

## County Family History Appears in Toronto Paper

Fred Williams in Mail and Empire  
Writes About Bedell Family—Ro-  
mance from a Railway Station

The Toronto Mail and Empire on Tuesday, February 11th, carried the following history of the Bedell family from the pen of Fred Williams:

"It is sometimes strange how a simple question will produce romance in the most unexpected places. Recently I had correspondence with Mr. W. D. Bedell, of the Bedell Farms at Hillier. Struck by the similarity of names I asked if his family was in any way connected with the junction station on the C. P. R., Bedell, where the old St. Lawrence and Ottawa, running from Prescott to the capital, crosses the main line. The result is a linking up with United Empire Loyalists and the Canadian army in France covering a century and a quarter of our history.

Bedell was first known as Kempton, but it being quite close to Kemptville some passengers got confused and got off at the wrong station and considerable confusion was caused. To obviate this a change of name was decided upon and Bedell was selected in honour of Lieut.-Col. Bedell, who was in command of the 156th Battalion, C. E. F., which was raised in Leeds and Grenville and who prior to the war had practised as a physician at Merrickville, not very far from Kempton (Bedell), but is now practising in the Village of Bloomfield, Prince Edward County. Mr. W. D. Bedell writes:

"Colonel Bedell is my brother, and we are of U. E. L. descent. Our great-grandfather was Reuben Bedell, whose wife was Sally Dorland. He was the first town clerk of Adolphustown. Our mother was a grand-granddaughter of Philip Dorland, who was the first member elected to Simcoe's parliament, but being a Quaker he refused to take the oath of office and the seat was declared vacant. There are two stories as to who actually filled the office. One is that his brother, Thomas Dorland, was elected; the other that Colonel VanAlstine was elected to fill the vacancy. My father's mother was Margaret Huffman, a daughter of Conrad Huffman (who I believe was U. E. L.) and his wife, Jane Shibley, who was a daughter of John Shibley, U. E. L. Our father's grandmother was Sarah Casey, daughter of Willet Casey, and his wife was Jane Niles. Our mother's grandfather was Thomas Clapp, son of another Loyalist. He attended school at Adolphustown in 1801, and we have his spelling book, on the fly leaf of which is inscribed 'Thomas Clapp's spelling book, Adolphustown, January, 1801.' His wife was Nancy Huff, who was probably a daughter of one of the U. E. L. Huffs."

I am able to add some further details. Philip VanAlstine was elected in 1793 to succeed Philip Dorland who declined to take the oath, though willing to affirm. He was re-elected in 1796. Thomas Dorland was never elected for Prince Edward. He was elected for Lennox and Addington in 1805 and 1809. Philip Dorland was clerk of the first town meeting at Adolphustown March 6, 1792, which was probably the first of its kind in Upper Canada.

The registers of Rev. Robert McDowall, the first Presbyterian missionary in Upper Canada, at Fredericksburg, contain several references to the Bedell family and others mentioned above. The very first entry in his register notes the marriage on May 11, 1800, of Gilbert Clapp and Elizabeth Bedell. Other entries include John Bowerman and Mary Bedell of Hallowell, on June 5, 1805; Isaac Smith and Jean Bedell, November 19, 1805; William Bedell and Peggy Bedell, December 2, 1813; Enoch Bedell and Sarah Casey of Adolphustown, March 5, 1814, and George W. Bedel (one l omitted) and Susannah Brown of Fredericksburg, April 12, 1832, this latter entry being repeated in another page than the first.

References to the Dorlands include the marriage of Philip Dorland to Elizabeth Bedell of Hallowell, July 14, 1803 (note the Elizabeth Bedell married to Gilbert Clapp in 1800; were they sisters or cousins?) Deborah Dorland of Adolphustown, to James Farlet of Sidney, March 2, 1806; Ann Dorland to Philip Height, June 6, 1808, Bedell Dorland and Sarah Booth of Ernesttown, September 5, 1808; Samuel Dorland and Susan Henderson, May 1, 1816; James Foster and Tabby Dorland, July 2, 1816.

Conrad Huffman and Jenny Shibley were married February 5, 1804. A Thomas Clapp was married to Sarah Jacobs of Fredericksburg on November 16, 1808. Could it have been he who was owner of the old spelling book?

Thus ends a dissertation arising out of a query as to the name of a railway depot!