WALKERTON IN HISTORY

Thomas Adair and Kenneth Kemp stood atop the "Clay Banks" rising sheer from the north bank of the Saugeen River. It was the spring of 1849, the land was just being opened to settlement and the two men looked over the valley to a panorama, few if any white men had seen before.

The sparkling Saugeen winding below and as far as their eyes could see primeval forest broken by groves of wild plum and cherry trees in bloom, their perfume scenting the air.

Kemp, a Scot, turned to his companion to say,

"Eh Mon, if Eden was anything like this, what a fool Adam was to eat the apple."

Much of that beauty is still here although Walkerton has come a long way in the more-than-century interval. No man contributed as much to Walkerton's progress as Joseph Walker, an early settler, industrialist and developer whose name the community perpetuates.

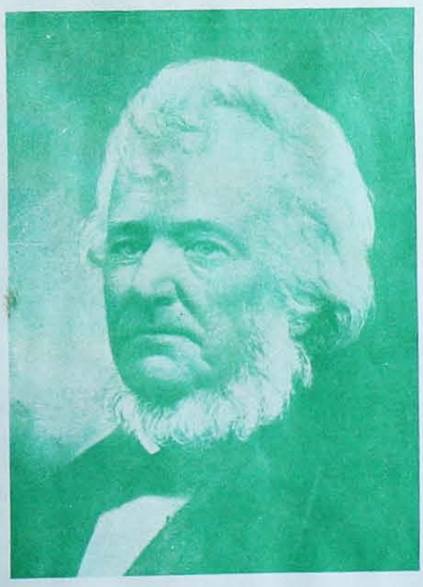
Irish-born Joseph Walker came here in 1850 and the town owes much to his foresight and industry. Taking power from the ample waters of the Saugeen he opened lumber and grist mills. He almost singlehandedly had Walkerton named county seat and when the community attained town status in 1871 he became the first mayor.

Joseph Walker's home still stands, the first masonry building in Walkerton, its location marked by a Provincial Historic Sites plaque, erected during Walkerton's centennial in 1971.

TOWN OF

WALKERTON

ONTARIO CANADA



JOSEPH WALKER

WALKERTON'S FOUNDER

Four - Lane Highway Through Walkerton Predicted By 1990

1984

Editor retires after 50 years

By The Canadian Press

Harold Wesley will vacate the editor's chair of the Walkerton Herald Times on Monday, ending 101 years of a family publishing tradition at the weekly newspaper.

Wesley, 69, who has no heir, has sold the venerable family journal in the Lake Huron town about 40 kilometres south of Owen Sound to Signal-Star Publishing of nearby Goderich, and hopes to "enjoy a different lifestyle, for a little while at least."

"I feel it's time to get off the fast train and take a few moments to smell the roses," said Wesley, the third generation of his family to run the paper.

During his 50-year career, Wesley never missed a day off work because of illness. "There were times when I didn't feel like going to work," but the job had to be done, he said.