Grafton Historical Notes

Py T. R. M

has in his possession a rare volume of sin; thek favourite ditties, and lookof Aaron Haynes Hard", written by gla see vailed, more than anything Joseph Holdich A.M. and published else makes the landsmen's heart to has kindly allowed the writer to ex-' amine this book and to extract from it the following notes:

Aaron Hurd was born in Bennington County, Vermont, in 1813. In to the State of New York. 1822 his father moved to Fredericksburg, and after a stay of two years moved again to the Township of Reach to hew himself a new home in the forest. Mr. Hurd's property was in a territory occupied by the Chippewa Indians and young Aaron graw much interested in a neighbouring tribe, who in 1827 were converted to Christianity through the ministrations of the Methodist Church. About the same time Aaron himself experienced conversion and although only missionary teacher at the Methodist Missions to the Scugog and Mud Lake Indians.

In 1880 he was employed in teaching the Indians at Rice Lake. As his biographer states: "Having gone among these untained people purely to do them good, he immediately began to conciliate their friendship and confidence. He hunted and fished with them; like them he slept upon the ground in a blanket, and partook of their fare, - - - when he left them, it is said, he was more familiar with Chippeway than with English."

The following extracts are from a letter written at "Rice Lake, Feb. 15, 1831." They reflect the difficulties of travel in these early days:

"Dear Father: -- Through the mercles of God I arrived here on Saturday evening. I was disappointed in getting down in the the stage, it being so full. But I happened to find a

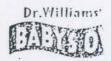
The Rev. P. H. Neville of Centreton less and hardy, forget to curse and to "The Westeyan Student; or, Memoirs ed in each other with the significant in New York in 1841. Mr. Neville qual." However, the storm abated and after stopping at Kingston he discubarked at Prescott and procured a drunken Irishman and a Frenchmar to convey him over the river in-

A'ter a brief term in Potsdam he returned to Canada, taught school for a winter at Whitby and once more went back to the United States where he entered the Onelda Conference Seminary at Cazenovia, New York, Later he took further training at an institution in Middletown, Connecti-Never vigorous in health he was taken ill at Middletown and died in October, 1836, aged 23 years.

Apart from the few scattered references to his experiences in the fifteen years old was employed as a Newcastle District a century ago, no part of the "Memoirs" is more interesting than Mr. Hurd's "Report the Indian Missions in Canada". this report he sketches from 1823 on the result of the labours of the Methodist missionaries among the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and | Grand River, the Mississaugas, the Delawares and Chippewas of Munceyville and the tribes at Port Credit, Belleville, Grape Island, Smoke Island Lake Simcoe, Kingston, Lake Scugog, Mud Lake and Rice Lake, regarding the latter place he writes: It was in this year (1827) that the mission was established atRice Lake under the care of Miss Barns, now Mrs. Case, and Mr. Biggar, a very pious young min .-- The Rice Lake Mission is now, and ever has been, one of the most promising. Among the others who have laboured there, perhaps none have been more useful than James Evans. Both he and Mrs. man going right down to Cobourg: he Evans are peculiarly fitted for the took me in and carried me as far as missionary field. - - - - Although Mr. Shaw's tavern. He there had some Evans' health was very feeble, yet he friends to visit, and said he would had a resolution of mind which I - and take never saw equalled. No danger could



Mrs. H. T. Ont., writes, troubled with him Caby's O ed... Before box the consti By relieving a nilment; devel to take than and perfectly from the wee school age. 2



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"Dear Father: -- Through the mercles of God I arrived here on Saturday evening. I was disappointed in getting down in the the stage, it being so full. But I happened to find a man going right down to Cobourg: he took me in and carried me as far as Shaw's tavern. He there had some friends to visit, and said he would call in the morning early and take me on; but I saw no more of him. I then got an opportunity with the landlord as far as Port Hope. Here I was obliged to leave my trunk, not getting any chance to carry it. have not heard from it, but expect it came down in yesterday's stage." In a letter written during the following April he says: -"I think of stopping till the camp meeting, which will probably be at Haldimand Four Corners, just below Cobourg, on the 12th. of June. In a later written at Colborne, June 13, 1831, camp meeting. At that time he was on his way east to the Mohawk Mission. In the following year he was licensed to preach. The licence is dated Whitby, to which circuit he then belonged, June 30, 1832, and was signed "E. Ryerson, P. E."

Feeling the necessity for further education he decided to enter the St. Lawrence Seminary at Potsdam, N. Y. and in September, 1832, proceeded to Cobourg to take the steamboat "The wind was so high", his biographer states, "and the lake so boisterous, that the boat dare not come in to the shore. Consequently the passengers were obliged to trust themselves in a small boat, and row two or three miles to reach her. When they got on board they found but little comfort. The sea ran high, the passengers were frightened, the children cried, the ladies shricked; meanwhile the heaving and tossing of the boat loosened sundry barrels from their fastenings, and sent them tumbling and rumbling about the deck in promiscuous confusion. - - - Even the black firemen, generally so reck- district over a century ago.

them, it is said, he was more familiar [garding the latter place he writes: It was in this year (1827) that the mission was established atRice Lake under the care of Miss Barns, now Mrs. Case, and Mr. Biggar, a very pious young min .- The Rice Lake Mission is now, and ever has been, one of the most promising. Among the others who have laboured there. perhaps none have been more useful than James Evans. Both he and Mrs. Evans are peculiarly fitted for the missionary field. - - - - Although Mr. Evans' health was very feeble, yet he had a resolution of mind which I never saw equalled. No danger could daunt. dishearten 110 misfortune him." The letters of the Rev. James Evans were published in 1932 in the "Papers and Records" of the O.H.S. In these letters are various references to Cobourg where Mrs. Evans made her home for a time when her husband was labouring at Sault Ste Ma-While there he became rie. close friend of John Dugald Cameron, a Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, who spent his declining years in Grafton.

Mr. Hurd's letters and other writ- Mr. James Free he makes another reference to the ings reflect a strong and devoted citizen of Cobpersonality. He had his convictions was 78 years of and did not hesitate about stating the greater part them. Referring to a journey in death came as New York State he writes: "Things sons and daugh went on very pleasantly, only I had sympathy of ci to quarrel with a fellow (I don't say gentleman) for smoking in the coach, him, passing and puffing his loathsome and nar- years ago. He cotic fumes in the face of ladies and family of sons decent people"! Again he writes: - | ward, Peterbore "If there's a place on earth 'where | ford; John, Ch the worm dies not, and the fire is bourg; Mrs. Bl not quenched', it is the infernal dis- Mrs. Jacobson tillery, where the spiral worm oozes forth the liquid fire, day and night, of Cobourg for which has consumed its millions of our species". Here speaks the spirit afternoon, wi that produced "conviction of sin" in Michael's Ceme the camp meeting, one of the most potent restraining forces in pioneer The Late Mrs. If Pahwahsayashkunk, as j the Indians called him, had lived to residents of C conduct further missionary labours son, widow of he would undoubtedly have made a son, passed av great man for himself. We include ing at the hor him as a typical representative of a T. J. Hoskin, class of men who made a worthy contribution to the religious life of the

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Besides his leaves four sons mourn his loss, Cobourg; Bruce Neil, and Mrs. worth.

The Late Jame: The death to Friday evening,

Mr. Freeman'

Mr. Freemar The funeral

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Before her

Warkworth

Mr. Kent Buchanan of Toronto University spent the weekend at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. Buchanan.

relatives in Toronto during the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Twiddy of Trenton attended the funeral of her uncle, the late J. E. Thompson.

son of Mr. and tracus Mrs D II Mount RA