

# HISTORICAL SKETCH

The rapid filling up of the land in Southern Ontario and the region known as the Huron Tract, caused the Government to have the survey of the County of Bruce, then known as the Queen's Bush, completed in 1852. It was not, however, until the year 1854 that any settlers came into Culross. The settlers had to come in, either by lake to Kincardine and in the Durham Line, or up the Garafraxa Road to Durham and from there follow the Durham Line across to Walkerton and on to what is now known as Greenock Post Office. From Greenock the pioneer turned south, coming down as far as Lot 5, Concession 12, Culross; then out to William Smith's corner and over to what was Robert McMillan's (now J. Dickison's) farm, and thence south into what is now known as Teeswater.

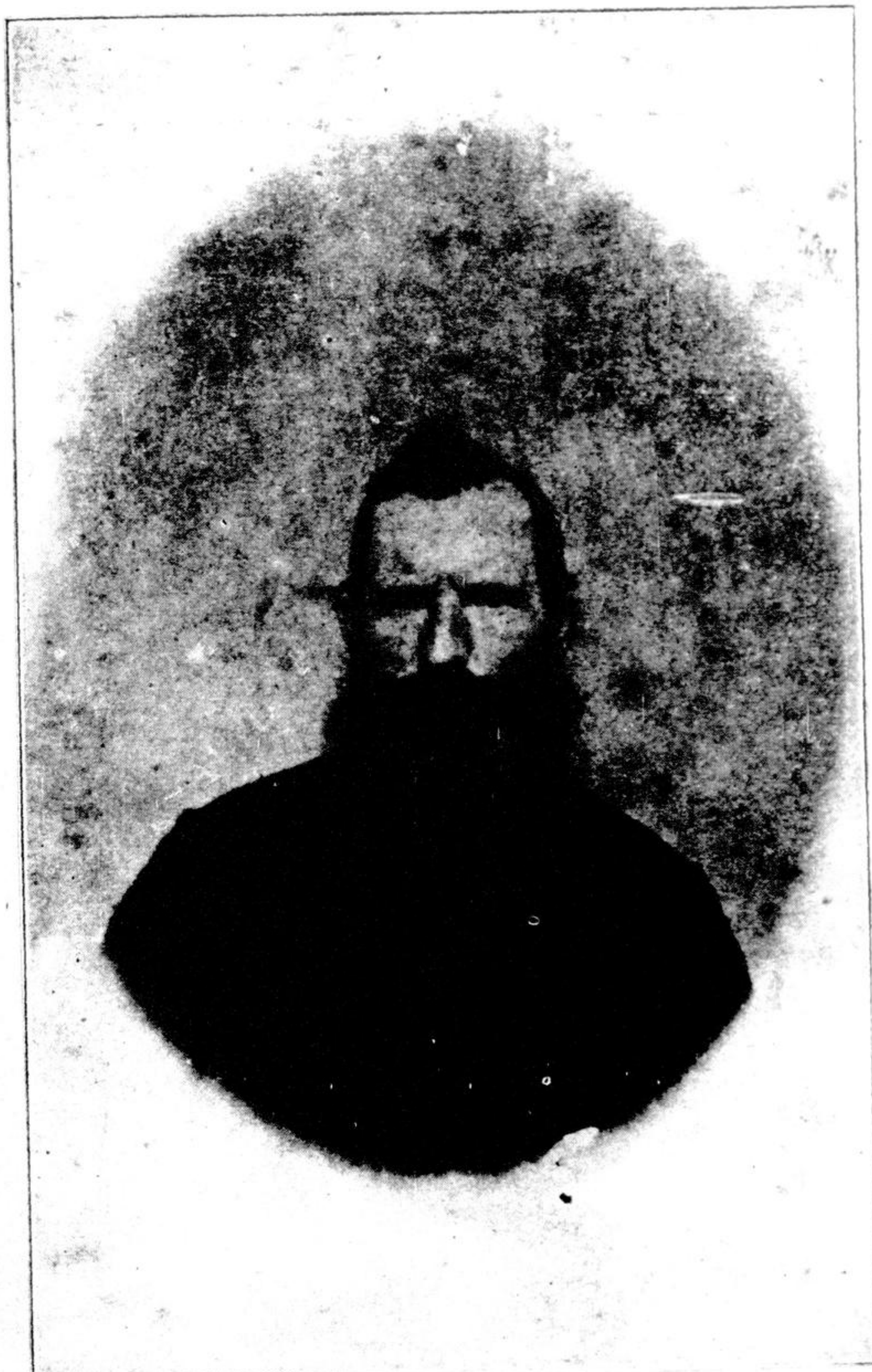
Could we of today have met one of the pioneers coming into the virgin forest and be told, in answer to our inquiry 'Where are you going?', that he had come in to hew out a home for himself, we might well have stood aghast in the presence of the mighty monarchs of the forest stand-all about us. But here he was and here he was going to stay, and has stayed. Little had he with him. Some flour, possibly a little tea, was all his food; his tools an axe, spoke-shave, auger, hammer and nails. Little indeed did he bring, little could he carry, in the trackless forest; but he brought something far greater than any visible thing. You may call it energy, courage, manhood, or what you will;

but in the last analysis it was a combination of all those qualities which go to make a people great, and that is what our pioneer men and women were.

Among the first settlers in Teeswater were Alex and Archibald McIntyre, who squatted on Lot 15, Concession 6; while a man by the name of Ford squatted on Lot 16. The McIntyres waived their claim in favor of P. B. Brown, who agreed to build a saw mill. The original deeds for the land on which Teeswater stands were issued to P. B. Brown, Alex. Gibson, M. Hadwen, and Henry Davis. The latter disposed of his claim very shortly afterwards to Ira Fulford who, with his brother Jesse, cleared Lot 15, Concession 7. The "Big Land Sale" was held at Southampton on Sept. 27, 1854, and after it was over the settlers returned to Culross to build their shanties and get ready for winter. Many of them slept in hollow logs in the interval. Although these men were all here in '54, it was not until 1855 that the necessity of opening a Post Office was felt, when the question of naming the place immediately arose. At a meeting held in Gibson's shanty, at which P. B. Brown, M. Hadwen, J. Logan and James Reid were present, it was decided to call the Post Office 'Teeswater', after the river which had already been named by the surveyors. In the meantime a store had been opened by M. Hadwen in his shanty which was situated where Miss Baptist's house now stands. He was the first Post Master. The patent appointing him is still in possession of the village clerk, John Farquharson.

During this same year, Brown, whose shanty was on the north side of the dam, where the saw logs have since been

dumped for years, proceeded to build his mill dam and saw mill. At the raising of the mill it was discovered when partially erected that not enough men were present to raise it owing to the weight of the green timber Brown shouted, "Men, lift for your lives!"; and one who was there said they lifted until they could not see. And there were giants in those days. The first saw was of the upright style but was subsequently replaced by a circular saw. As there was no bridge over the river, the road wound from the store along the crest of the hill, down over the mill dam and up on the south side of the river to Dr. Gillies' corner. In '56, Brown put up a grist mill which is known today as Case's mill, although nothing like the present size. David Watson had opened a blacksmith shop on the dump near Brown's shanty. It was afterwards moved up to what is now Chittick's blacksmith shop on Clinton street.



P. B. Brown, the first Reeve of Culross and one of the founders of Teeswater. He died in 1874.



M. Hadwen, the first store-keeper and Postmaster in Teeswater member of the first village Council.