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Historical Society

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Our Storied Past.

By Katherine B. Coutts.



IF all the vast past that has rolled over the world since its beginning we can look back over that of the part that is now our county only a scant three centuries; and of two thirds of this time the little we know, like a candle burning at midnight, only makes the general darkness more apparent. At the beginning of the seventeenth Century this country north of Lake Erie was inhabited by Neutral Indians—so called because in the war between the Iroquois and Hurons they took no part, allowing each party passage through their country; for which courtesy the Iroquois rewarded them about the middle of the century by driving them out and taking possession of their lands. The neutrals had five villages between the Grand River and the Detroit—little clusters of cabins surrounded by plots of Indian corn and squash, tilled by the squaws with their hands or their rude implements, whither the braves might return to rest from hunting, fishing or war. One of these villages was near the site of Ridgetown. Champlain wished to visit the Neutrals, of whom he had heard, but was unable to do so.

Their country was well known to French fur traders—both the licensed traders and their illegitimate brothers, the *Couriers du Bois*—"those picturesque but nameless figures that flit everywhere across the dim dawn of Canadian history." The early relations of the missionaries are full of complaints of the disorder they wrought at their mission stations. Indeed, they were outlaws, proscribed by the state and banned by the church, and they seem to have lived lives as merry as any outlaw of song or story. With hundreds of good leagues between them and the nearest officers of the law they might well defy the state's proscription. Whether they escaped equally scathless from the ban of the church we have no means of knowing. Self-enfranchised from the grinding tyranny of France or the smothering paternalism of Canada, a man might well be disposed to pay a high price for freedom. But the price these men paid was civilization itself. They took Indian wives and became at every point savages. They carried their harvest of pelts indifferently to English, Dutch or French—to the highest purchaser, thus discarding nationality as well as civilization. Fur traders, however, lawful or unlawful, neither added to the contemporary

knowledge of geography nor left behind them data for the historian. It was not to their interest to do so.

In the winter of 1639-40 Fathers Breboeuf and Chaumonot followed the winter trail through the Neutral Country and visited all their villages, hoping for some encouragement to establish a mission amongst them to be known as the Mission of the Angels. They gave saints' names to the villages—that near Ridgetown being named St. Joseph. It was probably from their "Relations" that the Sandow maps of 1650 and 1656 were made. The villages with their names appear on both maps, and on the last the Thames River for the first time is shown. It was called by the Indians Aus Kunsabee or Antlered River, from its appearance near its source. It must have been a good deal later than this that the French called it *Riviere La Tranche*. Governor Simcoe gave it its present name. Not finding here the encouragement they had hoped for, Father Breboeuf and his companion went north and established the Mission of the Apostles among the Hurons on the Shores of the Georgian Bay.

In 1669 Louis Joliet was sent to the Sault by Talon to try to find some less dangerous route than the Nipissing for bringing the copper of that locality to the St. Lawrence settlements. We must note Joliet, for he was the first native born Canadian to achieve a place in history. He was the son of a Quebec wagon-maker, was educated by the Jesuits, but gave up his first intention of entering the priesthood to become an explorer. Visiting the Sault, he met Father Marquette who was at the Mission there, and this was probably why they went together five years later to discover the Mississippi. An Indian guide undertook to show him the new route he was seeking, and brought him by river and lake St. Clair and River Detroit to Lake Erie, but here the guide was so terrified of falling into the hands of the Andastes that he insisted on landing and pursuing the journey by land. Accordingly Joliet hid his canoe near Rondeau and travelled overland to Tinawawa in the Beverley Swamp near Westover. And here for a time we will leave him.

In the winter of 1669 there was living amongst the Nipissings to study their language one Dollier de Casson, who, having abandoned the calling of soldier for that of priest, had entered the Sulpitian order and had formed the resolution of passing his life in evangelizing the Indians. He was a man of huge stature and great strength—so great that he could hold two men upon his outstretched palms—and was renowned not less for his gentleness and courtesy than for his strength. Whilst he was in the Nipissing country the chief sent to Montreal a slave captured from some south western tribe on a message to M. Queylus, Superior of the Sulpitians. This good man was so impressed by the story the slave told

him of his people that he sent to Fr. Dollier, asking him if he would not go with this slave as a guide to carry the gospel to those savages "somewhere in the South West!" Father Dollier came at once and began preparations for the journey. It so chanced that La Salle was also at that time preparing to go in search of the River Ohio of which he had heard vague rumors, leading him to believe that it would conduct him towards his much desired goal—China; and the Governor de Courcelles urged the missionary and the explorer to join forces and go together; and it was so agreed. At the last moment, M. Queylus had the happy thought of substituting Father Galinee for the first priest chosen as Father Dollier's companion, he having a knowledge of mathematics sufficient to find his way in the woods and to make a correct map of what he should see. I say it was a happy thought for us, for Father Galinee after his return not only drew an excellent map of the country through which they passed, but wrote to some one in France a most interesting and circumstantial narrative of the journey. It has been translated and edited by Dr. Coyne of St. Thomas, one of many services he has rendered Canadian History.

They set out in July from Montreal—followed a little later by La Salle—in seven birch bark canoes, headed by two canoes of Seneca Indians who acted as guides; for the slave whose story was the inspiration of the journey, appears no more in the narrative.

The journey was continued past the mouth of the Niagara, where they heard the roar of the cataract, to the head of Burlington Bay where they landed and travelled to Tinawawa already mentioned. Here they met Joliet, who made over to them his rights in the canoe he had hidden near Rondeau, giving minute descriptions of the hiding place. Here La Salle left them to go on to his discovery of the Ohio and they went on South West to a point near Port Dover where they wintered. They built a cosy cabin which they stocked with apples, plums, walnuts, chestnuts and cured flesh of deer and bear. Of the grapes, which they describe as red in color and as large and fine as any in France, they made wine which was used in saying Mass. They were in transports over the country: "It is the Paradise of Canada." After five months spent here, some fine mild days occurring in March and their provisions being low, they left their wintering place and continued their journey. Their reception to our county was rude. The weather became cold and stormy. They travelled along the shore of Lake Erie several days. One of their canoes was carried off by a sudden storm whilst they slept. They found, however, that given them by Joliet, but their suffering from the weather and from lack of food was very great. After they turned into the Detroit River they found the cause of all their sufferings—a huge stone idol rudely painted to resemble a man. This they broke to pieces with

their axes and hauling it to the middle of the river cast it into the water. God immediately rewarded them by sending game.

At the time of the British Conquest of Canada in 1759 very little was known of the interior of Ontario. After the founding of Detroit by Cadillac in 1701, some French settlers may have wandered up the Thames and founded isolated homes here and there in the wilderness. Perhaps the Sydenham, too, had a few cabins on its banks. The first white settler in Thamesville—Lemuel Sherman—came in 1792, one of the great U. E. Loyalist immigration. And doubtless other portions of Kent received some of those families. In 1788 Lord Dorchester divided Quebec, as the whole territory taken from the French was called, into four Districts. This portion was called Hesse—afterwards changed to Western District. In 1792 Governor Simcoe, first governor of the newly formed province of Upper Canada, formed nineteen counties—eighteen along the water front from the St. Lawrence to the West end of Lake Erie. All the rest of Upper Canada was included in the Nineteenth County called Kent. It extended to Hudson Bay on the North and included that vast territory bounded by the rivers Ohio and Mississippi, out of which since that time five sovereign states have been formed. But extensive as Kent was, the spot where now we are assembled (Harrison Hall) was not in it, for its southern boundary was the Thames. This part would then have been in the County of Suffolk—which retained its place on the map only a short time, however.

Kent has had three county towns—Detroit, from 1792 to 1796, Sandwich, from the cession of the territory west of the Detroit River to the Americans by John Jay's treaty in 1796, till 1847. In that year, Kent being separated municipally from Essex, located her own county town at Chatham. Money was voted the same year for the erection of a Court House and jail, the architect, and, I think, contractor also, being my husband's grandfather, the late George Young of Harwich.

Lambton was formed in 1850; and by degrees as population in the northern parts increased other counties were carved out of the original territory of Kent. Judge Woods says that the writs of the Sheriff of Kent ran to Sault Ste. Marie as lately as 1851.

Governor Simcoe passed down the Thames in a canoe in 1793. He spent the night of March 31 at Moraviantown—then on the north bank of the Thames about three miles east of Thamesville—going to visit Detroit, and forts on the Miami. The night of April first he spent—perhaps still in Kent County—with an Indian trader. In 1859—the year of his tragic death—John Brown, he whose “soul is marching on,” held a meeting at Chatham to revise the Constitution of the United States in the interests of the black men. Probably he was influenced in selecting this town for his meeting by his

knowledge of the nearby Buxton settlement, formed in 1848 by Rev. Wm. King, with his own fifteen freed slaves as its nucleus. Kent has an honorable record in the stirring ante-bellum days of the Abolitionist struggle. Of twenty-five terminal stations of the Underground Railway in Canada, seven were in Kent or Essex.

George Brown, the founder of the *Toronto Globe*, was elected Kent's representative in 1851. Bothwell was founded by him, the original streets bearing names of the members of his family.

I do not know whether or not the famous Colonel Thomas Talbot, who has left his name to one of our southern highroads, was ever in Kent, but he found means, one may say, to make Kent come to him. Settlers desirous of land grants found themselves confronted by his monopoly and had to "wait in his antechamber or be repulsed from his door." His antechamber was his lawn at first, and he decided for or against an applicant according as he liked his looks. But a brawny Hielan' man whose looks he did not at first like, having knocked him down and kept his foot on him till he began to like him, he ever afterwards refused *tete-a-tetes*. He had a sliding window constructed from which he surveyed applicants, and the peremptory shutting of the slide by his servant Jeffrey was the sign that the applicant was refused.

My subject being "Our storied past," I shall not come nearer to Contemporary history. But if it is too much to say that every farm has its own story certainly every locality has. The harvest is waiting. It rests with our Society to furnish or find harvesters.



The Presbyterian Church in Chatham.

(Dealing more particularly with the First Presbyterian Church.)

By the late P. D. McKellar.

When first requested to write a brief history of our church, I readily assented, knowing that any facts not in my possession could be easily obtained, but, when I began to arrange in my own mind the order in which the details of that history should be presented, I realized that such a history would be incomplete unless it covered all the years in which Presbyterianism had planted the standard of its faith in Chatham. Having got this far I found that I ought to travel still farther into the past centuries, and give to the young people of this generation an intelligent, if brief, narrative of the struggles, trials and persecution out of which emerged the two churches, namely the "U. P." and "Free" Churches from the union of which our present church obtained its name. The work of sketching the early history of the church I found quite simple, as all the facts can readily be found in books that deal with the history of the Scottish Church from the date of the Reformation to the time when the Free Church severed its connection with the parent stem. But, when I came to write the early history of the Churches in Chatham, I found myself facing a stone wall. I had a faint recollection of having heard this or that fact, but I knew that history, to be accurate and reliable, should not rest on man's treacherous memory, and, in my search for facts, I not only examined many of the records in my office, but having in my possession bound volumes of the papers published in Chatham from 1840 to the middle of 1852, I devoted my leisure time in carefully searching the columns of these papers for items that would aid me in the work I had undertaken, and, I am happy to say, that the time thus spent was amply rewarded, as I found an ample store of material that would verify and confirm every statement beyond question or doubt.

In 1837, when my parents came to reside on the banks of the River Thames, a short distance below Chatham, as there was only one church here, namely, St. Paul's Anglican Church, they decided to worship there until a Presbyterian Church should have been organized, and they attended St. Paul's until the U. P. Church was completed in 1844, and ministered to by the Reverend James McFayden. Then they worshipped in the U. P. Church until the

Reverend Angus McColl came in 1848, and ministered to both the Free and Old Kirk congregations. In 1840 I was baptized by the Reverend William H. Hobson, rector of St. Paul's Church.

When Alexander McIntosh, P. L. S., surveyed and laid out part of the Town of Chatham in 1837, a certain tract of land bounded by William, Wellington, Prince and Park streets, containing ten acres, was reserved for the benefit of the Church of Scotland in Chatham, and on the 18th of September, 1837, the Crown issued the patent deed to Robert Innes, John Fisher, William McEwan, John Stobo, Alexander Ironsides, James Read, Donald McEwan, Thomas Smith, Donald McKerrall, William McNeil, Neil McEachran. Until September, 1841, nothing further was done.

The first visit of a Presbyterian minister to Chatham was in 1841, when the Reverend William Findlay came here to organize a Presbyterian Church and to urge the people to erect a place of worship in connection with the Church of Scotland. For that purpose a public meeting was held in the old Regimental Hospital on the first of September. This meeting was largely attended, not only by Presbyterians, but by many of other denominations, who expressed a friendly interest in the movement, and promised their support in carrying it to completion.

The first resolution was moved by the Reverend William Findlay, and is as follows:

"That the Presbyterian part of the community in this and the adjoining settlement, composing nearly half of the whole population, have long been and still are, subjected to many spiritual deprivations, being destitute of a place for public worship and the regular administration of gospel ordinances. This meeting feels strongly desirous of remedying as far as in their power this destitution."

In speaking to the motion, Mr. Findlay amongst other things, said: "In devising means to wipe away the stain, that attached itself to the Town of Chatham, from there being no place of public worship for the accommodation of the Presbyterian population in and around it, and no provision made for the regular administration of the ordinances of the Christian religion among them, that it was a matter of surprise to him, that no decided step had been taken long before this day in order to secure these important privileges, seeing that those professing attachment to Presbyterian principles for twelve miles around this place constitute fully one-half of the whole population. Unquestionably there had been a lack of zeal and unanimity among the Presbyterians themselves, otherwise the Church, to which they profess to belong, had not been destitute of the means of asserting its dignity and exhibiting its excellence in that part of the Province of Canada."

"That they are determined that the reproach, that Chatham is

without its Presbyterian place of worship and its Presbyterian clergyman, shall very soon cease to exist."

Mr. F. also stated, "That he would be happy to give what assistance he could in the way of preaching or holding meetings in those places where it might be thought at all likely collections or subscriptions could be obtained for the furtherance and attainment of the object in view. That whatever step he had taken or might take in regard to the matter before them, was unmixed with anything selfish or personal, that his motive for acting was purely disinterested, being from an ardent wish to benefit those of his brethren, the Presbyterians in this plac, so that by stirring them up to action, a place of worship might be raised and their spiritual destitution supplied."

In November, 1842, the Reverend William Findlay wrote from Napanee: "If you and the Presbytery of Hamilton together could raise £130 or £140 currency per annum for a clergyman, I think I could secure you a suitable person by April. The person to whom I allude came out to Canada this fall chiefly at my solicitation. Dr. Cook, of Quebec, laid his hands on him and succeeded in persuading him to winter and preach at a place called Leeds." Whether it was the failure to raise the stipend, or more likely the historical event of May, 1843, that rent the Church of Scotland into fragments, the promised minister did not materialize and there is no record of even a visit from a minister of the Church of Scotland until Mr. Robb came. The meeting of the first of September resulted in the appointment of a committee to solicit subscriptions. The canvas must have been prosecuted with vigor, as I find in the Journal, of 1842, a notice calling for payment of the first instalment of subscriptions, due on January 1st, to Messrs. Ewart and Archibald, and stating that the contract had been let, and work would be commenced in the spring. In the Journal of February 19th, a notice appears calling for payment of the second instalment due 1st of March. In the Journal of 4th of June, 1842, is a notice to the effect that the contractor, Mr. John Northwood, had died, but efforts would be made to have the work completed by the "Secretaries." Another notice in the Journal, of August 16th, 1842, calling for payment of arrears before the 20th of September, 1842, as the work would be completed by that time. This promise was not fulfilled, as is shown from the census report of 9th December, 1843. Amongst other items given, appear "Churches: One Anglican, one Methodist, two Presbyterian, building." But the completion of the church was slow and the final completion was delayed for some years. This may be easily accounted for, the building was paid for out of the money received from the subscribers. Money was a scarce commodity in those days, and the subscribers were slow in paying in. Another reason that made haste unnecessary was the

condition of the Church of Scotland at that time. With about five hundred pulpits vacant in Scotland and Canada, there was small probability of securing an ordained minister for new fields. The first efforts of the church would be directed to filling the vacancies. This could only be done by graduating ministers from the colleges. In fact, there was no minister of the Church of Scotland in charge of this congregation until 1853. It would appear that the Church was finally completed in 1847.

The 9th of March, 1847, notice is published for arrears, and unless paid suit will be instituted. This notice also states: "The Treasurer, James Archibald, goes to Scotland in May next, and it is absolutely necessary that the building of the church should be settled before that time." The church was used for worship in 1847. The Gleaner, of August 3rd, 1847, announces that the Reverend R. Peden, of the Free Church, Amherstburg, will preach in the Presbyterian Church, at Chatham, on Sunday, 13th inst., at 11 a. m., a collection to be taken up in aid of Knox College. My own recollection is that Reverend J. Robb came to Chatham in 1853, and I found this confirmed by a marriage notice, published April 29th, 1853, in which Reverend J. Robb performed the ceremony.

Ministers of the Church of Scotland.—Reverends J. Robb and John Rannie.

Ministers of St. Andrew's Church (in connection with the "Presbyterian Church in Canada")—Reverends J. R. Battisby, D. D., and J. Roy Van Wyck, B. A.

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CHATHAM

Ministers—Rev. James McFayden, Rev. John Fraser, Rev. William Walker.

First Trustees.—Robert Smith, Edward Smith, John McKinlay and John Fisher.

On the 26th day of January, 1842, the site was purchased on Wellington street, where the Old Church stands, now owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway. At the time of the union, two of the Trustees, namely, Edward Smith and John McKinlay, were alive and in vigorous bodily and mental health, and the information received from them was that the building of the church was begun in the spring of 1842, and completed in 1844, and that upon its completion a minister in the person of Reverend James McFayden was secured. The census of 1843, above referred to, confirms the evidence of Messrs. Smith and McKinlay. The following marriage notice, published at the time, confirms this statement as to the ministry of the Reverend J. McFayden:

"On 18th February, 1846, by the Reverend James McFayden, Minister of the United Session Church, in Chatham, John Goose to Mrs. Mary Johnston, of Harwich."

The evidence clearly establishes the fact that the U. P.'s were the first to have a church and a regularly ordained minister.

THE FREE CHURCH IN CHATHAM

Minister—Reverend Angus McColl.

Trustees.—Archibald McKellar, Kenneth Urquhart, William Peter McDonald.

Reverend A. McColl came to Chatham in January of 1848, as minister of the Free Church congregation. As they had no church and as the Old Kirk congregation had a church, but no minister, services were held in their church, at which both congregations attended. Mr. McColl ministered to the Old Kirk congregation, as well as to his own, until the arrival of the Reverend J. Robb, as Old Kirk minister in 1853. It then became necessary for the congregations to part company, and in August, 1853, the site on the north east corner of Wellington and Adelaide streets was purchased, and although the Free Church people had already paid their subscriptions for the erection of the Old Kirk church, they forthwith proceeded to erect a building for themselves. In the meantime, they held their services in the Goodyear building on King street, west of and adjoining the present Grand Central Hotel, and for a time in the military barracks, then standing on Tecumseh Park.

Mr. McColl's ministry was a strenuous one, and he certainly gave the best in him to the people in Chatham and adjacent country every Sabbath. After serving his own congregation in the morning, he would ride or drive into Harwich or the Townships of Chatham or Dover or Raleigh, hold an afternoon service, then return and hold the evening service in his own church. Once every month after the morning service he would go to Tilbury, a distance of 20 miles, and hold an evening service. This he did Sabbath after Sabbath for years, until these outlying congregations became strong enough to engage a minister of their own. He was indeed a faithful worker in the vineyard of the Lord. A noticeable feature connected with the building of the churches is the fact that they were built and paid for out of the subscriptions made for that purpose, and that no debt was placed upon any of the properties.

In the year of 1879, the Free and U. P. Churches, which in 1875 had become connected with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, united under the name of the First Presbyterian Church.

Ministers.—Rev. Angus McColl, Rev. William Walker, Rev. F. H. Larkin, Rev. W. E. Knowles, Rev. A. H. McGillivray, Rev. Henry Dickie, D. D.

Session.—K. Urquhart, John McKay, William Robertson, John McKerrall, Richard Paxton, James Birch, Edward Smith and T. H. Taylor.

Trustees.—K. Urquhart, H. F. Cumming, William Grant, Edward Smith and John McKinlay.

Board of Management.—Thomas Stone, John Paxton, John Thompson, John McKerrall, T. H. Taylor, William Robertson, K. Urquhart, Charles Stewart, H. F. Cumming.

Organist.—Miss Bessie Walker.

Choir Leader.—J. B. Flint.

In March, 1886, St. Andrew's and the First Church united to establish a Mission Church and Sabbath School in North Chatham, securing for that purpose the vacant Methodist Church on Elizabeth street. This was carried on for one year, and then abandoned. In April, 1889, Messrs. McColl and Walker tendered their resignations to the Presbytery, which were accepted; the congregation making a retiring allowance of \$1000 to each of the ministers. On the 17th of September, 1889, a unanimous call was given to the Reverend F. H. Larkin. At the annual congregational meeting, held on the 27th of December, 1889, a committee composed of Messrs. K. Urquhart, John McKeough and P. D. McKellar, was appointed to secure a site for a new church. The committee obtained options on several properties deemed suitable for the purpose, and after a full examination and discussion as to the merits of the several sites, the congregation on the 6th of April, 1891, directed the committee to close for the present site for the price of \$8000.

The congregation appointed Messrs. K. Urquhart, John McKerrall and P. D. McKellar to solicit subscriptions for the erection of a new church. The subscription list approached close to \$10,000. The contract was let in October, 1891, and a mortgage for \$12,000 was placed upon the church properties. Messrs. Alister McKay and James S. Waugh were appointed a building committee. The corner stone was laid the 13th day of June, 1892, and in May, 1893, the church was formally opened by the Reverend Robert Johnston, who preached at both services.

The cost of the Church site was \$ 8000 00

Church Building and Reconstruction in 1906 . . 31000 00

Organ, including changing and setting up in 1906 3500 00

\$ 42500 00

It is a noticeable feature of the spirit animating the whole congregation in giving towards the building fund, that the Children's Aid Society of our Church collected and paid over to the Managers in 1892 and 1893 the sum of \$472.23. The Ladies' Aid Society purchased the organ, and paid for it, before the last instalment fell due, although they had already contributed to the building fund about \$2000.00.

Session in 1893.—Kenneth Urquhart, James Birch, John McKerrall, William Robertson, Andrew Thompson, J. B. Rankin, Fred Stone.

Board of Management, 1893.—Thomas Stone, William Robertson, S. M. Glenn, A. Thompson, K. Urquhart, J. B. Rankin, H. F. Cumming, W. R. Philimore, P. D. McKellar, S. T. Martin, J. J. Ross and F. Stone.



Municipal Government in the County of Kent.

By John A. Walker, K. C.

History affords abundant testimony of the inherent instinct in the Anglo-Saxon race for self-government. At a very early period in England the Tithing, afterward called Township, had its Reeve and four associates who managed its local affairs and were representatives at the Hundred Mote or public meeting over which the hundred men presided, and, when Counties were organized, at the Shire Mote, over which the Ealdorman presided. Many cities and boroughs early obtained Royal charters conferring upon them large measures of self-government, and it is said that such a charter granted by Athelstane, and another by Edward the Confessor, are still extant. The rights and privileges of British cities and boroughs undoubtedly were the natural result of the self-reliance and independence of the people, and their genius for self-government, assisted most materially by the long continued and bitter struggles between the King and the feudal lords of which the cities and boroughs were not slow to take advantage.

It is most interesting to follow the development of these corporations, the growth of the representative system and the right of election of councillors and appointment of officers to manage the affairs of the corporations as the cities became too large to be governed on the town-meeting plan. The governing principle, which runs through all the years of struggle handed down from sire to son, was that the governing class retain supreme control as long as possible and grant to the boroughs such privileges only as might make for the security and maintenance in authority of those in power. The contest was, as always, one of the governed against the governors, in which the latter for a considerable period had the best of it; but this is another story.

Our Municipal Institutions, admitted to be the simplest, most symmetrical and best anywhere, are modelled not on the English or Scotch systems, but rather after the plan adopted in New England, where the conditions and circumstances of the people more closely resemble those of Ontario. Prof. Bryce in his *American Commonwealth* points out that three somewhat different types of local self-government obtain in the American Republic. In the New England States greater importance is placed upon the Township as distinguished from the County system. In the Southern States the

County is the municipal unit, while in the Middle and Western States there is a modified adaptation of both, and, indeed, some States are divided in their choice, as is Illinois, where the southern portion has taken the County system and the remaining portion the Township.

It might have been expected that the presence of the United Empire Loyalists in this Province would have encouraged and facilitated the adoption of municipal government with us, but this is not strictly the case, although the allotment to them and to disbanded soldiers of free tracts of land, and their taking up and settling of the same, necessitated the formation of Townships. This, however, was not so much for the purpose of government, as for a designation of specific areas or surveys. The practice of the people to gather at town meetings to discuss the building of roads and other local affairs prepared the ground-work for the organization of the municipal system as later determined and adopted. These early townships were designated by numbers until, possibly, they became old enough to name.

On the 24th July, 1788, the Governor-General, Sir Guy Carleton, divided this Province, then Upper Canada, into four districts, viz., Lunenburg, Micklenburg, Nassau and Hesse, names which would indicate a "Made in Germany" brand, but with a remarkable prescience our first legislature, in 1792, changed the name of these districts in their order to Eastern, Midland, Home and Western. The same act provided for the erection of a gaol and court house in each district, according to plans to be selected by Magistrates in Quarter Sessions. The lowest tender for the buildings was to be accepted if the contractor furnished sufficient security. The Sheriff was to be Gaoler and it was specially enjoined that he should not be licensed to sell liquor within the gaol.

The Constitutional Act of 1791 authorized the Lieutenant Governor to divide each Province into districts, counties or circles, and determine their limits for the purpose of choosing representatives for the Legislature. Accordingly, Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe issued his proclamation dividing Upper Canada into nineteen counties; Essex and Suffolk, two of these counties, adjoined each other and were entitled to return one member. Kent was the nineteenth county and comprised all the territory not included in the other counties. It extended northerly to the limits of the Province and westerly to include Detroit and other portions of Michigan, and was entitled to two members, the first two being elected at Detroit in 1792.

The second Act of the second session of this parliament provided that two Justices of the Peace within a parish or township or other place might issue their warrant to a constable, authorizing him on the first Monday in March to assemble all resident house-

holders, liable to assessment, in such parish or township, in the parish church or other convenient place, for the purpose of choosing parish or town officers, a clerk, two assessors, a collector of taxes, and from two to six persons to serve as overseers of highways and pound-keepers, at that time, (very important and necessary officials, who were authorized to impound cattle trespassing on land properly fenced), and, further, to appoint two persons to serve as Church Wardens. A subsequent Act gave other powers to the inhabitant householders in their annual town meetings, but it was many years before these powers were much enlarged. Magistrates in Quarter Sessions exercised many privileges in managing and regulating the local affairs of towns and parishes, but this method proving unsatisfactory and irksome to the people, changes were agitated and pressed for, and, from time to time, separate special acts were passed bestowing special municipal authority on towns. The first so favored was the Town of Brockville, which in 1832 procured an act to be passed establishing a "Board of Police," giving the people control of the Town's affairs. The Town was divided into two wards, each entitled to elect two members of this body. The electors were the tenants or freeholders within the ward rated from the assessment roll; the fifth member was to be appointed by a majority vote of the four elected, and, if they could not make a choice, the electors of the Town were to make the choice. The five members thus constituted elected one of their number President. Both electors and elected were required to possess a property qualification. The corporation thus constituted was given very considerable powers. It could make rules and regulations for its government, appoint officers, levy rates and pass bylaws for the good order and general government of the Town. Thus Brockville blazed the way. Other towns soon followed, Hamilton, Belleville, Cornwall, Cobourg and many others, and in 1834, Toronto, or York, as it then was known, procured an extension of its limits and was formed into a city to be called the City of Toronto, divided into five wards and power given it to elect a Mayor, aldermen and common councilmen. Two aldermen and two councillors were to be elected for each ward and these were to elect the Mayor. Should their votes be equally divided the member with the highest assessment gave the casting vote. Very extensive powers were given which we will not take time to recite and only refer to these acts to indicate the trend of public opinion.

While the cities were thus successfully securing a measure of municipal freedom by Special Acts of the Legislature, there was very little advancement made towards this object in the rural districts. There the Justices of the Peace in General Sessions continued to control all local affairs much as they liked. True, the electors at town meetings soon were accorded the privilege of electing

fence viewers, pound-keepers and road overseers, or commissioners, and, later on, other officers, but these officers were not entrusted with sufficient authority for efficient municipal control, and the power of taxation and the right to raise rates remained with the Quarter Sessions. Matters were in this position when the rebellion broke out, and afterwards came the vigorous report of Lord Durham, in which he strongly recommended the establishment of local municipal institutions.

In 1841 the parliament of the United Provinces passed the first general Municipal Act establishing municipal authority, which Act was introduced and piloted by the Hon. S. B. Harrison, the Provincial Secretary for Upper Canada. Mr. Harrison in that year unsuccessfully contested the representation of Kent with the late Joseph Woods, but he was subsequently returned as the representative of Kingston. When we read of the determined and violent opposition to this bill, and the bitter feeling engendered by it, we are at a loss to realize the cause of all the wasted energy of its opponents, for the measure was but a very modest advance on the old law. It provided that there should be a district council in each district to consist of the Warden and Councillors. The Warden was still to be appointed by the Governor, as were the Treasurer and Clerk. Each township was to elect two councillors when the freeholders and householders on the assessment roll exceeded 300. Extensive powers were granted to the council, but the serious defect was, that the act still recognized the Magistrates appointed by the government, and there, not unfrequently, arose a conflict of authority between them and the councils elected by the people. The councils were authorized to pass bylaws respecting roads, bridges and public buildings, for defraying certain expenses connected with the administration of justice, for the establishment and maintenance of schools, assessing, raising and levying rates, fixing salaries, &c. Several subsequent Acts added to these powers.

The Province had been divided into twenty-two districts, of which what are now the Counties of Essex, Kent and Lambton, formed one, known as the Western District. The first Council of this district elected under the Act of 1841, which went into effect on the first day of January, 1842, met at Sandwich. There were present 26 members and the Warden, John Dolsen, appointed by the Government, who continued as Warden for 5 years. In this formative period the councillors seem to have taken their duties seriously. The first clerk was John Cowan, Esq., one time Editor, and the minutes are interesting, well phrased and concisely written. Many familiar names appear on the list of members and officers. Schools and roads, assessments and petitions on various subjects occupied a large proportion of the time of the members. A little color is

given to a circumstance recorded in 1843. One Jonathan Schooley, a cabinet-maker who was a prisoner undergoing sentence in the gaol, wrote a long letter giving in considerable detail an agreement between himself and the gaoler, who agreed, in consideration of Schooley making certain articles of furniture for him, to pay him extra therefore and release him from solitary confinement. A work shop was set up in the gaol and Schooley performed his part of the contract very faithfully, but the gaoler refused to pay him. The complaint was referred to Sheriff Mercer, for many years the Sheriff of this county, for investigation and report. The Sheriff's letter is not given but one can imagine what it contained from the resolution passed after the reading of the letter, on the motion of Mr. Reynolds, that this "Council does not assume the power or right to interfere with the Sheriff in the appointment of a gaoler; but it does claim the power and right and considers it its duty to look to the safety of the public buildings endangered by using them as a carpenter's work shop."

In 1847 Kent was formed into a separate district and a provisional council met at Chatham in August, its special purpose being the erection of our present gaol and court-house, which was completed about the year 1850. It would appear that all the members also attended the Sandwich meetings.

In 1849 was passed the Municipal Magna Charta of this Province, the preamble of which declared that, "It will be of great public benefit and advantage that provision should be made by one general law for the erection of Municipal Corporations and the establishment of Regulations of Police in and for the several Counties, Cities, Towns, Townships and Villages in Upper Canada." The Act took effect on the first day of January, 1850. Some fifty or more previous acts of parliament were repealed and ample powers of self-government were conferred upon all municipal corporations, largely as those powers exist and are exercised today. All minor municipalities were to elect five councillors, who elected one of themselves Reeve, and, in each Township having five hundred resident rate-payers, a deputy Reeve. By this and the amending Act passed two or three years afterwards, the old districts were abolished and counties defined. The inhabitants of each county became a body corporate whose council consisted of the Town Reeves and Deputy Town Reeves of the several Townships, Towns and Villages within the County. The County Council was to meet at the Shire Hall, if one, and, if none, at the County Court annually, on the fourth Monday in January. At the first meeting they chose from among themselves a Warden who should preside at their meetings.

About the end of 1850, possibly after the Court House was completed, Kent was separated from Essex and Lambton for municipal

purposes, while the two last named remained united for municipal and judicial purposes until 1853, which led to a peculiar difficulty requiring a special Act to remedy. As it was impossible to take prisoners from the one county to the other without passing through Kent, it became necessary to indemnify the Sheriff and Bailiffs taking prisoners from Lambton to the Sandwich gaol, passing through Kent under warrants of arrest.

The first Council for Kent as a Separate County met at the Court House on the 27th February, 1851, and consisted of ten members of whom George Duck, the Reeve for Howard, was elected Warden. There were no Deputy Reeves. George Witherspoon represented the Town of Chatham. William Cosgrove was Clerk and continued to hold the office until 1867. His successors were Messrs. Hart, Kerr, Fleming, and the present incumbent, Mr. Jonas Gosnell.

In 1851, James Smith, the Reeve for Camden and Zone, was elected Warden and continued to be so elected annually for 11 years. He was a member of the council for 22 years. During the initial years of the county council strong men were necessary, and James Smith was a strong man. The officials and those dealing with the Councils were inclined to be over reaching. Persons entrusted with money were not always prompt to account for the same. There was considerable litigation. The law was in the settling. Many persons, led by the Canada Company, took advantage of every technicality to avoid payment of taxes. There were large arrears. We find Thomas A. Ireland presenting an account of £220, 8s., 3 d, for printing the advertisement for sale of lands for arrears of taxes. There were six insertions of about half a sheet of the Advertiser Newspaper. The finance committee "could not refrain," as the report stated, "from expressing strongly their disapprobation" of this account and recommended that Mr. Ireland be paid £76, 5s. in full discharge of his account.

Alexander Knapp made application for assistance to put the books of the Registry Office in better shape. He was very emphatically told that the receipts of the office which he enjoyed should be sufficient for the purpose. Two debtors escaped from the gaol and R. K. Payne the gaoler, and the Sheriff, were informed that the escape could be attributed to no other cause than gross negligence on their part. The gaoler was subsequently sued by the execution creditors and put to considerable costs defending the action and applied to the Council for assistance, but, in the language of the report, "No action was taken." The Council petitioned the Legislature to amend the law so that the appointment of all County officers should rest with the municipal councils.

No one reading the minutes of these earlier Councils can resist the conclusion that the members were for the most part fearless

guardians of the public interests and possessed the courage of their convictions.

On the 27th October, 1854, occurred the calamitous accident on the Great Western Railway at Baptiste Creek in which upwards of 50 persons were killed, and equally as many more maimed or injured. Of the Coroner and twenty jury men who held the inquest, only George D. Ross of Chatham survives. The County Council refused to pay what they were pleased to call the exorbitant bills of Dr. Askin, and the Coroner, Dr. Donnelly, in connection with the inquest, and referred the bills to the Government. Dr. Askin sued the Treasurer, Alex. Charteris, and the Court of Queen's Bench awarded him £12, 10s., each party to pay his own costs. The lawyers' bill was £15, 8s. 3 d.

In this year also a fire that took place on the 15th August destroyed the Bylaws and many of the records and papers of the council.

The first Board of Health was this year constituted, consisting of Dr. Rolls, R. S. Woods and George Young. The latter was a gentleman of a strong personality, masterful and many sided. For many years he was on the Grammar School Board of Trustees and on the Board of School Examiners, 19 years in the County Council, two years its Warden; from 1848 a Justice of the Peace; appointed Clerk of the Fourth Division Court of Kent in 1851 he served in the office possibly till his death, as well as filling other public offices. While a member of the County Council and School Board, he built in 1854-5 the first Grammar School. The only protection these corporations thought necessary to take was the appointment of Mr. Kirk as Architect, "for appearance sake." Mr. Young also constructed the first pavement laid in Chatham, while the town was still part of the county for municipal purposes, he being a member of the council at the time. He also prepared the plans for some of the river bridges.

£250 were voted in 1855 for a Patriotic fund, being a precedent for last December's vote of the Council of 1914; for then, as now, this Country was experiencing the stress of war, although not a participant as at present. Wheat sold here as high as \$3.00 per bushel.

The Council did not always focus correctly. In 1856 a forcefully drafted petition apparently unanimously supported was forwarded to the Legislature, setting forth the pernicious results of the recently passed Statute abolishing the law of primogeniture in this Province and requesting its immediate re-enactment to prevent the perpetration of a grievous public wrong.

In 1857, Charles Gerge Charteris was appointed treasurer of the County by a vote of 9 to 5 over the other nominee, Joseph, (afterwards Senator), Northwood; and a bylaw was carried adopting the decimal currency in keeping the accounts. During the follow-

ing few years the Council had its troubles with the toll roads in the County, until the Company in 1882 abandoned the Blenheim, Chatham & Wallaceburg gravel or plank road in which the City of Chatham held \$32,000 stock, and private stockholders about \$40,000. The opening and building of roads and bridges throughout the County then, as ever, demanded much consideration.

The year 1870 was remarkable for the promotion of the Canada Southern Railway intended to run from Buffalo to the Detroit River. This road was completed in the year 1872, and now forms a portion of the Michigan Central, one of the finest road beds in America. Many counties bonused the road and the ratepayers of Kent carried a bylaw granting it aid to the extent of \$80,000. Reports became current that the bylaw might be defeated by the council when it came before that body for its third reading, notwithstanding the vote of the people. A canvass was at once begun. Representatives of rival roads camped on the trail of some of the members. Local men of influence, or supposed influence, were enlisted by both sides. More than one member is supposed to have intimated that he was open to change his mind were he substantially convinced of his mistake and of the error of the electors. Those connected with this humiliating affair have never disclosed all they knew respecting it. Friendships were embittered when the lack of honor (?) in agents was suspected. There were many accusations and counter accusations. A councillor on the day the final vote was to be taken awoke to find himself over twenty miles from the Court House with little knowledge of how he got so far away from home, and less of his means of returning in time to vote. The vote was taken before he reached the Chamber and the By-law defeated. Fortunately such occurrences are exceedingly rare. We know of none similar. There were undoubtedly honest differences of opinion on the merits of the By-law. The great majority of the members were of unimpeachable integrity and felt keenly the misconduct of a few of their weaker brethren. The road was built but it passes six miles to the south of this city, and we are left to speculate what the result might have been had it run through Chatham. Since its construction a very large number of our people in the southerly and easterly portion of this county found St. Thomas more easy of access than their own County town.

In 1874 a By-law was passed granting \$155,000 by way of bonus to the Erie and Huron Railway, the completion of which was delayed from various perplexing causes for many years, and no doubt the County would have been largely benefitted both financially and otherwise had this railway been built and operated by the Municipality itself.

The membership of the County Council continued to increase with the growth in population and the incorporation of Villages

and Towns, so that by the year 1879 there were 31 members, of whom Archibald Campbell, afterwards Senator Campbell, T. R. Jackson, Stephen White, Dr. Mitchell and John Lobbey became subsequently, candidates for parliamentary honors. Of the 31, only Mr. Corey Purser, Mr. R. J. Morrison and Major Fox, the present estimable Reeve of Wheatley, survive. During this year the Town of Chatham withdrew from the County for Municipal purposes. We find in the minutes of that year a petition to the Legislature praying that the law might be so amended as to reduce the number of County Councillors, and suggesting that the County be divided into 10 or 12 districts with a representative from each who should be directly elected by the people and who should not be a member of the local Councils.

It was not until the year 1896, when the membership reached 36, that the law was changed adopting this principle, and Kent was divided into seven districts with two members from each. That law was a distinct improvement. The number might with advantage have been less, but it was found to work well and few who had a knowledge of its actual operation desired the change to the former plan which was returned to ten years later. Mr. Jonas Gosnell, the present Clerk, had the distinction of being the first Warden under the new regime. The membership is not as large as it formerly was owing to the fact that the unit of representation is 1000 instead of 500 as at first, and therefore a municipality must have over 1000 ratepayers before it becomes entitled to a Deputy Reeve.

It is sometimes said, and with truth, that the more persons engaged in the machinery of government the greater is the knowledge thereof, and the respect therefore, and, as the members of Municipal Councils are composed of those who bear a fair share of the burden of taxation, they are entitled to the benefit and knowledge to be derived from the experience of a few years' service. There is also the strength that numbers should offer. But looking at the question from a business standpoint and desiring the adoption of that method best designed to perform expeditiously, economically, intelligently and properly those responsible duties devolving upon County Councillors, five practical business men would, it is submitted, prove, on the whole, the most satisfactory. There seems no good reason why the County Council might not be relieved of a considerable portion of its present duties by the local municipalities. Nevertheless, it must be admitted, that many of the very best men we have had in this County, have, at various times, been selected as County Councillors. In the earlier years the period of service was considerably longer than at present. In addition to these already referred to, Stephen White served for 22 years, Arthur Anderson and G. W. Foott for 14 and 12 years

respectively, John Duck, John McMichael and Jos. Roberts 11 years each, Mr. (afterwards) Sheriff McKellar and Alex. Coutts, both afterwards members of the Legislature, 10 years each. R. J. Morrison, John Lee and many others might be mentioned who gave years of good service on these Boards. Of the other gentlemen who received Municipal training while members of the Council of Kent and became members or candidates for parliament might be named Messrs. Larwell, John Smith, Henry Smyth, Robert Ferguson, Rufus Stephenson, James Clancey, George Langford, Alexander Mason, John S. Fraser, Alexander Clark, Walter Ferguson, John Davidson, Benjamin Wilson and T. L. Pardo. Few counties can show so commendable a record.

There has recently grown up a feeling, encouraged and fostered by the desire of those electors who might be regarded as prospective representatives, that the office should "go around," so that at present the reeve does not receive the benefit of a long period of municipal training, and it is to be feared that he does not take his work so seriously as did his predecessors. Great breadth is not expected. There is a lack of any vital or important questions. Few, if any, come up for solution. None is sought for. The narrower limits of getting road or other grants for constituencies suffice. Good nature and good fellowship are important attributes. In the earlier years there were honest differences of opinion on a multitude of questions. Members were fearless and independent in their convictions. Rarely a day passed but the Yeas and Nays were recorded half a dozen times. That practice has almost become obsolete except during the complimentary votes for the Wardenship.

No dishonesty, jobbery or graft has ever dimmed the fair record of the County Council of Kent, with the single exception to which reference has already been made, and it is singularly free from any political or party influence. It not unfrequently happens that when the majority of the members are Liberals they elect a Conservative Warden and vice versa. The climax, the acme of the year, is of course the Warden's supper, at which all members and officers, and at times their wives, enjoy the luxury of a substantial and social meal. Each participant becomes vocal, good fellowship abounds, and he must be very undeserving indeed who is not the recipient of many generous encomiums. The practice is so ancient that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary.

As members of local municipal councils in the persons of the Reeve and Deputy-Reeves are representatives in the County Councils, should there be in the last named body a few intelligent, capable business men with sufficient energy and application to acquire a thorough knowledge of the conduct and procedure of municipal affairs, their executive ability and business habits must naturally

influence for good their colleagues, who will carry back with them to the local councils correct business methods and better ideals, which will be of permanent value, not only to the members themselves, but to the whole electorate, and slip shod, indifferent and careless methods will soon find no place at municipal Boards. This is a consummation devoutly to be desired.



Historical Sketch of the Press of Chatham.

By Sheriff J. R. Gemmill.

In undertaking to further the work of the Society by submitting a sketch of the newspaper history of the County of Kent I found the task to be a much more formidable one than I anticipated, data respecting events of seventy-five years ago being difficult to obtain, but I have succeeded in gathering some of the facts and now submit the result of my researches, which, I trust, may induce others to take up the task and furnish further information respecting this very important feature of the early history of the County.

Although the settlement of Kent may be roughly stated to have been coeval with the dawn of the nineteenth century it was not until forty years later that the demand for a local press seems to have arisen, the energies of the people being absorbed in providing for their material wants.

On Saturday, the 3rd of July, 1841, the first issue of the pioneer newspaper of Kent appeared—"The Chatham Journal." It was a four-page sheet, presenting an appearance that would be quite creditable even in this age of improved typographical appliances. The publishers were Charles Dolsen and Wm. Fulford. The last named gentleman seems to have tired of the work very soon, the third issue of the paper containing an announcement of his withdrawal from the firm, and that the editorial chair was to be occupied by John F. Delmage, Esq., an Irish Barrister, who will be remembered by many of our citizens as occupying a prominent place in our local affairs until his death in the early Seventies. The leading feature of the first number of The Journal was the Editor's "salutatory" in which he sets forth the laudable aim he had in view "in providing a means of disseminating sound principles and providing a vehicle for influencing the minds of the people in the proper direction." The recent union of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, we are told, calls for more interest to be taken in public affairs; a new era was opening up which demanded the attention of the people of the country, so that they might take advantage of the possibilities which lay before them. The first administration after the Union, under Lord Sydenham, was not a straight party Cabinet such as we have had generally in later times. Hon. W. H. Draper, a Tory of the old school, was Premier, but

among his colleagues were Robert Baldwin, R. B. Sullivan and S. B. Harrison, who, a few years later became the leaders of the Reform party, as the Liberals of that day were designated. The "Journal" tendered its support to the Administration "whenever its measures met with its approval"—a pledge of very little value to a Government—but its chief aim and object was "to advance the interests of the County of Kent," and secondly, "to prosper ourselves"—a duty which many subsequent newspaper people failed to accomplish. The "Journal" was not merely to be a newspaper—its columns were always to be open for the discussion of public affairs; attention would be devoted to polite literature; "the Poet's corner" would be carefully selected; extracts from ancient and modern authors would appear from time to time; and the proceedings of the Provincial and Imperial Parliaments would claim a share of editorial attention.

Two or three columns of this initial number are taken up with a sketch of the County of Kent, which at that time comprised twenty Townships—ten of which now form the County of Lambton, and one (Tilbury North) since transferred to the County of Essex. It was watered (I am quoting from the article) by two noble streams, the Thames and the Sydenham—the former, Bear Creek, having been renamed in honor of the Governor-General by a recent Order-in-Council. Providence had done much for the County—man but little—the chief reason for the lack of progress being, in the writer's opinion, the lack of communication. The County was making some advance nevertheless, the population having increased from 4,000 in 1830 to 16,000 in 1841. The crying evil was the non-resident landowner (as he has been in all countries and all ages), and the "Journal" earnestly advocated the imposition of such a substantial tax on uncultivated lands as would force them into the market, "instead of the present futile tax of one-eighth of a penny per acre." Had Henry George propounded his scheme of land taxation at that early period he would have had an enthusiastic supporter in the "Journal." The soil of the Ridge across the Southern tier of Townships was described as "warm and gravelly," on which corn, wheat and tobacco could be grown to great advantage—tobacco yielding from 800 to 1000 lbs. per acre and realizing about \$6 per 100 lbs. Drainage was earnestly urged in this and subsequent numbers of the paper, and the seed then sown has borne good fruit, as is evidenced by the many magnificent drainage schemes which have been constructed in all parts of the County during the last half century, at a cost of many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Chatham in 1841 contained 812 inhabitants, and comprised Lots 1 and 2 in the Front Concession of Harwich, and Lot 24 in Raleigh—600 acres in all.

The "Journal" had also a page of advertisements, which to

many of us is not the least interesting part of the paper, as the names recall prominent men of that and later times, or families still represented in the County. Daniel Forsyth (for many years afterwards Assessor and Collector in the Town) was then a leading grocer. W. & W. Eberts and Witherspoon & Charteris offered to the settlers all kinds of supplies, produce being taken in exchange, as was the universal custom in these pioneer days. W. W. Dolsen, as successor to his son-in-law, Israel Evans, was the proprietor of the Cross Keys Tavern, as the hotels were then called. Robert Smith had a complete stock of furniture, to offer, and it is worth noting that the site of Mr. Smith's shop has been occupied as a furniture store ever since. Henry Verrall (for many years later a Clerk in the Post Office) was the only butcher in Chatham in 1841. The late Robert Stuart Woods (who occupied such a prominent place in the City and County as a leading lawyer and later Junior Judge), was then a student and gave notice in the "Journal" that he would apply to Parliament for a charter for a Mutual Fire Insurance Company for the District.

As promised in the prospectus considerable attention is given in this and subsequent issues to Parliamentary proceedings. The first session of the first Parliament of United Canada had been opened at Kingston ten days before, and one of the first matters recorded was the presentation of a petition by Col. Prince, Member for Essex, from Joseph Woods, complaining that the Returning Officer for Kent at the general election in April had improperly refused to declare him (Mr. Woods) duly elected, he having a majority of the votes. We find in next week's issue that Parliament dealt favorably with Mr. Woods' appeal, and that that gentleman had taken his seat in the Assembly. One of the leading measures at this first Parliamentary session was the District Councils bill, introduced by Mr. S. B. Harrison (who had been elected Member for Kingston after his defeat in Kent by Mr. Woods), which was practically the introduction of the Municipal system in this Province. It was a very modest innovation on the preceding Magisterial management. Two members of the Council were to be elected in each Township having over 300 inhabitants, but the Warden was to be nominated by the Governor in Council. This provision was continued until 1847 when the Wardens were chosen by the Council, as at present.

In a later issue of the "Journal" I find a report of a public meeting held at Montreal in August, 1841, to take steps to secure the erection of a monument to Tecumseh, and meetings appear to have been held simultaneously at Kingston, Amherstburg and other places to promote the same worthy object. The Chatham meeting was held on the 11th of September, called by Sheriff George Wade Foott, in response to a requisition presented to him, in which I note

he is addressed as "His Worship." Appropriate speeches were made, resolutions moved, seconded and adopted, in which the brave old chief was eulogized in very much the same way as we have been honoring Tecumseh ever since, and with the same results. In 1841, as in 1912, the movement reached its climax in the appointment of a Committee comprising Peter Paul Lacroix, John G. Weir, Joseph Tissiman, Edwin Larwill, Daniel Forsyth, Dr. Robertson and Dr. Ironsides. The names of the Committee appointed at the meeting of two years ago will probably be resurrected seventy years hence by some antiquarian. Most of us have forgotten them already.

Emancipation Day was celebrated in Chatham on the First of August, 1841—probably for the first time. The procession is described as a very creditable one, evidencing thrift on the part of the colored people who so lately had escaped from bondage to this land of light and liberty.

The Personal column was not neglected even in '41. The comings and goings of prominent people were duly chronicled. Marriages were duly recorded, the happy couples departing for Montreal, Buffalo or New York, by boat or carriage, amid showers of rice in very much the same style as the modern reporter sets out these events in our own time.

A paragraph appears in an issue of the Journal in 1842 which might be appropriately quoted as an addenda to Mrs. Dunn's admirable history of St. Joseph's Church last year. "Rev. Father McDonald, of Maidstone, visited Chatham recently to see what prospect there was of supporting a resident Roman Catholic clergyman in this neighborhood, and found there were a sufficient number of members of that faith to have the services of a clergyman of their own." The erection of the Church was proceeded with every shortly after, as related by Mrs. Dunn.

The second paper to appear in Chatham was "The Gleaner," started by Mr. George Gould in July, 1845. He continued the publication for several years, but eventually transferred the business to Mr. Noah L. Freeman, who was appointed Postmaster sometime in the fifties, and the "Gleaner" passed out. While the "Journal" had been nominally independent in politics at the start, it soon developed into a straight party paper, Mr. Edwin Larwill (later Member for the County), succeeding Mr. Delmage as Editor, and when I mention the fact that the voluminous letters of Rev. Egerton Ryerson in defense of Lord Metcalfe were published serially in the Journal to the extent of a whole page week after week, while the replies of "Legion" (Hon. R. B. Sullivan being the writer) were not even noticed, the political leanings of the Journal could not well be misunderstood. The "Gleaner" was a supporter of the Baldwin-Lafontaine party, and from that time (1845) the rival political

parties in Kent have always been represented by newspapers advocating their principles. The efforts of the editors of those days were supplemented by letters of correspondents on political, local and general matters to a far greater extent than in our day, scarcely an issue appearing without a letter from "Pro Bono Publico," "Old Subscriber," "Veritas," "Fair Play," or some other familiar pseudonym.

"The Kent Advertiser" appears to have been the successor of the Gleaner, its first appearance being in March, 1848, Mr. Thomas A. Ireland being the publisher. He continued the business until 1853 or '54, when the office and plant were destroyed by fire. About that time Mr. Ireland was appointed Clerk of the County Court and Deputy Clerk of the Crown, retaining these positions until his death at a ripe old age in 1871. After the fire Mr. John S. Vosburg, who published a paper at Kingston, moved his plant to Chatham and continued the publication of The Advertiser, devoting some of his time to speculating in real estate, which was a mania in this locality during the building and early operation of the Great Western Railway. The only reminder of this early publisher that we have is the station on the Grand Trunk a few miles east of Chatham, which was named in his honor.

"The Chatham Planet," which seems to have been the successor of the Journal, entered the field in April, 1851, the publishers being Miles Miller and Matthew Dolsen. During their regime a young printer who had learned the art preservative in St. Catharines, found his way to Chatham in search of fame and fortune, and he was not long in the Planet office until he and a fellow printer took over the business, the firm being composed of Rufus Stephenson and Charles Stuart. Both were expert printers, but the editorial management was solely in charge of the senior partner, and the Planet soon became one of the leading Tory (the term "Conservative" had not been adopted generally in those days) papers in the Province. Mr. Stewart did not remain long in harness, and Mr. Stephenson continued to direct the paper for nearly thirty years, at the same time devoting much attention to municipal and public affairs—being Councillor, Reeve, Mayor, and eventually representing Kent in Parliament from 1867 to 1882. He retired from public life in the year last mentioned, spending his last days as other journalists have done, before and since, in serving the people in a Government office. Mr. Stephenson was Collector of Customs at the time of his death in February, 1901. The Planet has continued to prosper under the management of Mr. Sydney Stephenson, and is now not only a leading newspaper, but one of the prominent industries of Chatham.

In the Fourth Parliament of Canada (1851-4)) Mr. Jesse W. Rose was member for the County of Dundas—since represented in

the Legislature for so many years by the late Sir James Whitney. Suffering a defeat at the election of 1854 and having a strong desire to remain in public life, Mr. Rose came west, and after looking over the ground made up his mind that he could find a seat in Kent. He bought out The Kent Advertiser, and being the possessor of some means, greatly improved the mechanical outfit of the paper, the office being recognized in other towns in the neighboring Counties as one of the best equipped in the country. At the outset he secured the services of Mr. Dugald McDougall as editor, and residents of the County at that time have told me many stories of the journalistic battles that were fought between the rival editors. Party feeling ran high, the Clergy Reserves, Ecclesiastical Corporations, and later Representation by Population, furnishing clear cut issues between the parties. The Advertiser was on our exchange list (I was then a resident of Sarnia), and I remember it was always considered one of the brightest County papers that came to our office while Mr. McDougall remained as editor. This gentleman afterwards removed to Berlin, starting a paper of his own, and later was Registrar of the County of Waterloo.

"The Western Argus" succeeded the Advertiser in March, 1860, Mr. Wm. H. Thompson being the publisher. I have been able to find but one copy of the Argus (issue of April 3, 1861). It presented much the appearance of the Advertiser. The Argus had a most generous advertising patronage, and on glancing over the names of the professional and business men there represented I find but one who is still with us and continuing in the same business—Mr. Robert Cooper, who offered a choice selection of books and stationery, drawing special attention to a new aluminum pen, superior to all others. Mr. Thompson did not remain long with the Argus, removing to Detroit and conducting a Job printing office with much success. He was an occasional visitor to Chatham long after I became a resident.

Rev. I. B. Richardson, a Methodist Episcopal Minister, son of one of the first settlers on the Talbot Road in this County, had been publishing a paper at Morpeth, which was then a thriving village, the great shipping point for the produce of the southern part of the County, and rivalling Chatham in commercial importance. With the opening of the Great Western Railway trade found a new outlet to the east, and Morpeth's glory began to decline. When Mr. Thompson decided to leave Chatham Mr. Richardson saw a wider field before him, and became the owner of the Argus plant. He changed the name of the paper to "The Western Union," and continued its publication for nearly two years. Mr. Richardson was an ardent controversialist both in politics and Church affairs—a thorough radical, as many of the M. E. brethren were,—but he found he could not manage a newspaper and continue his ministerial

duties, and wisely gave up the paper. He remained a resident of Chatham for several years as Presiding Elder of this district, but after the close of the American War removed to Alabama, and died there at an advanced age.

Cameron Brothers succeeded Mr. Richardson in 1863, and again changed the name of the paper—"The Western Reformer" being the title adopted. They occupied the field less than two years, the property passing into the hands of the Hon. Walter McCrea, who represented the Western District in the Legislative Council, and was long a prominent figure in the politics of the country and a most useful and public spirited citizen. Mr. McCrea was chosen as a member of the Senate at Confederation, and held that position until his appointment as Judge of the Judicial District of Algoma in 1870. He continued to reside at the Sault until his death in 1892.

On the invitation of Mr. McCrea, during the autumn of 1864, the writer paid his first visit to Chatham, and after some negotiation became the owner of the plant, which, after passing through so many hands, had become practically a wreck. Purchasing new material and removing the office from a third-story room to more commodious premises, he succeeded in getting out the initial number of "The Chatham Banner" on the 12th of January, 1865, and the paper was continued regularly under one proprietor for more than 20 years. In 1885 a stock company was formed, and the paper greatly improved, although still under the same management. In the spring of 1894 the Company disposed of its interests to Mr. Jas. S. Brierly, of St. Thomas, and a daily issue of "The Banner" was inaugurated, the writer continuing in the editorial management until February, 1897, when he stepped down and out, retiring to "that seclusion which an office grants" (with apologies to Gilbert & Sullivan), after a continuous newspaper service of forty-five years. In 1900 Mr. A. C. Woodward became proprietor of the establishment, and again changed the name, "The Daily News" being now the representative of the line of Liberal papers that have come and gone during the past seven decades. The present printing establishment is a mammoth affair compared to the modest outfits of earlier days, and is a credit to the business tact and energy with which the paper is conducted.

There were many other newspaper ventures in Chatham during the years I have attempted to cover, but as none of them have left even a wrack behind, my reference to them must necessarily be brief.

Early in the 50's the colored people began to escape to Canada in increasing numbers, and this district being so close to the land of bondage, Chatham became the headquarters and terminus of the "Underground Railway." . . Among the brightest of the many estim-

able colored families that came to Kent in the early days was the Shadds, still represented by many useful citizens. In 1854 Mr. I. D. Shadd started the "Provincial Freeman," and continued the publication until 1863 or 1864, the office being on the corner of King and Adelaide Streets, in what was long known as the Charity block. While the war was drawing to a close, Mr. Shadd gave up the paper and went south, becoming a prominent figure during the Reconstruction period, occupying a seat in the Mississippi Legislature for several terms.

"The Chatham Tribune," started by W. R. Dobbyn, B. A., in or about 1880, as an independent journal, survived a few troublous years, when the editor accepted a call to a Universalist pulpit in the West, and the plant was bought by the proprietors of the other two offices.

"The Missionary Messenger," the organ of the British Methodist Episcopal Church, was published here for more than twenty years under the direction of that old stalwart, Bishop Willis Nazrey, and his successors, Bishops Disney and Walter Hawkins, but it, too, has ceased to be even a memory.

My paper would be incomplete without reference to an old veteran who spent the later years of his life in this County—Mr. William Rowan Hamilton, B. A., T. C., Dublin. Mr. Hamilton was a distinguished scholar who came to Canada in middle life, settling in the Muskoka District. Later he came to Dresden and edited the local paper there for a time; then to Chatham, where he directed the Tribune until its demise. Failing regular employment on either of the existing papers, he published a small advertising sheet, "The Market Guide," which appeared on Saturdays, and which the Editor faithfully distributed to the patrons of our far famed market for the benefit of his advertisers. He died on St. Patrick's Day, 1902, and a few of his friends and admirers placed a memorial stone over his grave in Maple Leaf Cemetery.

The outside Towns and Villages gradually acquired local journals as the years passed and the places became of importance. Morpeth was the first in the field, followed by Bothwell, Ridgetown, Dresden, Wallaceburg, Blenheim, Thamesville and Tilbury, but as my paper has already become much too long I will not attempt even a summary. At some future time I will endeavor to supplement this story dealing with the outside papers, which have done much to assist in developing this County and bringing it up to its present position as one of the most productive and progressive in this broad Dominion.

The History of the Twenty-Fourth Regiment of Canadian Militia.

By Major James C. Weir.

(Retired List, Canadian Militia.)

The first matter that I desire to put on record is that of some extracts from a single page of a diary kept by my great-grandfather, William McCrae, who located and settled about four miles down the Thames River on the Raleigh side, about the year 1797, and whose brother Thomas McCrae was an M. P. P. for the Western District, 1801 to 1805. The extracts are as follows:

Thursday, April 8th, 1813.

"Colonel Jacobs brought Colonel Baby's orders for drafting two-thirds of the Militia to march to Sandwich by the 12th inst., and to form an expedition to go to the foot of the rapids on the Maumee River."

Friday, April 9th.

*"Tommy went up the river last evening with Colonel Baby's orders to Captains Dolsen and Shaw to muster the Militia, and for Sergeant Arnold to muster and draft my Company of Howard and Harwich Militia."

Saturday, April 10th.

"Billy, Sergeants Arnold and Shapely with 22 men arrived here on their way to Sandwich, two of them got sick here, viz.—John Cull and Randy McDonald."

Sunday, April 11th.

"Captains Shaw and Dolsen started this morning in two boats with companies for Sandwich. Tommy started this morning on horseback, he belongs to I. Dolsen's Rifle Company, and Billy to bring back the horses."

The foregoing items are intermingled with remarks concerning the weather, the condition of the river, apparently at high flood at the time, and domestic topics. I regret to say that this one leaf is all that can be found of this diary, and we can now feel its loss as it would undoubtedly have contained most interesting passages relating to General Proctor and the Chief Tecumseh passing through this district in the following autumn, also to Harrison's army both in going and retiring.

**Sons of William McCrae.*

After this, peace and quietness settled over the country, until the troublous times of the Rebellion of 1837-38, when the loyal men of Kent were once more called to duty.

On account of a gathering of self-styled "Patriots," at Detroit, threatening to make an invasion of our borders, a Company of Militia Volunteers was raised in Kent under the command of Captain Bell, one of the Lieutenants being the late Thomas McCrae, afterwards Police Magistrate of Chatham for a number of years.

During their service at the front a detachment of them crossed on the ice and dispersed a body of the rebels who were occupying Fighting Island, in the Detroit river, and captured a small field gun, which they brought with them to Chatham on their return to their homes.

This gun for some years occupied a position on the lawn of Mr. McCrae's residence on Thames street, and on his death was transferred to the care of the late John Tissiman, and may still be seen in front of the Tissiman residence on Victoria avenue. It was nick-named, "The Rebel Pup."

The Company was further honored on their return by ladies of the neighborhood presenting them with a flag, made by their own hands and bearing the words, "Kent Volunteers."

The whereabouts of this flag is unknown, if still in existence, but I can remember having seen it on many occasions.

The next movement of any military importance was in 1857 or 58, at the time of the Mutiny in India, when the late Walter McCrae, afterwards Judge of the District of Algoma, raised a company of Riflemen in this town and was given the command of it as Captain, the late James G. Sherrieff being one of the Lieutenants. This was only in existence for a short period, or during the war in India, and was then disbanded.

Our quiet was not again disturbed until 1861, when the Mason and Slidell affair so nearly caused a declaration of war between Great Britain and the United States, and all through the Canadas the Sedentary Militia was mustered, and a company of volunteers called for from each township. It was at this time that your humble servant first became a Canadian Volunteer, the men of the Township of Raleigh under the command of Colonel Toll, of the Lake Shore, mustering at the Township Hall on the Middle Road, Raleigh Township, near Buxton, the requisite number of Volunteers being secured without trouble.

This difficulty having been settled between the two Nations, peace again hovered over the country, but a martial spirit had been aroused, an infection probably from the Civil War then going on in the United States, and organizations were formed in the different Cities and Towns throughout the country for the purpose of gaining a knowledge of military drill. Such was the case in Chatham, a

number of the citizens meeting once each week for drill, under the instruction at first of Mr. Thomas McCrae, and afterwards of Mr. David Smith, an ex-member of the London Horse Guards, who after a time was the first Lt.-Colonel of the 24th Battalion of Infantry, Kent.

In the latter part of the year 1862, it being considered probable that our frontier might be troubled by incursions of parties of disbanded soldiers and other vagrants from the States at the close of the Civil War, the Canadian Government authorized the formation of Volunteer Companies in Canada and a number of Sergeant Instructors from the Regular Army were sent out to take charge of the instruction in drill of the Companies so raised.

And so, under these conditions, at a meeting held in the old Royal Exchange Hotel, (the site of the present Victoria Block) about the middle of December, the No. 1 Company of Infantry, Chatham, came into being, and was accepted and formally gazetted by a Militia Order dated the 26th December, 1862, with a strength of 55 non-commissioned officers and men, and 3 commissioned officers, viz.—

Captain—David Smith.

Lieutenant—A. B. Baxter.

Ensign—Simeon M. Smith.

This was followed on the 16th January, 1863 by the formation of No. 2 Company of similar strength, the officers being:

Captain—Thomas Glendinning.

Lieutenant—James G. Sheriff.

Ensign—Joseph Tilt.

One of the Drill Instructors mentioned was at once despatched to Chatham, in the person of Sergeant R. C. Brown, who took up quarters in the old Barracks, situated in the central part of what is now Tecumseh Park, and there we were diligently instructed in the complications of Company drill, from the position of a soldier, on through the troubles of the "Goose Step" to the formation of a Company line or column.

In the latter part of the year 1864, the prospect of raids having become more threatening, the Government decided to call out and station a number of the Volunteer companies at different points along the frontier as a measure of protection, and during the winter of 1864-65, some four or five companies from Quebec and Montreal were stationed at Windsor and Sandwich, while here in Chatham, as supports, we had a company of infantry from St. Catharines and one of Rifles from Dunnville.

These were withdrawn in the spring and their places taken by others, and in the shuffle our time came, Captain Smith receiving orders to increase the strength of No. 1 Company to 65 rank and file, and entrain for Sherbrooke, Lower Canada, which he proceeded

to do at once, and we left Chatham on the afternoon of the 28th of April, 1865, and arrived at Sherbrooke on the evening of the 30th.

There we remained as an outpost from the main body of a provisional Battalion, having headquarters at La Prairie, under the instruction of Sergeant Evans, another of the Regular Drill instructors, until about the 10th of July, when we were sent back home, arriving here a fairly well set up company of men, both in drill and discipline. On our return we found the Barracks occupied by a strong company of the Royal Canadian Rifles, composed entirely of men from the regular army regiments stationed in Canada, who had re-enlisted for Canadian service; these were under the command of Captain Boyd, with Ensigns Hignett and McGill, Lieut. Notter being the Medical Officer.

We have, I believe, only one of these men still with us. I refer to the Crimean Veteran, James McMahon; others having been the late Major James H. Reilly and Captain Thomas Coogan.

The Chatham Volunteers were then allowed to take up their ordinary vocations again, but only for a short time, for, before long, rumors arose of a threatened invasion from the United States of large bodies of the Fenian Societies, who had been openly drilling in the Cities of the States with that avowed object, and who had as officers, men who had seen service in the American War.

So once more the war alarm came to Chatham and both Nos. 1 and 2 Companies were on the 8th of March, 1866, sent to the front at Windsor, where with some 4 or 5 other Companies from different parts of Canada, we watched the frontier opposite Detroit, expecting the enemy to attempt to cross at almost any time.

We were held at Windsor until almost the middle of May, when the route for home was received.

But we had hardly got settled down when on the 2nd of June, 1866, we were again called to arms, the reason being that a body of the Fenians had at last crossed the Canadian frontier, the point chosen being on the Niagara River, opposite Buffalo. On their attempting to march inland they were met by Regular and Militia troops who soon put them to the right about, and finding Canada to be an exceedingly unwholesome and inhospitable place for their nefarious fraternity, they fled to their homes, excepting those that had been captured and held as prisoners.

During the two weeks that we were on service at this time we were stationed here in Chatham, there being on duty,—1 Company Royal Canadian Rifles, Capt. Boyd; No. 1 Co., Chatham, Major David Smith; No. 2 Co., Chatham, Capt. Glendinning, and the Blenheim Co., Capt. Jno. McMichael; Major Smith (who had received promotion while at Windsor) being in command.

These constant raid scares determined the government to arrange the Militia on a better footing, and then commenced the work

of organizing the Volunteer Companies into Battalions, and the genesis of the 24th Regiment, or as it was then called, Battalion.

By a General Militia Order of the 14th September, 1866, the 24th Battalion of Infantry, Kent, came into existence, composed of the following eight companies and officers, viz.—

Lieut.-Colonel—David Smith.

Senior Major—A. B. Baxter.

Junior Major—Archabald McKellar, M. P. P.

No. 1 Company, Chatham—Capt. Simeon M. Smith; Lieut. J. W. Lewis; Ensign, Jas. C. Weir.

No. 2 Company, Chatham—Captain, Rufus Stephenson; Lieut., Henry G. Reed; Ensign, James Richardson.

No. 3 Company, Blenheim.—Capt., John McMichael; Lieut., J. K. Morris; Ensign, Conrad Rowe.

No. 4 Company, Morpeth.—Capt., John Duck; Lieut., Charles H. Mason; Ensign, Hiram Cornwall.

No. 5 Company, Florence.—Capt., Harvey Morris; Lieut., Wm. J. Graham; Ensign, John Gray.

No. 6 Company, Dawn Mills.—Capt., Nathan Kirby; Lieut., Bryan Lloyd; Ensign, S. C. Taylor.

No. 7 Company, East Tilbury.—Capt., Matthew Martin; Lieut., David Smith; Ensign, John A. McGregor.

No. 8 Company, Bothwell.—Capt., John Walker; Lieut., Richard Chambers; Ensign, Thomas W. Dyar.

Paymaster—Hon. Capt. J. J. J. Thompson.

Quarter Master—Hon. Capt. Jas. G. Sheriff.

Surgeon—Chas. J. S. Askin, M. D.

From this time onward until its disbandment in 1892, the 24th had no very remarkable occurrences; its history may almost be said to have been already made.

The usual annual drills in camp were carried out at different places, such as Thorold, Sarnia, London, Windsor and sometimes at Headquarters in Chatham.

Some changes took place in the command, Lieut.-Col. Smith retiring in 1878, was succeeded by Major A. B. Baxter as Lt.-Colonel, with Capts. Matthew Martin and Jas. C. Weir as Senior and Junior Majors.

In 1882 just previous to my own retirement, retaining rank, the Windsor Company, being all that remained of the original 23rd, was attached to the 24th for drill purposes, and the Battalion then consisted of the following, viz.—7 Companies:

Lieut.-Colonel—A. B. Baxter.

Senior Major—Matthew Martin.

Junior Major—Jas. C. Weir.

No. 1 Company, Chatham—H. A. Patteson, Capt.

No. 2 Company, Chatham—Geo. K. Atkinson, Capt.

No. 3 Company, Ridgetown—Conrad D. Rowe, Capt.

No. 4 Company, Chatham—Simeon M. Smith, Capt.

No. 5 Company, Bothwell—John Robinson, Capt.

No. 6 Company, Dresden—W. H. Hughes, Capt.

No. 7 Company, Windsor—George Cheyne, Capt.

Adjutant, Major Jas. H. Reilly.

Paymaster, Hon'y Major H. G. Reed.

Quartermaster, Hon'y Lieut. Theo. H. Nelson.

Surgeon, T. K. Holmes, M. D.

Assistant Surgeon, G. A. Tye, M. D.

Lieut. Colonel A. B. Baxter remained in command until his death, 4th January, 1886, the only change being the retirement of Major J. C. Weir in 1883 and the promotion to the vacancy of Capt. C. D. Rowe as Major.

In 1886 Major M. Martin was promoted to Lieut.-Colonel, and assumed the command and retained it until its last days in 1892, when, owing to the impossibility of keeping the Battalion recruited to even a small proportion of the requisite strength, the Battalion was disbanded and the senior officers placed on the retired list.

We were then without any Military organization in either county or city until in the year 1900 the question of raising a new Regiment became a live topic, and Major J. B. Rankin was freely spoken of as the most likely person to undertake the project; so in the latter part of the summer I was pleased, as the Senior Officer in the County, in the temporary absence of Lt.-Col. Martin, to receive a note from Lt.-Colonel J. G. Holmes, the Officer Commanding No. 1 Military District, inviting me to meet him at the Garner House and talk over matters in connection with the re-organization of the Regiment. After having laid before him the condition of things as they existed, I introduced Major Rankin to him, and together we visited the Drill Shed and other parts of the city, and, before his leaving, Major Rankin had consented to undertake to raise a Four Company City Regiment, he to be promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and to have command.

I am happy to state that the energetic efforts of Lt.-Col. Rankin were most successful, and the new 24th Kent Regiment was duly accepted by the Militia Department and gazetted under a general order of the 1st January, 1901, under Lt.-Col. J. B. Rankin with G. P. Scholfield as Major, the Captains being Geo. Massey, J. W. McLaren, Fred Stone, and Wm. Mowbray; and the Lieutenants, O. Watson, Geo. S. Heyward, A. T. McDonald, E. G. Sutherland, J. S. Black, N. D. Harper, E. Bell and F. Willoughby; with D. B. Spry as Captain and Adjutant.

During the years 1906-07 the old frame Drill Shed was dismantled and the present commodious brick Armouries erected in its place, containing such necessary apartments as were needed

for the establishment, viz.—large floor for drill purposes, Orderly room, four rooms for Company Arms and equipment, mess rooms for the Officers and the Sergeants, lecture room, band room, besides a basement for rifle practice and sports for the men. There have since then been several changes in the command, occasioned by an order that the command should only be held for a term of five years, except when otherwise ordered on account of military expediency. So that no change took place until the 30th November, 1908, when Capt. Fred Stone succeeded to the command with J. W. McLaren as Major.

On the 15th March, 1911, Capt. J. S. Black became Lt.-Colonel, Major McLaren retaining his position.

On the 19th February, 1912, Major McLaren was promoted to be Lt.-Colonel and Capt. H. D. Smith, Major.

And on the 19th February, 1913, on the retirement of Lt.-Col. McLaren, Major Herbert D. Smith was gazetted Lt.-Colonel, and Capt. O. L. Lewis, Major.

As you are aware, Lt.-Col. Smith still retains command and has proved himself, since the commencement of the terrible war now going on, to be the right man in the right place, loyal, patriotic, energetic and giving himself body and soul to the exigencies of his position, in not only maintaining the 24th Regiment in full vigor and growth, but in looking after the enlisting and training of recruits for the different contingents for active service at the front, that have, since the first of August last, been dispatched from our City.

In reference to the Colours that have from time to time been placed in the hands of our several military organizations, just a word is necessary. The first one in 1838 I have already dealt with. The next was in 1865, when on our return from frontier service, the ladies of Chatham presented No. 1 Company with a silk flag, which accompanied the company on all its services at Camp for years, and was used to indicate the quarters of the commanding officer. The remains of it are now in the possession of S. M. Smith, but so tattered and torn as to be hardly recognizable.

Again in 1891 on the return of the Battalion from Camp at St. Thomas, the loyal spirited ladies of the city provided a set of silk Colours for the Battalion, which on its disbandment passed into the keeping of Lt.-Col. Martin. Shortly before he left the city for the North West, however, at a meeting in the armouries of the Veteran Officers and the Officers of the Regiment, they were formally placed in the keeping of the new 24th.

I am pleased to learn that the ladies of the city in their sincere loyalty and devotion have again shown their attachment to the Regiment by providing a new set of colours for presentation in the

near future, when the old ones will probably be deposited in the Parish Church as laid down in the King's Regulations.

In conclusion I beg to place before you the following, showing the establishment of the 24th Regiment this day, including the four extra Companies that have recently been raised outside of the city, as well as the machine gun detachment for handling the rapid firing guns recently presented to the Regiment, one each by the city and county councils.

24th Regiment of Infantry, Kent.—8 companies of 3 officers and 40 rank and file each.

Lieutenant-Colonel—Herbert D. Smith.

Senior Major—Oscar L. Lewis.

Junior Major—George J. L. Smith.

A Company—Capt. P. K. Morley.

B Company—Capt. E. C. Brisco.

C Company—Capt. H. A. G. Willoughby.

D Company—Capt. W. A. Coltart.

E Company, Wallaceburg —Capt. C. E. Sauvey.

F Company, Dresden—Capt. R. D. Black.

G Company, Blenheim—Capt. E. C. Hodgins.

H Company, Ridgetown—Capt. D. Marr.

Adjutant—Capt. Neil Smith.

Signalling Officer—Capt. O. V. Jewett.

Musketry Instructor—Capt. E. C. Brisco.

Paymaster—Honorary Lieutenant Fred W. Hall.

Quartermaster—Honorary Lieut. C. Wright.

Medical Officer—Capt. C. C. Bell.

Chaplain—Honorary Capt., Reverend R. S. W. Howard.

A Machine Gun detachment has recently been added to the Regiment under the command of Lieutenant Frank P. Adams, being 2 Colt rapid-fire machine guns, tripod mounted, composed of one sergeant and 18 to 24 privates.

The following named Officers of the Regiment have accepted commissions in the several contingents raised for overseas service during the war.

1st Contingent—Captain George J. L. Smith; Lieutenant W. W. Galaugher, Lieutenant Donald E. Douglas; Medical Corps, Dr. George Musson, Captain.

2nd Contingent—Lieutenants Stewart McKeough, George Kerr, Donald Rispin, D. Wigle.

3rd Contingent—Lieutenants A. G. G. Clark, Maurice Henderson, and also this day the following officers have been accepted:—Capt. O. V. Jewett and Capt. H. A. G. Willoughby; also Capt. E. Fremlin, from the Corps reserve of the Regiment, has received the appointment as Paymaster of the 34th Overseas Battalion.

I am sure we must all feel proud of this grand showing and pray for their success in arms and a safe return to their homes with the glory of victory upon them.

With your permission I would like to place on record the names of the members of No. 1 Infantry Company of Chatham, who left Chatham for Frontier duty in Canada East on the 28th of April, 1865. Almost fifty years have passed since then, and their names are almost unknown to the citizens of Chatham of today, but the mention of each name recalls to those who survive some trait or incident in connection with their service.

Muster Roll of No. 1 Company, Chatham, on service at Sherbrooke, Canada East, in 1865:—

Captain—David Smith.

Lieutenant—Alex. B. Baxter.

Ensign—Simeon M. Smith.

1. Sergeant Major J. W. Lewis.	34. Private Edward Green.
2. Color Sergt. Hy. G. Reed.	35. " John Holmes.
3. Sergeant Thomas Veitch.	36. " Joshua Humphreys.
4. Sergeant James C. Weir.	37. " Thomas Holmes.
5. Corporal Robert Atkinson.	38. " John G. Ivers.
6. Corporal David T. Smith.	39. " Daniel Kennedy.
7. Corporal Alexander Barr.	40. " John Kirby.
8. Corporal George R. Duck.	41. " Joseph Landon.
9. Lce.-Corp. John M. Weir.	42. " William Keating.
10. Lance-Corp. Wm E. White.	43. " Charles LeFrancis.
11. Lce.-Corp. Melahoir Eberts.	44. " James R. Lewis.
12. Bugler William Young.	45. " Theodore H. Nelson.
13. Bugler James M. Smith.	46. " Rich. M. Northwood.
14. Private James Allen, Sr.	47. " John M. Northwood.
15. " James Allen, Jr.	48. " John Matthew.
16. " Robert Baird.	49. " James Moore.
17. " Thomas Baxter.	50. " Hubert Murphy.
18. " Andrew Blackburn.	51. " Samuel S. McCrae.
19. " Alexander Bartlett.	52. " Donald McAllen.
20. " Thomas Brundage.	53. " Vital Ouellette.
21. " John Bourne.	54. " James Pickering.
22. " Robert D. Clegg.	55. " Thomas Richardson.
23. " William J. Clements.	56. " J. Nelson Stone.
24. " Marshal T. Cole.	57. " Hugh Sharkey.
25. " William Dolsen.	58. " Edward Stephens.
26. " George Davis.	59. " John Turner.
27. " Alexander Dezelia.	60. " Charles Winter.
28. " William Fraine.	61. " John Trotter.
29. " Oscar French.	62. " James L. Weir.
30. " Thomas Funston.	63. " Hugh Williams.
31. " Thomas M. French.	64. " James Wyld.
32. " George Goodfellow.	65. " George Williams.
33. " A. D. Giffin.	

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