

Cobourg in 1846

"The District Town of the Newcastle District, in the township of Hamilton; is pleasantly situated on a gently rising ground, on the bank of Lake Ontario, 103 miles from Kingston, and 72 miles from Toronto. The town is incorporated, and the corporation limits extend or nearly two miles from the centre of the town. Cobourg is situated on a gravelly soil, and is consequently dry, clean and healthy. The town is well laid out, possesses good streets, and many excellent buildings, and has a very flourishing appearance. A harbour has been constructed at an expense of 10,381 pounds, 6 shillings, and 3 pence, and a light-house erected at the end of the pier. Excellent planked side-walks extend in every direction for a distance of from one to two miles.

"During the season, steamboats call daily on their passages to and from Kingston, Toronto, and Rochester (United States); and a stage leaves daily for Rice Lake, where it is met by the steamboat Forester, which conveys passengers to Peterborough; and the Toronto and Kingston stages pass through the town every day. During the winter, a stage leaves daily for Peterborough. A fair is held here on the second Tuesdays in April and October. The merchants have established amongst themselves a "Board of Trade", for the purpose of regulating the commercial affairs of the place; they have a newsroom, where several papers are taken. There is also a Mechanics' Institute. Three newspapers are published here, viz., the "Church," "Cobourg Star," and "Canada Christian Advocate." Churches and Chapels six, viz., Episcopal, Presbyterian, Catholic, Congregational, Methodist and Christian. In the Episcopal church is a very good organ. The Jail and Court House is a handsome stone building, situated about a mile and a-half from the town, on the Toronto road.

surgeon, two watch makers, three tin-smiths, five cabinet makers, ten tailors, two saddlers, four bakers and confectioners, eleven blacksmiths, one marble worker, one pail factory, four planing machines, one machine maker, fourteen shoemakers, three merchant tailors, two barbers, four butchers, three schools for boys, three ladies seminaries, two bank agencies --

"Victoria College was founded by the Wesleyan Conference; the institution was chartered in 1835, as an Academy, and by Act of Parliament, in 1842, was constituted a College, with power to confer degrees in the several arts and sciences -- (the only degree yet conferred has been one in literature); it is supported partly by a legislative grant of 500 pounds per annum, and partly by tuition fees. The building is handsome, and well situated, and cost nearly 10,000 pounds; it contains Library, Reading Room, Chapel, Laboratory, Lecture Rooms, etc., etc. Although the institution was founded by the Methodists, there is nothing sectarian in its character ...

"A large cloth factory has been lately erected, for the manufacture of coarse cloth, tweeds, cassinett, blankets, flannels, etc., when in full operation it will employ nearly 200 hands, and will be capable of turning out 850 yards of cloth per day. The building is of brick, and is five stories high, including basement.

"The following government and district offices are kept in Cobourg: Judge of District Court, Sheriff, Treasurer, Inspector of Licences, Collector of Customs, Registrar of County of Northumberland, District Clerk, Clerk of District Court, The office of the Clerk of the Peace is kept at Port Hope.

Post Office - post every day.

Population - 3,347

Professions and Trades - Six physicians and surgeons, seven lawyers, one steam grist-mill, two water do., two saw-mills, one cloth factory, one brewery, three distilleries, one ashery, one soap and candle factory, three tanneries, two founderies, twenty dry-good stores, ten groceries, two hardware stores, twelve taverns, two druggists, three printers, three booksellers, two surveyors, five waggon makers, one hatter, two livery stables, one veterinary

"Commercial," and "Montreal."

Principal Taverns - "North American," and "Globe."

Land Agent - S. Armour.

Stage fare to Peterborough during winter, ten shillings c'y.; stage and steam-boat fare to do. during summer, seven shillings and six-pence.

Smith's Canadian Gazeteer, 1846

AUG 06 1993

Source: Gordon King
Cobourg, Ont

COBOURG PUBLIC LIBRARY