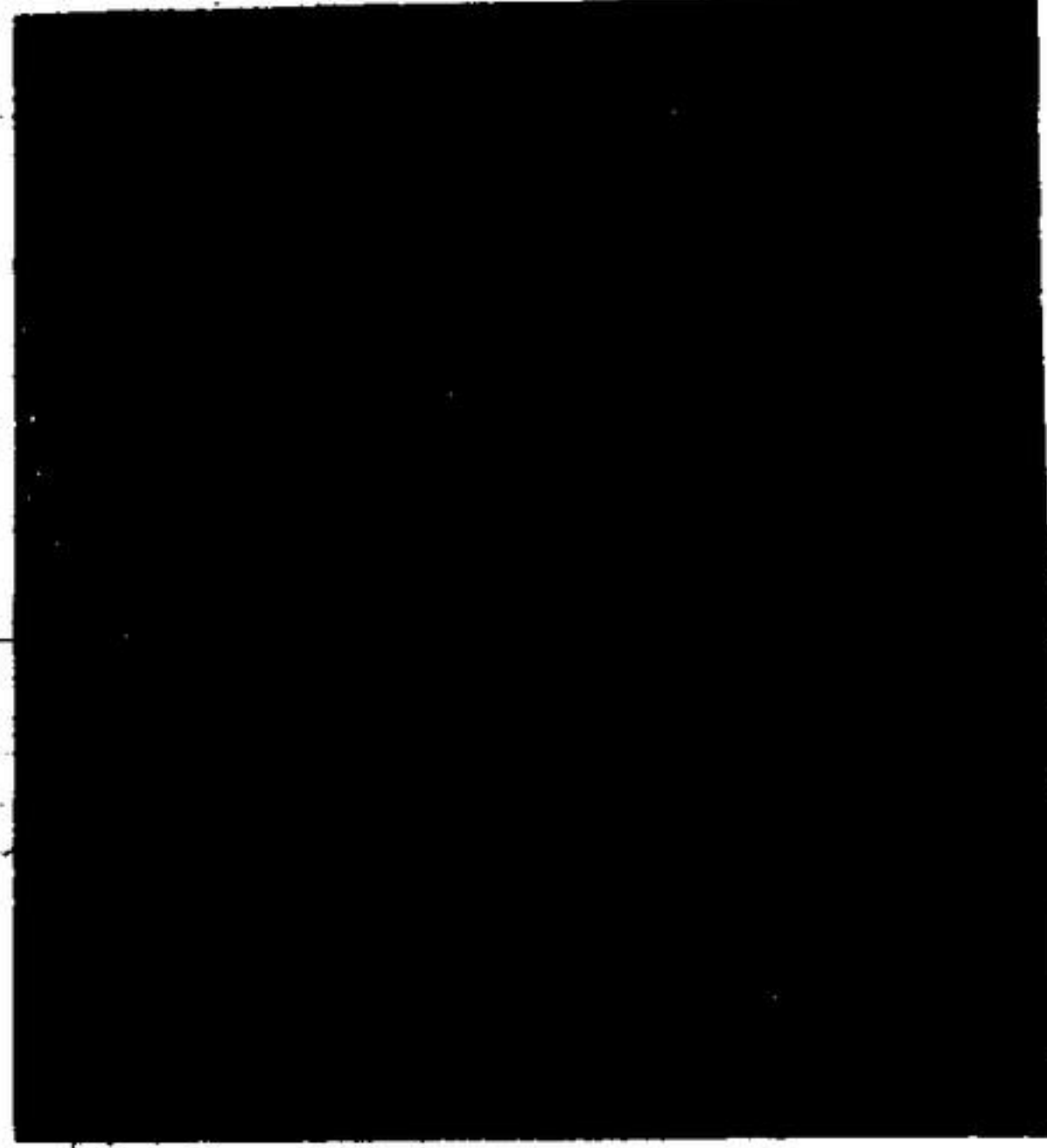




Garfield Brown—Halton Clerk-Administrator



Miss Margaret Maxted—Treasurer of Halton County



Roy Smith—Engineer and Road Superintendent



J. Ford Rogers—Halton's County Assessor

# 1877 Glimpse of Halton County Shows Sharp Contrast With 1962

Life in Halton County back in 1877 — can you imagine how it compared to today's modern pace? An illustrated historical "Atlas of Halton County" published by J. H. Pope in 1877, gives the modern generation an insight into the county of yesteryear. The following section on Halton's early days is one of many

interesting features of this book. **THE COUNTY OF HALTON** While the historian can find little of "moving accidents by field and flood" to embellish the narrative of the early settlement of Halton county, yet it has not been entirely destitute of heroes, or men who, when duty called, were ready to step into the breach. In fact the early pioneers,

in their own humble way, acted the heroic part, and filled perhaps quite as useful a part in the world's history, as though they had won their honors on the tented field. And the troubles that Canada has passed through have demonstrated to the world that her sons are no less fit to take up the sword than to pursue the more quiet, but no less honorable duties of the field, the forest, or the counting-house.

Canadian history, Halton can boast of being the home of Brant, a native of England, who breathed his last at what is now the village of Burlington. When the Indian was the possessor of the soil the southern part of Nelson Township was the scene of many a hard fought battle, as their traditions and the numerous graves yet to be found bear testimony, but since the history proper of Canada began, no battles have been fought within the borders of this county. Many of her settlers took part in the war of 1812-13; and in 1837-8 Halton was well represented on both sides.

The first municipal organization of what is now the Province of Ontario, was made by Lord Dorchester in 1788 by proclamation, under the authority of an Imperial Act of Parliament. The Province was divided into four districts, namely: Lunenburg, Mecklenburgh, Nassau, and Hesse. The Provincial Act of 1792 continued these four divisions, but called the Eastern, Midland, Home, and Western. Each district was to have a jail and court house. Halton formed a part of the Home District. It subsequently, with Wentworth, formed the Gore District which comprised the following townships: Wentworth, Amherst, Halton, Brook, Bradford, Glanville, Onondago, Tuscarora, and Saltfleet. Halton contained Beverly, Dumfries, Esquesing, Hamilton, West and East, Nassagaweya, Nelson, and Trafalgar.

The district first commenced settling in 1783, and according to the calculations of Mr. Gourlay it contained in 1817, 6,684 inhabitants. In 1817 there were in the district four places of worship, eighteen grist mills, forty-one saw mills, and three medical practitioners. There is no mention made of legal practitioners, they being in all probability a luxury unsuited to the state of the country at that time.

**Early Settlers** The Gore District was set apart in 1816, and the first settlers in the county were almost exclusively U. E. Loyalists, who preferred to begin life over again in the bush rather than sever their connection with British Crowns. They were a brave, intelligent, industrious people, and their noble example has left no slight impression on the people of the present day. Afterwards, the Counties of Wentworth and Halton were reduced to their present dimensions and continued until 1853, when they were separated; the Townships of Esquesing, Trafalgar, Nelson and Nassagaweya forming the County of Halton.

The first County Council meeting (provisional) was held at Thompson's Inn, in the Village of Milton, on the 12th day of July, 1853, under the provisions of an Act to separate the County of Halton from the County of Wentworth. The members present were Messrs. Brown, Crawford, John M. Naughton, Robert Miller, W. F. Romain, George Ghent, and James Young. Mr. James Young, Reeve of Esquesing, was elected Provisional Warden. Francis Hamburg, Clerk, and Henry Harrison, Treasurer. In 1854 Mr. Ghent was selected Warden.

**Milton, Oakville Join** The municipalities of the Towns of Milton and Oakville were added in 1857. In 1865 the village of Georgetown, and in 1874 the Villages of Burlington and Acton, sent representatives to the County Council. The County now comprises nine municipalities, the Townships of Esquesing, Trafalgar, Nelson, and Nassagaweya; the Towns of Milton and Oakville; and the Villages of Georgetown, Burlington, and Acton.

The Acton Free Press, Thursday, November 15, 1962

Among the honored names in

AT THE NEW  
**HALTON COUNTY  
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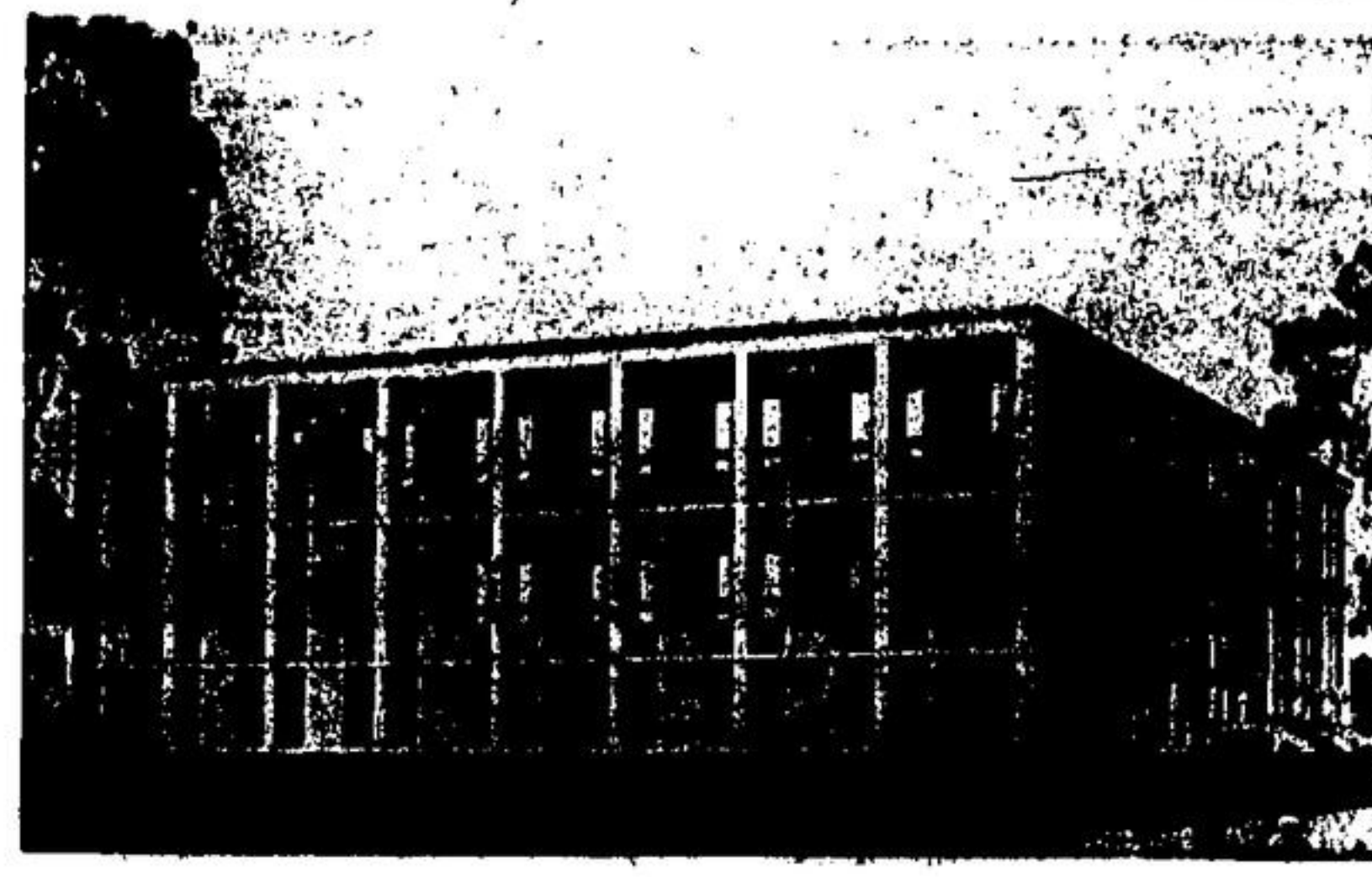
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CHOSEN THE ARCHITECT  
FOR THE NEW  
HALTON COUNTY  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
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67 YONGE, TORONTO



**THE LATE WARDEN** Wilfrid Bird, Reeve of Esquesing Township, was in charge of the official laying of the cornerstone at the Halton County Administration Building on March 12 of this year. He died on August 24, less than three months before the building was occupied.

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