

THE FIRST DIVISION OF TERRITORY

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By an Act of the British Parliament and proclamation issued July 24th, 1788, Upper Canada was divided into four parts or districts; Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nassau, (of which Wentworth became a part) and Hesse.

Lord Dorchester was the Governor-General.

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By the Constitutional Act in 1791 the country was divided into two Provinces, Upper Canada and Lower Canada, the Ottawa River being the dividing line.

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On July 16th, 1792, again a proclamation was issued and Upper Canada was divided into counties, the fifteenth of these was the County of Lincoln, and it was divided into four ridings.

The first riding bounded on the west by the easternmost line of the County of York, on the south by the Grand River, to be called the Ouse, thence descending the said river until it meets an Indian road leading to the forks of the Chippewa Creek, which creek is to be called the Welland, thence descending the said creek until it meets the continuation of the easternmost boundary of the late township No. 5, thence north along the said boundary until it intersects Lake Ontario, thence along the south shore of Lake Ontario until it meets the southeast boundary of the county of York. John Graves Simcoe, Lieut. Governor.

W. A.

On Oct. 15th, 1792, by an act of Parliament, the names of the districts were again changed to Eastern (Lunenburg), Midland (Mecklenburg), Home (Nassau), and Western (Hesse). And later to include Bathurst, Gore, Home, London, Midland, Newcastle, Niagara and Western. The district of Gore, named for Sir Francis Gore, Esq., was formed of part of the Home and Western districts.

Wentworth was formed on Mar. 22, 1816, and named in honour of Sir John Wentworth, Lt. Gov. of Nova Scotia.

When the districts were broken up, the counties of Wentworth and Halton formed one municipality. Gore district from 1850 to 1854.

On June 14, 1853 they were divided into two counties and have so remained until the present time (1946).

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The townships were surveyed in 1790 & 1791 and were designated numbers. Saltfleet was known as the 7th township. 28,173 acres. By a proclamation Dec. 18, 1791, Gov. Simcoe gave names to the townships and No. 7 became Saltfleet.

The location of Winona might be described through the years as:

In the district of Nassau, (1788), Province of Upper Canada (1791), Home district (1792), County of Lincoln, 1st riding, (1792), township No. 7, Saltfleet (1791), Gore district (1794), County of Wentworth (1816).

Village of Ontario until (1867), when Upper Canada became the Province of Ontario and the Railroad Station and Post Office and lake port were changed to Winona, after Wenonah, an Indian maiden and daughter of the great chief, Tecumseh.

The section on No. 8 highway east of Winona was quite a thriving community in 1875 and was known as the Fifty (for the Fifty Creek). The only church in the neighborhood was located there.

References

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