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RICHMOND HILL, ONT.

**Village Directory.**  
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## THE HUMBER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES.

**Probable formation of the  
Humber valley—its condition  
when first occupied by our  
forefathers—together with  
some account of subse-  
quent changes.**

The following is one of a series of papers  
read before the York Pioneers by Mr.  
William Watson, of Weston, one of  
the most prominent and respected  
members of the Association, and  
is a minute history of the Co-  
unty of York, especially the  
Western portion.

(PAPER No. 2.)

When naming the probable formation  
of the Humber valley as the title in part  
of this paper, I had entirely forgotten  
for the time that in his first paper, "On  
the Don," Mr. Lea has fully and clearly  
discussed that point in accordance with  
the generally accepted theory. I shall  
therefore, dwell upon it only to query  
where the obstruction was sufficient to  
produce a lake of supposed dimensions,  
and at once proceed to a consideration of  
the valley lands. Probably on the sub-  
sidence of the waters forming the great  
lake, which is said to have covered all  
this region of country, the gravel, sand,  
alluvial deposits were swept down by the  
receding waters, and formed the valley  
lands or Humber flats. The soil thus  
formed varies in depth from a few inches  
to probably over ten feet. In some  
places the valley is only a few rods wide;  
in others nearly a mile, and when taken  
possession of by our forefathers was  
heavily timbered to the very margin of  
the river. Much of this timber showed  
signs of great age—probably many of the  
trees had stood the storms of over a  
thousand winters. In several places,  
where excavations have been made or  
where a wash-out has taken place, logs  
and even whole trees have been discover-  
ed in some instances seven or eight feet  
beneath the surface. I know of five  
such places within a distance of six miles.  
How came those trees there? Did they  
first grow and, falling, become imbed-  
ded or were they swept down along  
with the earth that covered them? It is  
evident if the buried timber grew to ma-  
turity and fell where found, it must  
have been in the ages long ago. Some of  
the old settlers account for the imbed-  
ded timbers from frequent changes in the  
river's course, the old channel gradually  
filling, burying all logs and trees therein  
remaining. With one exception (hem-  
lock) the imbedded timbers are the same  
as those which grew above. Kinds of  
timber thus found:—Maple, beech, bass,  
elm, oak, cedar, tamarac, hemlock, and  
pine. The maple, beech, bass, hemlock,  
when tested with the axe, were found  
quite decayed; the others generally sound.  
On lot 19, 6th con., township of York, is  
an elm deeply imbedded, a portion of  
which being unearthed some two years  
ago, was by last spring's flood partly  
broken, bending and splintering similar  
to a green tree.

**EARLY SETTLERS.**—These, whether  
owners of the soil or mere squatters,  
usually erected their dwellings near the  
river, this being desirable, as many of  
them (like the Indians before them) de-  
voted much of their time fishing, hunt-  
ing, and trapping. The abundant sup-  
ply of fresh water, the fine pasture of the  
fertile flats, and the excellent roadway  
in winter were doubtless additional in-  
ducements.

In those early times the section of  
country drained by the Humber and  
tributaries abounded with animals of  
various kinds. Among these were the  
deer, bear, beaver, otter, marten, mink,  
fox, racoon, wolf, and lynx. Of feathered  
game, the pigeon, duck, quail, and  
partridge must not be forgotten, though  
rarely seen of late years. The streams  
themselves fairly teemed with fish, es-  
pecially during the annual run of suckers  
mullet, and salmon. The sucker run tak-  
ing place as soon as the river cleared of  
ice, that of mullet in May, salmon early  
in summer, and occasionally again in the  
autumn. Suckers and mullet came up  
in such numbers that frequently many  
more were caught than could be taken  
care of. In the upper part of Etobicoke  
there is a small stream flowing into the  
West Branch, in con. A., called  
Mullet Creek, because of the immense  
number of that fish formerly frequenting  
its waters.

**SALMON FISHING.**—In addition to the  
modes described by Mr. Lea in the pa-  
per before named, I may mention others  
adopted here. One was to run a plat-  
form some distance into the water, on  
which earth was thrown, whereon a fire  
of material suitable for giving light was  
made; from this platform poles were  
thrown across the stream, on which the  
fisherman stood spear in hand. Another;  
two parties wading the stream, one carry-  
ing the light jack, or torch, the other the  
spear. During a good run an expert  
hand would take fifteen or twenty in a

night. One old hand informs me he  
once caught 64 in a night. Larger takes  
than even that have been named. Occa-  
sionally a dog was trained to catch a  
salmon, not to devour, but to deliver to  
his master.

**SPECKLED TROUT.**—These were eagerly  
sought after by almost every one  
capable of handling "hook or line." Even  
parties from Little York (Toronto) fre-  
quently visited Farr's mills (Weston)  
for that purpose, both in summer and  
winter. The mode of procedure in win-  
ter was to cut holes in the ice, around  
which robes, cushions, &c., were placed,  
whereon those engaged in fishing sat or  
kneeled. Among these parties joining in  
these fishing excursions were Messrs.  
Billings and Baby, Government employ-  
ees, Colonels Foster and Coffin, and Rev.  
Saltern Givins, late president of this as-  
sociation. How changed! Trout, so  
far as I am aware, are now found only in  
the Little Humber, above Pine Grove.  
Salmon have entirely ceased their visit  
since 1842. Suckers and mullet rarely  
advanced farther upstream than the  
mill-dams below Lambton.

**INDIANS.**—Bands of these, chiefly of  
the Ojibwa tribe, frequently visited  
their old hunting-grounds about the  
Humber as late as 1841; higher up, lat-  
ter still. Probably, at times, brooding  
over the wrongs received at the hands of  
the white man in being driven from their  
homes and from the burial places of their  
fathers. I have ascertained the where-  
abouts of four of those burial places—  
one near Lake Ontario, which was partly  
exhumed when the Great Western rail-  
way bridge was built over the Humber;  
another a short distance below Lambton;  
another just below Weston, and still  
another about a mile above Weston.  
Here, in 1825, our old friend Major Paul  
witnessed the interment of an Indian  
warrior, together with all his accoutre-  
ments.

At the close Mr. Watson was warmly  
thanked for his contribution. He stated  
that he would follow up the subject in  
another paper.

## SCRUTATOR FLOORED.

To the Editor of the Liberal.

DEAR SIR—By your permission I beg  
once more to occupy your columns in  
self defence, as a reference to your con-  
temporary's last issue will show that I am  
the subject of another long contribution  
from the pen of "Scrutator." Doubtless  
this public scavenger thought his last  
masterly effort quite sufficient to annihi-  
late so insignificant a person as the sub-  
ject of his baseless attack. He first starts  
out, however, with an admission of fail-  
ure and short sightedness; it will not  
therefore be wondered at if we find him,  
before we get through in the meshes of  
bewilderment and falsehood, with a won-  
derful flourish of egotism, he proceeds in  
a style amounting to contempt, to refute  
that which he is pleased to style "so lit-  
tle." He fails to see how I wrote so much,  
occupying half a column, and said so little  
whereas in replying he has in forgetfulness  
of his statement, devoted a column and  
more, in a futile attempt to disprove the  
arguments and statements it contained;  
and in order to strengthen his position, a  
resort to fresh charges must be indulged  
in, or brought to the surface, by which to  
decey the public from the main point at  
issue. To read his last production one  
would think that the scrapings of the pot  
had been reached, or that the Biddulph  
vigilance committee had been at work,  
furnishing him with a list of my crimes  
and offences. How or by what tribunal  
I am to be tried I don't know, but it is  
painful to be kept in suspense so long.  
Perhaps it may form a subject for the  
next debate at the Masonic Hall, where-  
at, if a true and impartial decision is given  
I am sure to stand acquitted. "Scruta-  
tor" becomes very sensitive when put in  
a tight place, but thick skinned enough  
when allowed to roam at large, and lay  
false charges, for which he seems to have  
a wonderful adaptability, but very feeble  
are his endeavors to mislead the public  
mind, which he would do by circulating  
that which has no existence in the sen-  
e and to the extent he vainly tries to estab-  
lish. An intelligent and discerning pub-  
lic can readily detect the low designs of  
the effusions of this shallow and diseased  
brained individual. When he asserts  
that I am doing all in my power to in-  
jure the Government and convene mee-  
ings to organize against them, &c., I  
must only refute it in his own pert sta-  
tement "I have not." The fish story  
seems to have had a wonderful effect upon  
his sensitiveness and a repetition  
would prove fatal to his bump of loca-  
tiveness. It took the wind out of his sails  
and brined his logical reasonings as fu-  
tile and unconvincing. "Scrutator" is  
sorry, or at least he makes the statement.  
So, I, and has been many a culprit sorry  
yet it taxes my charity to let this  
statement in, or take effect. Guiteau,  
no doubt was sorry, but the people after  
a long and impartial trial, adjudged him  
to be a villain. But after all I cannot  
help expressing my gratitude because for

off he is so kind and considerate that  
he condescends or descends to allow me a  
little liberty of conscience when I may  
cherish my political views or convictions,  
provided I permit him to put on the  
shackles, tie me with a rope, and be en-  
circled with a high wall; or I am per-  
mitted to roam at large there is danger of the  
Government collapsing. Having thus  
far treated upon the general tenor of his  
most wonderfully logical and lengthy let-  
ter, we proceed to the main point at issue.  
It will be remembered in my first letter,  
I took exception to his charge of accusing  
me of having allowed a meeting to be  
held held in the Post Office. I think a  
fully refuted this statement in my last  
letter, in which I produced the fish story  
which has proved so disastrous, because  
it revealed the unfeeling ground he had  
taken. As he has chosen in his last let-  
ter to deny that he made any such sta-  
tement, and again to fasten guilt upon me,  
by charging me with a great mistake or a  
deliberate falsehood, I shall endeavor  
once more to refute this imputation, and  
show upon whom the guilt rests. In  
proof of my allegation or charge, and  
"Scrutator's" emphatic denial, we shall  
as he suggests, go back to his first letter,  
because upon what is stated there we  
must either stand or fall, and bear the  
stigma arising from this provoked con-  
troversy. I will try to be honest, con-  
sistent and truthful this time, as a mis-  
take here would prove fatal to my charge.  
Well, what do we find? Its true, we  
read that "the meeting was at the Post  
Office," but we also read that the Conser-  
vatives hired a hall at Teston and at Ma-  
ple, but the Reformers got into a Post  
Office, a school house or any other place  
corner." In and/or then, who is right,  
or who makes the great unfeeling and  
deliberate falsehood? What "Scruta-  
tor" answer, or will he from this time  
forth hold his peace, and and betake him-  
self to a higher and nobler calling? The  
fact is that "Scrutator" said too much.  
First, "the meeting was at and in the  
Post Office"; second, "it was at or in a  
room adjoining"; third and last it was  
"at the Post Office, the people said, ev-  
erybody said," and consequently it must  
be so. But I suppose if "the people said  
everybody said" the world was made of  
green cheese, he would be ready with his  
elastic mind to give credence to the fact.  
"Scrutator" did not stop soon enough, and  
got entangled in his own net, or caught on  
the hook he so unwittingly provided for  
me. Further comment is unnecessary.

Yours &c. J. P. RUPERT.

From "The Times".

Editor of the Times:—In reading the  
last number of your paper, I noticed you  
asked all who had been benefited by the  
letter published in your valuable paper  
about a year ago to write you the facts  
for publication. The letter from Dr.  
Bates created a great amount of excite-  
ment in this vicinity, as he is well and  
favorably known by every one here. His  
reputation as a man and as a physician  
gave every one the utmost confidence in  
all his statements, and this of course  
soon made the name "Kendall's Spavin  
Cure" not only familiar but very popu-  
lar. In reply to your request I will  
say: About nine years ago I slipped on  
the ice and sprained my right limb at the  
knee joint. I was very lame and suffer-  
ed excruciating pain much of the time  
since, and some of the time thought I  
should be a cripple for life. Dr. Bates'  
letter printed in your paper gave me so  
much confidence in the virtues of "Ken-  
dall's Spavin Cure" that I tried it for  
my knee and less than one bottle com-  
pletely cured me so that I have no re-  
turn of pain or lameness, for which, of  
course, I cannot feel too thankful. Since  
my recovery I have visited friends in the  
west and found that the following parties  
have used it with the grandest results,  
in that part of the country. The Rev.  
John Rice, Hematite, Mo., used it on  
his own person for an injury of 35 years  
standing, and performed one of the most  
wonderful cures I ever heard of. J. L.  
McClure, of Strong City, Kansas, cured  
a badly lacerated and poisoned hand,  
from a hog bite and also removed an en-  
largement near the hip joint which had  
become large and troublesome. He also  
so used it for pleurisy and found that  
bathing his chest with it relieved him  
once. To my surprise I found that this  
wonderful remedy was better known in  
the west than it was in the east, and I  
found they were using it there for all  
animals as well as on human flesh with  
the very best of results, and I find so  
many cases wherever I go to confirm the  
favorable opinion I had already formed  
of it that I am glad of an opportunity of  
telling the readers of your valuable pa-  
per what I have learned in regard to it.  
Hoping to hear from others upon this very  
important subject, especially important  
to those who have suffered for years like  
myself, I remain,  
Yours &c. J. A. ROYCE.

Elmira, N. Y., Sept. 17th. 1881