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Buttonville.  
A SHORT SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCHES IN  
MARKHAM TOWNSHIP.

About the year 1790 or 1791 a band of  
German immigrants left Hamburg to  
settle in the then almost unknown wilder-  
ness of Upper Canada. They were led  
by William Berzzy, a man of dauntless  
energy and of fertile resources, who had  
been commissioned by Governor Simcoe  
to bring out settlers to his territory, for  
which service he was to receive a large  
tract of land.

Arrived at Philadelphia after a long  
and tedious voyage. There lay a great  
stretch of almost trackless wilderness be-  
tween the strangers and their future home  
on the shores of Lake Ontario. But  
nothing daunted, under the guidance of  
their intrepid leader, the colonists set out  
on their arduous journey, having loaded  
up their miscellaneous array of women  
and children, household and farm utensils,  
provisions, &c., in large wagons, with  
tightly caulked bodies which could also  
be used as boats to ferry them over small  
streams which they might meet with in  
their way. A large part of the way a  
road had to be cut through the virgin  
forest, but the people did not despair.

In the midst of winter snows, about  
Christmas of 1792 or New Year's of 1793,  
the colonists reached Little York, now  
Toronto, then a village of three buildings  
—a smithy, a trading-post and a shanty.  
There were sixty-four families in the  
party, numbering at the least calculation  
300 persons. Among them were found  
the forefathers of the Eckardts, Elsons,  
Helmskes, Haack's, Hagerman, Henricks,  
Lunans, Pringles, Quantza, Ritters,  
Smiths (then called Schmidt), the Stivers  
(called Stoever), the Tipps, Summerfels,  
Van Horns and many others whose names  
are no longer found represented in this  
locality.

But these sturdy pioneers did not stop  
at Little York. They pushed on up what  
is now Yonge Street, and settled down  
mostly on the 3rd, 4th, and 6th conces-  
sions of Markham. With heroic courage  
they camped out in the snow with their  
families until they had put up rude log  
huts for shelter. But these sturdy sons  
of the old Fatherland in their desire to  
possess homes of their own, to accom-  
plish which they had crossed the raging  
billows and traversed miles of pathless  
forest, did not leave behind them their  
love for God's Word and the ordinances  
of his house. Their Bibles and Hymn-  
Books were not forgotten and amid the  
giant pines of the Canadian forests rose  
the unwonted notes of praise of the grand  
old hymns of the German Fatherland.  
That they might not be without the min-  
istrations of the Gospel, these pious old  
Germans had brought with them a min-  
ister named Liebig. And this was one of  
the earliest Protestant ministers in Upper  
Canada, if not in the Dominion. But  
his wife soon dying, their pastor after a  
year or two returned to Germany. The  
Germans were now without a spiritual  
shepherd for several years until the  
arrival of Rev. Audrich who laboured  
with great zeal and earnestness for their  
good. But perhaps his very zeal aroused  
opposition, at any rate at the end of three  
years he was compelled to leave them,  
going to what is now Hamilton. But the  
more earnest minded of the people seeing  
that worldliness and godlessness would  
soon ruin their settlement resolved to re-  
call Rev. Audrich. Upon bearing of  
their request the noble-minded minister,  
forgetting former ill treatment, set out on  
his journey to Markham, but was most  
unfortunately drowned in the Sixteen  
Mile Creek, while on the way.

This misfortune was a severe blow to  
the Germans and for years they were  
without the administration of the Word  
and Sacraments. But about the year  
1816 the Rev. John Dietrich Petersen,  
who broke unto them the Bread of Life,  
until his retirement from old age in 1829,  
became the pastor of the Lutherans in  
Markham and in Vaughan, which had  
been settled by Germans from Pennsyl-  
vania about the year 1800.

About the year 1819, during his pas-  
torate, two churches were erected. St.  
Philip's in the 6th concession and St.  
John's on the 4th. They were but of  
pine logs, but were regarded as models of  
comfort and elegance for those days. Be-  
fore this, worship had been held in  
private houses and in the school houses  
which they, with the German love for  
education, had early erected.

Rev Petersen's successor was one  
Mayerhoffer, who had formerly been a  
Roman Catholic priest and had then  
joined the German Reformed Church,  
and after a few years there seems to have  
connected himself with the Church of  
England. He was a German and estab-  
lished himself in Markham and was re-  
ceived by the Lutherans under the im-  
pression that he was a Lutheran minister.  
He did not remain longer than 1833 in  
charge of the Vaughan church and St.  
John's in the 4th concession of Markham.  
At that time already he was forced to  
give up these two churches, and was suc-

ceeded by Rev. Jacob Huettnner, a very  
faithful and godly minister, who unfortu-  
nately only remained five years, until  
1838.

But in St. Philip's Church on the 6th,  
Mayerhoffer continued to preach until  
1837, the year of the Rebellion, when he  
was locked out by the congregation. His  
friends having broken in the door, a new  
two inch door of oak was put up, and  
this also being carried away by his  
friends, the matter was carried into the  
courts, and the congregation won, and  
just in time to save their church, for ac-  
cording to the deed in case there should  
be no Lutheran minister for ten years,  
the property was to go to the Church of  
England. This clause in the deed was  
then changed, the trustees sending it  
back to the original donor, Mr. Philip  
Eckardt, and he then re-deeding it to  
the Lutheran Church forever.

In the years 1839 to 1841 the Luther-  
ans were served by two ministers,  
Hohenholz and Franks, neither of whom  
remained any length of time. From the  
years 1841 to 1850 the Lutheran congre-  
gation were without any regular minis-  
terial supply, as far as the church records  
show. Preachers of various denomina-  
tions, Methodist, Evangelical and Con-  
gregational, and even Swedenburgian,  
preached in their churches and the con-  
gregations were well nigh disbanded.

The great numbers of Lutherans who  
came in from Lutheran countries from  
those years onward required so many new  
ministers, and in the lack of sufficient  
schools to educate them fast enough,  
many outlying districts had to suffer for  
lack of ministers, and so it happened  
that these congregations in Markham and  
Vaughan were without a pastor for so  
long.

At length Jacob Keffer, from Vaughan,  
determined to visit the meeting of the  
Pittsburgh Synod at Pittsburgh, Pa.,  
and petition for a minister to be sent to  
his destitute brethren in Canada. So he  
set out afoot, a distance of 500 miles,  
through forest and over mountain, as it  
was before the age of many railroads.  
But his mission was successful. In 1850  
Chas. Frederick Diehl was sent as pastor  
to the Lutherans of York Co. He was a  
man of great ability and usefulness. He  
re-organized the congregations, gave  
excellent constitutions under which they  
still stand, and in many ways labored  
with great success. The work growing so  
greatly, Rev J. Fishburn was called as  
assistant in 1852, and upon the departure  
of Rev. Diehl in 1853, he took charge of  
all the congregations in Markham and  
Vaughan, and served them with great ac-  
ceptance and success for 27 years, until  
the year 1879. Under his ministrations  
the congregations prospered and flourish-  
ed. In 1853 a new church was erected in  
the 4th concession, and in 1862 a  
brick church in the 6th.

After Rev. Fishburn's departure, his  
son, W. P. Fishburn, served the Mark-  
ham churches during 1879-80. He was  
succeeded by Rev. W. Y. Miller from  
1880-83. During 1884 the congregations  
in Markham were supplied by Rev. D.  
M. Kemmerer and Rev. J. Shunk. Dur-  
ing 1885-86-87 Rev. J. M. Long was the  
very acceptable laborer in this field. In  
the following year the Rev. Owen Reber  
became pastor and continued until 1890.  
In 1891 Rev. W. R. Swicbard supplied  
the Markham church to be succeeded by  
the present pastor, Rev. E. F. Ritter, on  
January 1st, 1892.

On the 15th of January St. John's  
congregation was enabled to dedicate  
their beautiful new house of worship, the  
third church for this congregation, and  
thus ends a century of most eventful  
history for the Lutheran Church in  
Markham.

If you want more light on the subject  
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take pleasure in sending you a few lines  
this week. As I have just returned from  
the great North West you may look for  
a few lines each and every week in future.

Business in general is about as brisk as  
usual. Our carriage works are humming,  
having done a much larger business this  
winter than any winter since started.  
Also our butchers have done a large trade  
this summer. Our harness-maker, who  
deals in everything from a belt of harness  
to marriage licenses, is kept busy every  
day of the week. Our tinsmith, who is  
commonly known as "Honest John," has  
been very busy making up a large and  
select stock of tinware. Our public in-  
keeper, known as "Dick," has, after  
studying human nature, come to the con-  
clusion that times are so hard that he has  
dispensed with his Zoo, not being able to  
afford to support a crow.  
Since the appointment of Sir John

Thompson our grain buyer has been ex-  
ceedingly busy getting in two rowed  
barley, and giving good prices for same.

Our boot and shoe establishment is  
open each and every night till late,  
mending up the soles of the worn out  
pedestrian's boots.

The painter, who has not been seen for  
a week or so, is reported to be away  
studying up to be made a minister of the  
church, having been a very warm sup-  
porter of the Tory Government.

It is said a very strange affair took  
place here a few days ago. A very promi-  
nent member of the Orange Lodge from  
Tuscarora was seen with an agent's outfit  
selling Sir John Thompson through our  
town.

Mr. Josh. Kaiser has engaged with the  
members of the manse committee for an-  
other year.

A meeting is called for Friday evening  
next in regard to building a new school  
house. We hope everybody will turn  
out and state their views.

Remember the monthly sale at the  
Richardson House on Friday, the 27th  
inst. The herd consists of 12 milch cows  
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**Sale Register**

FRIDAY, Jan. 27th—Saigeon's monthly sale at the  
Richardson House, Maple, of horses, cattle,  
pigs, implements, &c. Sale at 1 p. m. Terms  
nine months on sums over \$10. J. T. Saigeon,  
Auctioneer.  
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 1st—Credit sale of farm stock  
and implements, on lot 5, con. 4, King, Spring-  
hill, the property of Milton Winter. Sale at 1  
p. m. Nine months' credit. J. T. Saigeon,  
Auctioneer.  
FRIDAY, Feb. 3rd—Auction sale of dry goods,  
boots and shoes, groceries, &c., at King City,  
the property of A. D. Carley. Terms cash.  
Sale at 2 p. m. and 7 p. m. Stokes & Saigeon,  
Auctioneers.  
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 8th—Credit sale of farm stock  
and implements, on lot 8, con. 2, King, the  
property of Robert Meads. Sale at 10 o'clock.  
J. T. Saigeon, Auctioneer.  
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 8th—Credit sale of farm stock,  
implements, &c., on lot 24, 3rd con. Mark-  
ham (Victoria Square), the property of Thos.  
W. Kluck. Sale without reserve. Sale at  
one o'clock. Nine months' credit on all sums  
over \$10. N. P. Smith, Auctioneer.  
WEDNESDAY, Feb. 15th—Credit sale of farm  
stock and implements, on west half lot 62, 1st  
con. King, the property of Wm. Golding.  
Sale at 1 o'clock. No reserve. Eight months'  
credit. J. T. Saigeon, auctioneer.  
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