off Durham Street North and Purdy Road, the Hodges orchards are at Little Lake, the Scotts have a small orchard at Dundonald — one of the few north of Highway 401 — and Cheer and Goddard are other names associated with apple growing here at the beginning of the 21st century. But there has been a decline, not only in the number of growers, but in the number of acres devoted to orchards, as well. In 1951 a total of 4,303 acres in Northumberland were devoted to apple growing. By 1981, that had dropped to only 2,829, of which 633 were in Cramahe. That figure held relatively steady to the end of 1999, but each acre is more productive than it was in generations gone by.

Apple-growing spawned secondary industries; in the late 19th century, cooperages (barrel manufacturers) and fruit houses (at least seven of these along the railway lines) sprang up. There were a number of cooperages around Colborne and Cramahe, one at Castleton. Morrow and Morton, Edwards Bros. and Mackenzie's were three cooper shops in Colborne between 1900

and 1940. Barrels, an English invention, were ideal for shipping apples. Staves were made from various woods that were soaked or heated. Often soft poplar was used because it could be cut and shaped easily after being heated on a coal stove. Bass wood was considered best for headings because it could be cut and shaped without splinters or cracks. Six hoops held the staves tight; the earliest were made with elm wood, soaked in water so they would be pliable enough to fit tightly around the staves without needing to be nailed. Sixteen staves per barrel were standard, to give the correct girth measurement, curvature and minimum crack between the staves. Well-made apple barrels could preserve apples for months without refrigeration because, as the apples matured in the barrel, they gave off moisture and carbon dioxide which caused the staves to swell and made the barrel air-tight.

"A barrel of Northern Spy apples (containing three and a half bushels) packed in October and opened on May 24, hissed just like a can of pop when the heading was removed. The apples were firm, cool and delicious! Barrels made in Colborne were sold to fruit growers from Port Hope to Prince Edward County," remembers Fraser Morton, one of the barrel-making Mortons of Colborne.

Fruit houses, which held apples for domestic consumption, were usually constructed of five wooden walls, one inside the other, to give four air spaces for insulation; a number of these were

Barrels: There was a whole industry spawned from the packing and shipping of apples from Colborne and Cramahe Township.

Photo courtesy of Harold Hamden





still standing at the time of writing, including one that is now the Colborne Pentecostal Church building on Division Street. In fruit houses, small windows allowed for air circulation, but there were no heaters or refrigeration. One was made of cement; it still stood on Earl Street near Ontario Street at the beginning of 2000 and was once the home of Hoselton Studios. That fruit house sometimes needed coal fires to prevent the apples from freezing.

Another off-shoot of the apple industry was the evaporator in which apples were dried for storage or shipping. Early in the 20th century, one was housed in a long, wooden building just south of Colborne Creek on the west side of Victoria Street. Other evaporators were to be found in Castleton and other locations throughout the area.

Bowes Co. Ltd., for nearly 40 years a major employer in the area, originally located in Colborne at the south end of Victoria Street in 1961 because this was the heart of apple country. The company processed the fruit for use in pie-fillings and preserves. Bowes Company later became part of Weston Foods, and then part of CSP, a Saskatchewan-based food conglomerate. It closed down completely in 1999. In the 1950s, Seaway Foods at 118 Lakeport Road, Cramahe Township, had completely renovated the former Canadian Cannery plant and installed new machinery to process apples into apple sauce, apple pie filling and apple juice. The building eventually became Anamet Canada Inc., a wire and cable company.

Since about 1970, Brighton has celebrated the harvest with Applefest, a four-day festival in late September. In 1987, Colborne and Cramahe introduced the first Apple Blossom Tyme festival, held annually in May. And in 1992, local apple growers, tourism operators and merchants banded together to form the Apple Route, which runs between Colborne and Trenton with "spur" routes going into Grafton and Presqu'île Park, open all year for tourists to enjoy.

Easily the most visible off-shoot of the local apple industry at the beginning of the 21st century is the Big Apple, located just south of Highway 401 near the Percy Street exit for Colborne and Castleton. This restaurant, bakery, theme park, specialty shop, petting zoo and playground combines the county's two leading industries — agriculture and tourism. The Big Apple itself, a 45-ton, 35-foot-high replica of a McIntosh apple, was the brainchild of Colborne's current reeve, George Boycott. Boycott and his family moved to this area in 1978 for the specific purpose of creating a Big Apple attraction, similar to the Big Pineapple they had visited in their former home in Australia. The Big Apple was opened for business in 1987, and today attracts an estimated one million visitors per year. It is now owned by the Sayers family of Colborne.



The Big Apple: The "biggest" spin-off of the local apple industry, built in 1987.

Photo by Eileen Argyris





LAWRENCE MUTTON

LOVE AND WAR

Born in Shiloh, Cramahe Township on Dec. 17, 1909, the son of George and Weltha Mutton, Lawrence Mutton was torn between two duties when World War II broke out in 1939.

"I agreed to stay (home on the farm) until the autumn work was finished, so I didn't join the Army until November," he wrote in a war memoir he composed for his children. He joined the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery (RCHA) on Nov. 21, 1939. Within a few weeks he was headed for England on board the *Empress of Britain*, a ship that was later sunk by the Germans.

By the spring of 1940, the fighting was on in earnest. The Germans captured Poland, Holland and Belgium, then marched into France. The 1st Canadian Division prepared to cross the Channel and make a stand in that part of France that was not yet in German hands.

Lawrence Mutton and his comrades landed at Brest on June 12, 1940, and travelled 250 miles inland, as far as Sable. "By this time, France had capitulated," he wrote, "so we had to return to Brest as quickly as possible...the ammunition and all equipment — including all our new vehicles which we had just received — had to be destroyed" so the troops could get out fast without leaving matériel in enemy hands.

They went back to England and, from their encampment near Salisbury they got a "front seat view" of the Battle of Britain, as RAF Spitfires and Hurricanes battled it out with the enemy over the skies of their homeland. The British

victory made instant heroes of those who took part. Afterwards, the young Canadians watched as German bombers passed, on their way to rain destruction on industrial, military and civilian targets all over Britain.

In the midst of this terror and destruction, Lawrence met the love of his life, Beryl Tucker, one afternoon at tea. "From that time forward, it was a new life and, in spite of

the air raids, there were many pleasant memories," he penned. He and his "war-bride" were married on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 1942, at St. Mary's Church, Shortlands, which was later bombed. Since his regiment was stationed in the area of Brighton, England, Lawrence was able to get home "sometimes on official pass and sometimes unofficially." The couple's first child, a daughter, was born on Dec. 7, 1942.

But the following spring, his unit was moved to Scotland to begin a "toughening-up process" in which the soldiers underwent mountain-climbing with full packs and even "waterproofing" exercises, driving through water three to four feet deep, in preparation for an Allied invasion of Europe. "On June 27, 1943, we loaded our equipment on board ship at Glasgow and set sail for Sicily," the memoir continues. He recalled landing July 13, at Pachino, Sicily. "The weather was very hot and dry and a cold drink of water was a thing of the past."

A few days later, the troops got their "baptism of shell fire," and Lawrence Mutton watched as shells sank two or more feet into the ground before exploding.



War bride: Like many soldiers serving overseas in World War II, Lawrence Mutton found a British bride, Beryl Tucker. Photo courtesy of Beryl Mutton



On Sept. 3, 1943, the Canadians landed “on the toe of Italy, near Reggio,...with no opposition.” But at Campobasso, they “ran into a bit of a hornets’ nest....”

“We arrived at our gun position about 10 A.M. on a nice, bright day, in full view of the enemy. They had the pleasure of popping in a shell every now and then while we were trying to get set up....I just climbed on the truck when I heard gunfire....I had time to jump down and take cover before the shell arrived.”

Others would not be so fortunate. The Canadians began to meet with more and more resistance as the autumn of 1943 advanced. No more did they take up their positions in the light of day, but moved under cover of night. The Germans took a stand at Ortona and Lawrence Mutton remembers heavy fighting, “house to house.” On Dec. 12, he recalls “a few shells being exchanged.”

But he turned in for the night at about 10 P.M. and, “while I was making up my bed, I thought I felt a lump of something hit me in the armpit. Upon examining myself, my hand was bloody. I realized I must have been hit with a shell fragment.”

He spent two weeks in hospital and another five weeks at a convalescent hospital near Salerno, where he was treated to a sound-and-light show by Mount Vesuvius “which conveniently erupted early in the spring.” A storm of light snow carried volcanic ash down with it, creating “a good breeding ground for fleas,” he wrote. “I had to get flea powder and dust my blankets to keep them out.”

At the end of March, he received good news from home: he and Beryl were now the proud parents of a second child, a boy this time. Near the end of July, 1944, he returned to his regiment. By this time the front was north of Rome, as the enemy was pushed farther and farther inland. “We were supposed to occupy Venice by Christmas, but the Germans had other ideas. We fell short of our objective by two or three hundred miles.”

In the early part of 1945, it was decided that the Canadians should be pulled out of Italy and reunited with the rest

of their countrymen in other parts of Europe, as the Allies continued on the offensive, pushing the Germans back farther and farther. Lawrence Mutton and his regiment sailed to Marseilles, debarking March 18, and travelled toward Belgium, prepared for action. Within a few days of his arrival, however, he was to receive an unexpected, and decidedly welcome surprise: he had been granted a 10-day leave in England, where he was reunited with his family, and saw his baby son for the first time. “It seemed like a different world,” he wrote.

But 10 days passed quickly and he rejoined his regiment in Holland. “The fighting was not very intense in this sector as the war was nearing its end. The main battles were getting close to Berlin.”

Early in May he received notification of a 30-day leave in Canada and, on his way there, he stopped off for a few days with his family in England. “It was during those days the Germans surrendered — V.E. (Victory in Europe) Day, June 8, 1945.” Those days he spent with Beryl and the children were the last he would have with them for nearly a year.

Technically, even after V.E. Day, Canada was still

at war, since Japan continued to fight. Lawrence Mutton took his Canadian leave and recalls being met at the station in Kingston on May 24, 1945, by his mother and Roy and Winston Packard, both fellow soldiers and neighbours from Dundonald. During his leave he received official correspondence offering him the choice of remaining in the permanent army (and accepting a promotion to sergeant), going to the Pacific to continue to fight against the Japanese, or taking his discharge.

“I decided on the discharge,” he stated. On March 4, 1946, Beryl and the children arrived in Canada, and took up their life on the farm in Shiloh where Muttons had lived for generations, and where three more children would be born to them after the war. Lawrence Mutton has been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 187, since 1950; Beryl Mutton is a longtime member of the Ladies’ Auxiliary.



On honeymoon: Lawrence Mutton of Shiloh in England, 1942. Photo courtesy of Beryl Mutton



CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Sportin' Life

AS EARLY AS THE 1840s, WE CAN FIND RECORDS OF AMATEUR CRICKET TEAMS IN NORTHUMBERLAND County, although not specifically in Cramahe Township. But we do have a newspaper clipping from 1903 that informs us the Colborne Cricket Team was doing well, "as usual," playing in their traditional white uniforms as far afield as Deseronto. Local soccer (then called rugby) teams met worthy adversaries from Warkworth and Centreton, among other places, and an issue of the *Enterprise* newspaper of the day reported, "the Centreton gentlemen will always be well-used whenever they visit Colborne." In addition to cricket, baseball has long been very popular in the area and the early 20th century baseball club — with three local member teams — was headed by Robert Doyle Jr.¹

In 1932, the Colborne baseball team — made up of Cecil Bilcox, Bill Willoughby (centre field), Jack Seed, Don Purdy, Jack Smith, catcher Art Turpin, Manager Floyd Bilcox, first baseman George Clarey, catcher Sam Purdy, and Alex Grant — beat Bailieboro (now part of Peterborough County) to win the Northumberland men's baseball championship. Willoughby, Grant and Turpin were the heroes of the game, which Colborne won 12–8, according to the *Enterprise*.²

Winter sports were popular, too, long before Colborne and Cramahe got an indoor arena and ice equipment in 1967. Curling, hockey and pleasure skating were enjoyed wherever a pond or creek lay frozen, or a parent or group created an outdoor rink. Indoor rinks of natural ice have existed from time to time in Colborne; the earliest we can find record of was behind the livery stables that once stood on the south side King Street East. Later, in the 1950s, there was an outdoor rink at the present location of the Beckers milk store (48 King Street East) and another behind the former high school building (now the municipal hall) at 1 Toronto Street. In Castleton, the outdoor rink behind Castleton Public School maintained by the Castleton Sports Club, has long been a focus for winter fun. Many young players got their first taste of competitive sports on these rinks. A clipping survives from the hockey season of 1948–49 in which a local team won the Northumberland championship but lost the league finals to Trenton in overtime. Players were: B. Ball, G. Irvine, T. Chandler, C. Haynes, F. Ball, M. Campbell, M. Todd, H. Gifford, H. Redfearn, G. Shier, H. Hall, A. Dove, D. Cummings, T. McDonald and T. Gifford. The team was sponsored by the late local apple magnate Joe Persofsky (they wore Colbright Orchards





1932 Colborne Baseball team: Northumberland champions. Back row (from left): Cecil Bilcox, Bill Willoughby (centre field), Jack Seed, Don Purdy. In front, from left, are: Jack Smith, Art Turpin, Manager Floyd Bilcox, George Clarey, Sam Purdy, Alex Grant.

Photo courtesy of Carolyn Scott

jerseys) and managed by G. McDonald. And village and township hockey fans went wild when Colborne's Juvenile hockey team won the all-Ontario championship in its "D" division in 1986-87. The team, coached by Pete Williams and Brian Ferguson, included players John Taylor, Jim Hess, Rick McDonald, Tim Hoogwerf, Keith Barrett, Rick Ainsworth, Robert Bandy, Brian Mutton, John Williams, John Booth, Adam Brown, Sean Hynes, Bill Rutherford, Shawn Shuttleworth, Tim Yarrow, Dwayne Maisonneuve, and goalie Wally Yarrow.

Mrs. B. Smith gave recreation a big hand up when she donated the land on which Memorial Park (between Victoria and Elgin streets in Colborne) and the present-day Colborne Lawn Bowling Club and Russell Haynes tennis courts were developed, in 1944. In 1955, Colborne hired its first professional recreation director, Bob Turner, an American who came to this area to star on one of the excellent men's ball teams that dazzled the fans on long, clear summer evenings. Under Turner, the village organized ball and hockey teams for youngsters and adults — without benefit of an indoor arena — and he established one group for which his praises are sung in certain circles to this day, the Colborne Recreation Band and Baton corps. The CRB&B had a marching band complete with brass instruments, drums and glockenspiel. At one time the ranks of the baton corps swelled to include 125 local girls, from age seven up to late teens. They marched, played and twirled at all the Santa Claus parades in Colborne and all the surrounding





towns, entertained challenged children at Camp Merrywood in Eastern Ontario, and opened the baseball season at Toronto's Maple Leaf Stadium (before the Toronto Blue Jays or SkyDome existed). Music instructors came to the village to teach the band, whose members were largely derived from the cadet corps of the former Colborne High School, but later it was open to children as young as seven. The whole village and surrounding area would chip in for the pop-bottle and paper drives the group ran to raise money to buy uniforms. Some of the alumni of those glory years, still treasure their CRB&B uniforms. The corps disbanded in 1967.

Under Turner, the village recreation committee developed a number of activities for all ages, including tap dancing, acrobatics and ballet instruction. During the summer school break, two months of supervised playground activities kept bored youngsters out of their parents' hair and

for adults, there were instructed classes in copper working, weaving, painting and crafts. After Turner left the area in 1958, some of these activities slackened off for a time. They were revived under the next recreation director, Cecil Nobes, who remained in the position until a local resident, Wayne Ring, was hired as recreation director in 1961.

It was Ring who organized the first committee to investigate the feasibility of building an indoor arena to serve Colborne and Cramahe Township residents. Fund-raising began in 1964 and the arena was erected (with the help of a good deal of volunteer labour) and opened during Canada's Centennial year, 1967, at a cost of \$35,000, raised through grants and local sponsorships. The initial arena consisted of just the ice surface



Juvenile all-Ontario Hockey Champs: players, coached by Pete Williams and Brian Ferguson are (not in order): Wally Yarrow, John Taylor, Jim Hess, Rick McDonald, Tim Hoogwerf, Keith Barrett, Rick Ainsworth, Robert Bandy, Brian Mutton, John Williams, John Booth, Adam Brown, Sean Hynes, Tim Yarrow, Shawn Shuttleworth, Bill Rutherford, Dwayne Maisonneuve.

Photo courtesy of Rosemary Taylor

and spectator area; the office area was added later, as were the dressing rooms.

At the time of writing, the arena that was welcomed with so much pride and hope has an estimated year of life left. Structural problems mean the building will likely have to be closed at the end of the ice season of 2000–2001. At this time, a committee of volunteers, led by Colborne Councillor Sandra Coleman and Cramahe Deputy-Reeve Jim Williams, as well as current recreation director Sherri Loosemore and arena manager Doug Chapman, are investigating costs, sites and other specifics for a new arena for the combined village and township, set to amalgamate Jan. 1, 2001. They hope a new arena (for which current cost estimates are roughly \$2 million) will be ready to open in the fall of 2001.

The local arena is the headquarters for the Colborne Cramahe Figure Skating Club, Colborne Cramahe Minor Hockey, Colborne Colborne Lakers men's hockey league, Men's, Women's and Mixed Broomball leagues (and some local girls play with the Cold Creek Comet





hockey club, which also uses the Colborne Cramahe arena). Other winter sports are enjoyed by children and adults at the Colborne Curling Club. The curling club took over an old cannery on Durham Street, just north of King Street East and created a rink and clubhouse. It was totally destroyed by fire on August 27, 1983, but the determined curlers mounted a fund-raising committee headed by John Boreham and soon erected a new building on the same site. The Colborne Legion Branch 187 has an active dart league and the Castleton Sports Club maintains the outdoor rink behind Castleton Public School that has existed, off and on, in more or less the same spot, since the 1930s. The Sports Club also sponsors winter gymnastics classes at Castleton Public School sometimes runs fitness classes in the Cramahe Township municipal building in Castleton.

In summer, a Cramahe Township field on Victoria Street South, owned by St. Lawrence Cement and donated for the purpose, is used as the soccer pitches for the Colborne Cramahe Haldimand (CCH) minor soccer league, a sport that is enjoying a growing popularity. Castleton Sports Club has soccer and baseball teams for children of all ages and Sunday night mixed three-pitch for adults on the Castleton Sports Fields the club purchased and developed on land north of Castleton Public School. Colborne Minor Ball is still going strong, as is mixed three-pitch and men's lob-ball was offered at the Twin Diamonds built west of the Colborne Cramahe Centennial Community Centre (arena) and opened in 1991. Following in the tradition of the great Colborne ball teams of history, the Colborne-based men's Rutherford fastball team were men's "B" champs in 1994, men's "A" champs in 1995, and they won the North American Fastball Association Championship in 1996.

For those whose summer interests lie in other directions, area farms offer horseback riding, Colborne Tennis Club gives lessons, Colborne Lawn Bowling Club offers free loan of bowls for beginners, there is a local men's golf annual tournament at Warkworth. The municipally sponsored recreation programs include a children's summer swim program run at Little Lake for Colborne youngsters, and at a private pool in Castleton for Cramahe Township youngsters. The Lakeshore Dirt Riders take their bikes to the fields and local stock car racers enjoy the thrill of speed and success, or taste dust and defeat at Brighton Speedway and other tracks around province. For those who prefer to move under their own steam, the Colborne Volksmarchers offer walkers regular check-in stations on planned routes around the area.

Besides victorious teams, individuals have brought glory to their hometowns, as well. Colborne teenager Dave Peckham, while a student at East Northumberland Secondary School, Brighton, established an all-Canadian high school record in 1,500-metre steeplechase — with



Heidi Besslich, judo champ, with her instructor, Bill Doherty.

Photo courtesy of Joe and Rena Besslich





a time of 14:14:1 in 1976 that remains the fastest for that event, which has since been eliminated. Peckham went on to win the Canadian Junior Cross Country championship in 1977 in Halifax on an 8,000-metre course and represented the country at the World Division Cross Country Championships in Dusseldorf, Germany, where he finished in the top 10. Cramahe Township teen Heidi Besslich rose to national prominence when she won the Canadian Junior Judo Championships in 1996. She came third at the national senior championships in Lethbridge the following year. Rick Dudley from Cramahe Township went on to play NHL hockey for Minnesota, Winnipeg and the Buffalo Sabres, later coached the Sabres, spent a season as general manager of the Ottawa Senators and was appointed president and general manager of the Tampa Bay Lightning in 1999. In 1999 Robert Chapman, aged 17 of Colborne, was picked in the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds in OHL Junior A Hockey draft; the same year his younger brother, Scott, at age 16, was tapped by the Owen Sound Platers in the OHL Bantam draft and is expected to play Junior A Hockey with that team in the 2000–2001 season. Dwayne Eddy, a Colborne ballplayer, was signed by the Detroit Tigers American League professional team in 1995 and played in a rookie league in 1996 but was injured and missed his opportunity to advance to the "AA" league. Wayne Clarke of Castleton was a seventh-round draft pick of the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team in 1992 and the following year he played college hockey on scholarship at an American college; following graduation he attended a Leafs camp where he was cut. Tim Fawcett of Colborne earned a hockey scholarship to Princeton University in 1984; Tim Gilligan Jr. played Junior B hockey in 1985–86, university hockey in 1988–89, then played for the Rungsted team in Denmark and finished off playing semi-pro hockey with the Central Hockey League in Oklahoma.

In 1995, at age 15, Shane Chapman of Colborne represented Ontario in Cuba, playing the Cuban national soccer team with a team of Ontario all-stars; he won a full soccer scholarship to Auburn College in New York in 1997 but didn't stay there to complete his degree. He was captain of the soccer team at Loyalist College, Belleville, in 1999; he received the Ontario College Athletic Association All-Star Award for 1999, as well he has been invited to try out for the Oshawa Flames semi-professional soccer team for the 2000 season.

From earliest days, the lakeshore was a recreational haven for those who could afford a getaway. Seasonal homes and cottages have been located at Loughbreeze and Victoria Beaches along the Cramahe Township lakeshore for generations. Prior to the establishment of St. Lawrence Cement, the mile-long sand beach near Ogden Point was a summer draw, as well, for daytrippers and cottagers. But the danger of the blasting from the mining operation at the limestone quarry has required the company to fence in and close the beach to the public. However, when the pit is rehabilitated (possibly around the year 2150) there are plans not only to reopen the beach, but to flood the huge quarry and create a marina. Meanwhile other seasonal activities enjoyed for recreation, include sport fishing in area creeks and in Lake Ontario, and all other manner of outdoor, unstructured activities that families will find in a rural or small-town atmosphere.





HONOURABLE MEMBERS

Colborne and Cramahe have sent their fair share of citizens to Queen's Park and to Parliament Hill as representatives of the riding, as follows:

1889-1898, 1902-1908, Dr. Wm. A. Willoughby, MPP, Conservative (died in office)

1926-29, Dr. Wm. George Robertson, MPP, Liberal

1987-95, Joan Fawcett, MPP, Liberal

1995-present, Douglas Galt, MPP, Progressive Conservative

1867-74, 1878-81, Joseph Keeler, MP, Conservative (died in office)

1882-87, 1887 (by-election)-1907, Edward Cochrane, MP, Conservative

1949-57, Dr. Frederick Greystock Robertson, MP, Liberal



Doug Galt, MPP

Dr. Douglas E. Galt of Salem, Northumberland's current PC Member of Provincial Parliament, was first elected in June, 1995. A veterinary pathologist who retired in 1994, Galt is a former Reeve of the Township of Cramahe, former Warden of Northumberland and former school trustee. Raised on a dairy farm near Napanee, Dr. Galt is married to retired

insurance broker Catherine, and they have three grown daughters, Darcy, Laurel and Alana.

Joan Fawcett, MPP

Born in Kingston, Joan Fawcett is a retired school teacher who has served the community in a number of capacities, including Colborne councillor and Deputy-Reeve. In 1982, she was named Colborne Citizen of the Year. She was elected Northumberland's Liberal MPP in 1987, re-elected in 1990, but lost to Doug Galt in 1995. Fawcett and her husband Bob,

also a retired teacher, have three grown children, Tim, Kristin (Dajia) and Andy, and seven grandchildren.



Dr. W. G. Robertson, MPP

William George "Will"

Robertson was born in 1873, near Peterborough, and married Annie (Nan) McGlennon of Lakeport around 1900. A dentist, his first office was in the Gordon block. Later it moved to 41 King Street. Until 1954, the Robertson family lived in 89 King Street East, Seaton Hall, named for Sir John Colborne, 1st Baron

Seaton. Dr. Will Robertson was reeve of Colborne in 1918, and from 1926-29 he was Northumberland's Liberal MPP. After that, he was elected school trustee. He died in 1940, leaving a son, Frederick, and a daughter, Rosemary.

Dr. F. G. Robertson, MP

Dr. Frederick Greystock

Robertson was the son of Dr. Will and Nan (nee McGlennon) Robertson. Born in 1909, he enlisted in the medical corps of the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. He married Margaret Aitkens of Manitoba and they raised two sons and a daughter. From 1949-1957, Dr. Robertson served as

Northumberland's Liberal MP and was parliamentary assistant to former Minister of Health Paul Martin Sr. At the time of writing, he was living in the Golden Plough Lodge, Cobourg.



NOTES

CHAPTER 1

Since the World Began

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- 10 "Those Early Years" newspaper column researched and written by Percy L. Climo, published in the *Colborne Chronicle*, Nov. 21, 1979.

LIFE STORY

Nathaniel Gaffield

- 1 Reid, Roger William Gaffield, V.E., *The Descendants of Nathaniel A. Gaffield (Alias Amherst Farrel)*, privately published, May, 1997.

CHAPTER 2

At Home in the Wilderness

- 1 Some sources say 1792, although most peg the settlers' arrival at 1793. However, Cramahe Township may date its birth from 1792 for that is when the township was surveyed and its first boundaries established. In that year, too, the County of Northumberland was formed by proclamation.
- 2 Greeley, Susan Burnham, "Hoisting the Empire Flag," notes from a speech given before the public school at Grafton, 1891. Unpublished.
- 3 White, Randall, *Ontario 1610–1985*. Dundurn Press, Toronto and London, 1985, pp. 62–63.
- 4 Climo, Percy, *Those Early Years*, published in the *Colborne Chronicle*, Nov. 28, 1979.
- 5 *Ibid*, *Colborne Chronicle*, Dec. 5, 1979.
- 6 Keeler, Wesley B., *Keeler Family*, privately published.
- 7 *The Colborne Centennial Book June 27–July 1st, 1959*, privately published, 1959.

LIFE STORY

Susan Burnham Greeley

- 1 *Memories of Haldimand, When the Lakes Roared*, Haldimand's History Committee, Boston Mills Press, Toronto, 1997.
- 2 Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Colborne, 150th Anniversary 1830–1980, self-published, 1980.

CHAPTER 3

Keelers Were Leaders

- 1 *Historical Atlas of Northumberland & Durham Counties*, H. Belden and Co., 1878
- 2 Broughton, Scotty, ed., *The History of Cramahe Township*, published by Cramahe Township, 1988, p. 29.
- 3 From the research of the late Bill Troop of Colborne.
- 4 Clipping, unmarked.

LIFE STORY

Charles Rutherford, VC, MC, MM

- 1 *Memories of Haldimand, When the Lakes Roared*, Haldimand's History Committee, Boston Mills Press, Toronto, 1997, p. 176.
- 2 *Ibid*, p. 176.

CHAPTER 4

By Land and by Water

- 1 *Memories of Haldimand, When the Lakes Roared*, Haldimand's History Committee, Boston Mills Press, Toronto, 1997, p. 130
- 2 *Colborne: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*, a special supplement to the *Colborne Chronicle*, Wednesday, June 27, 1984, pp. 3–4. Article by Walter Luedtke.
- 3 *The Beaver*, Exploring Canada's History, April/May, 1991, "Weller's Express Beats that Odds," by George McElroy, pp. 17–21.
- 4 *Cobourg Early Days and Modern Times*, Cobourg Book Committee, John R. Spilsbury, editor; Haynes Printing Co., Cobourg, 1981.
- 5 *Ibid*.

LIFE STORY

Sir John Colborne

- 1 *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Volume IX, 1861–1870, University of Toronto Press, Canada, 1976, p. 138

2 *Ibid*, p. 138.

3 *Ibid*, p. 138.

CHAPTER 5

'Old Cat Hollow'

- 1 We are indebted for our information to local sources such as writings of the late Jim Coyle, Delbert Peebles, Capt. C.H.J. Snider, W. W. D. McGlennon, Annie (Kernaghan) and Ed Roddy, Arnold Pettibone, and Walter Luedtke, and also to an account, "Historical Sketch of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Lakeport in the *Colborne Express* of Thursday, July 12, 1945

LIFE STORY

Enid Rogers

- 1 *Colborne Chronicle*, Wed. July 25, 1990, p. 3.
- 2 *Ibid*.

CHAPTER 6

The Age of the Iron Horse

- 1 *Colborne Transcript*, vol. 1, no. 1, Jan. 19, 1856

CHAPTER 7

The Houses the Keelers Built

- 1 From an unpublished hand-written record left by Mabel Hetherington, late of East Colborne, in the possession of Mrs. E. B. Corbier, used by permission.
- 2 *Kelwood Quatrains and Other Poems* by Jim Bell.
- 3 Walter Luedtke, "Kelwood", *Colborne Chronicle*, Wednesday, June 27, 1984, pp. 6–7.
- 4 *Colborne Chronicle*, "Liquor Licence for Keeler Tavern, 1818," Wednesday, June 27, 1984, p. 7
- 5 Margaret McBurney and Mary Byers, *Homesteads*, Early buildings and families from Kingston to Toronto, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1979, pp. 144–146.



CHAPTER 8

'Dear Old Golden Rule Days'

- 1 *Colborne Chronicle*, Cramahe Heritage Edition, Tuesday, June 23, 1992, p. 28.
- 2 Ibid.

CHAPTER 9

Lest We Forget

- 1 *The Colborne Centennial Book*, June 27–July 1st, 1959, privately published, 1959, p. 41.
- 2 *Tweedsmuir History*, Colborne Women's Institute, unpublished.
- 3 From *Canadian Crystals* Poems by Thomas Watson, Colborne, Ontario. Published at Toronto, William Briggs, 1901.
- 4 J. L. Granatstein, "War and Peacekeeping," *The Beaver* (Canadian historical magazine), pp. 41 ff, Dec. 1994–Jan. 1995.
- 5 H.M. Weedle, "Canada's Hero of The Light Brigade," *The Beaver*, p. 6, April/May, 1991.
- 6 *The Colborne Centennial Book*, p. 89.
- 7 Robert Marshall "A vanishing memory," *Maclean's*, Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine, pp. 114–118, Nov. 15, 1999.
- 8 *Colborne Centennial Book*, p. 89.
- 9 *Canadian Encyclopedia Plus*, McClelland and Stewart, "World War I."

CHAPTER 10

Cramahe's Rural Communities

- 1 King, Barry F., "The Purdy Mill," *Colborne Chronicle*, Cramahe Heritage Edition, June 23, 1992, p. 22, with "special thanks to Roseanne Quinn for the interesting details."
- 2 *Ontario 1610–1985 A political and economic history*, Randall White, Dundurn Press, Toronto and London, 1985, p. 210.
- 3 William H. Gentz, gen. ed., *Dictionary of Bible and Religion*, Parthenon Press, Nashville, Tenn., USA, 1986.
- 4 "The story of Dundonald," *Colborne Chronicle*, April 18, 1984, "Bicentennial Notes" from the history department of East Northumberland Secondary School, Brighton.

- 5 Chatterson, Christine, "Tiny Salem, place of peace, has had four different schools," *Colborne Chronicle*, Cramahe Heritage Edition, June 23, 1992, p. 28.
- 6 *Trinity Church Colborne 1846–1976*, printed by Self's Printing Service, Brighton, Ont.
- 7 *Tweedsmuir History*, Colborne Women's Institute, unpublished.
- 8 Ibid, Chatterson.
- 9 Ellis, Nancy, "Churches, like Salem's, are the hearts of our communities," *Colborne Chronicle* Cramahe Heritage Edition, June 23, 1992, p. 17.
- 10 *From Horses to Mopeds*, Morganston United Church, self-published, 1975.
- 11 Newspaper clipping unmarked.

CHAPTER 11

Keeping the Faith

- 1 Peebles, Delbert, *Colborne Centennial Book*, June 27–July 1, 1959, pp. 28–29.
- 2 *Colborne Chronicle*, 125th Anniversary Edition, June 27, 1984, p. 19. Plus assorted church histories, self-published.

CHAPTER 12

Dedicated Healers

- 1 *The History of Cramahe Township*, published by the Township of Cramahe, 1988, p. 13.
- 2 Ibid, p. 13.
- 3 Quinn, Cliff, "Down on the Farm, Recollections of Cramahe Township and Beyond" privately published, 1999.
- 4 *History of Cramahe Township*, p. 13.
- 5 Ibid, p. 13.
- 6 Husak, Patricia, "Christina Campbell, Castleton's beloved homeopathic midwife," *Colborne Chronicle* Cramahe Heritage Edition, 1992.
- 7 *The Colborne Express*, clipping undated, obituary for J. Archer Brown, p. 1.
- 8 *The History of Cramahe Township*, p. 14.

LIFE STORY

Iva Fallis

- 1 *Enterprise of East Northumberland* (exact date not marked on clipping) front page, Obituary for Iva C. Fallis, March, 1956.
- 2 *The Canadian Magazine*, September, 1935, p. 38.
- 3 Ibid, *Enterprise* Obituary.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 *Who's Who in Canada and the Canadian Directory of Parliament*.
- 6 Ibid.

CHAPTER 13

Colborne Was the Heart of Cramahe Township

- 1 Luedtke, Walter, "1850s were good years," *Colborne Chronicle*, Wednesday July 25, 1984, p. 6.
- 2 Byers, Mary and McBurney, Margaret, *Homesteads, Early Buildings and Families from Kingston to Toronto*, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1979, pp 151–153.
- 3 Bell, Jim, "I Remember" *Colborne Chronicle* June 21, 1962.
- 4 Ibid, Byers and McBurney, pp. 150, 151.
- 5 Ibid, Byers and McBurney, p. 147.
- 6 Ibid, Byers and McBurney, p. 218
- 7 From *Canadian Crystals* Poems by Thomas Watson, Colborne, Ontario. Published at Toronto, William Briggs, 1901.
- 8 Research of Nick Hathway, owner at the time of writing of 7 King Street West, from "Many Tender Ties, Women in Fur-Trade Society, 1670–1870," Van Kirk; Watson and Dwyer Publishing Ltd., 1980, pp. 140, 270, 109; "Homesteads," Mr. Burney and Byers, U. of T. Press, 1979, pp. 144–155; Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Cumming, Cuthbert; extracts from Documents Relating to the North West Company, Wallace, Volume XXII, p. 435; copy of Registry Records for Lot 32, Con. 1, Township of Cramahe; Plan of the Village of Colborne, J.H. Reid Survey, 1863.
- 9 Ibid.

- 10 Warren, Arnold, "Colborne revisited: local boy recalls..." *Colborne Chronicle*, Special 125th Heritage Edition, Wednesday, June 27, 1984, pp. 13–14.
- 11 Ibid, Warren
- 12 Ibid, Warren
- 13 Ibid, Warren
- 14 Ibid, Warren
- 15 Ibid, Warren

LIFE STORY

Eliza Jane Padginton

- 1 *Tweedsmuir History* of the Village of Colborne, compiled by Women's Institute of Colborne, unpublished.

CHAPTER 14

Word Gets Around

- 1 Warren, Arnold, "Colborne revisited: a local 'boy' recalls..." *Colborne Chronicle*, 125th anniversary supplement, Wednesday, June 27, 1984, p. 13.
- 2 Quinn, Clifford, "Down on the Farm" *Recollections of Cramahe Township and Beyond*, privately published, 1999.
- 3 Hutchinson, Helen, "He Meant So Much to So Many," *Family Herald*, March 24, 1960.
- 4 Ibid, Warren.

CHAPTER 15

'A' is for Agriculture, and Apple

- 1 *The Cobourg Star*, October 6, 1847, from the collected writings of the late Percy Climo of Colborne.
- 2 Figures furnished by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Feb. 21, 2000.
- 3 Warren, Arnold, "Colborne revisited: local boy recalls..." *Colborne Chronicle*, Special 125th Heritage Edition, Wednesday, June 27, 1984, pp. 13–14.

CHAPTER 16

Sportin' Life

- 1 *Colborne Chronicle*, Colborne 125th Anniversary Special Edition, Wednesday, June 27, 1984, p. 10.
- 2 *Colborne Enterprise*, front page, Sept. 22, 1932.



LISTINGS

Colborne Citizens of the Year as presented by the Colborne Rotary Club

1978 - Walter Rutherford
 1980 - Joan Fawcett
 1981 - Irene Tattersall
 1982 - John Boreham
 1983 - E.V. "Buff" Jack
 1985 - Eileen Argyris
 1987 - Donald Prentice
 1988 - Shuffling 60s Band
 1989 - Duncan McGlennon
 1990 - Paul Island
 1991 - Pam and Ted Van Velzen
 1992 - Doug Rutherford
 1993 - Louise Rusk
 1994 - Jean Mair
 1995 - Patti May
 1996 - Castleton Sports Club
 1997 - Jim Black
 1998 - Don Clark
 1999 - Colborne Figure Skating Club

Reeves of Colborne

When Ontario's municipalities were first formed, elections were held every year. This was true until 1974, when regulations were changed so that municipal and school board elections were held every other year. The present tradition of holding elections every three years came into being in 1982. Although the names for 18 of those years are missing, and one is uncertain, the following is a list of all reeves of the Village of Colborne from its incorporation in 1859, to the time of writing:

1859, M.K. Lockwood,
 W. H. Colton*
 1860, Charles R. Ford
 1861, G. W. Webb
 1862, Charles R. Ford
 1863, 1864, Donald Robertson
 1865, Charles R. Ford
 1866, G. W. Webb
 1867, Charles R. Ford
 1868, 1869, G. W. Webb

1870, Farquahar McRae
 1871, George O. Fowler
 1872, G. W. Webb
 1873, D. L. Simmons
 1874, 1875, R. Gibson
 1876, 1877, G. W. Webb
 1878, 1879, H. L. Payne
 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, W. A. Willoughby
 1887, 1889, 1890, W. L. Payne
 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, H. Hicks
 1895, R. D. Snetsinger
 1896, James McGlennon
 1897, 1898, C.H. Male
 1899, unknown
 1900, R. D. Snetsinger
 1904-1909, unknown
 1910, R. D. Snetsinger
 1911-1913, unknown
 1914, Sam D. Dudley
 1915-1917, unknown
 1918, William G. Robertson
 1919, 1920, Benjamin H. Coyle
 1921, 1922, John R. Hancock
 1923, 1924, R. J. Clarke
 1925, 1926, Robert Snetsinger
 1927, 1928, unknown
 1929, 1930, C. M. Finkle
 1931, 1932, 1933, Ira Edwards
 1934, I. Paluc, or Poliu, or perhaps Polui
 1935, 1936, H. A. Grant
 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, W. J. Troop
 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, Leonard Gordon
 1949, 1950, 1951, Delbert McLaughlin
 1952, Fred Harnden
 1953, 1954, I. D. Post
 1955, H. W. Kernaghan
 1956, William H. May
 1957, 1958, 1959, Frank Harding
 1960, William J. Troop
 1961, 1962, Frank Harding
 1963, 1964, Alfred Dove
 1965, 1966, 1967, George T. Moore

1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, Delbert McLaughlin
 1974-76, 1976-78, 1978-80, 1980-82, Walter M. Rutherford (four 2-year terms)
 1982-85, 1985-88, L. Ray Kelly (two 3-year terms)
 1988-91, 1991-94, Walter M. Rutherford (two 3-year terms)
 1994-97, 1997-2000, George Boycott (two 3-year terms).

* It was noted in the council minutes reproduced in *The Colborne Centennial Book*, 1959, that, "at the adjourned meeting held January 21st, 1859, M. K. Lockwood tendered his resignation as Reeve, and on motion of Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Lockwood, Mr. W. H. Colton was appointed Reeve for the balance of the year." No reason is given for the resignation, but Colton is generally acknowledged as being the first Reeve of the Village of Colborne. He is honoured in the name of Colton Street which runs south from Highway or County Road 2, at the eastern boundary of the village.

List of settlers as of Sept. 1, 1797

The following were listed as settlers in 1797 in the Township of Cramahe, which then included present-day village of Colborne and Lots 1 to 10, Concessions 1 through 10; that, since 1851, have belonged to Brighton Township. Those early settlers were: Elisha Alger, Lot 13, Con. 3; John Bartley, Lot 8, Con. 2; Amos Beach; Lot 25, Con. 2; John Belcher (or Beecher), Lot 2, Con. 2; James Bettis, Lot 7, Con. 1;

Lauson Bostwick, Lot 10, Con. 1; Elisha Bristol, Lot 17, Con. 3; William Brunson, Lot 20, Con. 1; John Campbell, Lot 14, Con. 1; Oliver Campbell, Lot 12, Con. 1; Stephen Campbell, Lot 16, Con. 1; William Campbell, Lot 123, Con. 1; William Clark, Lot 20, Con. 5; Peris Cooper, Lot 29, Con. 1; Reuben Crandale (Crandall, or Crandell) Lot 28, Con. 2; Palmer Crandale, Lot 29, Con. 2; James Dwoling, Lot 22, Con. 4; John Cowling, Lot 31, Con. 4; Surfemus Dysert, Lot 3, Con. 1; John Frint, Lot 22, Con. 2; Martin Frint, Lot 21, Con. 2; Henry Frint, Lot 26, Con. 2; Nathaniel Gaffield (Gosfield), Lot 32, Con. 2; Isaiah Hall, Lot 29, Con. 1; John Heaviland, Lot 18, Con. 6; Aaron Ives, Lot 19, Con. 2; Joseph Keeler, Lot 35, Con. 1 and 2; Barnabas McKeyes, Lot 26, Con. 1; John McKirman, Lot 34, Con. 2; Joel Merriman, Lot 24, Con. 1; John Mix, Lot 23, Con. 2; William O'Bryon (Obryant), Lot 19, Con. 1; John Ogden, Lot 32, Con. 1; Timothy Olcott, Lot 1, Con. 2; George Palmer, Lot 31, Con. 2; Capt. Benjamin Richardson, Lot 4, Con. 1; Capt. James Richardson, Lot 1, Con. 1; Cyrus Richmond, Lot 4, Con. 4; Sylvester Richmond, Lot 5, Con. 4; John L. Roberts, Lot 1, Con. 2; Jeremiah Scripture, Lot 6, Con. 1; Samuel Sherwood, Lot 22, Con. 2; John Sickler, Lot 19, Con. 5; John Simson (Simpson), Lot 7, Con. 4; Obadiah Simpson, Lot 4, Con. 2; John Spencer, Lot 2, Con. 1; Aldridge (Eldridge) Stanton, Lot 27, Con. 1; Gabrum Sprung, Lot 10, Con. 4; David Turner, Lot 23, Con. 1; David Turner, Jr., Lot 22,

Con. 1; John Turner, Lot 7, Con. 2; Aaron Wallace (Wallace) Lot 30, Con. 1; John Ward, Lot 33, Con. 1; Enoch Weight, Lot 2, Con. 4; Abraham Winn, Lot 17, Con. 5; Joseph Winn, Lot 18, Con. 5; Semion (Simeon?) Winn, Lot 16, Con. 5; Walter Worden, Lot 23, Con. 4; William Yates, Lot 24, Con. 1; Jason Yearn, Lot 8, Con. 4. Joseph Keeler is also listed as the landowner for Lots 1 and 2 in the first and second Broken Front Concessions of Haldimand Township.

County Wardens

When the land was first being settled, the British government divided what is now the province of Ontario (at least its southern parts) into four districts. Colborne and Cramahe were first in the Nassau District, then the name was changed to the Home District, then this part of the country, approximately defined by the former United Counties of Durham and Northumberland, became the Newcastle District in 1802. At that time the District Magistrates were the most important local officials in the place. They met in Quarter Sessions to decide the issues of the day. Various township officers appointed at annual meetings in each municipality, reported to the Clerk (or Justice) of the Peace (one of these was Joseph A. Keeler). The magistrates were appointed by the Upper Canadian government and all power flowed downward from there.

In 1842, the system was changed and District Councils, with elected representatives from each municipality, took



over the local level of government. The Warden of the District Council, however, remained an appointee of the central government.

After the passage of the Municipal Bill of 1849, towns, townships and incorporated villages obtained responsible government, responsible, that is, to the electors. The District Council then bore some similarity to the county council we have known from that time until the time of writing. The Warden, then, became an official elected by other elected members of the District Council. Around 1850, the District Council became the United Counties of Durham and Northumberland. In 1974, Durham County became part of the Durham Region and Northumberland County stood alone.¹

Wardens of the United Counties from Colborne and Cramahe (1850-1974)

1852, John M. Grover, Township of Cramahe
 1857, R. M. Boucher, Township of Cramahe
 (1859, Colborne becomes a separate municipality within the counties)
 1870, Carman M. Gould, Township of Cramahe
 1880, Edward Cochrane, Township of Cramahe
 1884, W. A. Willoughby, Village of Colborne
 1886, Richard Clarke, Township of Cramahe
 1890, W. L. Payne, Village of Colborne
 1892, M. J. Doyle, Township of Cramahe
 1904, John Miller, Township of Cramahe
 1912, Robert Snetsinger, Village of Colborne
 1962, Gerald S. Philp, Township of Cramahe

Wardens of the County of Northumberland from Colborne and Cramahe (1974-2000)

1978, Walter Rutherford, Village of Colborne
 1980, J. F. Cochrane, Township of Cramahe
 1985, George Blyth, Township of Cramahe
 1993, Dr. Douglas Galt, Township of Cramahe
 1998, George Boycott, Village of Colborne²

¹ Climo, Percy, "Percy Climo explains history of wardenship," Colborne Chronicle, November 26, 1984.

² List of wardens supplied by the administration office, County of Northumberland, unpublished.

World War I Veterans (from the Colborne Cenotaph)

KILLED IN ACTION

Lt. Lorne Campbell, M.C.
 W.A. Smith
 Pte. L.D. Cox
 G. Chatterson
 W.R. Frazier
 F.L. Griffis
 A.E. Peters
 J.W. Ward
 A. White

DIED ON SERVICE

Flt. Lt. T. Manley
 Cadet N.W. Alyea
 Pte. A. A. Morrow
 E.S. Burnley
 W.C. Peters

SERVED IN FRANCE

Pte. H. Bestwick
 D.H. Black
 B.J. Brown
 F. Chapin
 Elgar Chatterson
 M.F. Coleman
 Geo. W. Connors
 A.J. Dubay
 H.A. Free
 F. A. Gill, M.M.
 Fred Gloyne

A. W. Hallenback
 M. King, M.M.
 Wm. McBain
 A. McGuire
 Roy Matthews
 R.L. Palmer
 W.G. Prater
 G.H. Rothwell
 Percy Routley
 W.B. Sargent
 S.D. Scripture
 J.A. Stevenson
 Geo. W. Stone
 E. Vickery
 E. C. Whitney
 Andrew Youngs
 J.J. Youngs
 Peter Youngs
 Mjr. E.E. Latta
 H.A. Snetsinger
 Capt. C.H. Fowler
 A.C. McGlennon
 A.G. Thompson
 Lt. F.S. Douglas
 K.B. Eddy
 C. O'C. Fenton
 D.D. Mallory
 K.K. McCallum
 J.M. Snetsinger
 Flt. Lt. G.F. Hatch
 Sgt. Mjr. W. H. Steer
 Sgt. H.T. Connors
 W.J. Cowie, D.C.M.
 Thos. Crossman
 R.E. Ives
 V.E. Ives
 C.C. Philp
 J.R. Routledge
 H. Scott
 R.G. Terry
 Cpl. T.P. Ashcroft
 Chas. Bugg
 W.G. Sutton
 A. Vickery
 J.S. White
 J.E. Wicks
 Gnr. M.N. Brown
 A. Godmundson
 R. Hallenback
 J.E. Haughton
 Thos. Johnston
 V.E. Parke
 L.J. Redfearn
 Dvr. Wm. Mason
 R. Stone
 A. Sutton
 G.M. Teasdale

Sgt. J.M. Denike
 D.B. Douglas
 C.W. Nunn

SERVED IN ENGLAND

Maj. W.S.R. Wilson
 Capt. W.J. Troop
 Lt. H.E. Thompson
 Q.M. Sgt. A. Toms
 Sgt. S.D. Dudley
 Ira Edwards
 W. Kemp
 Cpl. C.P. Brown
 Sgr. W.H.L. Goulding
 Pte. C.R. Coyle
 E.D. Dudley
 O.H. Earl
 J.A. Edwards
 B.D. Hallenback
 F. Hodges
 J.I. Matthews
 W. A. Moore
 J.P.G.D. Stanton

(There are no reliable records of World War II veterans for Colborne.)

From the Castleton War Memorial dedicated August 20, 1920

WORLD WAR I VETERANS KILLED IN ACTION

Pte. Ed. S. Cochrane,
 Sept. 16, 1916
 G. L. Chatterson,
 Nov. 7, 1917
 George Dixon,
 June 2, 1916
 H.H. Farrow,
 Jan. 1, 1918
 Earl C. Moore,
 May 8, 1917
 Ed. M. Onyon,
 April 9, 1917
 Robert Pomeroy,
 Sept. 18, 1916
 Ernest Powell,
 Aug. 18, 1918
 Arthur Peters,
 April 29, 1915
 F.C. Richards,
 June 2, 1916

DIED OF WOUNDS

Corp. Raymond T. Brown,
 May 18, 1917

Pte. L.T. Godwin,
 April 18, 1917
 Walter Morgan,
 Sept. 15, 1917
 William Claud Peters,
 March 15, 1917
 Roy E. Graham,
 March 15, 1916
 Gunner Clayton Pomeroy,
 Nov. 1, 1916

WORLD WAR II VETERANS (THOSE WHO DIED)

Pte. John E. Bertrand
 George R. Pomeroy
 P. O. Lloyd G. Bishop
 F.Sgt. Clarence A. Massey
 Tr. Reginald C. Mutton

The following is a partial list of names of Reeves of Cramahe Township. Some were gleaned from existing township records; others from the list of Wardens of Northumberland County. Township records have been lost, and these were the only names we could verify:

1852 - John M. Grover
 1857 - R. M. Boucher
 1870 - Carman Gould
 1877-78 - H.P. Gould
 1879-80 - Edward Cochrane
 1881-82 - R. Clarke
 1892 - Michael J. Doyle
 1904 - John Miller
 1943 - T.A. Chapman
 1951-52 - H.I. Allen
 1953-54 - J.G. Honey
 1955-56 - George Gummer
 1957-59 - David Dingwall
 1960-63 - Gerald S. Philp
 1964-65 - J. G. Honey
 1966-80 - James F. Cochrane
 1980-88 - George Blyth
 1988-91 - Elie Dekeyser
 1991-93 - Douglas Galt
 1993-2000 - Stuart Oliver





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