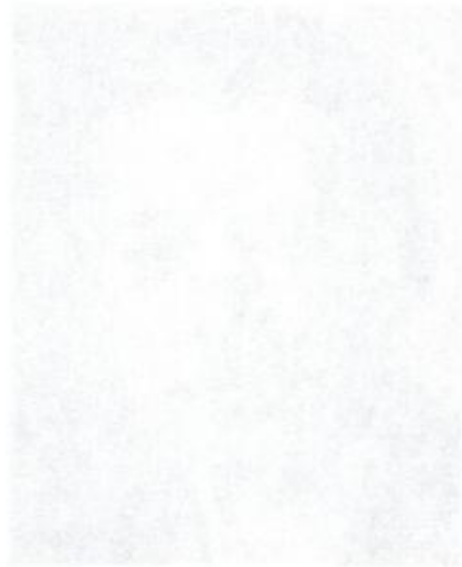




The Early History

OF

Haldimand County



By Russell Harper

Typed in 2012 by Ian Thompson UE

Published by the Grand River Sachem, May 1950

Harrison & Arrell Martindale, Publishers



J. RUSSELL HARPER

J. Russell Harper was born in Oneida Township, graduate of Caledonia High School and a student at McMaster University. Graduate in Archeology from the University of Toronto. Formerly in the Royal Canadian Air Force and at present Chief Cataloguer and Registrar at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. In addition he was recently appointed Keeper of the Lee Collection of Mediaeval Art at Hart House, University of Toronto. His wife is the former Elizabeth Goodchild, and they have one daughter, Jennifer.

FOREWORDThe following articles of Early Haldimand History were written by Mr. Russell Harper for the Caledonia Weekly Newspaper, The Grand River Sachem, and were published during 1950, the Centennial Year of Haldimand County. This is the most complete County history of its kind in existence. It is written in a very readable manner by one who has done considerable research for its preparation. In order that it may give information and enjoyment to the greatest possible number and also provide a record for posterity we take much pleasure in reprinting it in book form. We hope that you enjoy it. — The Publishers



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ARTICLE I

THE EARLIEST INDIANS IN HALDIMAND

One day in the summer of 1907 a dredge crew holidaying at Port Maitland accidentally discovered the body of a man buried in the sand dunes at the mouth of the Grand River. The discovery was a remarkable one – the man had been buried sitting bolt upright. Moreover he had been covered with a coating of red clay or hematite before being placed in the grave. Around him were buried some grave objects, tools that this great Indian was to use in the country beyond. There was a pair of great carved combs, ten and a half inches high made from antler horn. Also there was an elaborate stone pipe, beads made from the giant conch shell brought from the Atlantic, and stone articles such as arrow heads and axes.

There is little doubt that this Indian was the earliest recorded man to have lived in the County of Haldimand of whom we have knowledge to date. Because of the many fine articles in the grave, the find was known as that of the "Chief's Grave" – certainly he was a man of some considerable wealth in terms of early Indian life. More recently a grave of a child of the same tribe was found near the chieftain's grave containing stone objects. Similar graves have been found in New York State – they are those of tribes of Indians whom we call the "Point Peninsula" or "Woodlands" people. They may have roamed the Ontario forest as much as a thousand years ago, or in terms of England, at the same time King Alfred the Great was repelling the Danish invasions and traditionally burning the cakes. The Point Peninsula people were likely completely wiped out by other Indians around the year 1200.

The early Point Peninsula Indians lived in villages close to small streams. Spring flooding of their village sites has washed away practically all traces of them, but in the Townships of Oneida and North Cayuga stone tools have been picked up in the fields made by these people. The most typical of these objects are stone gorgets – flat pieces of polished slate with holes drilled in them. They were possibly hang from strings around the neck as ornaments. From North Cayuga have come large sections of sea shells used in the same way made by either Point Peninsula Indians or by Mound Builders.

There are articles made by other Indians who were in the County of Haldimand at an early date. Large numbers of chipped and polished stone tools came from around Canfield made by an unidentified tribe. There are early Indian cemeteries around Cayuga. Only when much extensive work has been done on the sites of Indian villages and cemeteries will it be possible to have any idea of which Indian tribes were in this county in the prehistoric period.

Most of the stone articles picked up in the fields were made by early tribes, in fact only a very little stone work was done by the Iroquois. Arrow heads found are not all intended for



that purpose, the larger ones were often spear heads. Blunt stone points were used as scrapers. Others with long slim points may have been used for drilling holes in stone or bone, or for starting fires. So-called skinning stones were more likely a type of axe. They were often lashed to a wooden handle so that they would resemble an axe with the blade turned at right angles to the handle. Such stone axes or "adzes" could be used for chopping wood or other purposes.

Besides stone, the pre-historic Indian tribes made use of bones for tools. Sharply pointed ones were used for awls, and very small ones as needles. Hollow bones from the wings of wild turkeys were cut into inch long pieces for beads. Clam shells were favourite knives. Sections of larger shells were made into different types of beads. Pottery was made from clay with crushed stone added to it. The Indian women were the potters. Decoration was put on pots by the Peninsula Point people by pressing twisted cords into the soft clay sides of the newly fashioned dish. Such pottery has been found in North Cayuga. Pottery made by more recent tribes is decorated by lines drawn on the rim with a sharp bone or stick. By the amount of encrusted dirt still sticking on some of these bits of pottery, the Indian women knew little about washing dishes, and practically nothing about housekeeping.

I must emphasize how little we really know about these early Indian tribes along the Grand River – writing their story is the work of the archaeologist who reconstructs their life from what he finds where they had their villages and cemeteries. As yet practically no such work has been done in Haldimand County



ARTICLE II

THE NEUTRAL INDIANS OF HALDIMAND

Shortly after 1600 the inhabitants of Haldimand County were members of an Indian tribe called the Neutrals or Attiwandrone. "Attiwandron" is an Indian word meaning the "Nation whose language has gone away." These people were distant brothers of the Six Nations Iroquois. They had come into Ontario many years before, probably killing off or driving out the Indian tribes who were already there, just as they themselves were killed off in the year 1650 by the Iroquois.

White men first entering the County of Haldimand, found the Grand River flowing through the centre of the Neutral Nation, There were 12,000 people of whom 4,000 were warriors. They lived in 40 villages. One of the largest of these villages was on the Grand River.



The French called it the Mission of the Angels (Nostrae Dominae Angelorum). The exact location is uncertain because of the temporary type of buildings of the Neutrals, but large ash beds along the eastern side of the Grand River above Caledonia, always the indication of a more than transient lodgehouse, seems to indicate that that was the site of the village. Neutral pottery has been taken out of these ash beds.

There was another Neutral village in the Township of Oneida along the MacKenzie Creek, and probably others in North Cayuga. Along the Twenty Creek in Binbrook were a whole series of these villages, and numerous others have been found in Brant, Wentworth and Elgin Counties. Their lands extended to about Galt in the North, Halton on the East, and there were three or four villages along the Niagara River. Not enough careful digging by trained workers had been done in Haldimand to know where all of their villages were located in that county.

People of only one North American tribe were taller than the Neutral braves of Haldimand. In spite of his size, he was very susceptible to diseases, especially smallpox. In the manner of other North American Indians, they covered their flesh with skins, but unlike the Hurons, another Ontario tribe, few of them used a loin cloth, although the women wore a kind of skirt. So much of their bodies remained exposed that they tattooed their figures with many designs by pricking charcoal into the flesh. The missionaries who visited them described the effect as being similar to the designs on the helmets and breastplates of soldiers in the French army. The skins which they wore were well dressed and often beautifully ornamented.

The Neutrals loved to trade and sell. They were the merchants of the eastern Indians. The women raised huge quantities of tobacco which they traded with the Algonquins for skins, porcupine quills and quill work. An equally important article for sale was flint from Point Abino on Lake Erie in Welland County. At this place practically all of the flint made into arrow heads by the north eastern American tribes, was mined. Neither the Iroquois to the South nor the Hurons to the North, wished to make enemies of the Neutrals because their war supplies would then be cut off. Flint points were absolutely necessary to wage war – they were the high explosives of the day. The Neutrals were thus not attacked by either of the tribes and they remained neutral in wars, hence their name. Only when the Iroquois were able to get steel from English traders which they used to replace flint in war, did they attack the Neutral Nation.

Early missionaries to the Neutrals tell us of their homes, lodges shaped like a bower and covered with bark. They were from twenty-five to thirty fathoms long and from six to eight wide (150 to 180 feet by 36 to 48 feet), with a passage through the centre from ten to twelve feet wide. Along the side of the Neutral lodge was a kind of shelf four feet from the ground where the natives lay in the summer to avoid the fleas. They lay on mats for warmth around the fire in the centre of the floor in winter. A lodge of this size might have a row of as many as



twelve fires down its centre. The Neutrals had to move their villages every ten or twenty years due to the loss of soil fertility around them from intensive cultivation. No fertilization or rotation of crops was practiced.

The food of the Neutrals was succulent and varied. In their gardens were corn, beans and squash. Tobacco was grown. Stags, elk, wildcats, squirrels, beaver, turkey, cranes and bittern were common and provided their meat. They caught fish in the Grand River and its tributaries with nets and spears. They ate chestnuts and wild apples gathered in the woods. Oil was made from the seeds of the sunflower by grinding the seed to a pulp, then placing it in boiling water so the oil floated. The oil was then skimmed from the surface with wooden spoons, while the remaining mush was dried and made sort of cakes for food.

Deer were caught by building a funnel shaped enclosure in the forest with the opening small enough to just allow a single deer to get through. The animals were driven into the large end with much hooting and noise. Once started into the funnel, the Indians closed in behind and the animal's only hope of escape was through the small opening where braves stood with clubs and spears. They slaughtered each deer as it came through. None escaped as the Neutrals believed that any who did so would recount their experiences to the other deer in the forest and all would be frightened away.



ARTICLE III

SOME STRANGE CUSTOMES OF THE NEUTRALS

Heading the Neutral tribe in 1626 was a great chief named Tohakissen. We do not know where his chief village was located, but he certainly ruled over a part of the lands along the Grand River now in Haldimand. Tohakissen had obtained his position by sheer courage, and by having been at war many times against seventeen tribes, bringing back "heads" (more probably scalps), and persons (women or children who were to be slaves), from all of his warring expeditions. On these war expeditions the Neutrals used only war clubs and bows and arrows. Under the direct control of the great Tohakissen were twenty-eight villages and towns.

War as you will gather, was a rather heartless affair. In contrast were the elaborate ceremonies carried on by the Neutrals when one of their own kinsmen died. At death, the signal was given for the carrying out of unusual customs.



Most Indians carried their dead to the burying ground immediately, but the Neutrals kept their dead in their homes. Only when the bodies were decomposed to such an extent that the odour made habitation in the cabin insufferable, were they taken with loud wailing to the cemetery. Here the bodies were exposed on racks. When only the bones were left, they were brought into the cabin and arranged about the walls. These gruesome skeletons reminded the families of their loved ones, and the women cried pitifully each time when they entered the cabin. Annually at the Feast of the Dead, the bones were taken from the cabins to the burying ground and there finally deposited.

As a sign of mourning, relatives of the deceased blackened their own and the faces of their dead. The chief delivered an address at the Feast of the Spirit over the body of those who died in battle, in the presence of the assembled friends, relatives and members of the council. Then the deceased was figuratively resurrected by choosing a person similar in age to the deceased, to receive the wisdom of the deceased. The selection of the fortunate one to receive such an honour was always made in council, and he had to be a kinsman of the dead person. At the actual feast, the person so chosen sat in the centre. He alone stayed seated when the others got up, and as he slowly rose later, his body was supposed to take on the dignity and wisdom of the body being buried.

Another strange thing among the Neutrals was that lunacy was a profession. The tribesmen believed that the countless lunatics in the village were possessed of demons and they were accordingly allowed to do whatever they pleased. There are records of professional lunatics at the Mission of the Angels on the Grand River. These apparently demented beings, who were really quite collected and rational men ran about from place to place scattering embers from the fire and breaking or smashing everything with which they came in contact. However, in the whole tribe there was not to be found a single cripple or a one-eyed person.

Life on the Grand River in the Indian period before the coming of the white traders or missionaries, was a complicated, highly organized affair. There were many customs that had to be scrupulously observed. There were villages and farms that have all of the characteristics of a settled community. The facts show quite a different picture than the popular notion of the wild ferocious savage living in his wigwam in the forest.





ARTICLE IV

EARLY FRENCH MISSIONARIES IN HALDIMAND

Champlain had brought to Canada her first settlers –fishermen, lumbermen, farmers, priests and miners. He built his first dwelling at Quebec in 1608. Nineteen years later, the French priests were on the Grand River working as missionaries among the Neutral Indians. Cour-de-bois wandered far into the heart of America in search of furs, and they had probably visited the tribe at an earlier date. They possibly told the priests of these Indians.

The first of the Fathers to arrive in Ontario, came in 1615, when they established a mission station near Midland on Georgian Bay. Father de Brebeuf, a Jesuit, and Father d'Aillon, a Recollet, came there later with the Hurons on the return from the annual fur barter at Montreal. From Georgian Bay, Father d'Aillon set out on October 18th, 1626 with two cour-de-bois, Grenolle and la Valee who had worked with the famed Brule. These men knew the lakes and rivers of Central Ontario and were prepared to guide d'Aillon. The party with the priest went southward until they struck the upper reaches of the Grand River. They descended the river in a canoe, and the Neutral Indians watching from the bank saw three white men, with one in long, unfamiliar black robes. These were the first white whom we definitely know visited Haldimand County.

Father d'Aillon's trip to the Neutral country took four days overland in coming from Lake Simcoe. He arrived on the Grand River on December 8th, and spent three months amongst the tribe, doing what mission work he could. He has left us a fairly complete record of his journey, describing 28 villages which he visited, all ruled over by the chieftain Tohakissen. One of these villages the priest reported as being called O-ou-a-ro, which other explorers have called Ongeara, from which we have adopted the word Niagara. D'Aillon's stay was not a pleasant one because of tales spread by the Hurons about the French. The Hurons had been buying furs from the Neutrals and then selling them to the French, making a profit on the transactions. They were afraid that the Neutrals would be induced to trade directly with the French at Montreal. This would mean an end of their business, hence the false reports resulting in the poor reception of d'Aillon. He returned to Midland in the early spring of 1627, a very difficult trip because of the snows softening in the warm spring sun.

Other French missionaries may have been in Haldimand County in the years shortly after this, but there was no organized mission expedition. All work in New France was disrupted when Admiral Kirk captured Quebec for the English. Some years later the colony was again put into working order by Champlain and in 1640 Fathers Brebeuf and Chaumont journey down the Grand River. Neutral chieftains had issued an invitation to them, and they solved to found the



mission of the Angels for the conversion of these people. This mission was probably at the Neutral Indian village near Caledonia. A Jesuit dagger was found there in the great ash beds among the pottery and stone tools.

Brebeuf and Chaumont were oddly enough not well received. The great chief was away on a warring expedition. A gift of a pearly necklace of 2000 beads was offered at a council meeting in the village, but after due deliberation it was refused, although the two priests were given permission to preach. Vague whisperings were heard. After a time, the two men were followed continuously and spat upon. One night in the winter of 1640 when the great chief had still not returned, they were in their cabin somewhere on the shores of the Grand River. Father Chaumont in his diary tells what was happening at a tribal meeting in the centre of town as they rested:

"One evening when all of the chief men of the town were deliberating in council whether to put us to death, Father Brebeuf, while making examination of his conscience, as we were together at prayers, saw the vision of a spectre, full of fury, menacing us both with three javelins which he held in his hands. Then he hurled one at us; but a more powerful hand caught it as it flew; and this took place a second and a third time, as he hurled his two remaining javelins... Late at night our host came back from Council, where the two Huron emissaries had made their gifts of hatchets to have us killed. He wakened us to say that three times we had been on the point of death; for three times the old man dissuaded them. This explains the meaning of Brebeuf's vision."

The writer Parkman continued the picture:

"They escaped for a time; but the Indians agreed themselves henceforth that no one should give them shelter. At night, pierced with cold, and faint with hunger, they found every door closed against them. They stood and watched, saw an Indian issue from a house, and by quick movement pushed through the open door into this abode of smoke and filth. The inmates, aghast at their boldness, stared in silence. Then a messenger ran out to carry the tidings, and an angry crowd collected.

'Go out and leave our country,' said an old chief, 'or we will put you into the kettle and make a feast of you!'

'I have had enough of the dark-coloured flesh of our enemies,' said a young brave; 'I wish to know the taste of white meat, and I will eat yours.'

A warrior rushed in like a madman, drew his bow, and aimed the arrow at Chaumont. I looked at him fixedly, writes the Jesuit, and commended myself in full to St. Michael. Without



doubt this great archangel saved us; for almost immediately the fury of the warrior was appeased, and the rest of our enemies soon began to listen to the explanation we have them to our visit."

The two men wandered forth into the wintry forest, sick at heart at their cool reception. Perhaps they would have starved in a great snowstorm but for an old squaw who lived alone somewhere between the Grand and Lake Ontario. She pitied and fed them. From her they learned a great deal about the language and compiled a dictionary. They had been able to make no accurate maps of the land through which they worked because the Indians feared to see them shoot the sun with their instruments. Before the thaw came, they took leave of their hostess and returned to the mission station on Georgian Bay. As they were crossing the ice of Lake Simcoe on the return, Brebeuf fell and broke the Clavicle in his ankle so that during the following summer had had to go to Quebec.

We know of no further mission work amongst the Neutral Indians by the French. The great Iroquois wars which were to rage all over southern Ontario, were soon to break out.



ARTICLE V

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NEUTRALS

The Neutrals or Attiwandron Nation had by their sheer force of numbers, been the sole occupants of that part of Ontario lying north of Lake Erie. For years they had taken no part in the devastating wars between the Iroquois and the Hurons; their sole aggression was against the Indian tribes to the west. One record tells of a fierce onslaught they made against the Nation of Fire which is south of Lake Michigan. When all of the braves had been killed in a surprise raid, they burned out the eyes of the older men, cut off their tongues, and then the Neutrals turned them loose in the forest. Gradually fear and hate was built up among the surrounding tribes over the more and more frequent war trips of the Neutrals, and they were soon viewed with suspicion and alarm.

In the years 1648, 1649 and 1650 the Iroquois completely destroyed the Huron towns. All of the Hurons who had not been killed, fled to the French settlements in Quebec. The Iroquois had cruelly tortured Father Brebeuf along with the other Jesuit priests in March of the year 1648. He was one of the first martyrs in the war.



When their traditional foes, the Hurons, were out of existence, the fighting forces of the Iroquois turned against the powerful Neutrals. The first attack came as a result of a Seneca Indian's trick. He had set out on the war path alone and had killed several Hurons. The balance of the Huron band pursued him swiftly through the forest paths. The Seneca brave managed to reach a Neutral village, but before he could enter a lodge, he was captured by the Hurons which was by usage law so long as he had not entered a lodge and sat on a Neutral mat therein by the campfire. Some weeks later, three hundred Senecas came to the town and were welcomed as in times of peace, and a feast was planned throughout the entire village so that the Seneca warriors were well scattered. Resenting their comrade's capture, guests turned upon unarmed hosts at a given signal and brained all within reach. The rest of the tribe ignored the incident and also ignored the destruction of an ally tribe to the south of the Niagara frontier. At the same time, their natural ally, the Petuns (Tobacco Nation) to the north, had been crushed and the Neutrals were left without outposts to warn them of impending danger, or allies to assist them should they be attacked.

The Iroquois, fresh with the lust of their many victories, hastened during the fall of 1650 into the Neutral country and spread destruction on every side with firearms of Dutch and English manufacture. Villages with 1600 inhabitants were swept away, and word of their utter ruin went throughout the entire Neutral settlements. A war party of 1500 Iroquois in another place had done untold damage. A horrible massacre was committed at Teotonguiaton or St. Guillaume, which was a Neutral town in the centre of their land, and which had been visited by Brebeuf and Chaumont. Its location was apparently in Elgin County, and to reach there, the Iroquois must have crossed the Niagara frontier and swept through all of the Neutral villages in Haldimand. Terror-struck, all of the natives throughout the land fled with their possessions left in ruin behind them. Many of the departing men and women starved. A large number, especially young women, were carried away in slavery, and some finally took refuge with other tribes in Michigan and Quebec.

In the year 1653, there were eight hundred Neutrals in one band still independent. They had turned roamers, wandering somewhere to the south of Sault-ste. Marie in what is now United States territory. The final fate of this group is unknown. In 1660 and 1669, visitors to the Five Nations of Iroquois (later the Six Nations) reported that many Neutrals were fighting with those tribes, somewhat in the capacity of mercenaries. They had apparently forgotten enmity and were the best of friends. The last mention in history which we have of Neutral Indians is apparently contained in a report that at Lachine in 1671 there were a number of Neutral Indians still living, having built abodes in a reservation there.



With the dispersion and destruction of the Neutrals, Haldimand became an unpopulated wilderness. It remained for a space of over a century as a land without dwellers except for visits by wandering Mississauga Indians.



ARTICLE VI

FRENCH EXPLORERS AND THE GRAND RIVER

The Iroquois were not interested in living in the Niagara Peninsula after they had killed off or driven out the Neutrals. A plague seemed to hang over the land – it was only visited by the odd Indian hunting party until some transient Chippawas (Mississauga) chose the north shore of Lake Erie for their home. Here they built a few scattered lodges. A century and a half later when the British Government wished to open up the district for settlement, they had to buy the land by treaty from the Chippawas. Haldimand was a part of the second tract of land to be so bought by the government from the Indians in Ontario.

Before Wolfe's conquest of Canada, the French regarded Ontario and the lands to the west and north as good for only one thing – fur trading. Annually great boat loads of furs left Quebec, destined to be worn by the great and near great at the Cour of Louis in France. At first the French were content to let the Indians bring the furs to Montreal and Quebec for barter. With the growth of the Dutch and English colonies along the Atlantic seaboard, the French found that they had to send their traders westward to the Indians to get their full quota of furs.

The quickest route of the fur traders to the west was through Lake Ontario, by portage to Lake Erie, and then on up through the lakes. The portage from Lake Ontario to Erie was made necessary because of the roaring Niagara, but was a very hazardous one since hostile Iroquois remained on the banks. These Indians had been unfriendly ever since Champlain had helped the Hurons against them. Massacres on the portage were so numerous that many French preferred to take a longer but safer alternate route, portaging from the head of Lake Ontario to the Grand and then down the river to Lake Erie. There were three forest paths they could follow. The most important was from the Dundas Marsh to Cainsville. The others were further down the river, the one probably reaching the Grand near Onondaga, and the other either at York or Caledonia.

In 1669, one of the greatest heroes of New France, the famous LaSalle who later explored the Mississippi to its mouth, started to go over this route. With him he had a band of



twenty men and four Sulpitian priests who intended to do mission work in the lands bordering on the upper Great Lakes. LaSalle made a short diversion to the Senecas south of Lake Ontario and then proceeded to Burlington Bay. Here he heard news of strangers in the district. He met the party and found to his surprise that one was Louis Joliet, a tireless little Frenchman who just five years before at the age of 26 along with Marquette, had first discovered the Mississippi. Joliet's Indian guide had taken him up the Grand River and over the portage as he feared the Indians at Niagara. At the meeting, Joliet told LaSalle that the route he followed would take him to the upper lakes and thence to the Mississippi. He added that it was a long and hard road which could be shortened by going overland to the Ohio at the south. Since LaSalle was confident that the Mississippi flowed to the East, he decided to take the easier course pointed out by Joliet, and so altered his route, avoiding the Grand River.

Joliet told the Sulpitian Fathers who accompanied LaSalle about the entirely pagan Indian tribes living near Lake Michigan. The priests decided to go to them. They followed the portage to the Grand River and went down it by canoe to Lake Erie. It was late in the autumn and the small boats of the Fathers would scarcely withstand the great waves on the lake, so that they were forced to put in at a creek mouth, build a log house, and spend the winter. Several years ago the foundation of this dwelling was discovered on Black Creek near Port Dover. The four priests stayed for the winter, living on nuts, berries and small animals which they caught in the forest. In the spring they went up on the lakes. One of the priests, Father Galinee, in 1670 drew a map which is the first known one showing the Grand River. The map is remarkably accurate when it is considered that Galinee had only once travelled over the route. The curves shown correspond with the true lay of the land, but there is a serious error in that the lower part of the river flows in a south westerly rather than a south easterly direction. He made a notation where Canboro now lies which says that there was good hunting in that vicinity. The map is about three by four feet. The peninsula of Michigan is not shown for he believed that there was no barrier between Lakes Huron and Michigan.

There is a further story about fur traders on the Grand River which may be entirely fiction, or it may have some basis in fact. LaSalle had built the famous ship, the "Griffin", at Niagara. It was the first sail boat on Lake Erie. He loaded it on Lake Michigan with a valuable cargo of furs. His profits were so high that a second trip was made. LaSalle sent the second boat load back to Niagara while he went on to the Mississippi. The Griffin was never heard from again. Word reached LaSalle that the Indians had captured the boat and massacred the crew, that the ship had foundered in a storm, and that the crew had deserted, stolen the furs, and sold them to foreigners for a huge sum. Four miles below Cayuga on the west side of the Grand River numerous skulls and bones of men, women and children supposed to be of white men, all of whom had been tomahawked from the front, while skulls of women were hit from the back



indicating that the men had fallen fighting and the women while fleeing. Some women had their hands and their fingers cut off in the fray. With the skeletons were found an anvil forge, blacksmith tools, coal and iron. A gold ring on one finger bore a French inscription reading: "Think of me."

The Indians have an old tradition explaining this discovery. They say that a long time ago a big sail boat drifted into the Grand River. This boat was loaded with a rich cargo of furs and managed by white men. Instead of killing them, they were adopted into the Indian Village at the site of the burying ground, but were later killed in a fight with the Sauk Indians of Burlington. The boat may have been the "Griffin" with LaSalle's furs.

In the following years the fur traders to the west constantly went up and down the lakes, but since no Indians had permanent residence in Haldimand with whom they could trade, they did not linger and we know nothing more about Haldimand until the English took Canada. After the English conquest the first white settlements sprang up along the Grand River.



ARTICLE VII

BRANT MOVES THE SIX NATIONS TO THE GRAND RIVER

Americans traditionally paint Joseph Brant as the black sheep of the American Revolution. He is charged by them with the responsibility of the horrible crimes at Cherry Valley and elsewhere in the United States. However, in the interests of his own people, he led the Iroquois during the war and afterwards found a new home for them in the fertile valleys along the Grand River. To Brant is due in large part the fact that the Six Nations to-day exist as a unit.

Brant was born along the Ohio River in 1742. He was a son of a Mohawk of the Wolf tribe. His Indian name, Thayendanege, denotes strength and is translated "Two sticks of wood bound together." This father died while Joseph was still young, and his mother remarried a man by the name of Barnet from whom Joseph derived his English name. While we have no description of his appearance in his younger days, at the age of fifty he dined with Ontario's first lieutenant-governor, John Graves Simcoe, and the governor's wife has left us a delightful description of Brant's appearance. She writes in her diary:

"He has a countenance expressive of art or cunning. He wore an English coat, with a handsome crimson silk blanket, lined with black and trimmed with a fringe of gold, and wore a fur cap;



round his neck he had a string of plaited sweet hay. It is a kind of grass which never loses its pleasant scent. The Indians are very fond of it. Its smell is like the Tonquin or Asiatic bean."

Let us return to the incidents which led up to the migration of the Six Nations Indians to Canada. During the American Revolution, the United States Congress in 1779 sent a special army against these tribes. They were then living in the Mohawk Valley in New York State. Brant was able to hold the morale of his people, and they successfully withstood the raids. As a result of the time taken up in fighting, the Indians were not able to lay in provisions for the winter, and the lack of food in the severe weather which followed, forced the Mohawks to go to the British at Niagara for food and shelter. Brant continued to fight a guerilla campaign against the Americans in upper New York state until peace was signed in 1782. In the peace treaty, the traditional lands of the Six Nations were entirely ceded by the English to the United States.

The Mohawks were at the time living in tents along the Niagara River close to present Lewiston. It appeared as if Governor Haldimand's promise to Brant and his men in 1775 that it would be to their advantage to help the King, went for nothing. The Mohawks were moreover in the sad position of being even further away from their traditional homes than the other tribes of the Iroquois confederacy. To find some solution to their sad plight, Joseph Brant journeyed to Quebec where he met Sir Frederick Haldimand, Commander in chief in Canada at the time.

Governor Haldimand listened with sympathy to Brant's request for assistance. He offered to make amends for the loss of their lands by giving to the Indians any tract of land in Ontario which they might choose as a reservation on which to make a home. Brant selected an area on the Bay of Quinte. Many of the Mohawks moved there and their descendants still live in the vicinity of Deseronto.

Brant was very much chagrined to find that some of the Seneca Indians objected the Grant at the eastern end of the province because of its great distance from their traditional hunting grounds on the Niagara frontier. Accordingly he returned to Quebec and this time Haldimand by an order issued from the ancient Castle of St. Lewis on October 25th, 1784, ceded to the Six Nations a strip of land six miles wide on either side of the Ouse or Grand River from its source to its mouth as a perpetual home for the tribes. He further expressed a hope that the Indians might move in and be able to proceed with planting in the following spring. Delighted with the gift, the vast majority of the homeless Six Nations moved to the Grand River settlement where they carried on their life of hunting, fishing and farming in a similar fashion to that which they had known in their original homeland in New York State.





ARTICLE VIII

BRANT MOVES THE SIX NATIONS TO THE GRAND RIVER PART II.

Before the Six Nations Indians were allowed to move into the Grand River region, certain negotiations were carried on. The western part of Southern Ontario had been occupied by wandering bands of Mississauga Indians since shortly after the extermination of the Neutrals. The English Government at London issued orders that before there were settlements started in their hunting grounds, that the land for such settlers had to be purchased from the Mississaugas. The first section to be so purchased was a four mile strip along the Niagara River from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. Then a great council was held at Niagara on May 22nd, 1784, between the Mississauga and other western Ontario tribes, and Colonel Butler and the British Regiments stationed along the frontier. Sir John Johnson, the Indian agent for the British Government, had the meeting called to arrange for the purchase of the Grand River lands for settlement by the Six Nations.

After due ceremony a bargain was finally struck at this council meeting, by which the Indians were to receive in payment the sum of £1, 180 7s 4d. A good deal of this money was to be paid in goods such as cloth and hunting knives. In the barter, a dozen silk handkerchiefs were valued at sixty shillings. The deed incorrectly described the lands being sold, leading to later confusion. The names of the chiefs representing the Mississauga are set at its beginning. They are as follows:-

"Wabakauyue, Namisbocure, Nanaghkaweskam, Pacpaman, Tabendam, Jawarninik, Peasanish, Wapamouissehisqua, Wapeanghqua, Sachems, war chiefs and principal women of the Mississauga Indians."

The mark of each was scrawled on the document – they all resemble standing birds.

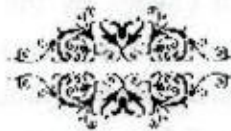
There were many difficulties as a result of this grant made for the sake of the Six Nations on the Grand River. The first was to determine its boundaries. The source of the river was much further north than had at first agreed upon as been supposed, but the upper limit of the grant was finally agreed upon as being in the vicinity of the present town of Fergus. The grant was to be six miles wide on each side of the river, which taken literally would mean that the edge of the grant would wind with the river. The great surveyor, Augustus Jones, finally arranged boundaries that followed comparatively straight lines. No proper patent was ever issued for the land, which had to be corrected some years later. In the final grant made by John Graves Simcoe on behalf of George III in 1793, it was decreed that the land was to be for the sole use of the Chiefs, Warriors, Women and people of the Six Nations, and that if the Indians allowed



any other people to move in, that the government could dispossess such intruders and reoccupy the territory itself.

Once settled on the land set apart for them, Brant's people readily adopted themselves to their changed circumstances and progressed under the leadership of their Chiefs and Sachems. Brant was instrumental in having a church built at the Mohawk Village three miles below Brantford. In this hung the first church-going bell to ever toll in Upper Canada. The church still stands. In it is preserved the Queen Anne communion service, now over two hundred years old, which the queen had given to the Mohawks while they still lived in New York State. The service had been buried when the Revolution broke out, and after the Indians finally settled on the river, Indian women went back to the Mohawk Valley, dug it up, and carried it to Canada in packs on their backs. Tradition says that some of the dents in the offering plate were caused by American bayonets as soldiers prodded the packs in their escape across the border.

After the establishment of the prosperous new community, Brant visited England on a number of occasions where he was much honoured, had his portrait painted by Romney, made a life member in the Masonic Lodge to which he was personally inducted by George III, and later returned to Canada. He built a home near Burlington on a grant given to him in recognition of his many services to England. There he spent the rest of his days.



ARTICLE IX

BUTLER'S RANGERS IN HALDIMAND

The outbreak of the American Revolution came as a distinct shock to many. Loyalist groups soon arose in indignant protest. Those who opposed the Stars and Stripes were branded as Loyalists and one of the first groups of organized Loyalists were those gathered together under Colonel John Butler of the Mohawk Valley in New York State. Of the English supporters none were truer to the Crown or more hated by the Americans than his company of soldiers who had been organized as Butler's Rangers. In their leader the company had a man who had traced his descent from the Duke of Ormond, one of the supporters of Bonnie Prince Charlie. From long association with the wilderness and with the Indians, Butler and his men had attained high proficiency in the art of guerilla warfare such as was practiced by Brant and his Iroquois. Butler and Brant, fighting in a common cause, became intimate friends and joined their forces on many occasions.



From 1777 until 1783 when the Peace of Paris closed the war, Butler and Brant were almost constantly together. At Fort Stanix and Cherry Valley, the Rangers and Mohawks fought together. When Brant was given the Grand River grant, it was the most natural thing in the world for him to offer to assist these helpers. Rather than give the Rangers farms outright (which he couldn't legally do by reason of the terms under which the government imposed on the Indians), Brant gave the Rangers leases for 999 years at an annual rent of one peppercorn, and a number of Butler's followers came at Brant's invitation. They were all United Empire Loyalists. These Loyalists were the first permanent white settlers on the Grand River.

The first of the Butler Rangers to accept Brant's invitation were the Nelles family. Six Nelles men arrived, Henry (or Henrick), and his sons Robert, Abraham, William, Warner and John. They were given a tract of land containing approximately nine square miles in the Township of Seneca. Their grant extended along the Grand River in front for three miles. In addition to the Seneca grant, one son was given a small tract of land across the river in Oneida. The only other real Butler Rangers to arrive in Seneca were the Young family. Adam Young and his sons John, Henry and Daniel, were given a large block of land between York and Indiana. When they arrived is not known, but an Abraham Young was given a Brant lease on February 24, 1800. Both these families were of German descent and had lived close to the Mohawks in New York State.

A Butler Ranger settled in North Cayuga by the name of John Huff who was given approximately 1000 acres on the north side of the river. Huff was a United Empire Loyalist but was supposed to have had his lands expropriated, although in 1820 his sons sold part of the tract. They did not, however, appear to be living on the land at the time. Huff had himself sold a part of his tract to Christian Cincebaugh (Sensabaugh) in 1808.

John Dochstader was the only Butler Ranger to settle in South Cayuga. He had joined the Revolutionary Army at the age of 19, but had been captured by the Mohawks and had turned to the Rangers. For this reason he was given the grant, but during the war of 1812 is said to have deserted to the Americans. One of his daughters had a son, Joseph Fradenburgh, who held the claim to the land and after some hesitation it was finally given to him a number of years later. The grant thus became known as the Fradenburgh tract. Other early residents on the tract before 1813 were Perry Gifford and Oliver Burnham who were both related to Dochstader. Captain John Dochstader, an uncle of the John Dochstader who settled in South Cayuga, was given a considerable grant of land across the river in Canboro which is still known as the Dochstader tract.

Two Butler Ranger grants were made in Dunn. One of these containing 1000 acres, was to Hugh Earl who married Molly Brant, the sister of Joseph Brant. Earl had three daughters and



it was intended that each of the daughters should receive 250 acres of the land. During the War of 1812, the Americans destroyed Earl's deed so that Brant, who had by that time moved to Burlington, gave Hugh Earl a new deed in 1818. Walter Butler Sheehan was given the Sheehan Tract in Dunn on October 4, 1807. He was the son of Anne Butler, and had been an officer in the Revolutionary War. In 1803 he had been appointed Sheriff of the County of Lincoln. Three of his sons, Walter Butler Sheehan, Henry Ford Sheehan and George Hill Sheehan, lived for a time at least on the tract with their father. Another grant of 1000 acres in Dunn was given to James Muirhead (possibly James Muirhead Sheehan, another son of Walter Butler Sheehan) on June 8th, 1802. This was later known as the Haldimand Tract.

Colonel John Butler himself never took up land in Haldimand. He spent the greater part of the balance of his life in fostering the colony of Niagara. In 1783 one of the settlers whom Butler brought to Canada was Allen McNab, the father of Sir Allen McNab, a Prime Minister of Canada and the builder of Dundurn Castle in Hamilton. He was typical of many settlers who were attracted to the new settlements started by Butler. These men were given land for agricultural purposes, and land boards were set up to regulate the distribution. Four such boards were established in the province. The one covering Haldimand (except for Rainham and Walpole townships), was composed of Colonel Butler, Lieut.-Col. Hunter of Niagara, Peter Ten Broeck, Robert Hamilton, Benjamin Paling and Nathaniel Pettit who was later a member of parliament for the lower part of Haldimand.

In the formation of Upper Canada, Butler figured prominently in the petition asking for the establishment of counties, and at the first Legislative Council which met in the Barracks of the Butler Rangers at Newark, Governor John Graves Simcoe issued a proclamation appointing various officers. One of these positions which were filled was that of an Indian agent in the person of Colonel John Butler which appointment he apparently held until his death. In the same parliament were two Butler Rangers, Parshall Terry who represented Norfolk (which included Rainham and Walpole) and Benjamin Pawling who represented a part of what is now Haldimand. They passed an act validating marriages which had been performed by garrison officers when young couples, among whom were many Butler Rangers, could not reach a minister to be married.





ARTICLE X

THE WAR OF 1812-1814 PT. 1

Haldimand was the scene of no major battles in the War of 1812, but many of the county's residents were affected by war, and one skirmish took place within the county. The war itself was the result of misunderstanding between English and Americans over the Napoleonic Wars in Europe. Canada innocently suffered, both in loss of men and material and in a serious retarding of settlement. On June 1st, 1812, President Madison signed the declaration for war on Canada. Canada was a long line of weak settlements. Ontario's population was 100,000, of whom only a part were United Empire Loyalists; 20,000 were immigrant Americans who had come to Canada with hopes of getting rich quickly and who cared little whether the Stars and Stripes or the Union Jack flew over them. The few thousand Indians favoured the British but were for the greater part indifferent. In 1810 the Americans had been told that if a force of 5,000 men were to be sent into Upper Canada with a proclamation of Independence, that the great mass of the people would join the States. The Americans had thus high hopes of an early victory.

Upper Canada elected a new legislature in the very month in which war was declared. The riding of South Haldimand and part of Lincoln elected Joseph Willcocks as their member. He received 154 votes and Abraham Nelles who opposed him, received only 40. North Haldimand (probably chiefly Brant County), elected Abraham Markle (or Marcle), a radical from Ancaster, and Norfolk, which included Walpole and Rainham, chose Robert Nichol. All three men were Radicals and were opposed to the Family Compact which held the balance of power. During the war, Markle joined the Americans in the year 1813 and his lands along the Grand River were confiscated by the government. Joseph Willcocks had a varied career, first helping one side in the struggle and then the other. He was eventually killed while fighting with the American army in a raid on Fort George. Robert Nichol alone of the three members, took an active part throughout the war for the Canadians, and distinguished himself as an officer of the Militia.

Haldimand saw little of the war during the year 1812. On August 5th of that year, however, a body of troops led by Isaac Brock passed through the county. Brock left York (Toronto) on his way to enlist the help of Tecumseh at Detroit; he started with 100 men, picked up 100 more at Burlington, and then crossed over to Port Dover where 100 more were awaiting him. During the following month, Joseph Willcocks went among the Six Nations along the river in an attempt to get them to enter the war on the side of the British, but only 50 braves responded. By the end of the first year, the settlers in the county were divided into Loyalists and anti-Loyalists. All of the Butler Rangers except John Duff and John Dochstader of South



Cayuga, stayed with the British. Most of the Hoovers were British in sentiment but took little part in the campaign. The balance of the white population west of the Grand River were more or less indifferent. Capt. Francis of Nanticoke and Col. Talbot of Talbotville were notable exceptions. There was on the whole much less enthusiasm for the British cause in the district than in the rest of Ontario.

In 1813 there were a number of marauding bands in the County. The Americans had left Detroit, coming westward through Ontario, defeating the British and Tecumseh's Indians at Moraviantown, and then scattered into groups which ravaged the settlements. Five members of one band slept one night on the farms of James Vokes on the first sideroad from Nanticoke. Some of the Norfolk volunteers who feared that the group would attack and loot Port Dover, proceeded to Nanticoke and there repulsed the Americans and for a time Port Dover was saved.

Many of the settlers in Haldimand were called out for military service in the militia in the fall of 1812. The group formed what is known as the Canboro and Haldimand Militia under Captain Aiken and Ensign Benjamin Canby, the founder of Canboro. Canby resigned his appointment in the army on May 16th, 1813, either because of pressure from business dealings in the administration of his little colony, or because of his Quaker faith which was against warfare. Some of the residents of Walpole and Rainham were called out for service in the Norfolk Militia Regiment. The only officer in the company from Haldimand, was William Park of Jarvis who was a captain in a battalion company of the Second Norfolk Militia.

Among the troops in the Canboro and Haldimand Militia was Samuel Birdsall, Canby's young nephew who lived in the settlement of Canboro. He was a farmer, and had been given 130 acres of land by Benjamin Canby in the spring of 1812. He has written an autobiography, and in it he tells how word of the war came to the settlements in Haldimand. He says:-

"The tilings of war soon arrived, causing a daily expectation of being called out on military duty, but still I worked away, prepared a summer fallow on military duty, but still I worked away, prepared a summer fallow of about 16 acres in good order for sowing with wheat, intending on Monday morning in September to commence sowing, but on Sunday morning previous was called out with the Militia. I marched in the afternoon with the militia to the lines, leaving only four old men invalids in their homes, and had to remain on duty all through the winter. Consequently my summer preparations for wheat were lost. Our women had to secure and gather summer crops as well as they could. In 1813 I was in the Chippawa Battle as a volunteer, the only battle I witnessed, being anxious to witness the scene of a war fight. I was fully satisfied afterward not to volunteer again immediately. On commencement of the fight, our Lieutenant McDonald fell and his son fell, each within my reach. I was between



them. I saw both fall at the same moment, and many others cheering the engagement, but my own time had not come. I retreated with the residue of our army to quarters unhurt. In 1813 I sold out my farm and worked on shares with my father-in-law whenever at liberty to be home.



ARTICLE XI

THE WAR OF 1812-1814 PART II

May 14th, 1814, was a day of sadness for Port Dover. On that date a force of 800 Americans under Colonel Campbell crossed the lake from Erie, Pennsylvania, and landed at the Mouth of Patterson's Creek. They had then proceeded to attack the town. The British had established naval stations along the Lake Erie shore, one being at Port Maitland where a number of Highlanders were stationed for several years after the war. The fleet at these naval stations had failed to control the lake and there had been little opposition to the American crossing. Dover was practically without defence, and after looting the town, they burned 20 dwellings, 3 flour mills, 3 saw mills, 3 distilleries, 20 barns and numerous other buildings. Dogs were killed in the street, quartered and hind quarters taken away by the army while the rest was left behind. It is said that Port Dover was burned as a reprisal for the British burning of Buffalo some time before, but Campbell was brought before the American Court of Inquiry who found that he was unjustified in burning the mills. Campbell was severely censured over the incident.

During the middle of October of the same year, a number of American regulars led by John Dixon (Dickson) made a raid on the settlement at Long point with the intention of killing Colonel Talbot and others who had been active in overcoming sedition in Norfolk. Among these especially singled out for revenge was Captain William Francis of Nanticoke, a Loyalist officer who had been in the American Dragoons and was still on half pay. He was one of a number of Loyalist officers who had settled in Upper Canada, but the greater number of them had settled around Niagara. The force which came to deal a blow against the Loyalist officers consisted of 1 Englishman, 1 Irishman, 1 Canadian half-breed and 10 Americans, who had all been settlers at Long Point before the war. They came down the lake, plundered much of Walpole, and surrounded Francis' home at night, shooting him as he tried to escape. No other American soldiers entered the county during the war.

One of the British soldiers in the war was Captain John DeCew who later founded Decewsville. Decew fought in the 11th Lincoln Militia, was taken a prisoner-of-war by the Americans along



with several of his companions at Niagara, and was taken to Batavia where several attempts which he made to escape were foiled. Finally he was taken to Washington where he was to have been shot in retaliation for something which the Canadians had done, but the order was countermanded before it was put into execution. Captain Decew finally escaped, was befriended by an American who was making a new translation of the Bible and crossed the border from Vermont to Quebec. He later took part in the battle at Lundy's Lane under Colonel Fitzgibbon. It was to Decew's house that the American prisoners from Beaver's Dam were brought when the British soldiers, outnumbered ten to one, captured large numbers of Americans thanks to Laura Secord. After the war, the building of the Welland Canal drained the stream which fed the Decew mill at Decew's Falls. In disgust the captain sold his property and bought land at North Cayuga where he built mills and founded Decewsville.

In addition to losses by looting, the settlers in Upper Canada experienced other hardships through the war. Chief of these was the high prices. The Hoovers of Rainham had just before the war purchased ten barrels of salt for \$100.90. They ran out of salt in 1814 and had to pay \$50.00 for a single barrel. The settlers could find but little market for their grain since Brock had prohibited all export of grain and other foodstuffs and did not allow any grain whatever to be distilled. The war hindered settlement and there was little progress in Haldimand for a number of years.

Prices even at the outbreak of the war were high due to the Napoleonic Wars, when we consider the price of labour. The following is part of a store account at Canboro for the years 1811 and 1812:

		£	s	d
1811				
Nov. 11	To 1 bbl. Salt	2	8	
20	4 yards cotton		16	
28	½ lb. pepper		4	6
	¼ lb. nails			3
Dec. 10	2 oz. Indigo		4	
11	8 ½ yards sheeting	2	2	6
1812				
Jan. 4	6lb. 2oz. iron		7	7
18	1 lb. tobacco		3	6
25	2 lb. sugar		4	
Feb. 3	1 qt. whiskey		2	6
4	2 lb. rice		2	
	2 oz. camphor		12	
13	2 lb. sugar		4	
14	1 qt. spirits		6	
27	½ lb. tea; ½ lb. chocolate		8	6
		8	5	7



Credit

1811

Nov. 28

Dec. 10

1813

Mar. 7

By a pail

By a raccoon skin

By 547 flour barrel staves

5

1 6

7 1 1

5 7 4



ARTICLE XII

PIONEERS OF RAINHAM

Rainham and Walpole, unlike the balance of the County of Haldimand, were opened to white settlement by the government at an early date. While the Nelles and Young families settled along the Grand River at the invitation of the Indians, those who came to Walpole and Rainham were settling in British territory which had been previously purchased by treaty from the Chippewa Indians.

The oldest and most important of the families to enter these townships were the Hoovers. They were originally clannish Quakers from Switzerland who had, by reason of religious persecution, been forced into Holland and had later migrated to William Penn's settlements in Pennsylvania. Some of the family became loyal Britishers, and at the close of the American Revolution their lot was so miserable that some were offered a tract of land in Canada which they greatly accepted. David Hoover was the first to come, travelling by horseback from York County in Pennsylvania in 1791. He purchased 2000 acres of land along Lake Erie between Cheapside and Rainham Centre sideroads. He returned the next year with his seven sons who cleared some of the land at Hoover's Point, and the following year brought over the families with their goods and children in wagons, crossing the Niagara River at Buffalo and driving up the beach to their new homes.

The sons were named David, Daniel, John, Christian, Henry, Abraham and Benjamin. John went back to Pennsylvania in 1812, and Henry, the only other son who did not stay, had a grandson, David Byers, who became the first assessor of Rainham Township. David Hoover bought the land and held it in his name, but on his death the 2000 acres was divided amongst the various sons and descendants of some of his sons are still living on the land so given a century and a quarter ago. On the farm of Christian Hoover on which was built the burying plot of the early members of the family, was also built the first grist and saw mill along that part of the lake, on Stoney Creek. This mill was built in 1802 and was a great boon not only to the



white settlers in Rainham and Walpole, but also to those along the Grand River. Previously it had been necessary to take grain to the famous Sugar Loaf Mill at Port Colborne, or to the Mills at Port Ryersie.

Benjamin Hoover has been called the artisan of the family, and his skill as a gunsmith made him popular with the Indians when their muskets needed repairs. He brought apple seeds with him from Pennsylvania, and built the first cider press in Haldimand to accommodate his apple crop. He had only one child, a daughter who married a Stickler and whose descendants are still in Haldimand.

The Hoovers quickly took up more land in the two townships since in 1800 David Hoover bought an additional 2000 acres. Just before 1812, John Hoover bought another 700 acres from one Van Alstyle, but this was seized by the government and sold at a judicial sale in old Vittoria, the proud little capital in its day of nearly one quarter of Ontario. The reason for the disallowance of the sale was the non-registration of Van Alstyle's deed but protests from the Hoover family were of no avail. In 1812 John Hoover went back to Pennsylvania and never returned to Canada.

A survey of the early families of Rainham show other names besides that of Hoover which are still to be found. By 1816 there were only five other families in the township. Benjamin Stewart lived on Rainham Road and Michael Sprangle on the First Concession. On the lake shore lived a Shank who was a Mennonite preacher. A descendant still carries on the work. The other family was that of Jacob Fite close to Miller's Point whose last descendant died in 1936 in Selkirk. In 1816 Peter Culver arrived and his descendants still live in Rainham. Others who came at a later date but may still be classed as pioneers were the families of Vanloon, Wardell, Yeager, Babion, Smelser, Holrood, Reicheld, and Holmes, many of whom were of German extraction.

Some other facts concerned with the opening of Rainham to settlement are interesting. The western part of Ontario at that time was governed from Vittoria the capital of Norfolk County. This County then included Rainham and Walpole, and Quarter Sessions were held there during the year for the transaction of business for the general welfare of the county. Among those attending Quarter Sessions in 1817 was Benjamin Hoover, who was appointed Pathmaster in Rainham with a beat extending from Stoney Creek (believed to be that on which Nanticoke is situated), to the Indian lands, the edge of the grant made to the Six Nations on the Grand River. A number of years were necessary to make the Rainham Road passable for teams. In the year 1827, Solomon Minor constructed a dam at Dunnville and founded that town. The settlers of Rainham saw the advantage of having a market at the new town, and were anxious to have access to the mills so in the fall of 1829 they extended the Rainham Road to Dunnville.



The first road was chopped through in winter. This road was surveyed by Peter Culver with a pocket compass because the district surveyor threatened to tax them for his services in laying out the road.



ARTICLE XIII

PIONEERS OF ONEIDA AND WALPOLE

The Indian lands along the Grand River in Haldimand were taken over by the Government in 1832, and thereafter were opened to white settlement. Before then, however, a number had already settled in Oneida.

Joseph Brant and the Chiefs of the Six Nations gave four Brant leases in Oneida. One of these was to Nicholas Cook who had been an American soldier and had come to live with the Indians after the war of 1812. Because the Indians were fond of his flute playing, they gave him 200 acres below York. Adjoining his land they gave a 101 acre grant to Sarah Dennis who had been taken prisoner by the Mohawks in the Revolutionary War and had been brought by them to Canada. The third grant was that of the Ardross Block to Thomas Runchey who sold his rights to J.H. and J.M. McKenzie. Runchey had agreed to build a mill on the McKenzie Creek in return for a 200 acre grant, but he carefully worded the agreement so that he was receive all of the land flooded in the building of the dam for the mill. He erected a dam so high that 800 acres were flooded, and when he established his title to this large area, he lowered the top of the dam to a level necessary for operation of his mill. The fourth grant made by Brant was to Robert Anderson as a bonus for the erection of a grist and saw mill and a distillery. By the primitive methods of surveying employed, this grant contained much more than was really tended.

The first white settler in Walpole was White Peter (Peter Klinger Smith) of Nanticoke, in whose memory a memorial has been erected. White Peter was born in Pennsylvania about the year 1770, and his parents in 1777 were killed and he was captured by the Indians. A squaw adopted him and he was taken to Montreal, but was given his freedom when he was 20 or 21. He soon travelled to the Indian Reserve on the Grand River. He then came up Lake Erie to Waving Point. About 1834 he sold his rights there and bought part of Lot 6 in the First Concession of Walpole where he built a house and lived until his death. He died in 1855 and was buried beside his wife Molly who was a squaw, in the old Methodist cemetery at Nanticoke.

Other pioneers of the lower end of Walpole included Richard Gibbs and Abraham Doan, who lived close to Nanticoke. Captain Francis lived near the mouth of Sandusk Creek, but he



was shot in a skirmish during the War of 1812. In 1820 Frederick Gibbs settled on the Dover Road and shortly after Thomas Stilwell, William Steel and Col. G.B. Hall. The first settlers in the Upper end of the Township around Springvale and Hagersville, were Thomas Hammond, Adam H. Benn, Mr. Fewset, Thos. Kent, Abraham Winger and Christian Shoup who settled there in 1843 and 1844.

Rainham and Walpole remained separated from the rest of the County of Haldimand politically until 1850 when the County was formed. Because they had been early removed from Indian control, the general settlement of these townships was completed sooner than in the rest of the County. However, the settlement of the county took place very quickly – in a space of about 35 years the population jumped from a few hundred to a population almost as large as that of to-day. The following table shows the number of people in the county in different years, and speaks for itself as to this quick growth.

Year	Total	Males	Females
1824	789	449	340
1826	790	414	376
1828	1488	775	713
1820	1664	895	769
1832	2082	1049	1033
1834	2690	1475	1215
1836	4107	1923	2184
1838	4625	2412	2213
1840	5378	2883	2405
1841	5699	3025	2674
1851*	18788	10306	8482
1861*	23708	12306	11401
1871*	23642	12174	11442

*These figures include Rainham and Walpole Townships, whereas the figures given for other years omit these two townships.



ARTICLE XIV

PIONEERS OF NORTH CAYUGA AND MOULTON

In North Cayuga Township the Indians gave two leases for land to white settlers in addition to that given to Huff of the Butler Rangers. The first was made out to Augustus Jones on October 4th, 1797, for a term of 999 years, and covered 4800 acres for which he was to pay the annual rent of one peppercorn. Jones was the surveyor who marked out the limits of the



Indian lands along the Grand River, and this 4,800 acre plot known as the Jones Tract, is said to have been given to him in payment for his service as a surveyor. Jones quickly sold parts of this. Two of the early settlers who lived in the Jones Tract were John Croker and John Crooks who were there in 1823.

William Claus was the recipient of the other Indian lease in North Cayuga. His grant consisted of 15,300 acres composed of all of the Township of North Cayuga west of the Grand River with the exception of the Jones Tract. It was deeded to Claus on August 3rd, 1826. The recipient was the nephew of Sir William Johnson who had been such a prominent figure amongst the Mohawks while they lived in New York State. Claus had, after his removal to Canada, acted as adviser to the Six Nations, and he persuaded them that because of his assistance, knowledge of their language and general friendliness to the Indian people, that he was entitled to a large grant of land. This was an example of the unwarranted seizure of Indian lands which were so often made by trickery or otherwise. The government realized that this was a pure and simple case of exploitation and quickly cancelled the Claus lease, taking over North Cayuga for settlement along with the balance of the County in 1832.

In Moulton there were a series of complicated but interesting land transactions in the early days. They all came about through the Earl of Selkirk being temporarily short of cash. Thomas Douglas, Earl of Selkirk, was the Scotch laird who pitied the poor Highlanders and decided to finance their migration to Canada where he felt that their life would be a much easier one. Moulton Township impressed the philanthropist as being a suitable tract of land on which to settle the immigrants. On January 15th, 1808, the Earl received the township under a kind of agreement for sale in which he was to pay to the Indians £3475 before November 18th, 1809. After Selkirk had received a deed for the township, he called it Widderburn, and thought that it could be used for sheep pasture. Selkirk seems never to have paid the purchase and had to abandon his idea of the projected settlement. Shortly after he secured a grant of land on the Red River in Manitoba where he founded the Red River Colony which became the nucleus of the Province of Manitoba and the beginnings of the City of Winnipeg.

The story is told that after his purchase of the land on the Grand River, Selkirk got into trouble with the Indians and made a hurried departure up the lakes to the Northwest. Sheriff William Smith of Niagara was sent to arrest the Earl, but Selkirk turned the tables on him, arresting the Sheriff instead and detaining him for several days. When the sheriff was eventually released, he returned to Niagara and Selkirk proceeded on up the lakes. The Township of Moulton was then put up for sale because of Selkirk's inability to meet his obligations, and was bought by Smith on November 20th, 1820 for £5900. Thomas Merritt, Sheriff of Niagara, was in charge of the sale, and immediately after giving the deed to Smith the



purchaser sold the township to Henry John Boulton. Boulton was a member of the aristocracy who had come to Upper Canada and commenced the practice of law in 1816. He called the township which he had purchased "Moulton" after his family home, Moulton Hall, in England. Boulton was only 31 years old when he bought this land containing 30,800 acres, and sold part of the land himself and in his absence appointed agents who divided and sold the land for him later. In 1829 the Attorney General of Upper Canada was the same John Henry Boulton, and from 1833 to 1838 he was the Chief Justice of Newfoundland, but returned to Upper Canada and was elected Member of Parliament for the County of Norfolk.



ARTICLE XV

MORE PIONEERS OF HALDIMAND

Canboro Township like Moulton, was sold in a block and then sub-divided. The township is said to have been originally given by Brant to Captain John Dochstader, but when Dochstader was approached by a certain Benjamin Canby, he readily agreed to sell his land. Canby was a tanner by trade, and a Quaker by religion from Philadelphia, and on February 5th, 1798, was given a deed of 19,000 acres comprising nearly all of the Township. It has been said that Canby was supposed to pay Dochstader for his purchase but never did so. However, Canby proceeded to sell the land and among the first settlers he brought in to the Township were John Byers and John Miller.

The Honourable William Dickson, a lawyer from Niagara, was the original purchaser of Sherbrooke Township. This, the smallest township of Ontario, was deeded to Dickson in the year 1820 by the Six Nations as a retainer for legal services and in some measure to pay for work which he had already done. Dickson was one of the first lawyers in Upper Canada, and realized that the uneducated Indians would be easy prey in any exploitation scheme. He sold off the land in small lots and realized a tidy sum on his deal. The land in the neighbourhood of Galt was also bought by Dickson and sold in a similar way. The first sale made by Dickson from his four thousand acre tract was on February 11th, 1820. On that date he deeded a farm to James Johnson. In 1822 he sold another farm to Mrs. Sarah Bushby and the terms used in the deed are of some interest. We find that this woman purchased a place called "Longwood" in "Sherbrooks Forest" on the boundary line between the land deeded to the Earl of Selkirk and to Dickson.



The Government retained a small portion of land at the mouth of the Grand River as a naval reserve. It was because of this naval station that Dunnville is five miles higher up the river than was at first anticipated. The commander in charge of the naval station refused to allow a dam to be constructed any closer than five miles from the mouth of the river. As a result when Solomon Minor in 1825 wanted to erect a mill and lay out a town site, he was forced to do so up the river. Dunnville is thus several miles from the river mouth.

The earliest settlers in South Cayuga were Butler Rangers, Burnham, Gifford and Fradenburgh. But when the township was opened to regular settlement in 1832, John Honsburger was the first man to take up residence. He probably settled there in 1835, and shortly after came John Fry, Christian Rittenhouse and David Honsburger. Other early residents were from the settlement of the Twenty Mile Creek nearer Niagara. A group of German Mennonites there purchased farms for their sons in South Cayuga who soon took up land in the township.

The first settler in Dunn on non-Indian Land was Col. A.P. Farrell who bought out a squatter in 1833. He was followed by a number of English and Irish gentlemen, entirely unsuitable to the rough pioneer life. One was a Colonel Johnson who had been in service with the East India Company. He bought several hundred acres which he had sold in smaller lots to friends. William Blott settled on the lakeshore in 1834. Many others arrived in the few years after.

Many of the settlers who came to Haldimand prior to 1832 were squatters, and there is no record of where they lived or what they did. Their names have been lost, but from 1832 when the government took over the county, we have in the Registry Office a complete record of all landowners in the county.



ARTICLE XVI

EARLY NAVIGATION WORKS ON THE GRAND

Rivers and lakes were the readymade highways of the early settlers. The first had entered the county by the Grand River, using small boats. With a larger population, the improvement of navigation became one of the burning issues of the day. Action was promised when a charter was granted to the Welland Canal Company in 1825. The new company was not



only to construct a canal for the navigation of larger boats between Lakes Erie and Ontario, but was also given control of navigation on the Grand River from Cayuga to its mouth.

The Welland Canal Company's first president was William Hamilton Merritt. The first canal they built linked Welland River with Lake Ontario. Later it was extended to Lake Erie. In order that they might properly operate the canal, the stockholders decided in 1829 to build a dam at Dunnville. From that point they took Grand River water through a feeder which connected Dunnville and Gravelley Bay, for the operation of the locks of the Welland Canal. The dam was completed the following fall. Much to the surprise of everyone, when the flow of water was finally stopped in the river, the level rose very rapidly above the dam, and between 2000 and 3000 acres of flats between Dunnville and Cayuga were flooded. So quickly and unexpectedly did the water rise that in the Huff Tract people had to make a hurried exit from their homes by boat during the night. Claims for compensation demanded by the landowners soon amounted to £4000. A board of arbitration was set up in 1835 the amount of legitimate claims was fixed at £1600. Later claims brought the total to £3000. Since the company was at the time in very straightened financial circumstances, the directors gave notes of hand for these amounts when they fell due, the company had to borrow money from the Bank of United States to pay them. Stumps are reputed to still be under water in some places as a result of the flooding at that time. Since the transfer of the Indian lands had not yet been made to the government, compensation was paid to the Indians for the timber lands flooded, and a release for the same was extended by the Sachems of the Six Nations.

The Welland Canal Company at about this time had another business deal in the county. David Thompson, who was later Member of Parliament and who had received compensation for lands flooded through the building of the Dunnville dam, constructed in 1836 what was probably the only steam boat ever to be built in Haldimand. Prior to commencing the work, he made a contract with the Welland Canal Company that when completed, the company would take the boat down to Feeder from Dunnville and then through the Welland Canal so that it might be put in service on the lakes. The company found, to its consternation, that when the boat was finished, it was too large to go through the Feeder. As they had contracted to put the boat into the lakes, they had to take it to pieces, carry it over the Dunnville dam, and reassemble it in the lower Grand River. This cost the Welland Canal Company in all some £160.

At the same time that the original Dunnville dam was built, arrangements were made to sell the surplus water power. As an incentive for industries to rush their mills to completion, the company offered free water power to owners of the first two mills to be completed on the Feeder. One was at Dunnville and one at Thorold. The one had machinery and a roof, but no sides on, but both were deemed sufficiently completed to get free water power.



While the Welland Canal Company had certain rights in the Grand River up as far as Cayuga, beyond that point there were a number of rapids and shallows which obstructed navigation. It was felt desirable to have boats go up the river as far as Brantford and possibly to Galt. Accordingly a number of men applied for a charter "to render the passage of rafts, boats and other crafts more safe and certain at all seasons of the year" from Cayuga to Brantford, by the building of dams, canals and locks. The act was passed on January 28th, 1832, giving the charter to William Holmes, George Washington Whitehead, James Ingersoll, Absolom Shade, Jebediah Jackson and others. A stipulation in the charter was that they were to allow all members of the Six Nations Indians free and uninterrupted navigation on the Grand River at all times. The new company, known as the Grand River Navigation Company, with all of its long list of vicissitudes, is the subject of a story by itself.



ARTICLE XVII

THE GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY PART I

The new organization which set out in 1832 to improve boat travel on the river, went by the name of the Grand River Navigation Company. The government amended their act of incorporation in the following year so that the company had to complete within five years a channel three feet deep as far as the Mohawk Village just below Brantford in order to hold their charter. By 1837 £25,000 was spent, and in that year they were forced to raise an additional £12,500 for completion of the navigation works.

Exhaustive reports are in existence as to the scope of the work which was done. Government inspectors visited the scene of operations and in November 1843 they estimated that an additional £30,063|3|- should be spent in order that the work would be properly put in shape from Brantford to Cayuga. At that time five dams with canals and locks had been constructed. The dams were built of timber and gravel, but the report of 1843 recommended that large stones be placed at the base of the dam to further protect it. Incidentally certain of the timbers used in the Mount Healy dam are still in the bed of the river and are said to be in perfect condition.

Starting at Cayuga the 1843 inspector found the swing bridge and pier at Cayuga in very bad condition and improperly constructed so that in the previous year a steamer had been seriously damaged in docking. Going up the river, the first dam was at Mount Healy to overcome the fall at Indiana. A canal led overland from the dam to Indiana where at the foot of



the lock were clustered a group of buildings owned by David Thompson consisting of a flowing mill with three rows of stone, a distillery, and other buildings. These were so close to the water's edge that a wharf three hundred feet long was ordered to be built in front of them in order that horses drawing tow boats might get by them. Water power was sold at the Mount Healy dam to mill owners on the western bank of the river.

The second dam was at York, and sawdust, slabs and bark from the sawmills along the bank of the canal at York, were so deposited that they formed bars in the bed of the canal itself which seriously hindered navigation. The main offender in this respect was the Davis mill on the west side of the canal. Lock number Three was at Smye's Lock where the canal was three-eighths of a mile long, and the dam flooded a great deal of the flats belonging to Charles Bain. The back water over this land at the time was particularly stagnant, and the inspector recommended that it be drained in some way as a health measure. The fourth dam and lock was at the present Village of Seneca where a great deal of water power was sold and a thriving village had grown up. At Caledonia was the fifth canal and dam. From that point the river was navigable to within a short distance of Brantford.

Each of the locks in the canals allowed for a drop of approximately six to six and a half feet thick at the base and five feet thick at the top. The inside walls of the locks were covered with planks which were spiked to the timbers in the walls themselves and acted as protection to the boats. The gates on the locks were made of timber with a small opening at the bottom for letting out the water so that the boats would drop to the lower level. The inspector found the openings so small that it took an incredibly long time for a boat to get through the locks, and recommended that the size of the opening be increased. The walls of many of the locks in 1843 were found to be overhung and it was necessary to rebuild a number of them.

When the navigation works were first completed, the chief source of revenue was from toll paid for lumber shipped down the river. Lumber had been lavishly cut in the county, and as a result by 1843 the lumber trade was beginning to fall off. Much of the timber shipped out was squared only and sent to England, where some of the timber cut in Haldimand County was used in the construction of British men-of-war. Other goods carried on the river at the time included wheat, barley, liquor and salt pork. At a later date, gypsum was carried. Manufactured goods were transported up the river in increasing quantities. At the time the navigation company was selling water rights at the five dams to nine grist and flour mills with sixteen run of stones, one lathing and one carding mill, eleven saw mills containing thirteen saws, two shingle mills, and one turning mill. For these the owners paid annually for each run of stone £12|10|1-, for each saw £20, for each shingle machine £6|5|-, for each turning lathe £2|10|-, and for each fulling or carding mill £6|5|-.



ARTICLE XVIII

THE GRAND RIVER NAVIGATION COMPANY PART II

The Grand River Navigation Company soon wished to further expand their works, and accordingly in 1849 a further increase was made in the capital stock of the company. In 1853 the government again inspected the canals and locks. The report on that occasion already voiced the fears that railways which were being built, might draw from the boats the carrying of less bulky articles. The lumber trade was continuing to decline, but the carrying of agricultural products was increasing for which a higher toll was being charged than on lumber. At that time there was so much machinery in operation at Indiana that it was difficult to get enough water for navigation purposes. The general tone of the report was, however, optimistic, and £1174|10|- annual rent was being received from the users of water power. The following are some of the users of power at the time and rentals paid:

	£	s	d
David Thompson, Flour mills, saw, grist mill	52	10	
Kirkland & Co., Distillery	10		
Mussen, Distillery	10		
Sharp, Turning lathe	2	10	
Lester, Single saw, Pail factory	26	5	
Cook, Plaster Mill	15		
Donaldson, Saw, Plaster Mill, Grist Mill	72	10	

During the year 1850, steamers arrived in Brantford from the lower river. The Red Jacket and the Queen were stern wheel passenger boats which were scheduled to make the trip up the river from Buffalo in twenty hours. Other boats which operated on the river included the steamer Oxford, and the scow Echo which were sunk at Cayuga in 1855. The County Council ordered them removed and when this was not done by the owners, they were removed by John T. Waggoner for £7|10|-. The scow Alexandria was operating as late as 1869. The boats Caledonia and Port Dover carried freight and operated for a great many years but ceased work in the early sixties. Another boat operating on the river in the very early days was a packet owned by a man named Murdy which carried a great deal of flour.

Here is a copy of a shipping bill covering goods shipped on the scow Alexandria:

Brantford, October 23, 1869.

"Shipped on Board the Scow Alexandria,
Richard A. Sinnett, Master,



Property in good order to be delivered as addresser,

7866 Bus. Barley. Value \$6,000.

Freight payable here as agreed.

To

A. McPherson,

Niagara Malting Co.,

Buffalo.

James Kerr,

Per I.H.S."

The building of the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railway during the period of 1854-1860 spelled the doom of the navigation company on the Grand River. The locks and dams fell into gradual decay as fewer boats were using them, and the company did not find it profitable to keep them repaired. By the early seventies the only boats to come to Caledonia were scows from York carrying plaster from the mines which had been opened there in 1846. The plaster was then teamed to the station and loaded on trains for shipment. In April of 1871, the old Grand River Navigation Company passed out of existence and sold out to the Haldimand Navigation Company which was managed by Adam A. Davis. The new company forthwith abandoned all of the dams along the river except the one at York. As a result of the collapse of the old navigation company, huge sums of money were lost, including a considerable amount which had been invested by the Receiver General of Canada on behalf of the Six Nations Indians. This was a part of the money credited to the Indians when the government took over the Grand River grant in 1832.

The period of navigation was probably the most colourful and picturesque in the whole history of the County of Haldimand. The boats were little replicas of the stern wheelers of the Mississippi. With the collapse of the Grand River Navigation Company, the leisurely days of the steamers were over, and the county saw the beginning of the nosier era of the railway.



ARTICLE XIX

COLONEL NORTON OF THE GRAND RIVER

Colonel John Norton of the Grand River is a part of the traditional legendary history of Haldimand, for he is supposed to have fought the so-called last duel in Canada. It was not the last duel in Canada, or even Ontario, but much has been written about Norton and the duel. Many of the reports are contradictory. Much of what follows may be fiction, some of it may be fact, but these are the details as the story goes.



Colonel Norton was a Scotchman and a Freemason who came as a settler to the Grand River settlements shortly after the War of 1812. He had been an officer in the war. It has been said that Joseph Brant was very anxious to have the Indian women marry whites and offered a large dowry of land to anyone who obliged. John Norton, displaying his Scottish traits, saw an opportunity for advancing his own fortunes and with Brant's approval selected a fine young Indian woman with five hundred acres of land. Her first name was Katy and her last either Doherty or Mous. Previous to their marriage, Norton sent his future bride and her brother to school at Dumfries, Scotland, where she was well educated. Certain of her letters to her benefactor are still said to be in existence and show a remarkable sense of composition. When Katy returned to Canada, she was married to Norton by Squire Warner Nelles in the presence of Joseph Brant himself. It was to make marriages legal which had been performed by officers of Butler's Rangers where a clergyman was not available, that the first parliament in Upper Canada passed a validating act.

Immediately after the ceremony, Norton began to build a spacious residence on his farm on the north side of the Grand River between Caledonia and York which had been acquired either by reason of his marriage or by purchase from the Indians. There is some doubt as to the exact location of the farm. It is commonly supposed to have been in the Nelles Block, but this has been denied. One of the Nelles houses was known as the "Red House" and when Norton completed his home he called it the "Red House" and "Hillhouse." The place became a neighbourhood rendezvous. Shortly after their marriage the couple went to England on a visit. On the visit, Katy was presented to Queen Caroline, wife of George IV. The Queen was very gracious to the pretty Indian princess as she was called, and loaded her with jewels and trinkets. Amongst the many gifts which she brought back to "Hillhouse" was a large churn presented to her by the Earl of Northumberland. The Earl seems to have tried to make the Indians think well of him. He had donated to Brant a brace of pistols and a sporting rifle which were the finest procurable at the time. Before the Nortons left England, Queen Caroline had Katy's portrait painted twice. One of these she kept and the other she gave to the Colonel to take back to Canada.

Back in Canada, the Nortons settled down in their large new house and lived in comfort, lavishly entertaining their friends and apparently a happy married couple. Four years later trouble developed at "Hillhouse". A young Indian began visiting Katy and his visits became so frequent that the Colonel had to speak to him about it. There are two versions of what happened.

The first story related that the young man was a Joe Crawford, a cousin of Mrs. Norton, and that he became so troublesome around the place that when Colonel Norton spoke to him



about it, he was most incensed. Crawford proposed a duel which was against the Colonel's wishes, as he would have preferred to settle the matter quietly. The aggressor kept on insisting and the duel was finally fought on the road at the back of the house. A shot from Norton's pistol pierced his opponent's lung. The Indian was carried into the house where Norton failed to stop the bleeding, and the man died shortly after. Immediately Norton went to the nearest Court of Justice at Niagara, where he gave himself up and in the trial which followed, Norton was easily acquitted as the Judge knew his integrity and that he would not have gone to the extremes he did without due provocation.

The other story of the incident is that the Indian who annoyed Norton was a certain Onondaga Joe who had been one of Katy's old lovers, and who was again smiled on by the foolish woman. The enraged Colonel determined to be revenged and have the Indian his choice of fighting a duel or be shot in his tracks. The Indian, who was no coward, agreed to the duel, remarking that after he had put a bullet in Norton, he would have possession of Katy and all her property. Two pistols were loaded by William Weir who kept a tavern on the river. The duellists stood back to back, and at a word of command from Weir, stepped six paces, turned and fired. Both were hit and staggered, after which they flew at one another in a wild rage, trying to knock each other down with their pistols. Then they grappled and fell in a deadly embrace. The Indian had the advantage in weight and years but Norton through a wrestling trick, got the upper hand and began to beat out his adversary's brains with a pistol. Without releasing his hold, Norton had a bystander examine Joe's wound when he begged for mercy due to an injured thigh. After Colonel Norton had been assured that the man really was wounded, he let the man get up, but the Indian died two days later from hemorrhage. Norton's scalp had been grazed by the bullet, but was not seriously injured. He got together his portable party after the Indian had died through fear of the several laws dealing with duelling. Norton then disappeared with considerable cash, accompanied by a young man named Sam. He was never seen again on the Grand River.

There are conflicting stories about what became of Katy. Some state that the Colonel left her a fixed income to be paid out of his property which was in charge of a certain Mr. Thompson. Others say that years later, a dirty old squaw who called herself Katy, wandered around selling beadwork and berries. She would not say that she was Katy Norton, but many believed that she was. At any rate, Colonel Norton does not appear to have lived in Seneca after the duel. He had been one of the first Freemasons in Haldimand County and had received a medal due to his work in that field. The balance of his life seems to have been ruined by the one bit of foolishness. He is said to be the man for whom Norton Street in the village of Cayuga was called.



ARTICLE XX

PIONEER TRAILS IN HALDIMAND

The great road of Haldimand for many years was the Grand River. The first settlers came in by boat, they used the river to take out their grain to the mill, they used boats to visit their neighbours. The first farms all bordered on the river. In the same way the St. Lawrence was the highway of the French in Quebec. Gradually a change came when farmers began to settle on land back from the water's edge. Roads became necessary from clearings to get out to the grist mills. These first roads were of course of the most primitive type, usually merely a blazed trail through the bush. The pioneer travelled over these on horseback in summer and in winter used the ox-cart or travoys over the deep snow of the bush. The earliest of these trails led from the Nelles and Young settlements above York down the river and across to Benjamin Canby's settlement and then eastward to Niagara.

We have a fairly complete record of the early roads and trails in Haldimand in 1818 from a map prepared by Captain Francis Hall. The captain in that year visited the Canadas, and spent much time in the Niagara Peninsula. He was particularly impressed with the Indians whom he met at the Mohawk Village on the Grand River. In his book of travels he inserted a map with the roads marked. A striking thing is that six roads converge on Canby Town or Benjamin Canby's settlement in Canboro.

The first of the roads from Canboro leads directly to Lake Ontario and strikes at a point called Terriberry, which seems to have been Hamilton or some nearby centre. Two other trails lead eastward and both strike a road which follows the Chippawa River coming up from the Niagara direction, and which directly opposite Canby's settlement swings to Lake Ontario. These roads to Niagara were used to take wheat to the mills on the Niagara frontier. The other three trails from Canboro all lead westward to a trail following the Grand River. The trail along the Grand follows it at a distance back from the water's edge on the eastern shore extending from Brantford to a point opposite the Canby Settlement when it crosses the river and goes directly to the Lake Erie shore, reaching it about where the western boundary of Dunn Township now is. This was no doubt an old Indian trail taken over by the whites. Possibly some of the trails into Canboro were Indian trails as well. There were settlements of Delaware Indians on the east side of the Grand River and Senecas on the west side close to the ford over the river opposite the Canby settlement. No roads lead southward from Canboro because of the great Canby marsh which was not drained until after the woods were cut and drainage ditches put in.

Up the Grand River from Canboro two trails in 1818 led from the Indian trail along the river to the head of Burlington Bay at Dundas. These are probably the same as the old trails



used by the traders, explorers and early Indians when they wished to avoid the Niagara portage in going up the lakes. Another trail followed the shore of Lake Erie connecting the Norfolk and Hoover settlements with the Sugar Load Mill and the Niagara settlements.

The trail from the Canboro settlement to the Grand River was in time extended westward to the early Norfolk and Elgin County settlements. A road was chopped out from Niagara to Canboro and then on westward following this trail in 1834 and the road thus constructed was called the Great Canboro or the Canboro and Simcoe Road. Originally the Talbot Road ran from Brantford to Port Talbot, then the term came to be applied to the whole group of roads centering about Port Talbot, but has only stuck to the one of these.

Much of the land along Number Three Highway in 1835 was being held by speculators who had bought up large blocks and were making no improvements on their holdings. The result was excessive burden of taxation in the form of statute labour for those who were living along the road. To remedy the situation, the government passed an act by which after January 1st, 1835, for each 200 acre unoccupied lot, the owner was to pay a tax of ten shillings for 1835, twelve shillings and six pence in 1836, fifteen shillings in 1837, and to increase proportionately for a period of ten years. The tax was to cease as soon as the land became occupied. The imposition of the tax may have been a determining factor in opening up the land to settlement, since in less than ten years the lots were practically all occupied.

Ever mindful of the sparse settlement of Ontario and the threats to British prestige in Canada during the War of 1812 and more lately in the Rebellion of 1837, the government determined on a policy of road building in order that troops might be moved more quickly from one part of Upper Canada to another. The road from Canboro to Simcoe was graded for this purpose by negro labour. One of the workman is said to have been bitten by a rattlesnake in Walpole and to have died from the effects. It was the building of this road which resulted in Cayuga becoming a village rather than Indiana. When the roads crossed Jarvis sprung up. One of the first buildings in Jarvis was the toll gate keeper's house occupied by W.C. Shannon and built by James Sherman. The road seems to have got into disrepair in 1856 and a stock company was formed to take over and reconstruct the whole road. The county subscribed for one-third of the stock, and in time the whole road was taken over by the county and toll abolished.





ARTICLE XXI

MORE EARLY ROADS OF HALDIMAND

The influx of settlers to Haldimand called for the building of more and more roads to serve their needs. The Rainham Road from the Hoover settlements in Rainham and Walpole, was one of the important early pioneer roads. This road joined an earlier road which crossed Rainham going to Dunnville, and on which Ben Hoover had acted as Pathmaster since 1817. Boats in touch with the larger centres through the Welland Canal, were beginning to come into Dunnville, new mills were being erected at that point, and the Rainham and Walpole settlers saw the obvious advantages which would be derived from a direct route to that point. A petition to the government to supply a surveyor to mark out a road began.

The building of the Plank Road from Hamilton to Port Dover determined the future trend of the settlement in the northern end of the county. The road was built by a joint stock company which was incorporated by an act of parliament on proper road, was turned down. In indignation, Peter Culver who had some slight knowledge of surveying, laid out the road with a pocket compass which is still preserved as a souvenir of the memorable occasion. Grave doubts are entertained whether several of the crooks in the road were caused by miscalculations because of the crudeness of the instrument, or whether they may not be attributed to a brown jug which accompanied the surveyors while the road was being laid out. It was opened for travel in 1839, and the era of travel on land for the Rainham settlers had March 6th, 1834. Among those to whom a charter to build the road was granted was Colin McNeilidge, Thos. Choate, Wm. Wilson, Allan Napier McNab, James Hughson and George Hamilton. The act further stated that the road was to be built as an advantage to settlers and to shorten twenty miles the existing corduroy road. Construction of the road itself was not, however, commenced until 1839, and not completed until 1843. It was made by the nailings of planks on stringers, and at the time was considered the last word in road building, being far superior to the corduroy roads built of logs laid side by side with earth thrown on top of them.

Ranald McKinnon who had the contract for grading the road from the Grand River to Port Dover, succeeded in getting the road to pass over the river at his struggling village of Caledonia rather than at Seneca where the district centre had previously been. As a result, Seneca shrank as Caledonia grew rapidly. Similarly where the road crossed the new Talbot Road, Jarvis sprang up. James Sherman had built a toll house and blacksmith shop there where he made a large percentage of the spikes used to nail the planks of the road. When he had beaten out all of the necessary spikes, he built a tavern to lubricate the throats of those who came to drive them. In spite of the excellence of the Plank Road at the time of its construction, it soon fell into disrepair, and in 1863 the County council had to petition the Legislature to have



the road repaired as it was in dangerous condition. The planks broke in a number of places, holes were left, and into these animals often stepped with disastrous results. In time the planks were torn out and the road taken over, first by the county and later by the province. It has been a major factor in the settlement of the northern end of the county.

A commentary on the Plank Road is to be found in a history published in 1851. An extract from the history reads as follows: "Starting from Hamilton by the Plank Road, we enter the district in the Township of Seneca and soon reach the flourishing village of Caledonia. No better example could be shown of the advantage of making good common roads (that everybody may travel on) through the Province than is to be found in the country bordering the plank road from Hamilton to Port Dover; when we first travelled it, some five or six years ago, shortly after the road was made, the country between Caledonia and Port Dover was a perfect wilderness, scarcely a clearing to be seen, and a stranger would ask with surprise where the traffic was to come from to support the road. Mark the contrast: in five short years nearly every lot along the road has been settled and cleared, and fine farms supply the place of dreary forests."

While the pioneer in the earliest years often carried grain on his back along the trails to the mill, he soon obtained oxen and horses to draw the wagons. The oxen disappeared shortly after 1850. In 1851 there were 4,215 oxen in Haldimand County, in 1860 there were 1,403, and by 1871 there were only 439 left. During the same period the number of horses had increased from 3,903 in 1851 to 5,858 in 1871. Some other interesting notes on travel are that in 1860 Haldimand had 1,046 carriages for pleasure (worth on an average about \$50 each), and 162 carriages for hire. In 1871 there were 3,168 light carriages and 4,724 heavy wagons in the county.



ARTICLE XXIII

PIONEER GRAIN GROWING

Grain growing and the grist mill were much more important to the pioneer than they are to the modern man. The pioneer settler depended on bread as a staple article of diet throughout the year. Every pioneer housewife in the county had her regular weekly baking when the kitchen was filled with the aroma of the rows of freshly baked loaves.



The first white settlers along the Grand River grew no wheat for a number of years. The Nelles and Young families grew Indian corn until trails were broken through the woods which they could follow in order to carry their grain to the grist mill. Turning the corn into flour and then into bread was a long and ingenious process. The kernels were first boiled in a strong lye solution made from wood ashes until the grain burst open after which it was washed in clear water and allowed to dry thoroughly; this prepared the corn for grinding. The mill for grinding the corn was copied from the Indians. A sound hardwood stump was burned out at the centre, the outside of the stump being kept wet while the burning process was going on. In this way the outer wall would not be burned through. The circular hollow was cleaned and smoothed with axes and knives. A pounder or pestle was constructed from a hardwood sapling and with this contrivance the corn was beaten into a kind of flour within the stump. Before use, the flour was sifted through a thin cloth. After the loaf was mixed, it was put in a flat iron kettle and placed over the fire. The lid of the kettle was covered with coals. A sweet light bread resulted. In the course of time, regular outdoor bake ovens were constructed.

Pioneer farming was carried on under difficulties. During the first year of sowing a newly cleared field, no ploughing was necessary. The stumping operations had adequately broken the ground. A home made iron shod wooden plough and a wooden harrow were two of the necessary implements in the earliest days. Oxen were the beasts of burden. Wheat was sown broadcast by the farmer from a sack tied round his body, after which the farmer harrowed the field to bury the seed. During the earliest years of farming along the Grand River, a sickle was the only implement used to cut the ripened grain, but in time a cradle cutting a swathe of from four to six feet, was introduced which greatly speeded up the process of harvesting. Later developments brought the reaper. The sheaves were bound by hand with a handful of straw from the loose sheaf.

Threshing was done on the barn floor or on a patch of ground outside which had been swept clean. The sheaves were loosened on the floor and the grain threshed with a flail or by trampling it with oxen or horses. The loose straw was then raked away and the kernels and chaff gathered up. In the very early pioneer period, the chaff was cleaned by pouring the grain from one pan to another in the wind. Later the fanning mill tremendously simplified the work. At the early threshing bees, it became a tradition among many families to kill a sheep and roast the mutton over an open fire out of doors at the conclusion. These festivities became a real social event. Threshing mills first became popular in the 1860s, and were locally manufactured by people like Scott and McKinnon of Caledonia.

For those interested in figures, the following are some of the crops grown in the county in the later pioneer period. Earlier figures are not available for the county.



Year	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Rye	Peas	Buckwheat	Corn
1851	376475	11935	230845	1492	19329	16173	38369
1861	346876	183322	458181	5943	296328	45426	28003
1871	321286	306362	302732	744	110040	4500	21576



ARTICLE XXIV

PIONEER GRIST MILLS

With the breaking of trails through dense woods, the earliest settlers carried their wheat on their backs long distances to grist mills to be ground into flour. The first mill used was at Niagara where Paul Park, a resident who lived just west of Jarvis, walked upwards of fifty miles with their grain. They followed after its construction, the Sugar Loaf Mill at Port Colborne was one of the most noted of all pioneer Ontario mills. To reach these mills, the members of the Nelles and Young families walked upwards of fifty miles with their grain. They followed a trail approximately following the Talbot Road, or along the lakeshore from the mouth of the Grand River. Those who had horses went by horseback, and some few went down the river by boat.

Other pioneers in Haldimand County visited the early mill built at Windmill Point which is along the shore of Lake Erie in Welland County not far from the Sugar Loaf Mill. With the building of a grist mill at Ancaster, the residents of Oneida and Seneca found it more convenient to go there, but those at the lower end of the county still continued to visit the Sugar Loaf and Windmill Point Mills. The Millers and other early settlers in Rainham and Walpole took away their business from the Sugar Loaf when a mill was built at Port Dover. Their flour came from there for a number of years until a mill was built in Haldimand.

The first recorded grist mill in the county was the Hoover Mill on Stoney Creek below Selkirk in Walpole Township, constructed in 1802 by the father of Jesse Miller and operated at a later date by Jesse Hoover. The mill stones were made of hard heads about eighteen inches in diameter. They were dressed every twelve months, and even when freshly dressed they only bruised and crushed the grain rather than really grinding it. The bolts were about six feet long and the size of a flour barrel. The new mill was great accommodation to the settlers, and was on certain occasions even visited by the settlers from as far away as the Grand River. Around 1830 a fine new mill was built by Colonel G.B. Hall at Nanticoke which was the pride of the district for many years. An early grist mill in Walpole was that built by a Mr. Dibble.



John Sherk built an early Walpole mill one mile west of Cheapside on the Sandusk Creek. This was of heavy oak timber construction with studding split by hand from the log, and also faced by hand. It was three stories high, and as the largest flour mill in the district at the time drew custom from many miles around. The mill was sold to Aaron Hobbes in 1861 who owned and operated it until 1872 with water power when steam engines were installed. The first grist mill on the Indian grant was at Canby's settlement in Canboro. Matthew Smith and his two brothers settled a short distance east of Canboro Village where they built a small mill. This was probably built in 1810, although there is a possibility that it was not built until the spring of 1811. After operating it for a very short time, the Smiths sold the mill to Canby who rented it to Samuel Birdsall and his partner, a Mr. Sheldon. He operated it during the summer of 1811, making a nice profit on the year's work which Birdsall quite appreciated since he had been married the year before. Matthew Smith, after selling the Canby Mill, built another on the Dunnville Road which he at first ran by horse power with hard heads as stones. Shortly horses were substituted with water power and the mill enlarged for sawing as well as for flour making. A mill as built by a Major Robinson on the Robinson Road in Canboro at an early date.

The first mills in the upper end of Haldimand County were in Oneida. Thomas Runchy built a mill in the Ardross Block which he sold to the McKenzie Brothers and which was called the White Mill. This may have been either a grist mill or a saw mill or both. Shortly after, Robert Anderson built a grist mill close to York in the Anderson Block which was used by many of the other settlers.

Other grist mills were built in Haldimand after the Grand River Navigation Company started water power development along the river. Settlers began to arrive in large numbers at the same time the navigation begun. Oliver Phelps and Keefer built mills at Dunnville, the Thompsons constructed a mill at Indiana, and Ranald McKinnon built a grist mill at Caledonia. In 1843 the navigation company was supplying water power for grist mills to David Thompson at Indiana, to John Donaldson and the firm of Fisk and Aikens at Mount Healy, to James Davis at York, to P. McKerrader and Jas. Farish and Company at Sims' Locks, to Jacob Turner at Seneca, and to Ranald McKinnon, Jacob Turner and E.W. Moore and Co. at Caledonia. The largest of these mills was the one owned by Moore which had 16 run of stones. For each run of stones the owners paid £12|10|- per year. These mills prospered so long as the Navigation Company kept their dams in repair.

In 1851 Haldimand had a total of 11 grist mills employing 24 men. By 1861 only six were still in operation of which five were run by water power. They only employed eleven men.





ARTICLE XXV

PIONEERS OF HAGERSVILLE

David Hager, the founder of the Village of Hagersville, was born in Halton County in 1809. He was a blacksmith and in the year 1843 came to Caledonia where he took the contract for the iron work on the new bridge being built across the Grand River at the time. Helping him were John Muchmore, George Higgins, Jesse Higgins and his brother, George Hager, while his brother Charles Hager had charge of the woodwork of the bridge.

Apparently after the bridge was completed, David Hager moved to the place where Hagersville now stands and built a house later turned into a tavern and at one time owned by U.B. Almas. James Haskett built a store, and Charles Hager built a dwelling house. David Almas built a hotel at the main corner, and for many years these four are said to have been the only buildings in the town, which was of little importance except as a stop for the stage coach on the Plank Road from Hamilton to Dover.

David Hager brought with him to his new home a yoke of oxen, two cows and a team of French ponies. These ponies were able to do the trip over the Plank Road in two hours when their owner was at the reins. Apparently Hager entertained his guests, or to be more exact, gave them a thrill, by giving his horses the reins and shouting at them as if they were actually running away. The colourful man moved to Vittoria in 1855 where he died in 1869.

Hagersville only grew into a village after the building of the Canadian Southern Railway in 1870 and the Hamilton to Port Dover Railway in the following year. As soon as the Canada Southern line was located, Charles Hager and David Almas who owned the land in the centre of the present town, laid out lots on both sides of the Plank Road and the Indian Line dividing Oneida from Walpole Townships. Another early subdivider of lots in the village was John H. Porter.

The first Methodist Meetings were held in the log school house by the Rev. Mr. Cosford, followed by the Rev. Mr. Baxter and John Tomblin who lived at the Nanticoke parsonage. They preached once every two weeks, staying at the Hager house. An Indian Mission was established whose early ministers were the Rev. Mr. Hyland, the Rev. David Wright, and the Rev. Peter Jones, a full blooded Indian who married an English woman. Their son, Dr. Peter E. Jones, practiced medicine in Hagersville for many years. An Indian Chief, Charles Herkimer, was the first teacher of singing in the village.

The following is a description of Hagersville by a writer in 1878:



"Hagersville has a steam agricultural implement factory, a steam grist and flouring mill, a steam saw mill, a carriage shop, and a number of stores which are doing a good trade. Some very handsome buildings have recently been erected, among which may be mentioned T.M. Moore's block, a white brick three-story building, the new school house (a large two-story brick building) which is the finest public school building in the county, John H. Porter's new brick block which is just completed, and J. Lawson's new brick hotel; there are also a number of handsome private dwellings.

The inhabitants are enterprising and public spirited, and unite in taking a deep and active interest in the growth and advancement of the village.

Hagersville is one of the best grain markets in Haldimand."



ARTICLE XXVI

A FAMOUS MURDER

The most famous act of violence in Haldimand County was the murder of John Hamilton Nelles of Nelles Corners by the Townsend Gang. Public excitement was raised to the highest pitch. The following are some of the incidents connected with the murder.

The Townsend Gang was made up of eight men. Townsend himself came from Canfield. The others were King, Blowes, Bryson, Patterson, Weaver, Lettice and Brown. Townsend was somewhat of a character – he was a popular frequenter of taverns where he could mimic anyone to perfection or give a marvelous imitation of clog dancing. He had a twin sister and dressed in her clothes, he could not be told from a girl. Prior to the murder of Nelles, the whole gang had been at London Fair where Townsend had led in putting on a minstrel show, but the receipts had not been great and somewhat disappointed, they travelled eastward reaching Nelles Corners on a Saturday night.

When the gang reached Nelles Corners, the only building there at the time was a combined store and post office kept by Nelles who was making up his accounts for the week behind locked doors. His family had retired for the night to the back part of the building. Townsend knocked at the door and was admitted by Nelles who immediately re-locked the door, possibly because he saw the other men outside and feared trouble. The leader asked for tobacco, and while the storekeeper was making change behind the counter, Townsend reached over and grabbed the money out of the till and ordered Nelles to unlock the door. Nelles was a



large and powerful man, and when he demurred, Townsend drew out a pistol, threatening to shoot if the door was not opened. Nelles still did not comply, he began firing and Nelles was almost instantly killed.

As soon as the shooting began, Mrs. Nelles who was in the back room, with her two small children and her husband's brother, made a hurried exit with her children through a window and ran across the fields to a neighbour for help. When they returned, the marauders had left. The rest of the gang, hearing the shooting, tried to get in but could not do so until Townsend unlocked the door. They got but very little loot, and then walked to George Gibson's tavern in Cayuga. During the course of the supper which they had ordered, Gibson discovered who they were and gladly drove them to Canfield to catch a train in order to be rid of them when ordered to do so. The gang is thought to have gone to Buffalo where they scattered and were never again all together.

Public indignation was quickly aroused in the county, and the County Council offered a large reward for the apprehension of the murderers. King, Blowes, Bryson and Brown were caught, brought to Cayuga and tried. King and Blowes were sentenced to death and hanged; Bryson because of his youth and Brown because he turned Queen's evidence, were each sentenced to life imprisonment. In 1856 a man was found ransacking a house near Niagara and during the course of the pursuit, he was shot on Squaw Island in the Niagara River. This turned out to be Lettice. Patterson who was not with the gang at the time of the murder, was not tried, and Weaver died of tuberculosis.

Townsend himself was not heard of for a month after the murder of Nelles, but he was one evening recognized by a police officer in a tavern at Port Colborne. When the policeman attempted to put Townsend under arrest, Townsend shot him instantly, jumped into and swam the Welland Canal, and then made for Canfield on a grey horse which he had stolen from a pasture near Pt. Colborne. At Canfield, he found that his sister-in-law had just died and that the house was full of friends and neighbours. His very devoted family dressed him in his twin sister's clothes and put him in bed as if he were ill. The neighbors never realized that it was not the girl who was in bed. For weeks following this incident, Townsend lay concealed in a brother-in-law's strawstack in which the murderer lay concealed was prodded with watched all of the Townsend houses, and at one time the very strawstack in which the murderer lay concealed was prodded with bayonets. After the excitement calmed down, the family succeeded in getting him away and he was never again seen in the district.

The County Council on December 20th, 1854, voted £25 for extra constables who assisted in the search for the murders. The wooden gates on the gaol were replaced by iron



ones, and balls and chains were ordered for the prisoners. The County Council in 1856 paid rewards to several persons who were connected with the shooting of Lettice.

In 1857 the Nelles murder was again in the headlines with the arrest of a man in Cleveland who called himself McHenry but was claimed to be Townsend. Extradition proceedings were taken and he was lodged in Cayuga gaol. He appeared to be utterly indifferent to his fate, and a counsel had to be engaged with sympathizers. On September 27th he was charged with the murder of Nelles before Mr. Justice McLean. Mr. Smith, the Solicitor General for Canada, acted for the Crown, and Freeman of Hamilton assisted by Hart of Cayuga, appeared for the prisoner who pleaded "Not Guilty."

The first witness was Nelles' sister-in-law who was at the Nelles home at the time of the murder, had seen Townsend, and declared that the prisoner was the same man. Bryson and Brown were both brought from the penitentiary and swore that the man was the leader of the gang. One witness declared Townsend had a scar on the big toe of his right foot, and when the prisoner's shoe was removed in the Court Room, a similar scar was found. However, in contrast to this evidence, many people were present who declared that there was no resemblance between the prisoner and Townsend, that his eyes and hair were of a different colour, and that his stature was much different. The prisoner was finally released. Years later, it was reported that Townsend was working for a brother-in-law, James B. Smith, in a lumber camp in the north, but nothing was done about it.



ARTICLE XXVII

FERRIES AND BRIDGES ACROSS THE GRAND RIVER

The crossing of the Grand River made the building of roads in Haldimand difficult and expensive. While the River in the early days had been of inestimable value and assistance to the pioneers as a readymade outlet to the county beyond, with the opening of the county to settlement and building of roads, it proved indeed a serious obstacle.

The earliest and easiest method of crossing the Grand River was by means of boats. At a very early date there were a regular series of ferries linking the one bank with the other. There were ferries at Seneca Village, York, Indiana, Cayuga, Gifford's Ferry at Windecker, and at Dunnville. They were superseded by bridges and few facts concerning them have been preserved. Ferries were cumbersome and unhandy, toll was expensive, and they could only be



operated in the warmer months, so that a new era in transportation was inaugurated with the building of the bridges.

The first of the river bridges was at Dunnville, built by the Government on the petition of the citizens. The act granting £1250 for its erection, was passed on March 6th, 1834, and Alpheus St. John, William Milne, and George Thompson were named commissioners to look after it. The bridge apparently cost more than was anticipated, and three years later and additional £50 was granted to the commissioners in order that it might be completed. The bridge continued to be a toll way for a number of years, and the last toll house was erected in 1852.

Unlike the Dunnville Bridge, the earliest bridge at Cayuga was built by a private company incorporated on the petition of Marcus Blair, Edward M. Stewart, John Barnard, William Ford, George Holmes, Robert Griffin, Charles Blair, A. Stewart, Joseph Young and others. The company was to issue 400 shares of £6 5s each, and their tolls to be collected was not in any year to exceed 20% of the value of the stock, or to be more than 10% more than the toll collected on the Dunnville or Brantford bridges. A further stipulation was placed in the charter that the bridge was to contain a swing of 36 feet in length for the passage of boats, and a man was to be kept on the bridge at all times, to operate it. Each time that he failed to open the swing when a boat wished to go through, the company was fined £6 5s. This bridge was built one block north of where the present bridge stands. On the island in the centre of the river which it crossed, was erected a toll house kept by Barnard Duffy. This bridge was swept out in a flood, and in 1851 the County Council bought out the rights of the bridge company for £300 and immediately let a contract for the building of a new bridge.

At the same time that the County Council erected a new bridge at Cayuga, they erected a new toll house and sold to D. Meyers the privilege of collecting toll on the bridge in the year 1853 for £150. All went well until 1855 when two boats were sunk under the bridge, and as a result navigation was seriously obstructed. They were the steamboat Oxford and the scow Echo. When the Navigation Company failed to remove them, the Warden had the work done at a cost of £7 10s which was charged to the company. The new bridge was badly damaged in the flood of 1857 and completely washed out in 1861. The County Council started a ferry and built a foot bridge with a hand rail for pedestrians, but as a result of court action, they were compelled by a mandamus secured by the Village of Cayuga later in the year, to construct a new iron bridge.

The Cayuga Bridge Company set the fashion, and in 1840 a group of ambitious men in York were granted a charter for the York Bridge Company. These men were Warner Nelles, James Davis, William Ford, Robert Anderson, William Young, Charles Hannah, Richard Martin,



Peter B. Nelles, Robert Young and others. Their charter was identical with that given to the Cayuga Bridge Company. This bridge was later either scrapped or washed out, and a ferry was restarted and operated for a number of years until a county bridge was built.

There is no record of when the first bridge was built at the Village of Seneca. There was one crossing the river at that point in 1861, for in that year it was seriously damaged in the same flood which took out the Cayuga Bridge. The County Council gave \$200 to have it repaired. The bridge was apparently abandoned, possibly washed out in one of the numerous Grand River floods and never re-built because of the Caledonia Bridge.

The Hamilton and Port Dover Road Company in 1843 erected their first bridge at Caledonia, and continued to collect toll until 1874 when by act of Parliament the rights were taken over from the company and vested in the county, who proceeded to build a new bridge for \$22,500. \$400 was paid to the Navigation Company for the right to dispense with a swing in the new bridge since the company still held navigation rights on the river.

The bridges fostered a new unity among the people of the county, and were, like the early roads, a great boon to settlement.



ARTICLE XXVIII

EARLY POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS IN HALDIMAND PART I

From the earliest days the County of Haldimand has been noted for its stern political battles between the Grits and Tories who in Haldimand considered their political complexion to rank in almost the same category as their religion. On numerous occasions there have been election protests which have aroused county wide interest. Haldimand has several times been represented by cabinet ministers and once by the Speaker of the Ontario Legislature.

From the time of the organization of Upper Canada in 1791, until the year 1830 when the purchase of the County was made from the Six Nations, the County was divided up amongst the ridings of First and Fourth Lincoln and Norfolk. From shortly after the formation of the Province, there had been in many parts a steadily growing dislike against the Government as it was then constituted. Whether it was because of the broad rolling fields in the county which gave the effect of wide open spaces, or the proximity of the river, or characteristics of the people themselves, the people of Haldimand with a few notable exceptions irked and chaffed under the stern political set up and sympathized with the anti-government sympathizers.



Therefore it follows that most of the early representatives were Radicals such as Dr. John Rolph, member for Norfolk, who was in 1837 actively working and associating himself with the Revels. Little is known of the elections prior to 1830, but in Haldimand there was open balloting and the polls were kept open for several days, probably a week. With everyone knowing just how the election was going, it must have indeed been a very exciting time.

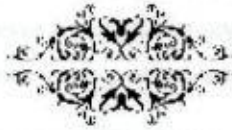
In the year 1830 a constituency called Haldimand was formed which consisted of the Indian lands along the Grand River. In the first election, John Brant, a son of the great Six Nations Chief, Joseph Brant, offered himself as a candidate and was opposed by Colonel Warren (or Warner) of Fort Erie who had been induced to run by Benjamin Hoover of Rainham. Brant was declared duly elected, but Warren protested election since no one but a freeholder had a right to vote, and practically all of Brant's supporters were Butler Rangers or people to whom Butler Rangers had sold their properties. Their titles were in the nature of 999 year leases. At the time, a life lease was considered a free hold, but a committee of Parliament who investigated the matter declared that a 999 year lease was not a freehold and as a result Brant was unseated after sitting in Parliament for 12 days. Warren took his place but both men died in the cholera epidemic in 1832.

Following the death of Colonel Warren, his place was taken by William Hamilton Merritt who defeated Edward Evans in the by-election of 1832. Merritt also defeated Capt. John DeCew at the General Election held in 1836 and Hezekiah Davis of Dunnville at the General Election of 1840. William Hamilton Merritt was one of the prominent men in the central part of Upper Canada at the time. He had been instrumental in the founding of the Welland Canal Company and for many years skillfully managed its affairs. At one time he was accused by William Lyon MacKenzie of misappropriating certain funds of the canal company, which caused certain lively correspondence to be interchanged between the two gentlemen. Capt. John DeCew whom Merritt defeated in 1832, was the father of the first Warden of Haldimand County and himself of United Empire Loyalist stock. His exploits in the War of 1812 have been told before. From his imprisonment during the war he is said to have escaped a living skeleton.

At all of the elections in which Merritt participated, the polls were kept open for a week and the polling place for the booths were opened in the Townships when time for voting was restricted to two days. There may have been voting in some of the villages prior to that date. During Merritt's election against Davis, one of the candidates placed a barrel of whisky outside of the polling booth with a cup so that all who wished might drink. An Indian who scorned to drink from a cup stuck his head in the barrel and was drinking when a drunken wag passed by, took him by the heels, and drowning his squeals plunged the Indian to the bottom. Another



man, not approving of the Indian flavour of the liquor, turned the whole barrel over and the contents flowed merrily down the street.



ARTICLE XXIX

EARLY POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS IN HALDIMAND PART II

William Hamilton Merritt finally chose to leave Haldimand to run for parliament against George Ryckert of St. Catharines. David Thompson, Sr. took his place. The election was held in April of 1841, and was the first election after the union of Upper and Lower Canada. Thompson was the first of a family of politicians to be elected as Member of Parliament for Haldimand. Subsequently, his son David Thompson, Jr., and his grandson, Col. Andrew Thompson, were members. His great grandson, Major Drew Thompson, became Knight of the Black Rod at Ottawa. Thompson in 1841 was elected over Edward Evans of Rainham and William Fitch of Canboro. Cayuga was at that election for the first time a polling place and the election went on for a week with open voting. Thompson in 1844 was elected by acclamation, but in 1848 was opposed by James Boulton and a Mr. Fraser who ran in the interests of the white settlers on lands which had not yet been taken over by the Government from the Indians. Thompson was again an easy winner. He died in 1851 and a by-election was necessary.

The By-election of 1851 was the introduction to Haldimand politics of a man who was four times elected as its member, the fiery little rebel of 1837, William Lyon Mackenzie. Mackenzie had been long casting about for a seat in Parliament, and it is said that he was campaigning in Haldimand before Thompson's funeral. He at first did not name himself as a candidate, but merely announced in his handbills that he would address the electors on the political issues of the day. Sir Francis Hicks, the government leader, wanted George Brown, the editor of his own paper, the "Globe", as a candidate, and the question was how to get him to offer himself as a candidate. A requisition addressed to Brown was prepared and circulated for signature. Jacob Turner of Seneca, a prominent mill owner, was already in the field on the same ticket, and the powers that were did not know how to get rid of him. Finally a convention of the Reform Party was called with a representation from each township voting, and to withdraw, but everyone believed that the real race would be between George Brown and the Conservative, Ranald McKinnon of Caledonia.

McKinnon, not being a speaker, could do little on the stump, whereas Brown was formidable. The people greatly enjoyed hearing Mackenzie on the platform and came in large



numbers to hear him attack George Brown in his witty and sarcastic way throughout that famous campaign. It is related that Mackenzie, who had no organization, attended one of Brown's meetings held in a barn, and asked Brown if he might be permitted to speak after he, Brown, had concluded his remarks. Brown consented after Mackenzie gave an assurance that there would be no interruption on his part, but asked that the same courtesy be extended when he came to speak. Brown spoke for three long uninterrupted hours, but Mackenzie had not been on his feet five minutes before Brown jumped up. Mackenzie sat down, remarking that he thought Brown was through, but if he wasn't, he could wait. Brown seemed ashamed but could not keep still, and continued his interruptions. During one of them, a calf tied in the barn started to bleat. Then Mackenzie turned to Brown and said, "I protest against this, one at a time please." Years later Ranald McKinnon admitted that his party had used Mackenzie to fight Brown, but their mistake was in using him too much. They overdid it and Mackenzie was elected by a small majority over McKinnon, and Brown did not get a look in as far as votes were concerned.

The general election in Ontario followed closely on the heels of the By-elections in the same year, 1851, between Christmas and the New Year. Horatio Nelson Case, who afterwards became postmaster in Hamilton, and Ranald McKinnon, opposed Mackenzie. Case ran on the Reform ticket, and at the Reform convention when chosen had the show of hands, but only polled 52 votes in the whole county, while Mackenzie was elected by a majority of 228 over McKinnon. McKinnon once more sought election in the county in July 1854. The election was in harvest time, and the people were not much concerned with the political issues although Mackenzie tried to stir up trouble over Clergy Reserves, and certain misappropriation of Clergy Reserve resources. The poll was small but Mackenzie had a majority of about 50. Mackenzie's fourth campaign in Haldimand was conducted in the general election of January, 1858. At his election there were six candidates in the field, Mackenzie, McKinnon, Amsden, Wm. DeCew, Cook of South Cayuga, and James Little of Caledonia. Before polling day McKinnon withdrew at the request of Isaac Buchanan of Hamilton. From that time on the Conservatives concentrated on Amsden, but Mackenzie was elected by a small majority. Later in the year, Mackenzie who was by this time an old man, resigned his seat.

The By-election after Mackenzie's resignation was held in the fall of 1858 when Michael Harcourt for the Reform party ran against Samuel Amsden for the Conservatives. The fight was very bitter. Harcourt won by a majority of 60, but Amsden protested the election and the protest was heard by a committee of Parliament. The evidence was taken before Judge Stevenson in Cayuga. The committee of the house comprised Tait and Roblin for the Conservatives, and Rymal and Patrick, Liberals. R.W. Scott of the Scott Act fame, who was at the time a supporter of Sir. John A. MacDonald, but later a member of the Laurier Government and



a senator, was the Chairman of the committee. The trial lasted for three years during which time Scott as Chairman gave 140 casting votes, and three weeks before the House dissolved for another election, Scott brought in a report that Harcourt was duly elected.

The last election before Confederation was held in the year 1863. In that campaign, David Thompson, Jr., the son of the David Thompson who was member from 1841 to 1851, was elected over Lachlin McCallum of Stromness. This ended the political battles in old Haldimand County before Confederation. After that time there were both Provincial and Dominion members and the electoral district of Monck was formed, changing the set up in county elections.



ARTICLE XXX

LIFE IN THE 1850'S – THE AMUSEMENT WORLD

The advertisements in the early issues of "The Caledonia Advertiser" (a forerunner of 'The Sachem') give a remarkably clear idea of everyday life at the time of the formation of Haldimand County. The ads are many and varied. There are straightforward announcements by physicians, lawyers and fire insurance companies which are but little changed from those appearing today. In other columns the picture is quite different. Quoted verbatim, these other notices present a graphic story.

What have the movies and baseball or hockey games replaced? Several things – three circuses visited Caledonia during the season of 1856. The circus bills printed in the local paper give a fair idea of these attractions.

WAIT FOR MY WAGON

JIM MYER'S

GREAT SHOW!

The only recognizable show of the age, including the

GRAND CINDERELLA EXHIBITION

Performed by Twenty-four children in Full Costume.

DAVIS RICHARDS!

"The Wizard Horseman' and the Greatest Rider in the World! The most popular and unexceptional Public Entertainments are given in this country and the only amusement now attended and refined and respectable audiences. Something entirely new, Original, Brilliant and Diversified.

Jim Myers will hold up his horses at



CALEDONIA, SEPT. 19TH.

Doors open at 1 ½ and 6 ½ P.M. Performance to start at 2 and 7 o'clock.

Admission – 25 cents to Boxes; to Reserved seats 50 cents; children to reserved seats, half price.

Many marvelous attractions are listed among them the following:-

The Great Scientific Discovery of the Age. The laws of Gravitation Suspended by Jim Myers who will Walk over a Ceiling Feet Up and Head Down, on a polished surface, with no other apparatus than a pair of smooth Sandals, without any trick or deception whatever. There is to be a Gratuitous Outside Exhibition

THE CAR OF BEAUTY!

And should the weather permit a Terrific Ascension upon a single elastic wire.

BY A LADY, MADMOISELLE LOUISA

Will be made outside the Pavilian to a height of fifty feet from the ground.

Another entertainment billed for August 5th of the same year consisted of "TWO GREAT CIRCUSES IN ONE MONSTER EXHIBITION." The attractions of this show were:

Five Lady Equestrians,

Three Great Clowns,

Two troupes of Talented Horses and Two Studs of Performing Horses and Ponies.

Educated Ponies named Romeo, Juliet, Shellback, Black Hawk, January, Young America, Black Cadet and Beeswing.

Great Pantomime entitled "MISER OF BAGHDAD"

Of course three circuses in one year was scarcely enough entertainment for even the most conservative stay-at-home, so Cayuga organized a gigantic lottery where three of the prizes were lots in that fair village. On the first prize lot was erected a house to the value of £350. Cayuga, as the county seat, seems to have also aspired to the finer things of life – they had a performance of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by a travelling company later in the year. Caledonia people were urged to attend.

If there was simply no other amusement to be had, the men of the family could always heed the gracious invitation in the following advertisement:-

EXCELSIOR SALOON

Argyle Street, Caledonia

The undersigned begs most respectfully to announce to the citizens of Caledonia and vicinity that he has leased the above saloon and fitted it up in perfect order, and is now prepared to furnish all those who may favour him with a call the very best samples of

OYSTERS, LOBSTERS, SARDINES, SALMON, Etc.

His wines, Liquors, etc. are also of the first Brands. Persons who may be disposed to patronize this Saloon will find everything to please the most fastidious, and at the most reasonable charges.



Caledonia, March 18, 1856

H.N. Chapman.

Hagersville annually had a celebration in which the desire to provide recreation seems to have been mingled with a feeling of self-righteousness. They may have found the day's outing necessary to counter-act the influence of the fourteen hotels lining the Plank Road between Caledonia and Hamilton.

GRAND CELEBRATION

The Annual Temperance Celebration will be held at
HAGERSVILLE

On the Hamilton and Port Dover Plank Road, on Friday, the 13th June, 1856, to
commence at Twelve o'clock noon, on which occasion

THE GOOD TEMPLARS

WILL APPEAR IN FULL REGALIA

Distinguished Speakers will be present and address the Company. A BRASS BAND
will be in attendance. Dinner will be served at 3 o'clock P.M.

The Committee are making arrangements for a large gathering and no pains will
be spared to make the occasion worthy of the patronage of the public.

Entertainment being the chief object, only 25 cents each, for tickets will be
charged – Children under 14 years of age half price.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE.

Hagersville, May 19, 1856.

But if Caledonia had other faults, at least it was patriotic. This is the programme planned
by the Caledonia citizens for the celebration of the Queen's Birthday in a truly worthy manner:

QUEENS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

In CALEDONIA, on Saturday, 24th May, 1856.

The Birthday of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, will be celebrated in
the Village of Caledonia, on the 24th inst., when the public are respectfully
invited to attend and participate in the amusements of the day. The following is
the program for the occasion:

A ROYAL SALUTE AT SUN-RISE

At 12 O'Clock a Salute of 21 Guns.

At Two o'clock the sports will commence as follows:

1 st , Throwing Hammer, 8 lbs.	1 st Prize \$4.
	2 nd Prize 2.
2 nd , Throwing Hammer, 12 lbs.	1 st Prize 4.
	2 nd Prize 2.
3 rd , Throwing Ball, 18 lbs.	1 st Prize 4.
	2 nd Prize 2.
4 th , Throwing Ball, 4 lbs.	1 st Prize 4.
	2 nd Prize 2.
5 th , Throwing 56 lbs. Weight	1 st Prize 4.
	2 nd Prize 2.



- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 6 th Throwing 28 lbs. Weight | 1 st Prize 4. |
| | 2 nd Prize 2. |
| 7 th Running Hop, Step and Jump | 1 st Prize 4. |
| | 2 nd Prize 2. |
| 8 th , Standing Jump | 1 st Prize 3. |
| | 2 nd Prize 1.50 |
| 9 th , Foot Race, 200 yards, 3 hurdles | 1 st Prize 4. |
| 10 th , 100 yard foot race, 50 yards and turn a stake | 4. |
| 11 th Sack Race | 1 st Prize 4. |
| 12 th , Wheelbarrow Race, blindfold | 1 st Prize 2. |
| 13 th Climbing greased pole for a purse of | 5. |
| 14 th , Catching greased pig | Prize: The Pig |
| 15 th Grinning through a horse collar | \$1 |

With various other Games.

At eight o'clock in the evening there will be a magnificent display of:

FIRE WORKS

On the Market Square, after which will be sent up several brilliantly lighted

BALOONS.

A Brass Band will be in Attendance.

By order of the Committee.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

Caledonia, May 8, 1856.



ARTICLE XXXI

LIFE IN THE 1850S – FOR FARMERS AND OTHERS

In looking at life of a century ago, we find the weekly newspaper even then designed with a definite eye on the rural subscriber. Market reports take a prominent place. Changes are quoted in the London and New York prices of farm products, obtained by fast sailing ship and the latest electric telegraph. The following is a sample of a local market report:

THE MARKETS

Caledonia, Dec. 24, 1856.

Flour, per bbl.	\$7.50
Flour, per 100	3.50
Wheat, per bushel	1.25
Oats, per bushel	.45
Potatoes, per bushel	1.00
Butter, per lb.	.31



Eggs, per dozen	.25
Hay, per ton	12.00

The flail for threshing grain was passing out of use. It was being replaced by the early threshing machines. John Scott manufactured threshers, and placed an advertisement in the local paper setting out the virtues of his machines.

THRESHING MACHINES

The subscribers in returning thanks for past favours, beg to state that they still have on hand a number of

THRESHING MACHINES

Which they will sell on the most favourable terms. They are every day receiving communications attesting the efficiency of these machines. Read the following from Wm. DeCew, Esq., Decewsville, a gentleman well known in the county.

John Scott & Co.,

Caledonia Foundry & Iron Works.

August 19, 1856.

Messrs. John Scott & Co.,

Caledonia Foundry.

GENTS – To-day I have tested the merits of the four-horse power Threshing Machine which I purchased of you, and am happy to say that as regards its general arrangements, capability, and efficiency, it has performed to my entire satisfaction. It threshes clean and quite fast enough.

Your Ob't Serv't,
WM. DECEW.

The wasting of the forests in Haldimand during the 1840s and 1850s was deplored by many. The ashes of the timber burned in clearing land was a staple marketable commodity. The farmers sold them to James Aldridge of Caledonia for the making of soap.

SAVE YOUR ASHES

Wanted by the Subscriber, at the Caledonia SOAP & CANDLE Factory, Hard Wood Ashes.

JAMES ALDRIDGE
Near the Railway.

Caledonia, Oct. 29, 1856.

With an eye to the farmer's business, the local drug store inserted the following advertisement in early September of 1856:

CALEDONIA SHOW AND FAIR

All persons desirous of carrying off the Prizes at the above show should call at once at

JOHN ROPER'S DRUG STORE IN CALEDONIA

And purchase a packet of his alternative and Condition Powders, which will fetch up a horse into condition and give him a silky glossy coat, quicker than any other medicine known.



JOHN ROPER,
Chemist and Druggist

Argyle Street, Caledonia

Then of course the farmer's wife had to come to town with her husband to buy the week's provisions. The emphasis in groceries is on varieties of sugar, tea, coffee, spice and the like. Little mention is made of meat except for Special Christmas and New Year beef. No vegetables are named at all. Here are two sample grocery offerings:

HENRY & SINCLAIR

Have just received a supply of fresh Groceries consisting in part of Sugars; Black and Green Teas; Coffee, Green, Roasted and Ground; Plain and Mixed Pickles; Mushroom Ketchup.

Also a choice assortment of PATENT MEDICINES.

ON HAND AND FOR SALE BY THE SUBSCRIBER

Syrup; Molasses; Burning Fluid; Oils; Vinegar; Window Glass; Putty; Peppermint; L. Syrup; Teas: Sugars, Granulated, Pulverized, Crushed; Porto Rico Tobaccos; Currants; Raisins; Coffees; Spices; Pickles and sauces; Dried Apples; Corn Meat; Hominy; Rice; Barley; Oatmeal; Hickory Nuts; Almonds; Brooms; Sperm Candles; Stoneware; Pearl China; Clocks; Buffalo Robes; Table Codfish; No. 1 Mackerel; Provisions; Lemons; Martell's Brandy 10 years old; Hennessey's Scotch Whisky; Canadian Whisky; Port and Sherry; Champagne.

GLASSWARE; CROCKERY; CHINA; STATIONARY

The above goods have been purchased in the best markets, and will be sold at CITY PRICES.

DRY GOODS; READY MADE CLOTHING; HARDWARE.

Will continue to be sold at COST PRICES.

W. McPherson.

Caledonia, 16th Dec., 1856.

There seemed to be no end to the varieties of patent medicines and pills offered by many quacks. Each claimed to have a sovereign remedy, ready to renew the youth of the most ancient and decrepit after the second dose. Perhaps they were needed to counteract the ills of the imprudent who had lingered too long over this advertisement:

WHISKY!

Scotch,

Irish

Cobourg

Old Rye,

Monongahela,

Ritchie, Ford & Co's., Simcoe,

Kirkland's Indiana,

Mussen's, Indiana,

Bunnel's, Brantford.



For Sale by,

SCOTT & CLARK.

Finally in this resume of things for sale, there is a note which foretells the end of the age of candlelight and the beginning of the age of that marvellous invention, the kerosene lamp.

LIGHT! LIGHT!

For sale at the Chequered Store, that highly desirable light Rosen Oil which for brilliancy, convenience and economy, is unsurpassed by any other article now in use. It has been for many years in use in the United States where it has almost superseded the use of candles, being cheaper and entirely free from smoke or grease, and warranted to give satisfaction wherever used.

Also a fine supply of neat Glass Lamps.

John Alexander.

Caledonia, Feb. 14th, 1856.



ARTICLE XXXII

LIFE IN THE 1850S – MOSTLY FOR THE LADIES

The clothes for the house party, box social or other entertainment during the week, and for best at church on Sunday, were chosen by the ladies a hundred years ago with no less discrimination than by the present generation. The more elaborate fashion and greater amount of material then necessary to make a dress, may have made a proportionately greater amount of care imperative to achieve that "smart" appearance. If the "ready-made article" was acceptable, the place to go was Neil McKinnon's store.

BALL DRESSES!

A splendid assortment just received by –

NEIL MCKINNON.

Many a "Miss" or "Mrs." Preferred to have her dress made, and for this she had a considerable variety of materials from which to choose, but how many of them can be to-day recognized?

NEW SPRING GOODS!

At the

FREE TRADE HOUSE

Viz

NEW SILKS

Black Moire Antique
Black Gross de Nape
Colored Shot Glace
Checked and Striped do
New Shawls

NEW SEWED GOODS

Collars.
Chimizettes
Habit Shirts
Sleeves
Flouncings



Long French, filled
Long Paisley Brocha
Long Barege
Long Cashmere
White Coloured
Canton Crepe

Insertions, Etc.
New Parasols
In B'lk Brown Slate,
Drab and Fancy
New bonnets, plain
And fancy.

All of which will be sold cheap.

Henry and Sinclair.

The logical way to get a really superb creation in the latest European fashion, was to take the selected material to Mrs. Naylor who several times inserted the following in the "Caledonia Advertiser":

MILLINERY AND DRESSMAKING ESTABLISHMENT

(Nearly opposite Dr. Whicher's Argyle St.)

Mrs. Naylor begs respectfully to invite the attention of the Ladies of Caledonia and the neighbourhood, to her specimens of Millinery, etc. Also to intimate that she is prepared to receive orders in Dress-Making, Mantillas, etc. which long experience in one of the first cities in England will enable her to execute in the very first style.

Caledonia, April 29, 1856.

Of course if milady could find nothing fine enough in Caledonia, she could take the stage coach for a day's outing to Hamilton where the "Emporium" on James St. North sold the latest imported New York dresses and hats.

Farm women who spun their own wool to be later woven into cloth for the making of dresses or blankets, would be interested in the following advertisement put in by Buck's:

DYE STUFFS

Madder, Blue Vitrol, Madder Compound, Coperas, Extract of Logwood, Nickwood, Camwood, Indigo, Indigo Compound, Etc. Every article warranted pure and of the best quality. For sale at Buck's Drug and Book Store, Caledonia.

The mere male must have bought suits at very infrequent intervals to judge by the sparse notices dealing with men's clothing. Both sexes, once they were properly attired for the ball, were cautioned against those perennial scourges, B.O., and Halitosis. Then, as now, the remedies were readily available. The following are admirable solutions to the problems:

BATHS! BATHS!

The Subscribers would respectfully inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of Caledonia that they have fitted up, and have now in perfect order, a BATH HOUSE where they can give all the comforts of a cool and comfortable bath. A female will always be in attendance to wait upon Ladies who may need her assistance. The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited.

Jackson and Fant.

Caledonia, July 21, 1856.



BALM OF A THOUSAND FLOWERS

A Perfumed Breath – What lady or gentleman would remain under the curse of a disagreeable breath, when by using the “Balm of a Thousand Flowers” as a dentifrice, would not only render it sweet, but leave the teeth white as alabaster? Many persons do not know their breath is bad, and the subject is so delicate their friends will never mention it. Pour a single drop of the balm on your tooth-brush and wash the teeth night and morning. A fifty-cent bottle will last a year. A beautiful complexion may easily be acquired by using the “Balm of a Thousand Flowers.” It will remove tan, pimples and freckles from the skin, leaving it a soft roseate hue. Wet a towel, pour on two or three drops, and was the face night and morning. Shaving made easy – Wet your shaving brush in either warm or cold water, pour on two or three drops of “Balm of a Thousand Flowers”, rub the beard well, and it will make a beautiful soft lather, much facilitating the operation of shaving. Price only Fifty Cents. For sale at A.C. Buck’s Book and Drug Store.

There is a strong suspicion that one lady’s head was somewhat turned as a result of all the attention she had received because of her fine clothes and admirable grooming. Her subsequent actions were such that this insertion was necessary;-

CAUTION

This is to forbid all persons from harbouring or trusting my wife CATHARINE, she having left me without just cause or provocation, I shall therefore pay no debts of her contracting after this date.

JAMES MANN.

Seneca, May 1st, 1856.



ARTICLE XXXIII

LIFE IN THE 1850S – THIS AND THAT

To conclude the survey of advertisements appearing in “The Caledonia Advertiser”, there are several references to travel. It is noted that a timetable on the newly completed Buffalo and Goderich Railway running through Caledonia, was published. An editorial states that work had at last begun on the Hamilton and Port Dover line and Caledonia was envisaged as a metropolitan city of the very near future. One of the difficulties in railway schedules is that standard time zones were not yet established – Buffalo time, for example, was about twelve minutes faster than Hamilton time. No mention is made of the Grand River Navigation Company; it was always in financial difficulty and probably couldn’t afford to advertise.

The stage coach companies were still in operation, and it is presumed that their activities were so well known as to not require ads. In fact, travelling by stage coach must have



been quite a pleasant business if all hotel keepers took as many pains to look after travellers as the following would indicate:

NORTH AMERICAN HOTEL

By Land Hughson

York, Grand River, C.W.

The undersigned would beg to intimate to his friends, and the travelling public that he has moved into this well-known House, and furnished and fitted it up in style to accommodate them as well as they can be in any similar establishment on the River. His TABLE is always supplied with all the substantials and delicacies of the season and his WINES AND LIQUORS are of the choicest kinds. No pains will be spared to make the sojourn of his guests both pleasant and agreeable. Commodious stables are connected with the Hotel, and an attentive Hostler is always on hand. The Stages running between Caledonia and Cayuga call at this hotel daily.

York, Nov. 1856.

Land Hughson.

Then of course a perennial problem imported from the other side of the Atlantic, has been the matter of a proper school for your child. Trustees advertised for "common" school teachers, but if you had any aspirations, there were select schools in the village, not under the supervision of the trustees and undoubtedly much superior. Presumably for older students who wished to improve their status in society were the evening classes at Slater's Cottage.

EVENING CLASSES

William T. Hecks begs respectfully to inform his friends and the public that he intends on opening an Evening School for Teaching Writing, Arithmetic, Etc., to be at his residence at Slater's Cottage, and to commence on Monday Evening, October 10th, 1856. Hours from 7 to 9. Terms made known on Application. Caledonia Nov. 5, 1856.

However as a sure guarantee that your children would emerge as ladies and gentlemen, they really should be sent to Miss Mead's establishment.

SELECT SCHOOL

Mrs. Helen M. Mead would respectfully inform the inhabitants of Caledonia and vicinity, that she will reopen her SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, on Monday, January 5th, 1857, and would ask the patronage of the public. She would also state that she has furnished herself with a PIANO and is now prepared to give Lessons to a limited number of Pupils. Having spared no efforts to fit herself to TEACH PIANO MUSIC she feels confident that she can give the best satisfaction. Terms made known on application, at her residence, Slater's Cottage, near McKinnon's Mills.

Caledonia, Dec. 8, 1856.

For higher learning, lengthy notices extolled the virtues of the business colleges of Buffalo where accounting and penmanship were the principal subjects.



Miss Mead's piano lessons were timely, for already New York firms were advertising the latest in Harmoniums and Pianos. The Piano had not replaced the fiddle as a popular musical instrument. Buck's consistently announced each week that they had a stock of violin strings for sale.

In 1866 the latest topic of conversation was the Crimean War. While John Roper's Drug and Book Store advertised the latest novels of Mrs. H.B. Stowe who had made her name with Uncle Tom's Cabin, A. McGregor ran the following timely notice:

Complete History of the RUSSIAN WAR.

Being a complete and reliable History of the war from its commencement to its close. All the accounts being from eye witnesses, and participants in the scenes described. Illustrations with SEVENTY ENGRAVINGS include a large COLOURED MAP OF THE SEAT OF WAR. Also a BEAUTIFUL CHART drawn by an artist eight months in the Crimea. The work is printed on fine paper – large octavo – of over 200 pages, including the Engravings, and is handsomely and durably bound in embossed covers, with strong springbacks, extra glit, and furnished to subscribers at \$1.50 per copy. I am the only authorized agent for this book, in the County of Haldimand, of whom may be got all the other popular publications of the day.

Caledonia, August 26, 1856.

A. McGregor.

From quoting these advertisements it is hoped that a clearer picture has been presented of life of the "modern" people of Haldimand in the 1850s – how they amused themselves and dressed, what they read, how they travelled and what they bought. In a hundred years time, the advertisements of the 1950s will have the same fascination.



ARTICLE XXXIV

EARLY HALDIMAND COUNTY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The minutes of the early County Council meetings record the growth and development of Haldimand. The following paragraphs deal with some of the highlights taken from the first thirty years of council meetings.

The first Haldimand County Council meeting was held on January 27th, 1851, with Edmund DeCew in the Chair as Warden. He was voted a salary of £40 per year. Other officials appointed at the same time were John G. Stevenson as Clerk at £60 per year (he having replaced Robt. V. Griffiths, the acting clerk). Agnew P. Farrell, Reeve of Dunn, resigned to take the post of County Treasurer, for which he received a salary of £65, together with candles, postage and stationary. D. Dexter was named Superintendent of Schools for Lincoln, Welland and Haldimand.



At this first County Council meeting, the County Seal was adopted. It was to depict "a steamboat with figures 1850 being thereunder encircled by these words: 'Municipal Council of the County of Haldimand'". The diameter was to be one and a half inches. The steamboat was no doubt intended to show the importance of the river as a navigable waterway, and we do not know to whom we are indebted for the idea.

With the added dignity of Cayuga as the County Town, the government was petitioned to give it a post office as there was no post office nearer than Indiana. The County Council voted £200 for County Roads in 1851 and offered the owners of the Cayuga Bridge £300 for that structure. The company refused the offer at that time but accepted it late in the year. At the meeting of Dec. 1st, a tender was let to Joseph Brown for its rebuilding on condition that work be completed before Oct. 15th, 1852. A new toll house was erected on the bridge and when completed the council let the privileges of collecting tolls to D. Myers for £150 per year.

Building of the County Buildings was finished in 1851 and they were then insured for £3000. In the following year the Council had Wm. H. Pyne build a wooden fence with iron gates around the gaol yard. It appears the gates did not follow specifications because in 1854 wooden gates were replaced by iron ones at the time the Townsend Gang murdered Nelles. The same year the sheriff was authorized to procure sufficient balls and chains for prisoners sentenced to hard labour in gaol from Scott and McKinnon of Caledonia for £8|7|4. In 1859 the Gaoler was authorized to purchase a dozen Bibles for the use of the prisoners.

1876 was the year of a famous trial, that of the Youngs for the murder of Abel McDonald of Oneida. The prisoners escaped following the trial but were recaptured and one was hung on June 21 while the other was committed to life imprisonment. However, on June 2nd the Gaoler resigned because of the escape and at the County Council meeting of October 16th, stone walls were ordered to be built together with a gaoler's residence. \$12,000 was paid to Mellish and Sons for the work, and until completed the prisoners were moved to Simcoe.

So many travelling shows visited the County that the Council found it necessary to have some check on them. Accordingly in 1859, a County Licensing By-law was passed whereby the following license fees were charged various entertainers: Circuses \$30; Wild Animal Shows \$20; Side Shows \$6; Exhibits of Wax Figures \$4; Puppet Shows \$4; Rope Dancing \$4; Jugglers \$10; Mountebanks \$10; Common Showmen \$10.

The Council didn't seem to have been too kindly disposed towards amusements generally because on April 24th, 1865, they passed a by-law prohibiting horse racing in Haldimand County.

Much of the work of the County Councils dealt with roads. A grant of £200 was made for County Roads in 1852 but the ratepayers refused to ratify an amount as large as that. A resolution was presented for curbing of immoderate riding and driving over certain county roads. From 1853 Church-goers were exempted from the paying of toll on the Sabbath. Three years later the council decided to subscribe for not more than one-third of the capital stock of a company being formed to build a good road from the Norfolk County line to Cayuga on the



route of the present Number 3 Highway. The legislature was petitioned in 1863 to compel the owners of the Port Dover-Hamilton Plank Road to repair it because of its dangerous condition.

Bridges across the Grand River were a continual headache to the County Council since they were washed away in spring freshets on numerous occasions. Cayuga Bridge was taken out in 1857 and again in 1863. An iron bridge was completed there May 31, 1872. The bridge at Seneca Village was carried away in 1858 and 1861. On the later date the county granted £200 towards its repair. This bridge appears to have lasted until 1874 when a new bridge was built at Caledonia for \$22,500. \$400 was paid to the Grand River Navigation Company for the relinquishment of their rights to have a swing bridge included in the new structure. Navigation had by that time practically ceased.

The early County Council minutes mention two official visits. H.R.H the Prince of Wales (Edward VII) visited Dunnville on June 14th, 1860, and Lord Dufferin as Governor-General, was entertained at Dean's Station on July 28th, 1874. Another minute of the council records that a message of condolence was sent to Mrs. George Brown after the shooting of her husband in the Globe offices.

Official notice was taken by the council of crop failures in Oneida, Seneca and North Cayuga in 1858. No relief seems to have been paid to the local farmers, but in 1862 the county gave \$1000 to British relief, and in 1868 \$200 for the relief of Nova Scotia fishermen and \$300 for relief in the Red River settlement.

In a flurry of patriotic fervour after the Fenian Raids, each volunteer was given a donation of \$6.00 for the county. A Battalion drill shed was erected in York at a cost of \$1600 and other drill sheds in Caledonia, Ballsville, Hullsville, Mt. Healy and Cheapside.

The minutes dealing with the incorporation of the different Haldimand Villages are of some interest. They were passed as follows:

June 16, 1859 – Cayuga incorporated as a Village.

Dec. 20, 1859 – Dunnville incorporated as a Village.

Dec. 20, 1883 – Selkirk incorporated as a Police Village.

June 3, 1884 – By-law to incorporate Hagersville as a Village, quashed and passed in the following year.

There are a few other scattered items of interest. In 1862 a by-law was passed whereby the County refused to accept American silver in payment of taxes. The County purchased 30 cords of hard greenwood, birch or maple, at \$1.87 per cord in 1867. Richard Harcourt was named first County Public School Inspector on June 22, 1871, and was succeeded by Clark Moses later. Michael Foley of Simcoe was named Judge in 1853 and John G. Stevenson in 1855. A By-law to erect a House of Providence was passed in 1865 but apparently was not acted on until 1908. The by-law for the building of the Registry Office was passed in 1868. 1857 saw an invitation to Caistor Township to join the county but they declined to do so. Other by-laws tell of the interest of the Councils in the building of railways. Railway expansion seemed to symbolize the whole trend of the period – the pioneer period of the isolated settler was finally



Something has been said of the early road building, but not the development of the modern highways that carry more traffic in a single day than did the old Plank Road in a month or possibly a year. There is no mention of the story of the fishing industry along the Lake Erie shore, or the knitting mills, gypsum plant, or other manufacturing being done in the county. You have read of the reaper and the early threshing machines – the story of the coming of the combine and tractor and all of the symbols of modern agriculture has not been told.

Possibly the most fitting way to complete this series is to quote some figures on Haldimand of 1950 as they have been recently published. I quote:

"Haldimand County, essentially an agricultural County, contains 280,453 acres of assessed land. Of this 249,323 acres are cleared, and there are 92,253 acres of pasture (including 42,000 acres of seeded pasture). Livestock figures include 36,044 head of cattle, valued at \$4,199,100; 5,988 horses, valued at \$758,900; 26,746 swine worth \$906,700; and the poultry population is 650,499 with a value of \$770,200. Total butter production in 1949 was \$1,211,179.80 (based at 60 cents per pound) and the total egg production (estimated) 4,687,500 dozen valued at \$1,406,250. Field crop values were \$5,364,000 broken down as follows: Fall wheat 25,800 acres – value \$1,328,700; oats 42,100 acres – value \$1,347,200; barley, 1650 acres – value \$54,000; mixed grains 83,000 acres – value \$293,300; alfalfa 26,800 acres – value \$949,600; hay and clover, 41,500 acres – value \$893,300."

