



Judge Boswell with his second wife, a nurse and four granddaughters circa 1900

Boswell entered fully into the development and promotion of his chosen community. He was first Secretary of the **Cobourg Harbour Company** and a member of the first Board of Directors of the projected railroad to Rice Lake and later director of the **Cobourg & Peterborough Railway Company**. He also became a large landowner with a number of stores and houses. He built his last residence at 230 King Street East, and named it Balmuto after the family ancestral estates in Scotland. It is now demolished.

As a conservative in principle, Boswell identified with the reform movement and was an advocate for responsible government. With Captain Archibald Macdonald and his father-in-law, James Radcliffe, he led the moderate reformers in the area. Even so, when the Rebellion of 1837 broke out **he served in the government militia and saw action at Chippewa**. It then became his lot and duty, as a barrister with sympathy for the reform movement, to defend a number of the rebels charged with high treason.

In 1841 he was elected a member of the first Parliament of the United Canadas where he continued to forcefully argue for responsible government.

When Judge Boswell died in 1889, he was considered the last survivor of the first parliament of the United Canadas and the last of the initial group of Upper Canadian lawyers created as Queen's Council in 1841.