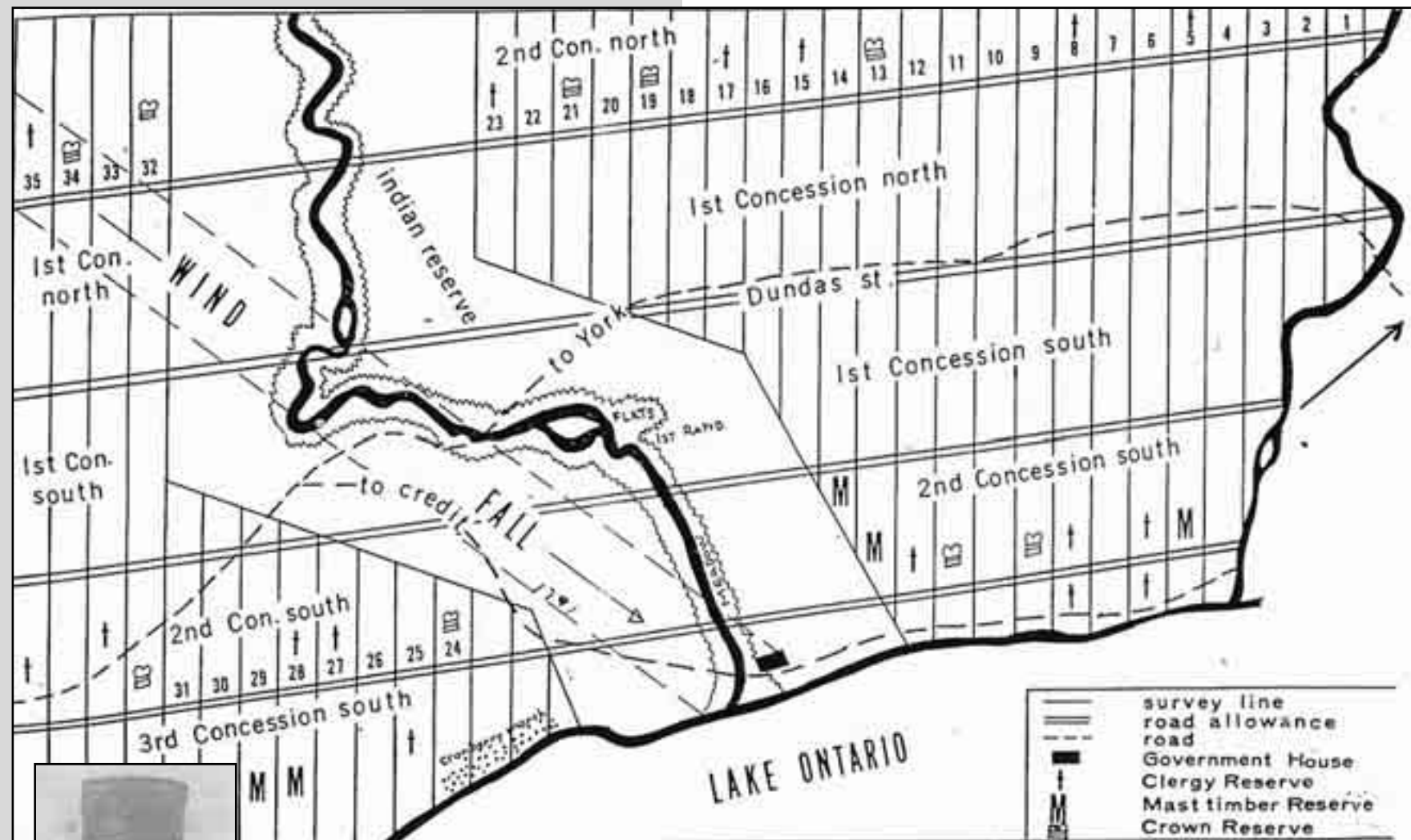




(Bradley Museum/Kathleen A. Hicks)

Part One 1805 - 1850

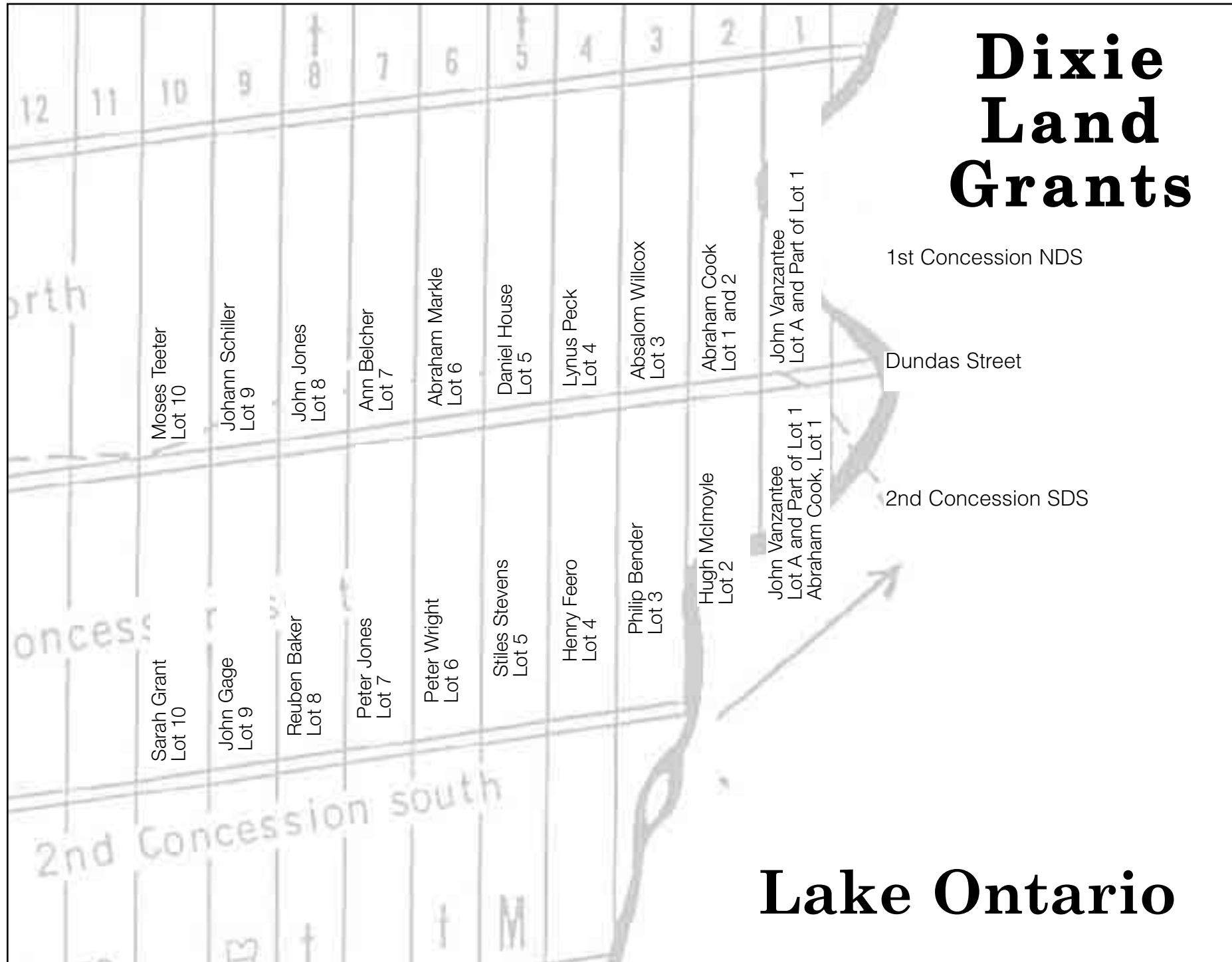
Samuel Wilmot's Survey - 1805-1806



▲ Samuel Wilmot Map, 1805
(Thompson Adamson)

◀ Samuel Street Wilmot
(Association of Ontario Land Surveyors)

DEPUTY PROVINCIAL SURVEYOR, SAMUEL STREET Wilmot (b.1774, d.1856), cousin of Timothy Street for whom Streetsville was named, was the man who carried out the original surveying of the First Purchase in 1805-1806.



Samuel's family originated in England and came to Connecticut in the United States. He was born in the state of New York in 1774. During the American Revolution (1775-1783), his father served under Christopher Robinson, whose son, John Beverly Robinson (1791-1863), became Upper Canada's Attorney General in 1818. After the war, the Wilmots and Robinsons came to York (Toronto). Samuel married surveyor John Stegman's daughter, Mary, and became a surveyor under his father-in-law's tutelage. When John was accidentally killed in 1804, Samuel took over his commission.



▲ Honourable Alexander Grant (Region of Peel Archives)

He drew a map of Toronto Township, named by the Honourable Alexander Grant, administrator of the First Executive and Legislature Council of Upper Canada (1805-1806). Using Dundas Street as a center line, he laid out two concessions to the north and three to the south (a fourth in Clarkson) and divided the land into 200 acre (81 ha) lots that were granted to incoming United Empire Loyalists and pioneers. While undertaking this enormous task, he and his crew stayed at the Government Inn on the east bank of the Credit River, which was operated by Toronto Township's first resident family, the Ingersolls. It took six months to complete the survey of Toronto Township.

Each surveyor required eight axemen and two chain bearers, as lots were measured by chains (one chain equals 66 feet-20 metres). A 200 acre lot was 20 by 50 chains (1,320 by 3,300 feet). Wages for axemen was 1 shilling 6d (18¢) and chain bearers, 2 shillings a day (25¢), plus 1s, 3d, (15¢) in lieu of provisioning. The chain was invented in 1620 by Edmund Gunter (1581-1626), a mathematician. Chain measuring was used on maps from 1785 to 1877. The heavy, cumbersome chain, consisting of 100 links, required two men to carry it. The chain had small metal tags hanging at regular intervals to gauge distance. It was literally dragged across the terrain. Between

every fifth lot would be a five rod (one rod is 16.5 feet or 5.03 metres) wide road allowance of one chain that would be staked out. Concessions were 266 rods in length (4,389 ft.-1,463 m), designated by chains and links. The surveyor took "field notes," a description of the terrain, land, timber, hills, streams, swamps, waterways, etc., which had to be turned in to the British government.

The lots on both sides of Dundas Street were designated in 1806. By the summer of 1807, many were occupied. On the south side, John Vanzantee had Lot A and part of Lot 1 as of July 29, 1806, South Dundas Street (SDS); Abraham Cook had the other part of Lot 1; Hugh McImoyle had Lot 2; Philip Bender, Lot 3; Lot 4 was granted to Henry Feero (John Silverthorn would purchase this lot on February 4, 1809, and sell it to his son, Thomas, April 28, 1817, for £100 - \$250); Stiles Stevens was granted Lot 5, June 20, 1806; Peter Wright had Lot 6 and was in the process of clearing his land (which John bought January 28, 1808, and sold to son, Aaron, on April 28, 1817, also for £100); Peter Jones received Lot 7. (This Peter Jones is not the future chief of the Mississauga Indians for he was born on January 1, 1802.); Reuben Baker, Lot 8; John Gage, Lot 9; Sarah Grant, Lot 10, which she deeded to Philip Cody.

On the north side, Vanzantee also had Lot A and Lot 1, North Dundas Street (NDS); Abraham Cook had the other portion of Lot 1 and Lot 2, also granted July 1806; Absalom Willcox received Lot 3, July 29, 1806; Lynus Peck, Lot 4, June 17; Daniel House had Lot 5 and was clearing his property; Lot 6 was granted to Abraham Markle; Ann Belcher received Lot 7 as the daughter of a Loyalist; John Jones, Lot 8, already had a cleared area and cabin, having received his patent April 8, 1807 (he sold this acreage to Philip Cody on February 2, 1808, for £12,10s, \$31.25); Lot 9 was granted to Johann Schiller on July 22, 1806; Moses Teeter had Lot 10 (which would be sold in part to Philip Cody and in 1810 used for the site of the Union Chapel, now the Dixie Union Church).

Samuel and his wife, Mary, lived north of York (now Richmond Hill). He died in 1856.

Samuel Wilmot's Census — 1807-1808

The first census in Toronto Township was carried out in 1807-1808 by Deputy Provincial Surveyor, Samuel Street Wilmot, who had mapped out this territory into concessions and lots in 1805-1806. The census showed seven families: Philip Cody, Daniel Harris, Joseph Silverthorn, Absalom Willcox, Allen Robinet, William Barber and John Silverthorn.

John Silverthorn did not actually live here, but he ventured back and forth so much from Niagara that he was included as a resident of Toronto Township in Samuel's census. John did purchase Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, in January, 1808, but he did not come to the district until 1810 when he bought 400 acres (162 ha) in Etobicoke. John often brought his sons, Aaron and Thomas, with him on his visits to see his son, Joseph. John and Thomas signed several oaths for settlement duties for their newly acquired friends and were very well thought of in the community.

The second census was taken in 1809 by Surveyor General Thomas Ridout. It listed 185 residents, 60 of whom were children.

After Toronto Township was incorporated in 1850, the first census was taken in 1851 and was done every ten years thereafter.

6

Information

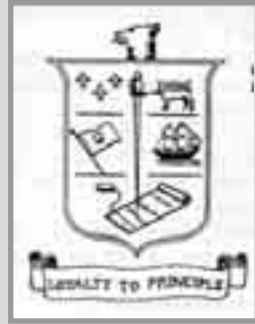
Currency evolved in Canada with the usage of coins from different countries around the world. In 1763, the British administration tried to establish an evaluation of the various coins in circulation. The Spanish dollar in Nova Scotia was worth 5 shillings. In the colony of New York and in Upper Canada and Montreal, it was 8s. These two ways of rating became called York, or New York, and Halifax currencies. In 1796, Acts of Legislation passed by the Upper and Lower Canada governments made Halifax currency the standard of the country and it remained so until 1853, despite attempts to change it. York currency, however, continued to be used in Upper Canada until 1821 when it was demoted as legal tender. Despite this, in the rural areas, it remained a popular unit of account as the French livre did in Lower Canada. Halifax currency was \$4.00 to the pound and York currency, \$2.50 (12 1/2¢ to a shilling). Because Toronto Township was a rural area, York currency is used throughout this book series.

Philip Cody - 1806

Philip Cody was Toronto Township's second settler, as Thomas Ingersoll, who managed the Government Inn, was the first. He arrived in the fall of 1806, having purchased 200 acres (81 hectares) of Lot 10, Con. 1, South Dundas Street (SDS) from grantee, Sarah Grant, a York (Toronto) resident, who deeded the property to him in March 1807, for £100 (\$250, York currency being \$2.50 to a pound).

Philip had performed her settlement duties that had been established by the government. These were set out in four stipulations: that a settler clear five acres (2 ha) of land; build a 16 by 20 foot (4.9 m x 6 m) log cabin; clear the roadway in front of his homestead; and show proof in the way of a certificate duly signed by witnesses. Until such duties were carried out, the settler would not receive the King's patent. His settlement duties were signed by Absalom Willcox and Thomas Williams on April 16th.

Philip Cody had been born on July 1, 1770, in Oxford, Massachusetts, and had married Lydia Martin from central New York State in 1796.



▲ Cody's Crest
(Region of Peel
Archives)

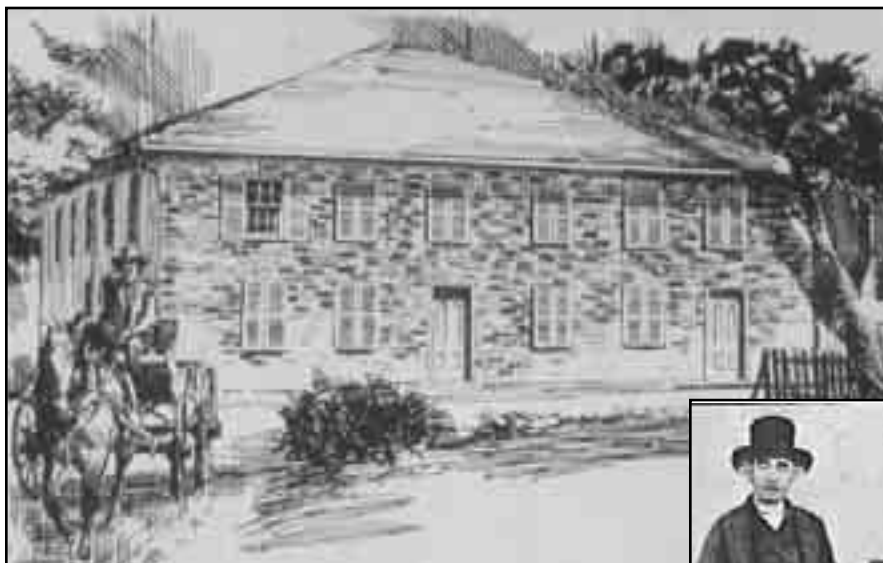
THEY WOULD HAVE ELEVEN CHILDREN, ELIZABETH, 1798, Alice, 1800, Sophia, 1801, Elias, 1804, Nancy, 1806, Elijah, the first Cody to be born in Toronto Township, 1807, Martha, 1809, Isaac, 1811, Joseph, 1813, Lydia, 1814 and Philip, 1816. Philip's grandparents, Philippe and Martha LeCody, had emigrated from the Isle of Guernsey, Great Britain, in 1695 and settled in Beverly, Massachusetts. His parents, Philip and Abigail Emerson Cody, who dropped the Le, were married there around 1756 and Philip grew up on their farm at Charlestown, in a family of eleven children. The farm was sold in 1784, following the American Revolution (1775-1783) and his family moved to New York State, where he met Lydia. His brother, Joseph (b.1757, d.1810) received a 200 acre (81 ha) land grant, Lot 91, west side of Yonge Street, 28 miles (44.8 km) north of York in March, 1799. Philip received 200 acres in February, 1803, Lot 84, County of York, King Township (now Aurora). Philip sold this property in 1806 and moved to Toronto Township to take up Lot 10.

Philip built a substantial building with a comfortable front porch to use as an Inn. On April 20, 1807, Philip Cody welcomed the first guests to his newly opened Inn, newlyweds Jane and Joseph Silverthorn, who had Lot 11, Con.1, North Dundas Street (NDS).

Philip Cody purchased part of Lot 10, Con.1, NDS, from Moses Teeter in 1810 and donated an acre (0.4 ha) for the building of the Union Chapel. This was accomplished the same year when the men of the neighbourhood got together and constructed it out of logs. It became the first Union Church in Upper Canada and the first community hall. It is probably the only church where Indians worshiped and had their children baptized.

With business prospering, Philip built a larger two-storey structure to accommodate his clientele. He was quite involved in the community and carried out his statute labour duties as well as serving as Toronto Township's first constable. In 1817, he was fined £5 (\$12.50) for selling liquor to Indians.

On November 28, 1829, Phillip sold his Inn to Joseph Farr for £656 (\$1,650) and moved his family to Cleveland, Ohio. They owned a substantial piece of property there that is now the City of Cleveland's business section. Philip passed away in 1850.



▲ Cody's Inn (The Mississauga Library System)

Joseph Farr (Region of Peel Archives) ▶

8

The Cody family has a coat of arms with the motto, "Loyalty to Principle." This Philip Cody was the grandfather of the famous



▲ Jay and Gerald Cody, 1989 (William A. Pinkney)

William Frederick Cody, known as Buffalo Bill, who was born to his son, Isaac, in 1846.

On Sunday, June 25, 1989, 150 descendants of Philip Cody came from the United States and across Canada to Mississauga for their International Cody Family Convention to attend a special service at the Dixie Union Church. This memorable gathering was highlighted by a business meeting and a barbecue.

Councillor Katie Mahoney arranged for the Union Church and grounds to be cleaned up. William Pinkney was in charge of the event and Grant Clarkson



▲ Cody Lane and Sign (Kathleen A. Hicks)

brought a plaque that was proudly attached to the side of the church. It was a very pleasant day in commemoration of Philip Cody, who donated the land in 1810 that the church sits upon.

In 1986, when Dave Cook was Councillor of Ward 7, he had By law 382-86 passed by the Mississauga Council for a street to be named Cody Lane for the Cody Family, which is off Melton Drive, part of Philip Cody's former property.

Buffalo Bill Cody

William Frederick Cody, who would become famous the world over as the Wild West showman, Buffalo Bill Cody, was born the son of Isaac Cody. Isaac, who had been born in Dixie, Toronto Township, in 1811, married his third wife, Mary Ann Bonwell Laycock, in 1840 in Cincinnati, Ohio. They would have six children, the third being William F. Cody. He was born in a log cabin on February 26, 1846, in Scott County, Iowa. Isaac, who wanted to prevent the spread of slavery, would be stabbed in 1856 by a man named Dunn at a rally in Kansas. Isaac never recovered from the stabbing and died from his wounds on March 10, 1857, when Bill Cody was only eleven. Isaac unfortunately never got to witness his son's fame.

With his family in need of money, young Bill became the breadwinner for his family. He was a precocious youngster, who could ride, shoot and survive the tribulations of the wild west. His first job was messenger on a wagon train. He received \$40 a month, which was paid to his mother. At age 14, he responded to an ad placed in the



▲ William F. Cody
(Kathleen A. Hicks Collection)

local papers by a freighting company, Russell, Majors and Waddell, which read, "Pony Express, St. Joseph, Missouri, to California in ten days or less. Wanted: Young skinny wiry fellows not over 18. Must be expert riders willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred. Wages \$25 per week." He joined this innovative, experimental means of linking communications from America's east and west coasts. In the next few years, he set astounding riding records, often riding three times the required 75 miles (120 km) per day expected of each Pony Express rider, throughout which he experienced

many harrowing escapes from Indians and other adversaries. His record was 322 miles (55 km) in 21 hours and 40 minutes, which



▲ Isaac Cody is Stabbed at a Rally

exhausted 20 horses. The famous Indian scout and buffalo hunter got his nickname, Buffalo Bill, for having killed 4,280 buffalo in 18 months (1867-1868) to supply meat for the Kansas Pacific Railroad workers.

Bill Cody debuted his Wild West Show in North Platte, Nebraska, July 4, 1882. It travelled about the country by a special train. There is a book out called "*The Beaches in Pictures*," which states that Buffalo Bill gave a three day show in Toronto on August 22, 24 and 25, 1885, at Woodbine Park. A list of other performances, dated May 18, 1897, to September 24, 1910, reveal that Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show toured Ontario and Quebec and played in Toronto July 5/6, 1897, and June 6, 1909. Arthur Clarkson of Dixie went as a kid in 1897. He told his son, Grant, that Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show was held in Rich's field south of Dundas on the east side of Roy Pallett's farm. The big flat field went almost to the Upper Middle Road (Queensway) over to Wharton Way. It was an ideal location for such an elaborate production.

Buffalo Bill took his popular extravaganza, with Annie Oakley and Chief Sitting Bull, to Europe on March 31, 1887, on the *S.S. Nebraska* and arrived on April 16th. This was the only time that the great Indian Chief Sitting Bull toured with the show. He was paid \$50 a



▲ Wild West Show Hand Bill

week. Just before Buffalo Bill's departure, the Governor of Nebraska, John M. Thayer, gave him the commission of Colonel in the National Guard. His first stop was London, England, where he did a special performance on May 12th for Queen Victoria for her Golden Jubilee. They were asked to give a command performance on June 20th and they did not return to the United States until the spring of 1888. He travelled around the world, bringing the life of the wild frontier to the masses. He founded Cody, Wyoming, in 1896.

(Other photos courtesy of the Buffalo Bill Historical Centre)



Buffalo Bill Cody died in Denver, Colorado, at his sister, Mary Cody Dexter's home, January 10, 1917. Over 20,000 mourners attended his funeral. He is buried on Lookout Mountain, Denver, Colorado. New York sculptor, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, created a statue called "Buffalo Bill – The Scout" and it was dedicated July 4, 1924. Bill Cody had met Edward Zane Carroll Judson, a writer who took the pen name of Ned Buntline (b.1823, d.1886), in 1868. Buntline wrote around 1,700 dime novels on Buffalo Bill for Dime New York Library. The first one was called "*Buffalo Bill, King of the Border Men*." Over 800 books have been published and numerous movies made about his illustrious life. His grandfather, Philip, would have been proud.

◀ Buffalo Bill Cody and Sitting Bull

*Sincerely Yours
J. T. Buntline
Buffalo Bill*



▲ Buffalo Bill
Cody

Information

There are two stories in existence concerning Philip Cody's relationship to Buffalo Bill. Both are inaccurate accounts. One is that Philip's son, William (not listed as one of his children), had a baby boy. He was baptized in the little Union Church and then the parents left for America. The other one says Philip Cody's brother (it has been often said that Philip Cody was Buffalo Bill's uncle), who lived in Iowa, came for a visit. His baby took ill and was quickly baptized. He survived the ailment and the family returned home. This baby supposedly grew up to become the great Western hero of the Pony Express and Wild West Show, Buffalo Bill Cody.

The true story about their relationship was revealed to this author in 1973 by Richard I. Frost, curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Wyoming, established in 1927 with Buffalo Bill's niece, Mary Jester Allen, as the first curator. According to Mr. Frost, "Isaac Cody, Buffalo Bill's father, was born the son of Philip and Lydia Martin Cody in Toronto Township, Peel County, Upper Canada, on Sept. 15, 1811, the eighth of a family of five sons and six daughters. He was married three times. The first two wives died young, though he had a daughter, Martha, by the first wife. He married Mary Ann Bonwell Laycock in Cincinnati in 1840 and she bore him six children, the third being Buffalo Bill or William Frederick Cody. Buffalo Bill was born in a small log house in Scott County, Iowa, on February 26 in 1846."

As to his being baptized here, Philip Cody sold his Tavern and Inn in November, 1829, and shortly thereafter went to live in Cleveland, Ohio, so he was not even living here when Buffalo Bill was born. Bill's father, Isaac, was baptized in the Union Chapel in 1811. When the Codys left, daughter, Nancy, who was married to Amos Merigold of Clarkson, remained behind. Perhaps Isaac visited his sister, Nancy, and brought his son to be baptized in the Union Chapel his father had helped found. A descendant, Jay Cody, of Orillia, second cousin to Buffalo Bill, three times removed, and former curator of the Stephen Leacock House, claims that this did occur in 1847. Local teacher/historian, Mildred Bellegham, said she saw the baptismal record of William Frederick Cody as a young girl. So, we can only speculate. The records were lost when St. John the Baptist Anglican Church burned down in 1924.

There is another story in existence that Buffalo Bill and his close friend, Wild Bill Hickok, visited the birthplace of Isaac Cody around 1877. This could possibly be true, although Mr. Frost could not substantiate this tale. "During the period 1872-1882, Buffalo Bill appeared in a variety of early stage melodramas in the New York area," wrote Mr. Frost. "He had been friends with Wild Bill Hickok for a number of years and Hickok played on the stage with Cody for a short period in the late 1870s." As previously stated, having toured Ontario with his Wild West Show, there is no doubt that he would have visited the former Cody Inn and Dixie Union Church.

The Willcox Family - 1807

Absalom Willcox (b.1766, d.1841), who was a mason by trade, was one of the first settlers in Toronto Township, receiving a grant of Lot 3, Con.1, NDS, which was actually considered to be in Summerville rather than Sydenham (Dixie). Absalom had been born in New Jersey and came to Canada in 1789 with his parents, Benjamin and Elsie Lanning, who had eight children. They settled in Grimsby. In 1812, Benjamin and his son, Richard, left for Norfolk County near Waterford. He died there in 1816 and was buried at Old Windham.

Absalom returned to New Jersey in 1792 to marry Barbara Hull (1775-1856), and they lived at Trenton on the Delaware River until 1803 when they returned to Upper Canada. At this time, they had Daniel, 1793, Sarah, 1796, James, 1798, and John, 1801. They had Elsie in 1803 and Richard in 1806.

With his grant being designated on July 29, 1806, the Willcoxes moved to take up residency in Toronto Township in 1807 and constructed a log house. They had a son, Allen, in 1809 and he was one of the first white male children born in the township. Absalom and Barbara would have 59 grandchildren.



◀ Allen Willcox

(Region of Peel Archives)

ABSALOM WAS INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE Union Chapel in the spring of 1810 and he was the only casualty during the work. He was the foreman and as he and another man were cutting down a 200 foot (60 metre) pine tree, their timing was off and the tree fell and his leg was broken in the process. He was trekked into Fort York so he could be attended to by an army surgeon. One source says his leg was amputated at the knee and he had a peg leg, but this could not be substantiated. While he was laid up, his neighbours pitched in to help his sons with the plowing and seeding and then the church was completed by fall.

Hannah was born in 1811, Rachel, 1813 and Mary in 1816. The children attended the Octagonal School in the 1820s when Allen Robinet was the teacher. During the War of 1812, Absalom's eldest son, Daniel, served in the York Militia. He not only was a dedicated farmer, but an overseer of highways in 1822, a pathmaster in 1831 and a trustee of Harrison's Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1840.



▲ *The Willcox House* (Mississauga Library System)

Early in 1812, Absalom and several of his friends, the Silverthorns, Philip Cody, John Vanzantee and many other settlers situated between the Etobicoke Creek and First Line (Cawthra Road), brought forth a petition requesting that the Dundas be corduroyed (logs laid to enable easier passage) and permission to build a bridge across the Etobicoke Creek. Only a suspension log and rope bridge had sufficed since Dundas was put through in 1798. The local road commissioners were given the funds as a course of war administrative tactics and the work on a more accessible travel route was carried out within the year.

In 1830, Absalom built a two-storey grey rough-cast house, 22 by 40 feet (6.2 m x 12 m), with a chimney at each end. It had four front windows with a tall dormer window in the centre. The interior walls were lathed with Elm and plastered. There were five bedrooms on the second floor and each bedroom had a window. The basement was mortared fieldstone with 18 inch (45 cm) thick walls. The Willcoxes used their house as a hotel until Absalom died in 1841. All in all, it was a very solid structure, occupied by the family until the turn of the century.

During the Mackenzie Rebellion of December 1837, William Lyon Mackenzie was chased out of Toronto by the Militia. Allen and Richard Willcox were with him along with 14 of his other men and they headed westward on horseback out of the city along Dundas Street. A few drifted off on their own and Mackenzie, eight co-horts and the Willcox boys continued into Toronto Township on foot. One of the first places they took refuge was the home of Absalom Willcox and he hid the culprits. Mackenzie wrote in his journal about that night, “By two next morning, the eighth, reached the hospitable mansion of worthy settler on Dundas Street, utterly exhausted with cold and fatigue. Blankets were hung over the windows to avoid suspicion, food and beds prepared, and while the Tories were carefully searching for us, we were sleeping soundly. Next morning, those who had arms buried them, and after sending to enquire whether a friend a mile below had been dangerously wounded, we agreed to separate and make for the frontier, two and two together.”

Allen, 28 at the time and a bridegroom, having married Daniel Harris’ daughter, Elizabeth (1816-1890), on January 5, 1837, and his brother, Richard, had always admired Mackenzie and they befriended him and became part of his rebellion. Richard had broken his arm during the skirmish at Montgomery’s Inn. One source says he was shot in the arm. He was harboured by Doctor William Crewe in Cooksville and Allen accompanied Mackenzie during his daring escape to the United States.

At one point in their journey, Mackenzie disguised himself as the grandmother of Allen Willcox. They were picked up by a man in a wagon and he was very sympathetic to the two travellers. The conversation was about “Where was William Lyon Mackenzie and what a help the reward would be to the person who found him.” The driver never suspected that the fugitives were in his very own wagon. They parted near Burlington and met up on Navy Island. Then Allen made his way to the United States. While he was in the States, he became ill and took four months to recuperate. But, it is known that he survived the ordeal and returned to Upper Canada about a year later. Upon his return, Allen was pardoned for his indiscretion and lived the remainder of his life on the Willcox farm.

When Absalom passed away on February 20, 1841, Allen inherited what was left of Lot 3, S-1/2 -100 acres (40 ha). He and Elizabeth (called Betsy) had Charles (1838-1917), Candace (1840-1917), Elsie (1843-1919), Absalom (1845-1908), Daniel Jackson (1847-1922), Mary Jane (1851-1914), Alice (1852-1873), Nellie, 1855, and Rachel and Thomas, who died as infants. Candace, Mary and Alice never married and all died at home.

In 1847, Allen was down as a roads commissioner for the Township. The Willcoxes were good friends of the Silverthorns and Allen and his sister, Mary, are recorded in William Thomas Silverthorn's ledger of 1841-1842 for the store he had on his Uncle Joseph's property at the top of First Line (Cawthra Road). Allen purchased 34.9 acres (14 ha) of Lot 4, Con.1, NDS, on October 30, 1860, for \$1,825, from Thomas Robinet and created a splendid orchard. Over the years, he constantly took out mortgages on his property. They were also mentioned in Augusta Silverthorn's diary from 1878-1891.

Allen died on June 17, 1894. All members of the Willcox family are buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery. The property was sold on September 28th to James Clarkson for \$6,200. When William Perkins Bull was researching his books in the 1930s, the last known Willcox descendant in Toronto Township was Allen's daughter, Dr. Helen Willcox (not in his list of children). She was responsible for Wilcox Road, off Burnhamthorpe Road, being named for the family in 1924. In 1950, when the Toronto Township Council celebrated the township's centennial, a mock William Lyon Mackenzie Cross



Country Race from the former Willcox house, presently owned by Mrs. L. MacLean, was one of the events. The Willcox house survived until November 1980, when it was torn down.

◀ Wilcox Road Sign
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Information



▲ William Lyon Mackenzie
(Toronto Public Library, TRL)

Mackenzie and Willcox made their way northwestward to the village of Barbertown, near Streetsville, where they took dinner with the Comfort family. William Comfort had a gristmill there. He was a Mackenzie sympathizer and by giving the rebels aid, he put his family in great danger. Allen Willcox would later tell of this stopover, "Mackenzie stood before the mirror, his bare neck ready for the lather. Looking in the glass, he turned his head from side to side, projecting his chin and said to me, 'Allen, I am told they are offering a thousand pounds for that neck. I don't think it's worth it, do you?'" A warrant for high treason had been posted on December 7th for William Lyon Mackenzie – £1000 (\$2,500) for his apprehension.

Mackenzie made a successful run to the United States, although his journey was one fraught with devastation, humiliation and fear. He and Allen had trouble at the 16 Mile Creek when armed horsemen approached. They hid in the bushes, then removed their clothing and holding their bundles above their heads, they waded through the freezing water to safety. Mackenzie would later write, "The cold in that stream caused me the most cruel and intense sensation of pain I have ever endured."

As the militia searched for the rebels, friends of Mackenzie sheltered them along the way. They went across the 12 Mile Creek with the help of a tree. A large contingent was scouring the countryside at Burlington Bay, so Mac and Willcox separated. Willcox made his way to the States alone.

Excerpt from *The Silverthorns of Cherry Hill*, pages 170-171, Kathleen A. Hicks

Author's note: In 1932, Allen Willcox's daughter, Dr. Helen Willcox, was interviewed for the William Perkins Bull's books on Peel County. Said to be the only living child of Allen and Elizabeth, she stated that Willcox was spelled with two "l's" that lawyers always spelled it with one. She said that Mrs. Mackenzie was a frequent visitor to her parents' home and brought her daughter. The daughter went with the Willcox children hunting for beech nuts. There were rows of maple trees that beautified the property and trilliums in profusion in the woods. She also said that her mother went to be with her father at Navy Island and one of her children was born there. That would be their first, Charles, born in 1838.

The Belchers - 1807

JOHN AND ANN Belcher came from Zorra, County of Oxford, Brock District, in 1807 to the area that would be named Dixie in 1864. Ann Green Belcher had received a grant in 1807 of 200 acres (81 ha), Lot 7, Con.1, NDS. She was the daughter of Loyalist John Green of Flamboro West, New Jersey, who was related to Reverend Anson Green (b.1801, d.1879), who as a circuit rider travelled the Lake Shore Road District.

John was the eldest son of John Belcher Sr., who owned property in Zorra, Lot 10, Con.13. He also had a brother Ben, who lived locally and married Sophia Mattice of York Township. John was a blacksmith and no doubt Toronto Township's first.



▲ (Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists)

Once they were comfortably settled in their 19 by 23 foot (5.7 m x 6.9 m) cabin, John opened his blacksmith shop in a shed he had built and began pursuing his craft with the local pioneers, who were also busy clearing their land and completing their settlement duties that had been laid out by the British government. His duties were done by January 12, 1808, and the property was registered on November 14, 1808.

In March, 1809, John was involved in the discussion of establishing a church along with John Silverthorn, Philip Cody, Lot 10, Con.1, SDS, John and Allen Robinet, Lot 12, Con.1, NDS, Abraham Cook, Lots 1 and 2, Con.1, NDS, William Barber, Abraham Markle, Lot 6, Con.1, NDS, Absalom Willcox, Lot 3, Con.1, NDS, and Daniel Harris, Lot 15, Con.1, SDS. Then the construction of it, which began in 1810.

John's business was brisk as the farmers took advantage of his trade. They took their horses to be shod and tools to be sharpened or repaired. One of John's customers on August 2, 1811, was Joseph Silverthorn. Joseph kept a ledger on his business transactions and his first business involvement with John reads: "Indetted to Belcher for sharpping harry teeth (harrow for plowing ground) - 1 shilling (approximately 13¢, with York currency being 12-1/2¢ to a shilling)." September 27th shows, "indetted to Belcher for shuing hos - 2s (25¢)," "for sharpping plow irons - 2s," "for shuing hos - 14s (\$1.75)." The account skips forward to January 8, 1812, when John purchased straw from Joseph for 3 shillings (37¢) and Joseph had a mare shoed and had some gears repaired for a total of 6s (75¢). In March, Joseph made a pair of leather slippers for John, and April through to August, "mended butes (boots)- 3s, 6d (42¢, with 18 pence [d] to a shilling)," "shuing a hos, 2s," "firing plow irons - 3s, 6d," "sharpping plow irons and pint o shears - 2s, 6d (29¢)." The account is open until January, 1813, when a barrel of wheat went to the mill for the Belchers at a cost of 9 shillings (\$1.13) and John received a bushel of oats for 4s (50¢). On March 25th, three bushels of "petators" (potatoes)

went to John for 16s (\$2). The account continues in a similar manner. In those early days, before money was plentiful, there was a lot of bartering done. On many occasions, the Belchers would receive wheat, barley or potatoes in trade for services rendered.

John served in the 2nd Regiment of York as a private during the War of 1812. He was discharged on March 24, 1815. John gave evi-

dence in a case before the Home District Court of General Quarter Sessions in 1838. He was sworn in for Grand Jury duty on January, 9, 1845, for the Queen vs John Evans and other larceny cases. He was a constable for the Township during 1849 and 1850.

John operated his blacksmith shop on Lot 7 until May 3, 1843, when he purchased a quarter-acre (0.1 ha) of Lot 16, Con.1, NDS, facing Hurontario Street, just north of the Cooksville four corners, for £20 (\$50) from grantee Samuel Ogden. The Belchers sold Lot 7 to Francis Logan on April 26, 1848. In 1852, his shop would be responsible for the Cooksville fire.

On Saturday, May 26, 1852, at 2 p.m., a fire started in

John's blacksmith shop and spread throughout the village. People hurried to the center of the village to give aid, but to no avail. John's blacksmith shop was completely destroyed along with 34 other structures. It must have been a devastating experience for him and his family.

Following this tragic happening, the Belchers left the area. When William Perkins Bull was doing research for his books on Peel County in the 1930s, there were no Belchers in Toronto Township.



▲ A Blacksmith Shop (Region of Peel Archives)

Stiles Stevens - 1807

Stiles Stevens (b.1775, d.1844) and his wife, Margaret (1770-1854), arrived in Toronto Township in 1807 to take up his grant of Lot 5, Con.1, SDS, that had been read in Council on June 18, 1806. He was a carpenter by trade. They had a son, Stiles Jr. in 1809. He got his family settled in a makeshift cabin and cleared his land, carrying out his settlement duties. He and Margaret would also have William, Letitia and three other daughters. They were United Empire Loyalists who hailed from Cramahe Township, Northumberland County, New York.

On May 9, 1810, surveyor Samuel Wilmot reported that Stiles Stevens' settlement duties were not completed: 5 acres (2 ha) chopped. Not all logged up. Not fenced. 100 feet (30 m) not cut. Road chopped, not cleared. House partly roofed. Family living on lot. A later report shows, "settlement duties done," and his patent was granted on June 16, 1816.



▲ Family Working Together

(Ministry of Transportation)

STILES WAS A LAND SPECULATOR, KNOWN TO PURCHASE and sell various pieces of property. He purchased Lot 32, Con.1, SDS, from grantee John Utter in 1807. This 200 acres (81 ha) was sold to General Peter Adamson for £300 (\$750) on August 23, 1821. The General was one of the founders of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Springfield (Erindale). One such transaction involved Lot 15, Con.1,

NDS. The grantee was Lilas Fletcher, who received his grant in March, 1822. He immediately sold to Stiles. In 1823, Stiles sold an acre (0.4 ha) to George Cutter, who had run the Government Inn after the Ingersolls departure in 1817. On March 18, 1828, George sold this property to Jacob Cook, who built Harrisville's (Cooksville) first hotel in 1829.

Stiles also served on jury duty on the Home District's Court of General Quarter Sessions in York on July 13, 1819, that required sorting out problems involving sundry bills of indictment. He was the foreman of the jury that included Joseph and Thomas Silverthorn, Philip Cody and Allen Robinet. On May 8, 1827, he served along with neighbours, Philip Cody, Amos Willcox, Jacob Cook, Thomas and George Robinet and Elijah Harris. They had to try the case of Joseph Wadsworth versus James Graham for assault and battery with Judge Alexander McDonnell on the bench.

When Stiles and Margaret passed away in 1844 and 1854 respectively, they were buried in the Union Church Cemetery in Sydenham (Dixie). On Stiles' tombstone reads, "The voyage of life is at an end, The mortal affliction is past, The age that in Heaven they spent, For ever and ever will last."

Their son, Stiles, purchased Lot 3 in the village of Port Credit and when the Great Western Railway came through in 1855, he took full advantage of this opportunity and constructed the "Railroad Hotel" near the railway depot to accommodate train travellers. In William Perkins Bull's "Booze to Business" file, Stiles Jr. is down for tavern licences from 1843 to 1869. Between 1864 and 1871, the town council often met in Stevens' hotel. When he died in 1871, Al Bleakely took over the business.



▲ *Stevens' Gravestone*

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Johann Schiller - 1807

Johann Schiller, called John on his grants, moved to Toronto Township in 1807 from Niagara Township, Lincoln County, with his wife, Mary Angelique, and children, John (who operated a hotel on Dundas Street that became Irwin's Hardware), William, Michael, Lucinda, Eliza, Charles and David. He had received Lot 9, Con.1, NDS, and Lot 17, Con.1, NDS, 400 acres (162 ha) by Order of Council on July 22, 1807. Deputy Surveyor Thomas Ridout signed his grants. He was German, a shoemaker and a discharged Army Corporal from the British Regulars, 29th Regiment of Foot, having served in the American Revolution (1775-1783). He had received his acreage for his military service.

When he completed his settlement duties on Lot 9, he made the trek to York on May 31, 1810, with his witnesses, John Silverthorn, Allen Robinet and James McNabb, who signed his certificate. The following year on October 12th, James McNabb witnessed that he had carried out his obligations for Lot 17, and accompanied him into York to file his certificate. In 1811, he moved to his Lot 17 property and on April 17, 1812, he sold Lot 9 to James McNabb.



▲ Johann Schiller's Grant Papers for Lot 9
(Ontario Archives)

WHILE OUT HUNTING GAME NEAR THE CREDIT RIVER IN 1811, John discovered wild grapes growing profusely on its banks, in the area first called Toronto, then Springfield and later Erindale. He took cuttings from the labrusca vines (a native grape to North America) and cultivated them in his garden. The soil of Lot 17 was quite fertile for growing the wild grapes and his vineyard eventually became one of magnitude and flourished with plump Clinton grapes of fine flavour. He had missed the wine of his native Rhineland, and was pleased to be able to promote his wine-making skills until he

attained the wine to meet the quality for which he yearned. He generously extended bottles of his libation to his neighbours for a shilling or two.

Because of this early discovery and the establishing of what turned out to be the first vineyard in Canada, Johann Schiller is noted as being the founder of the grape industry and wine production in the country.

It has been written in some accounts that Johann Schiller provided grape vines that saved the vineyards of France. Johann died in 1816, so it is not possible that this was his doing. The disease, phylloxera, was not discovered until 1863, so it is most likely that it was Count de Courtenay, who ran the vineyard for the Parker family at that time. But it can still be said that nearly all the grapes grown in France are there today thanks to the first vineyard in Canada, founded by Cooksville's Johann Schiller.

Upon the death of Johann Schiller, his sons, William and Michael, took over his vineyard and continued the winery business for a few years. They are on the Land Registry paper for Lot 17, 1824, and the indenture papers, showing the sales of Johann's property. In May of 1824, they sold 66.7 acres (24.6 ha), east part, to Thomas Silverthorn, and part of the southeast and southwest to him in November. Then in December, 66.7 acres of the north part went to Stanous Daniell. Schiller's vineyard thrived under many ownerships over the years.

Michael Schiller was involved in a grand jury trial January 11, 1826, for inciting a riot and assault and battery on John Whiteside. Michael died on September 1, 1828, and was buried in the Cosmopolitan Cemetery adjacent to St. Peter's Church in Springfield (Erindale), which has no church affiliation. It has been said that Mrs. Schiller died at age 96 in March, 1852, and was also buried there, but she is not on the cemetery's list. Several Schillers are buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery.



▲ Schiller's Vineyard
Makes History

There were Schillers in Toronto Township until the mid-1920s. The last being Johann's grandsons, Thomas, who had a general store and moved to St. Catharines, where he died in 1930, and, James, a barrister since 1915, who moved his practice to St. Catharines.

Information

When France's vineyards suffered a grape plague called "Phylloxera" Count de Courtenay generously shipped over cuttings from Johann Schiller's vines and helped restore the French vineyards. He was in France for the 1867 Paris Exposition, so it is probable that he heard at that time about his fellow countrymen's plight, which was gradually wiping out their wine production.

Phylloxera is a small yellow insect that attacks the grape vine roots. French scientists had been frantically searching for a solution to save their precious grape crops and grafting was suggested as the cure. Because the Clinton rootstock was a wild native vine, tough and resilient, it was immune to this plague.

No records could be found on this transaction, but records that were kept in later years, show that thousands of cuttings and rootstock were sent over to France from America and it is known that cuttings from Johann Schiller's vineyard were sold to New York, the New England States and Western Ontario vineyard owners. Count de Courtenay was known to sell grape vine cuttings for \$1 per hundred and upon the purchase of over 1000 cuttings, he would give the buyer one of his brochures on how to maintain a vineyard.

Because of this connection, the French vine growers were able to replenish their loss to the vineyards by grafting the cuttings onto the infected vines to secure new life.



▲ Johann Schiller and His
Winery (Brock University)

The Copeland Family - 1808

On September 19, 1808, Thomas Copeland purchased 50 acres (40 ha) of Lot 8, Con.1, NDS, from Philip Cody for £25 (\$63), which was located on the east side of Second Line (Tomken Road), south of the Base Line (Burnhamthorpe Road). This had been John Jones' grant. (This Jones was not the brother of Chief Peter Jones as Peter's brother, John, was born in 1798 and Peter in 1802.) Thomas built a crude log cabin, which the family resided in until the early 1820s, when Thomas constructed a vernacular Georgian-style two-storey house of fieldstone that sat upon a course stone foundation. There were three fireplaces to heat the large house. The kitchen was in the basement and it had a large fireplace that had a crane for handling cooking pots.

The Copeland property was a well wooded area with a winding stream running along the west side of the house. By this time, Thomas and his sons had quite a substantial orchard and gardens.



▲ The Copeland House (The Mississauga Library System)

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT MANY INDIANS SPENT THE WINTER months in the Copelands' cellar. In later years, several arrowheads were dug up in the garden.

Thomas' son, Edward, inherited the farm in July 1869, which was now 40 acre (16 ha). He married Lavinia West on April 29, 1879, at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church with Reverend J. S. Humphries handling the nuptials. In 1880, they had William Charles Henry Copeland. Edward passed away in 1898, and William and his mother inherited the farm. She sold her interest to him, but she was to reside there until her death.



▲ Edward, Lavinia and William Copeland
(Florence Copeland Maynard)

In 1912, William rented out the Copeland farm and he and his wife, Matilda, moved to Cooksville to take over George McClelland's grocery business, located in a two-storey red brick structure built for Jacob Cook in 1853 at the corner of Highways 5 and 10. The store, previously operated by Alfred Scott, was renamed Copeland's General Store and was run as a grocery and feed emporium. William not only stocked groceries, but had fabrics, boots and shoes, ribbons, hardware and sundry items.

The family occupied the rooms behind the store and the upstairs. William and Matilda had five children, Violet (1903-1998), Charles (1905-1984), Marie (1910-1993), who became a prominent Peel County lawyer in 1937, Hazel (1911-1999) and Florence, who was born in this building in 1914. They had a daughter, Lorna, on June 29, 1917, but she died at nine months old.

William was a local constable and a volunteer fireman. He bought many buildings in the Cooksville core such as the old Schiller Hotel and the telephone building behind the Revere House.

On May 11, 1922, with the passing of his mother, William sold the family farm to Henry Morrison for \$8,200 and purchased the corner

lot of Daniel Harris' former grant, which the store sat upon, from George McClelland. Then he applied for the postmaster position, was accepted, and a post office was established in his store on July 17, 1922. William Copeland operated the store for 35 years, and when he passed away on January 1, 1948, his son Charles took over the family business.



▲ Copeland Store, Cooksville
(City of Toronto Archives James Collection #9158)



▲ Violet, Hazel, Marie and Charlie

William and Matilda ▶
Copeland
(Nonie Copeland Wilcox)



The Copeland's Dixie house was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Farquhar in 1957. The Farquhars did some restoration to the over 130 year-old-building. They removed an insert from the parlour fireplace and restored it to its original state and restored the mantle, which had been painted to its natural wood. When they repaired the hearth, they uncovered a jar that contained pennies dated 1901, cufflinks and a note that stated: "Burnhamthorpe, Ont. April 10, 1924, Dear Reader: When we repaired this fireplace it was 111 years old. Family - Husband, Henry N. Morrison; Wife, Susan L. Morrison; Daughter, Glory B. Morrison; Daughter, R. N. Morrison. P.S. Hoping Toronto has reached this farm by your time. It is seven miles away. G.B.M."

Discovering this letter, the Farquhars became very interested in learning more of the history of their house, so they searched the land title to see who had owned it previously. They added a rear wing to the back of the house in 1958.

The Copeland house still exists at 1050 Burnhamthorpe Road. It was designated on May 8, 1978, By law 222-78. This oldest house in the Dixie area of Mississauga is still owned by Ron and Ruth Farquhar and sits on 1.6 acres (0.7 ha) of bush and gardens, surrounded by an Applewood subdivision.

Ron and Ruth Farquhar, 2005 ▶



▲ Exterior window and door



▲ The Copeland/Farquhar House

◀ Looking south to Burnhamthorpe



▲ Morrison Time Capsule

(Photos courtesy of Stephen Wahl)

The Log Union Chapel - 1810

In March, 1809, a gathering of staunch churchmen, John Belcher, Abraham Cook, William Barber, Abraham Markle, Absalom Willcox and John Silverthorn, congregated on the front porch of Philip Cody's Inn. The Inn had been serving as a place of worship where baptisms and marriages were performed by a circuit rider or travelling minister. Their discussion centered upon the scattering of unmarked graves throughout the community.

John Silverthorn suggested a church be built so the township could have a cemetery. When the denomination of the church was broached and a heated verbal confrontation presented itself, Absalom Willcox suggested, "Why not build a house to the glory of God where any minister who passes this way may preach?" So it was settled.



▲ The Log Union Chapel (St. John's Anglican Church)

ON JUNE 15, 1809, PHILIP CODY AND ABSALOM WILLCOX signed the oath on Moses Teeter's Lot 10, Con. 2, NDS, that stated, "that there are five acres (2 ha) cleared and fenced on Lot Ten, North Dundas Street, in the first concession in the Township of Toronto - that there is a house sixteen feet by twenty (4.9 m x 6 m) erected on the said lot - And that one half of the road in front of said lot is cleared." Philip Cody purchased the south half of Lot 10 from Moses in December, 1810, of which, when negotiating earlier with Moses, he had offered one acre (0.4 ha) of his property for the building of the church. He would eventually purchase all of Lot 10.

With the necessity of a church and with Teeter's cooperation, in the spring of 1810, a "work bee" was held for the construction of the log chapel. The broad axes were whirled overhead and trees began to fall about the lot to the north of Philip Cody's Inn. The group set about firing the debris, levelling everything in sight.

Absalom Willcox, who was a mason, was the foreman of the project and he became the only casualty. During the process of chopping down a 200 foot (60 m) white pine, his timing was off, the tree fell and broke his leg. The distraught crew abandoned their task. A stretcher was fashioned from hemlock branches and a few of the men trekked him by wagon into Fort York to the army medical officer. (One source claims that Mr. Willcox later had his leg amputated at the knee.) Because Absalom was laid up, his neighbours came to his aid and helped get his plowing done and seed in for his crops.

The summer passed before the men gathered and again tackled the job at hand and left not one tree standing. The church gradually took shape. Log upon log, it grew out of the clearing fifty-five feet (16.5 m) long, to be topped with a sturdy roof. Stones were used for the north wall fireplace and the logs were split for flooring, pews and the pulpit.

As of December, 1810, Philip Cody was listed as the owner. However, the property was not registered until December 30, 1815. The transaction was finalized in April of 1816 when he deeded the property for 5 shillings (63¢) to the first trustees, John Silverthorn, Daniel Harris and Allen Robinet. It was called a free church in the deed and was to serve all Protestant denominations. Because of these

varied dates, it has been claimed by some that the chapel was built in 1816. If these men were so fervent in their quest, would they have waited seven years to fulfill it? Some say, it was delayed because of the war, which took up 1812 to 1814. How long does it take for ten or fifteen men to construct a little log church? One source says three weeks. The first burial took place in 1812. The Harrises had a boy in 1809 and called him Philip. He lived only three years. In November of 1812, he became the first to be buried in the Union Chapel cemetery. Daniel got a slab of Credit Valley sandstone from the Credit River and carved a headstone to mark the tiny grave. (It was in the cemetery behind the stone Dixie Union Church, built in 1837, until around the 1950s, when the stone fell apart. A new stone has been installed in baby Philip's memory.) Would they bury someone a few feet (metres) from where the church would be located then work around the little grave? I doubt it. Two sources claim the church was built in 1810 and this writer agrees with them. William Perkins Bull's "*Strachan to Owen*" (page 66) states, "In 1810, when the harvest was finished, a corner of the Teeter's lot was stepped off and the church went up in a trice. Cody got the title papers Christmas eve. He deeded the promised God's acre to the trustees, John Silverthorn, Allen Robinet and Daniel Harris." From the diary of Toronto Township's oldest resident in 1940, Mr. Johnston (born 1846), who was living in Dixie, comes this, "The first church in Dixie was built of logs in 1810, being non-denominational for the Protestants. There was a round school house just back of the church."

This chapel became the first Union Church in Ontario and the first community hall. Eventually the Anglicans, the Baptists and the Presbyterians began to hold services there, each being assigned a different time on Sundays. It is probably the only church where Indians joined in the services and had their children baptized along with white children. It has been said that some Indians were also

buried in the northern section of the cemetery. This occurred in the first years as the Indians became Christians and turned away from their spirit beliefs.

The first minister to officiate at the Union Church was Reverend Charles J. Stewart. He was a circuit rider, or travelling minister, who would visit the



◀ Reverend Charles Stewart (Region of Peel Archives)

church once a year. In 1826, he became the second Anglican Bishop in Quebec City, succeeding Bishop Jacob Mountain.

In 1827, Reverend James Magrath, the first rector of St. Peter's Anglican Church (built in 1827) in Springfield (Erindale), came to give services for the chapel's congregation.

This log church was said to have burned down in 1836 and a chapel of quarried stone from the Etobicoke Creek was constructed in its place. Mr. John Robinson Caven supervised the construction. When the church was completed (minus the front porch), 1837 was inscribed over the door on a chiselled clock with the hands indicating 11:00 o'clock service. Some of the organists down through the years were Francis Morley, Augusta Silverthorn, Mary Louisa Watts, age 14, Sarah Leonard, Annie Wilson, age 12, and Sarah Price, daughter of John.

The iron fence and memorial gateway, designed by Wickson and Graff, were installed in May 1931, according to the will of the late Sir William James Gage (b.1850, d.1921) in honour of his parents, Andrew and Mary Jane, who are buried in the pioneer cemetery. His wife carried out his request. There had also been a bequest of \$5,000 left by Dr. Gideon Silverthorn in 1926 for the upkeep of the cemetery. The Silverthorn monument is the largest in the tiny graveyard.



▲ Dixie Union Church (St. John's Anglican Church)



(Photos courtesy of the City of Mississauga Community Services)



(Other Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)

When St. John the Baptist Anglican Church was built in 1870, the Dixie Union Church continued as the Presbyterian Church until 1910, when their church was built north of the cemetery facing Cawthra Road. The Baptists took over the stone chapel and used it for services until the late 1950s when it became a Sunday School. When St. John's burned down in 1924, the little church again was used for worship. Its last use was for the St. John's Nursery School, which operated into the 1970s.

In 1936, when Miles Vokes was secretary of the church's board of trustees, plans were made to restore the church in preparation for its upcoming 100th celebration in 1937. In July, 1937, a Dixie Chapel Centenary was held to commemorate its 100th anniversary. Many descendants of Loyalist families attended, coming from far and wide to celebrate this landmark occasion. Reverend J. Swankhammer, pastor of the Baptist mission gave a short service in the chapel. Mrs. F. Shipp of Hornby cleverly directed a pageantry of bygone days and author William Perkins Bull read a comprehensive history of this historical building. Colonel Thomas L. Kennedy concluded the program



▲ Plaque presentation with Lieutenant Governor John Black Aird and Ontario Heritage Foundation president, Russell Cooper, 1981 (The Mississauga News)

with these words, "The spirit of union exemplified by this building may be recaptured some day with great benefit to all."

On Sunday, October 11, 1981, a provincial historical plaque was unveiled at the Dixie Union Chapel and it was designated an historical site by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The unveiling ceremony was sponsored by the Dixie Union Chapel trustees, Milton Allison (Al) Pinkney, James Allison, William Pinkney and John Pallett. William Pinkney hosted the event as programme chairman. The plaque was unveiled by the Honourable John Black Aird, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (born May 5, 1923, appointed 1980, resigned September, 1985, died 1995) and the dedication was carried out by St. John's Anglican clergyman, Archdeacon George Banks. Speakers for the event were Mayor Hazel McCallion, Russell Cooper, president of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Frank Bean, chairman of the Regional Municipality of Peel, Members of Parliament, Douglas Fisher and Donald Blenkarn, Members of Provincial Parliament, Bud Gregory and Douglas Kennedy, and John C. Pallett, chapel trustee. This event was sponsored by the Dixie Union Trustees. The Silverthorns of Etobicoke were also in attendance.

The Cody family held a reunion at the Union Chapel on June 24, 1989, which was also hosted by Trustee William Pinkney. Some of Philip Cody's descendants in attendance were Gerald Cody, of Massillon, Ohio, president of the Cody Family Association, and Jay Cody of Orillia, President of the Upper Canada Circle of the Cody Family. At this time, William Pinkney unveiled a plaque in memory of his father, Milton Allison, and one for John Cameron Pallett, Q.C.M.P. He has been on the board since 1960, following family tradition as Pinkney men have supported the Union Church for over a hundred years. The Cody deed for the land that was in Miles Vokes' possession is now in the hands of Bill Pinkney. This author has had the privilege of seeing this precious document, which is dated Christmas Eve, 1910.

The stone chapel still stands today at 707 Dundas Street East, the northeast corner of Dundas Street and Cawthra Road, flanked by its pioneer cemetery.

NEWS ITEM

Cemetery at Dixie is Awarded Title To \$5,000 Bequest

In a judgement handed down at Osgoode Hall today, Mr. Justice McEvoy awards trustees of the Dixie Union Church cemetery \$5,000, as a bequest contained in the will of the late Dr. Gideon Silverthorn, towards the proper upkeep and maintenance of the family burial plot and the beautification of the cemetery.

The Synod of the Diocese of Toronto contested the claim of the cemetery trustees on grounds that an acre and two-thirds of land just east of the cemetery and said to have been part of the cemetery was conveyed to them by the late John Wilson in 1870.

His lordship in judgement states that he is not impressed with the suggestion that the testator was in doubt as to which board of trustees he was leaving the \$5,000.

Deceased died in 1926, leaving an estate of well over \$300,000 of which he set aside \$200,000, the income of which was to be paid to his widow. On the death of his widow he directed that \$250,000 be transferred to his children.

The Toronto Daily Star

Saturday, October 12, 1929

Memories



▲ William Pinkney

"I am the Fifth generation of Pinkneys to serve as a Trustee of the Union Cemetery, which I have done since 1960. In 1981, we celebrated the Church's history by installing Ontario Heritage Foundation plaques at the Dixie Stone Church. The Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable John Black Aird, and Mayor Hazel McCallion were among the guests.

"I was born in Cooksville in 1942 and grew up on Given Road in a new house built by my parents, Allison Pinkney and Wanda Cook, on a bush lot of our family farm. My parents built houses in their development on Maple Grove and Grenville Drive. I was the Fifth generation to raise animals descended from the 1850s originators of the herd, Charles Jackson. I assisted in keeping the family livestock business going until my father's death in 1986. From 1962 to 1966,

"From 1962 to 1966, I attended Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, which was founded in 1838 as a male academy by Charles Frederick Allison, my great, great grandfather's Andrew's brother. I have been operating my own antique business now since 1968.

"In 1976, the Region of Peel advised the Board of Trustees of the Dixie Union Cemetery that they were expropriating part of the Church's property for the widening of Dundas Street as they completed the Cawthra Road subway bridge. The church was already scheduled for demolition and two of our trustees, Al Pinkney and John Pallett, were fighting this at the Ontario Municipal Board level. After three years, they successfully won the battle and saved the church and we only lost the entry access by the Region of Peel closing our entrance gates forever."

William Pinkney
Pinkney's of Peel Antiques Ltd.

Recipe for Country Bread

1 1/2 cups scalded milk
 1/2 cup brown or white sugar
 1/2 cup butter
 2 1/2 tsp. salt
 1 1/2 cups hot water
 2 tsp. white sugar
 2 tbsp hops (yeast)
 6 cups white flour

Mixing: scald milk, add 1/2 cup sugar, butter and salt. Allow to sit at room temperature. Take a large bowl, warmed on the hearth. Pour in hot water, add 2 tsp. sugar, stir. Allow to sit until warm. Sprinkle yeast over water, cover with a clean cloth. Let sit for 5 to 8 minutes. When yeast has foamed, stir with a wooden spoon and add tepid milk mixture. Stir again and add the flour slowly, working with hands until a stiff consistency. Sprinkle flour on table top, knead the ball of dough, turning and kneading for approximately ten minutes. Dough is ready when it is no longer sticky. Grease a mixing bowl warm from the hearth, place ball into bowl, grease top with butter, cover with a cloth and let rise on the hearth until double in size, approximately one to 1 1/2 hours. Punch dough down and fold edges into center, turn over, cover with a cloth and let sit for 30 minutes. Turn out onto floured table top, cut dough into three pieces, mold into balls, cover and let rise for 10 minutes. Press into loaf shape the size of baking pan. Place in pan and brush with melted butter. Cover with a towel and place on the hearth to rise once more, about one hour. Place pans into bake oven. Let bake to golden brown about 30 minutes.



▲ Making Bread
 (The Toronto Telegram)



▲ Outside Bake Oven
 (Vernon Mould)



Making Candles

Support two poles on the back of two wooden chairs. Place candle rods from each pole. (A candle rod holds six wicks.) Melt tallow (solid fat of mutton or beef – strained and resolidified) over a moderate fire on the hearth. Dip wicks into melted tallow. Put across poles to cool and harden. Continue to dip slowly until desired thickness. (The pioneer women would usually make seven or eight dozen candles at a time preferring this method to molds. They would average eleven candles to a pound of tallow.)

◀ Making Candles
 (Vernon Mould)

War of 1812

On June 18, 1812, the United States Congress passed a bill, signed by President James Madison (1809-1817), and declared war on Great Britain. Upper and Lower Canada, New York and Michigan States became the battleground.

Sir George Prevost (b.1767, d.1816), the Governor of British North America (1811-1815), immediately spoke of the need of troops and the munitions of war required to defend his government, although he wanted no part of the war, nor did other British officials. So the British used a delay tactic by not signing a declaration of war until January 1813, hoping by this manoeuver that Congress might rescind theirs, but it did not work.

The population of Upper Canada was nearly 80,000, with over seven million Americans to the south, but the armies of both countries were small. At the commencement of the war, Upper and Lower Canada had nearly 6,000 in its militia to guard the 1,000 mile (1,600 km) frontier and defend fortifications across the province; 1,800 were under the forceful and courageous leader of the 49th Infantry, Major-General Isaac Brock. President Madison's U. S. Regulars numbered 6,744 and never surpassed 10,000.



▲ President James Madison
(Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery)

MANY LOCAL FAMILIES SACRIFICED DURING this war. Men such as Aaron, Thomas and Joseph Silverthorn, James McNabb and Amos Willcox, donned the scarlet uniform of the British Army, York Militia. They went off to fight at Queenston Heights, where Brock was killed on October 13, 1812, Niagara, Stoney Creek, Detroit and York when it was invaded in April, 1813. Some of them fought gallantly until war's end and came home with medals for their bravery as did 19 year old Amos Willcox.

The final bloody encounter occurred in New Orleans in the early dawn of January 8, 1815, when General Edward Pakenham's 5,000 came up against General Andrew Jackson and his 8,000 men. General Pakenham was killed instantly, and the British retreated, leaving 2,036 men wounded or dead to Jackson's 71. But a peace treaty had already been signed at Ghent, Belgium, on December 24, 1814.

The men of Upper Canada left behind their uniforms, their swords and guns and their two wasted years of pain, death and uncertainty, to return to life on their farms and the loving arms of their waiting families.



▲ General Isaac Brock
(Charles J. Humber Collection)



▲ York Invasion, 1813
(Toronto Public Library, TRL)



▲ Peace Treaty Signed at Ghent, Belgium
(National Archives of Canada)

The First Schoolhouse - 1816

THE FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE BUILT IN TORONTO Township was of octagonal shape. The men of the neighbourhood, under the direction of Joseph Silverthorn, got together in the summer of 1816 and constructed a school behind the Union Church (built in 1810) on Lot 10, Con.1, NDS. It was not authorized by the Home District Council.

How the shape was decided upon is a mystery, but it certainly was a unique structure for the era when most buildings were log rectangles. The octagonal, eight-sided, mode of building was popular around this period and a prominent builder of this type of structure was Mathew Bird.



▲ The Octagonal Schoolhouse
(Owen Staples, Region of Peel Archives)



◀ The Teacher welcomes students
(Denise Warren Fortier)

The first teacher was Charles Nicholls, who was hired by Joseph Silverthorn, who was anxious that his children receive a good education. He boarded with the Silverthorns, renting the log cabin that they had just vacated for their new stone house. In 1816, a teacher received 18 shillings (approx. \$2.25) per student per annum. All the local families sent their children to the tiny eight-sided school and they paid for Mr. Nicholl's keen and knowledgeable instructions, school supplies required and his lodging.

Johanna Silverthorn, Elias Cody and Allen Willcox were some of the first students. This school served the communities of Harrisville (later Cooksville) and Sydenham (Dixie), until a log schoolhouse was put up on Third Line (now Dixie Road) in 1846.

The establishment of the log school discontinued the use of the octagonal schoolhouse adjacent to the Union Chapel. It became the church's caretaker's home for a 75¢ monthly rental fee. (It has not been determined when it was torn down.)

The First Stagecoaches - 1816

The first stagecoaches came through Toronto Township along Dundas Street in 1816. They commenced their journey in York (Toronto) for their 17-hour trip to Niagara. They were operated by George Carey. Dundas was corduroyed at this time and the bright coaches drawn by four sturdy horses rattled as they sped by, their wheels spinning over the corduroyed surface while the horses strained against black leather harnesses, sweating and puffing to pull their great burden behind them.

Passengers, dressed in elegant garb, peered out the small open windows watching the scenery fly by as their luggage on top of the high vehicle bounced about behind a low railing. The driver sitting atop the coach on a wooden seat constantly snapped a long bull whip to keep the horses motivated so he would be on schedule.



▲ The First Stagecoach (C. W. Jefferys, Rogers Cantel)

DURING THE FIRST YEAR, IT WAS A SIGHT THE LOCAL GENTRY along the route thoroughly enjoyed, but they would become used to as it became a daily occurrence. Because the pioneers were responsible for keeping the roads clear in front of their farms – called statute labour – and quite often did not keep up their government obligation, for the first quarter of the 19th century, the roadways were often impassible. So, the stagecoach drivers, who received around \$12 a month, had a lot to cope with as they carried out their driving duties throughout the province. But it has been said that it was an exciting life and for some young men, it was their highest ambition to become a stage driver.

The stage would eventually bring the mail to Jacob Cook's Inn when it opened in Harrisville (Cooksville) in 1829 and then it would be disbursed to the rural areas in Toronto Township, such as Derry West. The cost for a person to take the stage to Toronto was 3 shillings or approximately 38¢.

By 1835, the stages were operating on a daily basis along Dundas, except for Sundays. The 11-hour trip between Toronto and Hamilton cost a passenger 2 shillings 10d (approx. 35¢). In winter, a sleigh cutter stagecoach was utilized.

In the 1850s, when the railroads began to snake across the province, the stagecoach work was limited to taking people to and from the railroad stations. Gradually they were discontinued as the owners could not make a living from the little work involved.



▲ Stagecoach gets Bogged Down (Ministry of Transportation)

NEWS ITEM

What a scene it must have been in those days of stage-coaching! The great yellow coaches rolling in from the four points of the compass! Horses tramping and jingling their harness, anxious to get to the manger. Drivers giving a blast of their horns before dashing for the welcome warmth of the hotel dining room. Coaches, mud-splashed, pushed out of the road for the next comers. Travellers exchanging gossip of the road over the bountiful meals of the early days. What an array of news of the outside world must have been assembled there on occasions! What notables must have swung along in the old coaches, beneath Canada's giant elms and maples.

The Brampton Conservator,
April 15, 1926



▲ Delivering the Mail (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ A Stagecoach in Winter (Molson Breweries)

The Price Family - 1822

The Prices can be traced back to Wales in 1600 and then to Antrim, Ireland. In 1798, Major Samuel Price (b.1775, d.1842) who served in the British Cavalry's 22nd Light Dragoons during the Irish Rebellion (1798-1799) married Sarah Charters (1779-1866) on February 4, 1798. They had Samuel Jr. (1799-1891), John (1801-1884), Ann (1803-1841), James (1805-1887), Rosetta (1808-1894), William, 1810, who died in infancy, and Alexander (1816-1896).

Samuel, as a quarter master of the Fencible Regiment of Pembroke Light Dragoons, fought at the Battle of Waterloo on June 18, 1815, which brought about the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte and the end of the Peninsular War that had begun in 1808. The Price family came to York (Toronto), Upper Canada, in 1817 and once they were settled in a rented cottage, Samuel put in requests for a land grant in December, and again on August 28th, 1820. He was granted Lot 21 and Lot 29, Con. 2, in Chinguacousy, which he sold, not wanting to move his family such a distance.



▲ The Price family - Jackson, Elizabeth, Samuel, Frances and Charles

THEY FOUND YORK TO BE A THRIVING TOWN WITH NO problem in purchasing fertile land, as land speculation was a booming business. Their son, Jackson, was born in 1819 and would grow up to be a strapping farmer and live to the age of 80 years.

On April 21, 1822, Samuel bought 200 acres (81 ha) of Lot 1 Con. 2, East Hurontario Street (EHS), in Toronto Township from Frederick Freitag for £150 (\$375). They made the trip to their property and stayed with neighbours until Samuel and his boys built a small shanty of logs. They called the farm, Ashgrove Place. He and Sarah had Elizabeth in 1822 and Sarah died soon after childbirth.



▲ Samuel Price's Mud House
(Inset): Colonel Samuel Price

In 1830, Samuel and his sons built what would become called “the mud house.” His acreage was rich in clay and they constructed a two-storey adobe house of mud bricks made from clay, straw and water. It sat upon a 20 foot by 36 foot (6 m x 10.8 m) foundation of fieldstone gathered on the farm. It had a kitchen/dining room, parlor and four bedrooms. A few years later, a large farm kitchen, 16 by 20 feet (4.9 m x 6 m), and a veranda were added on the rear of the mud house.

The farm faired well as did the Price children. The family attended the stone Union Church on Dundas Street and Samuel was actively involved in the Loyal Orange Order. Sam and Sarah's sons started to purchase property, got married and moved off to farm their own land. The Price family owned hundreds of acres (hectares) of farmland in Toronto Township. Samuel Price Jr., bought 100 acres (81 ha) of Lot 2, Con, 2, EHS, on June 4, 1832, and 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 15, Con.1, NDS, in Cooksville in 1852 and another 99 acres in 1853.

Samuel Price Jr. met and married Mary Hawkins (1794-1881) and they had eight children, the first being born in 1824 and the last in

1840. Samuel worked alongside his father and they were very successful in their endeavours. White pine was plentiful in the township and most was commissioned for masts for the British Royal Navy. Samuel was a captain in the 3rd Regiment of the York Militia during the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837 and was stationed at Navy Island, Niagara, while Mackenzie holed up there with some of his followers until January. He was politically inclined and became a councillor on the newly incorporated Toronto Township Council in 1850. He would become the first reeve at Confederation in 1867. Samuel Sr. did not see either of those triumphs as he died in 1842, only having enjoyed his “mud house” for twelve years. Sarah, however, saw most of Samuel's political career but died just before Confederation. Colonel Samuel Price lived in the family's mud house and passed away there in 1899.

Their son, James, married Frances Cooper, the youngest child of Nathaniel and Margaret in 1832 and they had 11 children. In 1839, he bought a farm on the east side of Dixie Road, Lot 4, Con.2, NDS, where he built a substantial house. James also purchased 95 acres (38.4 ha) of the south section of the Ann Belcher grant, Lot 7, Con.1, NDS, from Frances Logan for £1000 (\$2,500) on April 25, 1854, and the north half on October 8, 1856, from Robert Curry for £50 (\$125) and 3 acres (1.2 ha) on Feb. 13, 1861, from Levi Lewis for £45 (\$113). This property remained in the family until 1920.

Son, Jackson, a bachelor, was “Laird of the Manor” for 50 years. When he retired he sold the property to granddaughter, Sarah Cook. The house, renamed “Springloom Farm,” was resided in by the Cook family until the 1970s, when it was abandoned. On October 30, 1977, the “mud house” the Price family had treasured was burned down, when it was used by the Fire Department for training purposes. Then its remains were bulldozed on November 14th. Of all the impressive Price houses built, “Ashgrove Place,” “Fairview Farm,” “Forest Shade House” and “Maple Grove farm,” it had outlasted them all.

Some of the Price family descendants' accomplishments included a suspension bridge and a steam car. The suspension bridge was invented by Bert Price and was patented in Canada on August 2, 1893. The steam operated automobile was designed and manufactured in Toronto by Colonel Samuel Price's nephew, Charles, in 1899. Grant Clarkson's mother, Elizabeth Price, who came into the world on July 1, 1881, was a teacher at the Hanlan Public School. She was the



▲ Maple Grove Farm



▲ The Prices' Forest Shade Farm



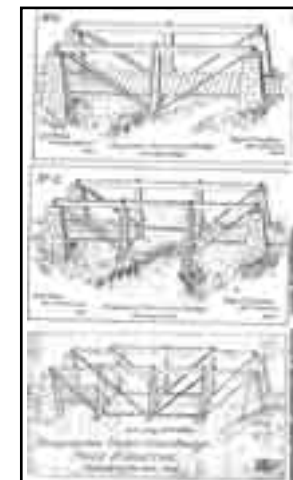
▲ Price Family at Maple Grove Farm



▲ James Price House, 1939



▲ The Prices' Fairview Farm



(Photos courtesy of Grant Clarkson)



▲ The Price Steam Car



▲ The Price Suspension Bridge



▲ John James Price

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youngest child born of Rebecca Irwin and John James Price, who had a farm on the Third Line (Dixie Road) at Base Line (Eglinton Avenue) in Burnhamthorpe. He was Samuel Junior's brother, and was called J. J. Elizabeth's older brother, William, who was born in 1867 and was 25 years her senior, was also born on the first of July.

The Arrival of the Prices

At the tiny settlement of Summerville on the Etobicoke they made the acquaintance of Thomas Silverthorn, whose father had a saw and grist mill a little up the river. There, too, they met John Vanzantee, who was planning to build a hotel in the village, and peg-legged Absalom Willcox, the first settler in the area. Willcox at this time had lived in the Township for over ten years and had cleared a large farm. On it he had his barn, his outbuildings and a fine home that did double duty as an Inn. He lived here, on the top of the hill just west of the Etobicoke River, with his wife Barbara and ten children.

Willcox advised Sam not to go any further along the Dundas Trail, as it was still too soft for Sam's heavy load, particularly in the artesian pond area a mile farther out, east of Markle's mill. He (Willcox) had cut a bush road through his land and it had been continued all the way up to the Base Line. It was rough but it was high and dry and it was the best route to Monaghan. Sam elected to take Willcox's advice.

The Prices stayed at Willcox's that night and the following morning sent their rented wagon back to York. They loaded their tools and construction materials onto Willcox's ox-drawn sleigh and took off through his bush road. It was, as he had promised, rough. But when they reached the New Survey and turned west on the Base Line (now Eglinton Avenue) the going, if anything, became even worse. Here there was nothing but a trail of ruts that wove around innumerable logs and stumps. They kept on however, and safely forded the little creek with the clay bed, and soon reached Sam's blazed tree.

The Prosperity of Samuel Price

by Harry Grenville Duff, who married Merna Price

Accounts state 1822 Prices:

Cambric fabric	– 1 shilling a yard (12 1/2¢)
Handkerchief	– 1 shilling
Note Paper	– 1 shilling for a quire
Mutton	– 17 shillings for 35 pounds (\$2.13)
Potatoes	– 3 shillings (37 1/2¢)
Eggs	– 1 shilling a dozen
A Harness Set	– 16 shillings (\$2.01)
Rent for a Team of Oxen	– 2 shillings (15¢) for half a day
Half a Day's Plowing	– 5 shillings (63¢)



▲ Oxen Plowing (George A. Reid, Region of Peel Archives)

Indians came up to Dixie to purchase sundry items. An old account book names them as Sam the Indian, John Crane, Chief Sawyer, Bill Harksmore, Old Peter, William Jackson, Jacob Brant and William Cashago. The general store had every type of necessity as a department store today, also conducted other services such as sheering sheep, pasturing cows and sheep, hauling with oxen, spinning of wool or allowing the women customers to do it, and kept boarders.

From Perkins Bull Dixie File
Region of Peel Archives

Owners of Cody's Inn and Tavern - 1829

JOSEPH FARR (b.1788, d.1870) AND his wife Ann Humphries (1807-1864) purchased Philip Cody's Lot 10, Con.1, SDS, for £656 (\$1,640) from Philip Cody on November 28, 1829, and spent 31 years operating the Cody Inn and Tavern. They were married in 1826 and had no children, but did raise two adopted daughters, Mary Louise and Annie Watts. Joseph had tavern licences issued in 1830 for £3 (\$7.50) and by 1837 it was up to £7.10 (\$17.60).



▲ Joseph Farr
(Region of Peel Archives)

He had been born in Kent, England, into a family of brewers and maltsters. He emigrated from the United States to Upper Canada in 1822 with two brothers, John and William. They opened a brewery on Queen Street in York (Toronto), which they operated until 1840. He and Ann, who was known to be a refined woman, were well liked in the community.



◀ An artist's interpretation of the Cody/Farr Inn (Mississauga Library System)

Farr was known to have an excellent stock of liquors and the best accommodations for travellers. His stabling was extensive and convenient. His utmost attention was always given to the comfort of his guests.

When Joseph was working alone in his Tavern, if unsavoury characters entered his establishment, he would take his gun from its location in a holster on the wall behind the bar and keep it handy. The men, upon seeing his gun, would soon take their leave and he would nonchalantly reholster the handy weapon.

During the 1837 Mackenzie Rebellion, a rebel unit of 100 men were drilling nearby. They arrived at Farr's establishment and demanded dinner. The Farris cooked a great meal and the scallywags took off without paying for the delicious repast.

On April 1, 1860, Jehoida Haines (b.1831, d.1881) purchased the former Cody Inn, which sat on 60 acres (24 ha) of Lot 10, from Joseph Farr for \$4,000 and 50 acres (40 ha) of Lot 9 from Joseph on February 15, 1870, for \$1,600. Jehoida and wife Anna (1838-1890) had nine children, Joseph, Annie, Elizabeth, Louisa, Fred, Charles, Laura, Mary and Florence. The family was quite community minded and helped in the building of St. John's Anglican Church in 1870.

Jehoida died December 2, 1881, and Annie carried on managing the Inn. When she passed away on December 22, 1900, her children inherited the property. Her son, Joseph, sold it on May 15, 1914, to Burton Gardiner for \$1,215.

The Haineses and Farris are all buried in the Dixie Union Church Cemetery. The old Cody Inn survived the Township's growth until the 1950s, when industry came to the Dixie area.



Haynes Road (misspelled) was named for this family on December 4, 1953. Thanks to the last of the Haines family, Edna L. Haines, the spelling of Haines was corrected on June 25, 1962.

◀ Haines Road Sign
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

The Gage Family - 1830

Andrew Gage (b.1803, d.1868), purchased Lot 7, Con.1, SDS, 200 acres (81 ha) for £200 (\$500) in Sydenham (Dixie) on April 15, 1830, from Charles Depue. He married Mary Jane Grafton (1809-1879), daughter of Stuart Grafton Sr. (1760-1837) and Mary McColl (1770-1855) of Palestine on June 29, 1832. They would have Stewart (1833-1856), Albert Andrew, Rachel (1846, two months) and William James (1849-1921). The Gages were Loyalist descendants and devoted Methodists. They only resided in Dixie until 1845 when the last of their property was sold to Amos Willcox and they moved to Palestine, but the family had contributed so much to the area that this author felt they should be represented here. A William Gage, probably Andrew's father, had purchased Lot 8, Con.1, SDS, in 1826 from George Robinet and sold it in 1831 to George Silverthorn.



William James Gage, who was born in Palestine, was an enterprising young man, who strived to achieve greatness.

◄ William James Gage
(Region of Peel Archives)

HE WAS EDUCATED AT THE DERRY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL and Brampton High School. He married Ina Burnside (1849-1915) and they had Eva, Irene, Wilhemina and Gladys. He was appointed Ensign No. 7, Coy 36th, Peel Branch Infantry, in 1870, was secretary of the Palestine Public School, 1871, a Bible class teacher at Salem Methodist, taught school for two years at Broddytown, made a second Lieutenant in 1883, belonged to the York Club, National Club and Lambton Golf Club. In 1910, he organized the Ontario Boards of Trade and was the first president. In 1918, having demonstrated prowess in his life, he was knighted by King George V for his work in the campaign against tuberculosis. At this time, he was president of the Victorian Order of Nurses Executive Committee, was honoured by Mount Allison University with its degree of Doctor of Laws and made Knight of Grace of the Order of the Hospitals of St. John of Jerusalem by his Majesty the King.

When he passed away on January 13, 1921, his will bequeathed \$35,000 for the Dixie Union Church fence and gateway, designed by Wickson & Graff, and the upkeep of the cemetery, where his parents are buried. His wife, Lady Ina Grafton Gage, carried out his request.

William had made Brampton his home for many years and Gage Park, the property he donated at the southwest corner of Wellington and Main Streets, is named for him.



▲ Gage Gravestone
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Gage's Memorial Gate
(Bill and Mary Carr Collection)

Information

In 1892, a new paper was started and called *The Evening Star*, which would be in competition with the well established papers, *The Evening Telegram* and *The Globe*. It was first published on November 3, 1892, with the slogan, "A Paper For the People." It was four pages and sold for one cent. The first issue of 7,000 papers, published by 21 printers and four apprentices under foreman Horatio Hocken and aided by Harry Parr, was printed on the third floor of *The World* newspaper at 83 Yonge Street. By the third day, 12,000 papers were sold. During the Great Panic in June of 1893, the paper was closed down for a few weeks and then resumed publication under the new owner, William J. Gage. Many owners followed during the next six years. Then on December 13, 1899, the best known manager and editor of *The Star*, Joseph E. Atkinson (b.1865, Newcastle, Ontario, d.1948) joined the paper and on January 24, 1900, the paper became *The Toronto Daily Star*. Atkinson eventually gained controlling interest of the paper and remained at the helm until his death. Two highlights of his illustrious career are *The Star's* 23-storey skyscraper building at 80 King Street West, occupied February 2, 1929, and the successful *Star Weekly* supplement included with the Saturday paper from April 9, 1910, to October, 1968. *The Star* moved to One Yonge Street on September 23, 1971. Since the 1990s, having celebrated 100 successful years, over 200 million copies of *The Star* are sold yearly.

Excerpt from *Silverthorns of Cherry Hill*, page 286

Sir William James Gage intended being a doctor but his health would not permit the close studying. His first business venture, in partnership with Charles McBride, was securing of a piece of timber land, the cutting of the wood into cordwood and selling it. Next he became a clerk in the publishing house of Adam Miller & Co., of Toronto. Later he purchased the business and formed W. J. Gage Co., which for many years published the Ontario school books. In 1910, he organized the Ontario Association Boards of Trade and became the first president.

He was greatly interested in fighting the "White Plague" and gave large amounts of money to establish sanatoriums for the treatment of consumptives: the Muskoka Cottage Sanatorium, the Muskoka Free Hospital, the King Edward Sanatorium and the Toronto Free Hospital. He also offered a series of six scholarships of considerable value, together with gold medals to be given in connection with the early diagnosis of tuberculosis. The Queen Mary Hospital for Consumptive Children was another of his undertakings, this being affiliated with the National Sanatorium Association. The King Edward Hospital was the result of a million dollar fund, which he originated and successfully established in 1912, as a memorial to the late King Edward.

The Derry West Women's Institute Scrapbooks
Region of Peel Archives

Pioneer Life In Peel

When pioneers wanted to get married they often went on foot dressed in homespun garments to the nearest magistrate and got "buckled" as it was. Grandfather (Stuart Grafton) went on one occasion to York (twenty miles). On his way through the wood he overtook a tall smooth-faced youth (Andrew Gage) walking slowly. After chatting for awhile Grandfather hastened on remarking that he was going to his daughter's wedding (Mary Jane Grafton), but the youth replied, "Don't be in a hurry, there'll be nothing doing until I get there." A son of that smooth-faced youth is now a resident of Toronto and one of Canada's most prominent school book publishers, W. J. Gage.

Country Prize story by Andrew Gage
Montreal Witness, 1889

The Doherty Family - 1835

The Dohertys came from County Donegal, Ireland, to Upper Canada in 1815. When the second purchase was secured from the Mississauga Indians in 1818, more land became available in Toronto Township. In 1835, Patrick and Charles Doherty settled on 200 acres (81 ha) of land, Lot 3, Con. 2, East Hurontario Street (EHS), purchased from Kings College that would be turned into a working farm with a quarry.

Bernard Doherty (b.1761, d.1851) purchased 200 acres of Lot 4, Con.1, in 1836 and a log cabin was constructed. In 1844, he built a beautiful one and a half storey Vernacular house of Credit Valley stone with a gable roof and three brick chimneys for the interior fireplaces, cornice returns and a five bay facade. It had 24 inch (60 cm) walls, a heavy timbered roof and floors of hand hewn white pine. The following year he had a two-storey stone and rubble barn built to house the many horses and cows he would purchase. Stone pillars graced the driveway leading onto the expansive property. The Doherty estate became called, "The Clontarf Farm."



▲ Charles Doherty
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Manning William Doherty
(Ontario Archives)

BERNARD'S FARM WAS PASSED ON TO HIS SON CHARLES (1801-1885) upon his death in 1851, and then in 1885 to Charles' son, William, who married Anna Hendley and started a family.

William's son, Manning William Doherty, was born in September, 1875. His early education was garnered in the local one-room school-house. Then, wanting to be a superior agriculturist, he went on to the Collegiate Institute, Upper Canada College, and graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1895 with a degree of Bachelor of Science and Agriculture (B.S.A.) His desire to be equipped with the most professional education foundation took him to Cornell University for two more years, and in 1897, he graduated with the degree of Master of Arts (M.A.) in agriculture.

In 1898, he was appointed associate professor of Natural Sciences at the Ontario Agricultural College. Besides his regular classes, he implemented a course in public speaking and taught several young men who went on to prestigious positions in government such as Premier Ernest Drury. In 1902, he resigned his post to take on the development of the Maritime provinces and he was manager of the Maritime Dredging and Construction Company in St. John's, New



◀ Manning Doherty and Cow (Ontario Archives)

Brunswick. Ten years later, having been quite successful in that venture, he returned to his roots to put his training into operating the family farm. He and his wife Dolores Cassidy had Brian in 1906, who became a lawyer, and D'Arcy in 1909, who was a stockbroker and became treasurer for the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Throughout the next few years, he equipped the farm with the best machinery, put his Clydesdales in competition in fairs across the province and sold saddle horses at good prices in New York. He also had a large herd of pure bred Holsteins. He had 75 acres (30 ha) in grain crops and 75 in hay and pasture with 16 (6.4 ha) in peas as a cash crop. Other crops were corn for silage and oats that were mixed with peas and used as feed for the pigs.

He became involved in the United Farmer Movement in Ontario and took on a leadership position. He was also associated with the Canadian Council of Agriculture and other farmers organizations

throughout the province. During World War I (1914-1918), the farmers went to Ottawa to protest about the boys being pulled off the farms for war duty and Manning represented the farmers' plight. It was around this time that he sold his great grandfather's farm.

In 1919, he was chosen by Premier Drury to become the government's Minister of Agriculture. Drury commented, "He's a man who gets things done." His main successes in this endeavour were assisting the United Farmer's party to form cooperatives and being instrumental in convincing the British government to lift its embargo on Canadian cattle.

Manning started Doherty Easson Company in 1929. He passed away in 1936.

In 1981, when the Doherty house and barn were recommended for heritage designation, the property was owned by the Ministry of Government Services and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Price were the tenants. However, with the passing of time, the building at 5650 Tomken Road was demolished in 1986 when Everlast Construction owned it, and the Tomken Business Centre now has that address.



▲ The Doherty House (City of Mississauga Community Services)

Dundas a Toll Road - 1836

IN 1836, DUNDAS STREET BECAME A TOLL road with two toll stops, one at Third Line (Dixie Road) and one at the Streetsville Road (Mississauga Road) in Springfield-On-The-Credit (Erindale). The charge for a wagon and team was 15d (10¢) and 8d (5¢) for a horse and wagon. It cost 30¢ to travel from the western side of Toronto Township to Toronto. Owen Hickey operated the toll booth at Third Line for Peel County at this time. The revenue was used for improving the roads.



▲ The 407 ETR Express Toll Route (407 ETR)



▲ The last Toll Gate in Ontario (Ministry of Transportation)

Toll road legislation had commenced in 1829 with Act C-15, which stated to incorporate the Dundas & Waterloo Turnpike Company to provide gates, rates of tolls, roads to be widened and bridges built. The first toll road in the province of an independent nature was established in 1805. Yonge Street was made a toll road in 1831. In 1837, Act C-78 stated: "Tolls levied to be sufficient to pay interest and principal in 30 years with deficiencies to be raised by assessment on inhabitants."

It has been recorded that James Beatty owned part of Dundas Street and operated the toll gates for which he received a great profit for his endeavours. A *Globe and Mail* article states: "In 1835, the Legislature made a grant toward the graveling of Dundas Street and the highway was established as a toll-road as far as Springfield. The road was the property of James Beatty and once a week, he drove along the road to collect tolls from the keepers. Payment was, of course, entirely in silver, and when he reached York he had so much money that he sometimes needed assistance to lift the bag from the wagon."

The last toll road in the province was abolished in Sarnia in 1926. On October 14, 1997, the 407 ETR Express Toll Route, located across the top of the Greater Toronto Area, opened as the first all-electronic toll thoroughfare.

The Mackenzie Rebellion - 1837

Everyone in Upper Canada knew who William Lyon Mackenzie (b.1795, d.1861) was. He had made himself known since he landed on these shores from Scotland in April, 1820. He was the publisher of *The Colonial Advocate*, first published in Queenston Heights on May 18, 1824, and transferred to York (Toronto) in November. He had been the alderman for the St. Patrick's Ward and became Mayor of Toronto at its incorporation in 1834 and had caused numerous confrontations during his political career.

There was gossip about Mackenzie wanting to overthrow the government in power in Toronto. So during the first few days of December 1837, when the Militia rode through the towns and villages asking for volunteers to ward off Mackenzie's attack on Toronto's City Hall, no one was surprised. Those who opposed his underhanded tactics joined in to counter the confrontation.



▲ William Lyon Mackenzie
(Toronto Public Library, TRL)

MACKENZIE HAD GATHERED HIS MEN – FARMERS, MILL workers and tradesmen – thought to be around 700, at Montgomery's Tavern with the plan of storming Toronto. Montgomery's Tavern had just been taken over by John Linfoot, although John Montgomery (1784-1879) was still on the premises. It was a large white, wooden clapboard two-storey building with gray trim, located just north of where Eglinton Avenue is now, on the west side of Yonge Street (today Montgomery Avenue marks the area).



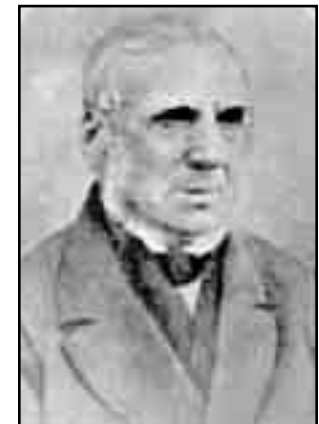
▲ Sir Francis Bond Head (National Archives of Canada)

At 11 p.m. on Monday, December 4th, the rebellion was announced and the bells in the church steeples around the city began to chime and the people, paralysed with fear, kept vigil throughout the night. Lieutenant Governor Sir Francis Bond Head (1793-1875), an obstinate man with an uncompromising nature, had sent the militia out of Upper Canada. A force needed to be raised to defend Toronto, and Colonel James FitzGibbon (1780-1863) was made Acting Adjutant General.

On the Tuesday, the government buildings were barricaded with planks in defence of the inevitable attack. Early Wednesday morning, William Chisholm, who had founded

Oakville and in 1831 had been made a Colonel of the Gore Militia, 2nd Regiment, gathered 200 men at a Dundas Street Inn. Many men from Sydenham (Dixie) and Cooksville and the surrounding area joined his quest, such as William's brothers-in-law, Joseph, George and Aaron Silverthorn, father-in-law, John Silverthorn, and nephew, George. William took his ragtag militia into Toronto on his steamer, *The Burlington*.

Colonel James FitzGibbon ►
(Toronto Public Library, TRL)



On Thursday morning, Colonel Chisholm and his militia marched to the City Hall on Front Street, where they joined groups led by Sir Francis Bond Head, Sheriff William Jarvis and Colonel Allan MacNab. The militia was split into three divisions and made ready to make the four mile (6.4 km) hike to Montgomery's Tavern. Colonel MacNab headed up the main body of 600 men and started north on Yonge Street with Bond Head and FitzGibbon. Sheriff Jarvis marched his 200 up the east side of Yonge Street and Colonel Chisholm handled the left flank with Justice McLean, taking his group of 200 up College Avenue (now University).

Upon arriving at their destination, the militia charged the Inn, hitting from all sides. Bond Head's men set up two cannons that were under the supervision of Major Thomas Carfrae. When they fired on the tavern, one precise aim of a cannonball through the window of the dining room caused the rebels to run and tumble out of every available exit, scattering in every direction, taking to the hemlock and pine forest, with militia bullets zinging about them, some returning fire as they retreated. The skirmish only lasted about 30 minutes with few casualties. Captain Wideman killed one rebel and four were seriously wounded, and later died in hospital. Three of FitzGibbon's men were wounded.

Mackenzie and his followers fled on horseback and Sir Francis Bond Head ordered the tavern burned to the ground. Colonel Chisholm



◀ Mackenzie and Co-horts Flee During Rebellion (Frederick R. Bercham)



▲ The Willcox House
(Region of Peel Archives)



Allen Willcox ▶
(Region of Peel Archives)

was hot on Mackenzie's trail as he hightailed it from one house to another as people assisted in his flight. As he made his escape to the United States, Absalom Willcox of Sydenham (Dixie) harbored him, as did others along the way. Absalom's sons, Allen and Richard, left with Mackenzie, but Richard broke his arm and was left in Dr. William Crewe's care. Allen experienced some traumatic times throughout this adventure, but did return home to live out his life in Dixie. Mackenzie's written account of his escapades during this daring flare-up against the establishment is intriguing to read.

With the commotion having subsided, the farmers were able to return to their homes and family and get on with their farming obligations. It would be the last time that they would have to take up arms.

The Stanfields - 1842

The Stanfields came to Upper Canada from Bennington, Lincolnshire, England, in 1842 and settled in the area that would become Dixie. Thomas Richard Surgey Stanfield (b.1809, d.1893) had married Ann Flears (1814-1900) in Bennington in 1840, and arrived with one daughter, Ann, 1842. They would have eight more children, Sarah, 1844, Joseph (1846-1919), Richard (1848, died at two days old) Richard, 1849, Thomas, 1850, Mary, 1853, William (1855-1927) and John (1857, died at 6 weeks).

After working for several farmers, Thomas purchased 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 8, Con.1, SDS, for \$3,200 on October 28, 1868, from Richard Church and built a substantial house. He sold off 40 acres (16 ha) to James Hickey to make ends meet. The Stanfields are also mentioned on Lots 2, 3, 5, 6, Con. 1, NDS, and Lot 5, 6, 7, Con. 2, NDS, in the Burnhamthorpe area.



◀ The Stanfield House



▲ Stanfield Family (Mildred Bellegam Collection)

WHEN THE CHILDREN CAME OF AGE, ANN MARRIED JOHN Patchett, Sarah married Robert McCarter, Joseph moved to Burnhamthorpe, Richard to Summerville (Wharton Way), and Mary married George Savage and had two children, George and Emily. William married Rachel Moore (1866-1948), daughter of Samuel Moore, and they had ten children.

Thomas died in 1893 and was buried in the Burnhamthorpe Cemetery. Ann died in 1900 and when her son, William, died in 1927, the 60 acres (24 ha) of Lot 8 were divided between sons, Arthur (1900-1963), Lloyd (1906-1957) and Victor (1908-1970). Each received 20 acres (8 ha) and Victor's included the old home-stead, where the family lived until 1955. Vic, along with former Reeve Les Pallett and Howard Pallett, who ran the W. T. Pallett & Son Fruit Packing Plant until 1985, were instrumental in forming the Toronto Township Hockey League (Mississauga Hockey League) in 1946 and building Dixie Arena, which opened December 16, 1949 (torn down in 1996).



▲ Gord and his Sons (Port Credit Weekly)

In the spring of 1954, the Stanfield farmland was purchased by Toronto Township under the direction of Deputy Reeve Mary Fix, and newly appointed Industrial Commissioner William Courtney. This was the start of the Dixie Industrial area, and the site became the location of the Fruehauf Trailers operation. In 1989, Steve Alosinac purchased the Fruehauf property. One of the Fruehauf buildings covered five acres (2 ha) and it was torn down in 2001 to make way for the Central Regional Office of the LCBO at 2450 Stanfield Road.

Thomas' great grandson, Gord Stanfield (1918-1994) grew up in the Dixie-Burnhamthorpe area, where his parents moved shortly after he was born. Gord attended the two-room Dixie Public School and the Streetsville High School. Gord took over his father Jack's milk transport business and served with the 48th Highland Regiment during World War II (1939-1945) before joining the Toronto Township Police Department in 1946. He spent 32 years on the force and retired in 1978 as Staff Superintendent of the Peel Region Police Department. He and his wife, Betty, had seven sons, Jack, 1943, Fred, 1944, Jim, 1947, Joe, 1948, Vic, 1951, Paul, 1953, and Gordon, 1955, who was killed in a car accident in 1980. They always wanted a girl,

Gord and Vic Stanfield and the famous Stanley Cup (The Mississauga News)



▲ Joe Stanfield (The Mississauga Fire Dept.)

but agreed boys were easier to raise. Several of their sons were prominent in the National Hockey League for a number of years. Jack played with the Rochester Americans and Houston Arrows, and Fred with the Boston Bruins, Chicago Black Hawks, Buffalo Sabers and the Minnesota North Stars, Joe with the Springfield Kings.

Betty passed away in September, 1991, and Gord on October 4, 1994, of a massive heart attack. There were several Stanfield descendants in Mississauga for many years, but now only a few remain such as Jim Stanfield, who still resides on Stanfield Road, and his sister, Anna Carr. Their second cousin, Irene, who owned the Moore-Stanfield heritage house on Burnhamthorpe Road until 1990, resides in Etobicoke. The family is spread throughout North America, but every year, they hold a family reunion to keep in touch.

Rubbermaid (Canada) Ltd., one of the first industries in Dixie, purchased 5.5 acres (2.2 ha) of Stanfield property and opened in 1956. The road, Second Line South, on which the Stanfields lived, now bears their name, as does Palstan Road, named for the Palletts and Stanfields.



▲ Stanfield Road Sign (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Betty and Gordon David, 1955
(Port Credit Weekly)



▲ The Stanfield House (Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ Gord Stanfield
(The Mississauga News)



▲ The Stanfield Boys and the Milk Truck



▲ Stanfield Boys - Jack, Fred, Jim, Joe, Vic, Paul and Gord. Insert: Jack and Fred
(The Mississauga News)



▲ A Young Gord Stanfield

The Dixie Schoolhouse - 1846

In 1846, a log one-room schoolhouse was constructed on the east side of Third Line (Dixie Road) Lot 5, Con. 1, NDS, in the area referred to as Sydenham that discontinued the use of the octagonal school on First Line (Cawthra Road) that had been built in 1816. A Mr. Mosley was the first principal-teacher, and John Hawkins served as trustee. Part of Mr. Hawkins' job entailed collecting money from the parents in the section the school served to pay the principal's wages. He collected £56, 4 shillings and 6 pence (\$140.50) a year. Mr. Mosley received a £100 (\$250) annual salary. A third of this, £70 (\$175), came from the school section and £30 (\$75) was paid by the government. In 1846, the Home District Council divided Toronto Township into school sections and it became School Section #1, although it was not the first official school in Toronto Township. It did, however, become the first organized school board west of Toronto. At a Toronto Township council meeting on April 26, 1850, it was moved by William Thompson and seconded by Samuel Price "that the alteration granted be marked on the Township plan of School Sections by the Superintendent. Carried."



▲ Dixie Schoolhouse, built in 1857

(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

THE LOG SCHOOL WAS REPLACED BY A RED BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE in 1857, and the frame school was used by the caretaker, William Goodison, who paid 75¢ a month rent. This school had a turret on the roof that held a black iron bell that rang out to call the students into class. James Craig was the teacher with 50 students.

In 1862, Mr. Wark was the teacher and he received \$217 a year. The trustees were John Kennedy, John Watson and W. T. Shaver. As the population of the area expanded, a 22 by 27 foot (6.6 m x 8.1 m) addition was added on the back in 1877 at a cost of \$550.



▲ *Dixie Public School S.S.#1*
(Ronald Watson)

The schoolhouse was used until 1923, when a new beautifully ornate school of buff bricks from the Milton Brick Company, with four classrooms and an auditorium, was opened south of Dundas Street on the west side of Third Line (Dixie Road). The site, Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, had been purchased from St. Patrick's Catholic

Parish in March, 1922, for \$7,488. In 1921, when the building of a new school was in the process of being discussed, many confrontations arose between the parents of the students. The Watsons, Willie, Mel, Fred and Charlie, and the Stewarts, Harvey and Jim, all lived near the Middle Road (Queen Elizabeth Way) and their children had to walk along busy roadways to get to school. They were opposed to their children crossing these dangerous intersections and wanted the school built closer to where they lived. However, their request was defeated and the school was constructed.

Alice Clarkson was the secretary of the School Board. Contracts were secured with architects, Smith & Wright, Sherwood Construction, the builders, J. G. Jackson, who installed the Spencer steam boiler at a cost of \$3,550, and Robert Patterson, who did the plumbing for \$521. The total cost of the brick schoolhouse was \$45,000. Arthur Clarkson, Ken Watson and Harold Pallett were the first trustees. When the school opened in March, Miss Ruby Smith was principal and the teachers were Mamie White and Mrs. Bonner. The school, which was heated by a steam furnace, had Clarkson Grice as the caretaker.

Ken Watson was responsible for removing the bell from the old school and having it installed in the bell tower of the new school. Les Pallett Sr. and several Dixie men organized the first artificially lit ball diamond in Ontario on the Dixie School grounds.

The old school became a residence of the Robert Stanfield family and stood until the early 1970s. Attending school was not compulsory until 1922. That year, Sid Belford, Mildred Bellegham's uncle, was assigned truant officer. He was also appointed Toronto Township's first police chief in 1938, six years before the Toronto Township Police Department was formed.

A school reunion was held in 1929 and several of the special guests were John Clarkson and William Johnson, who had been pupils 78 years



▲ *Former Dixie Public School, 2005* (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ *The Girl's Baseball Team with Dorelle Whaley as Captain*



▲ *Miss Gravelle and Miss Flynn*
Miss Gravelle far right



▲ *Students, Dorelle Whaley, Nora, Harry and Don Watson with Caesar*



before, John Robert Kennedy, an early school trustee, and the 1864 teacher, J. H. Bennett. Miles Vokes was chairman of the reunion committee. John Clarkson commented, "Do I

remember when I went to Dixie School? I should say I do remember. I recall the old frame school on the Third Line with the desks around the wall, the forms with the pupils facing them and the teachers walking up and down between."

In 1933, student May Adelaide Towers was instantly killed when a skidding automobile

◀ *May Adelaide Towers, 1933*

(Photos courtesy of Dorelle Whaley Boyes)





▲ *Dixie Public School, 1963* (Mississauga Library System)

hurled her into an oncoming CNR radial train on the Third Line railway crossing. All the teachers and her friends were stunned by her death and condolences were sent to her parents Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Towers.

The multicoloured brown brick Dixie School was closed down when yet another school was built in Applewood Heights and opened in 1963. The former school was bought from the South Peel Board of Education in December 1962, by the Ministry of Government Services for the Ministry of Transportation's Motor Vehicles Branch. It was utilized as such until July 1982, when it was relocated to the John Rhodes Centre on Airport Road in Brampton. The 60-year-old building at 2520 Dixie Road was purchased in June 1983, by the Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church. It was used for services until a tall majestic structure was opened on June 13, 2002. The former school is now used for special events by the Serbian congregation.

A provincial historical plaque honouring Colonel T. L. Kennedy was unveiled on October 4, 1974, on the front lawn of the Dixie Public School, 1120 Flagship Drive, which was originally part of the Kennedy farm. The unveiling ceremony, carried out by Tom Kennedy's daughters, Jane Hughes and Ruth Jackson, was sponsored by the Mississauga Historical Society. President Lorne Joyce hosted the event that was attended by William G. Davis, Premier of Ontario, Lou Parsons, Peel Regional chairman, Archdeacon George Banks,



▲ *Dixie Public School, 2005* (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Inset: T. L. Kennedy Plaque



▲ *James McCarthy and Nora Stewart with the Dixie School Bell, 1997* (Mississauga News)

Caye Killaby, Ward 4 Councillor, Ruth Thompson, Peel Board of Education trustee, Douglas Kennedy, MPP, Mississauga South, and Anthony Abbott, MP, Mississauga South.

The bell and a series of 1976 commemorative plates, were donated to the Peel Board of Education in 1997 by Nora Stewart and are on display in the atrium of the board offices at 5650 Hurontario Street.

Information

The first Grammar School Act was put through Upper Canada Legislation in York in 1807, which established the construction of grammar schools throughout the province, one to be built in each of the eight Districts. The first grammar school to be built was in York, Home District, and it was under the direction of Reverend George O'Kill Stuart from 1807 to 1812 when Reverend John Strachan (pastor of St. James Church, York) replaced him. As the schools were constructed, teachers were hired. They had to work five days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday mornings in summer months.

During the winter their day started at 9 a.m. and went to 4 p.m. They were paid £5 (\$12.50) a month, plus board and lodging. The school trustees set the teacher's salary.

The parents had to pay for their children to attend school. If they were not satisfied with the teacher's conduct, they could have the person dismissed. By 1816, a teacher was receiving 18 shillings per year per student (\$2.25).

On February 6, 1816, the Common School Act was passed through Legislation and £6000 (\$15,000) was appropriated towards teachers' salaries and supplies. The Town of York was allocated £600 (\$1,500).

The General School Board was created in 1823 with Doctor John Strachan as president. It was abolished in 1832 and Reverend Egerton Ryerson persevered through the years to establish the present school system in 1844, of which he became the first Superintendent of Education (1844-1876). He was also instrumental in providing free, compulsory primary schooling for all children with the Grammar School Act of 1871.

The South Peel Board of Education (now the Peel District School Board) came into existence April 10, 1952.



▲ Dixie Public School Class, 1896 (Region of Peel Archives)



Memories

"I was a trustee at the Dixie School for seven years (1934-1941). When things are going smoothly, people don't come out to the annual meetings too much. The annual meetings fell on the Wednesday between Christmas and New Years, so if Christmas fell on a Wednesday, it would be held the next day. The meetings had to be at 10 o'clock in the morning, two in the afternoon or seven at night. We always had our meetings at ten in the morning. At one meeting, we were short one for a quorum, so we dressed a broom and stood it in the corner and the kids would pass the entrance just the same.

▲ Jim McCarthy "That school was used for a lot of activities. I used to call off the square dances there. The school had a center hall with a classroom on each wing. At many of the dances there were four hundred people out. Those days certainly were fun. I have a lot of good memories of Dixie."

The Late Jim McCarthy
Dixie Farmer



"I went to the second Dixie School on Dixie Road and then the new one south of the Dundas. We fished at noon hour in the Little Etobicoke Creek and played soccer against Burnhamthorpe School. We used to walk up Dixie Road for the games and walk back to school afterwards. There were no buses then. My Dad told me a story about when he attended the Dixie School. He liked to go in bare feet and his family said 'You're going to school, so you have to dress properly — wear your boots.' So, he wore his boots to the end of the driveway, put his boots in the culvert and went to school in bare feet and picked up his boots on the way home. No one ever suspected what was going on.

▲ Grant Clarkson "One vivid memory about growing up in Dixie as a kid was swimming in the Little Etobicoke Creek. The creek took a definite turn and came over a hill on our property and it had created a very nice swimming pool. It was quite standard in the summertime for the men and the boys of the neighbourhood to go swimming — skinny dipping — there was no thought of any bathing suits. So my dad, along with Les Pallett Sr. and all the young fellows and older men would go skinny dipping to cool off. I have fond memories of that."

Grant Clarkson
Former Councillor and Deputy Reeve



▲ School Master and Class
(Artist Norman Price, Region of Peel Archives)

Teacher's Pet

If I live forever, I'll never forget
The day I became the teacher's pet.
The night before, I worked like a slave,
Trying to make French verbs behave.

I translated Latin till I looked like Caesar:
But physics proved the real teaser.
My duties done, I went to bed,
An abundance of knowledge stored in my head.

I knew about 'pugno,' I'd read some of 'Lear,'
My poor brain was stuffed from ear to ear.
I set out next morn with every intention
To keep this one day free from detention.

There was no answer I couldn't give,
The teacher's learned my mind was no sieve.
My friends disowned me, What should I care.
I wouldn't let that get in my hair.

When noon rolled 'round, I was being ignored.
It wasn't pleasant and I was bored.
In desperation I became
"Little Hateful" once again.

I banged my ruler on the floor,
Then shot spitballs out the door.
Teacher's pet isn't my vocation.
I handed in my resignation.

Author unknown
Port Credit Weekly
November 15, 1951



▲ *School's Out*
(Streetsville Review)

Rules For Teachers - 1870

- 1: Each day, teachers will fill lamps and clean lamp chimneys.
- 2: Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and scuttle of coal to school each day.
- 3: Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
- 4: Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
- 5: After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
- 6: Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
- 7: Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
- 8: Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
- 9: The teacher who performs his labour faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

Toronto Township Public School Sections

The Home District Council divided the Township into School Sections (S.S.) in 1846

S.S. #1	Dixie, Lot 5. Concession 1, North Dundas Street (NDS), built 1846	S.S. #11	Hanlan, Lot 4, Con.3, EHS, built 1844
S.S. #2	Cooksville, Lot 15, Con.1, NDS, built 1861	S.S. #12	Britannia, Lot 3, Con.1, West Hurontario Street (WHS), built 1851
S.S. #3	Erindale, Lot 20, Con.1, NDS, never established	S.S. #13	Derry West, Lot 11, Con.1, WHS, built 1856
S.S. #4	Erindale, Lot 28, Con.1, NDS, built 1845	S.S. #14	Churchville, Lot 15, Con.4, WHS, built 1845
S.S. #5	Hillcrest, Clarkson, Lot 31, Con.2, South Dundas Street (SDS), built 1826	S.S. #15	Meadowvale, Lot 11, Con.3, WHS, built 1851
S.S. #6	Clarkson, Lot 29, Con.3, SDS, built 1830	S.S. #16	Creditvale, Lot 1, Con.3, WHS
S.S. #7	Lakeview, Lot 12, Con.3, SDS, built 1833	S.S. #17	Eden, Lot 11, Con.5, WHS, built 1877
S.S. #8	Burnhamthorpe, Lot 6, Con.1, NDS, built 1862	S.S. #18	Streetsville, Lot 3, Con.4, WHS, circa 1824
S.S. #9	Elmbank, Lot 6, Con.5, East Hurontario Street (EHS), built 1860	S.S. #19	Riverside, Lot 7 Port Credit Plan, built 1893
S.S. #10	Palestine, Lot 10, Con.2, EHS, built 1842	S.S. #20	Forest Avenue, Lot 15, Con.2, EHS, built 1917
		S.S. #21	Malton, Lot 11, Con.6, EHS, built 1828
		S.S. #22	Lorne Park, Lot 25, Con.2, WHS, built 1923

The Death Family - 1849

The Death family was well known in Toronto Township and there were several members in Dixie. Abel Death (b.1819, d.1883) and his wife, Lucy (1813-1884), who hailed from Etobicoke, purchased 25 acres (10 ha) of Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, on May 10, 1849, and another 20 acres (8 ha) in 1857 for £225 (\$563). He was the son of Thomas (1788-1845) and Charlotte Death, who came to Canada from England in 1831 and settled in Muddy York (Toronto). He had two brothers, Daniel (1825-1894) and George (1831-1862). His parents had lost three babies, Rachel, 1817, Rachel, 1823, and Charlotte, 1827. His father had a silversmith's shop on the east side of Yonge Street. In 1832, the family moved onto 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 12 on Church Street in Etobicoke, where Abel resided until he came to Toronto Township.

In 1863, Abel sold his property to his brother, Daniel, for \$2,000. On January 4, 1876, Daniel bought part of the north half of Lot 6 from James Volk for \$1,000. Daniel also purchased 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 6, Con. 2, SDS, in what would become known as Lakeview, from Charles Wood in 1874.



▲ Daniel Death and wife Mary Porter

(Photos courtesy of Dorothy Death)

DANIEL WAS MARRIED TO ELLEN THOMPSON (1830-1864) AND they had Frederick (1854-1915), Mary Ellen (1855-1921), John (1859-1926), and George (1861-1948). Ellen died of tuberculosis in 1864 and was buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery, leaving Daniel to raise his four children. He then married Mary Porter (1846-1898), who had been born in England, and they had nine children. Their son, Wesley (1871-1968) helped on the family's Dixie farm until 1914 when he moved to Cordova Avenue in Islington to work for the Township of Etobicoke.



▲ Hector and Annie
Death

He married Keziah Wing and they had a son, Edgar. Their son Hector (1872-1959) married Annie Sabiston (1881-1945) and they had James Ivan, 1908, Arthur, 1913, and Lindsay, 1915. Hector purchased 15 acres (6 ha) of the family farm in January, 1912, for \$5,000 from his brother, Bernard, and built a two-storey, 10 room-house. He not only took pride in his farm production, but also owned one of the first cars in Dixie. The family belonged to the Dixie Presbyterian Church. Hector was on the Board of Managers and in 1922 was ordained as an elder. His son, Lindsay, would be instrumental in the founding of the Dixie Arena, which opened in 1949.

Frederick Death (1854-1915, the eldest son of Daniel and Ellen Thompson Death) and his wife, Mary Jane Skinner (1852-1920), owned a substantial farm in Dixie. Norman Death (1882-1962) was born on this farm. He was an only child. He graduated in engineering from the University of Toronto and became an insurance adjuster, a position he held for 50 years. Norman married Ida May Watson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. George Watson, of Lakeview, on June 23, 1909. Their children were Muriel, 1912, Dorothy, 1914, Norma, 1918, and George, 1921. In 1950, Norman started his own insurance agency, which he headed up until he passed away in 1962. He and Ida were buried in the family plot at Park Lawn Cemetery.

Fred and Mary Jane Death ►
and Son, Norman



Charlotte Death (b.1848, d.1919), the daughter of Abel and Lucy, married James Clarkson (1849-1924). They had George Wilbert (1875-1963) and Amy (1881-1897), who died at age 16.



▲ Charlotte
Death

When they were first married, they farmed in Dixie and then in 1894, they moved to Summerville, where they bought the south half of Lot 3, Con.1, NDS, for \$6,200 from the Willcox family. They had two farmhouses on the property and their's was situated close to the roadway. Son, George, lived in the other house with his wife, Edith Mason



▲ James
Clarkson

(1877-1967), and they had six children. George's main crops were fruits and vegetables. He also kept a herd of cows to provide milk. They belonged to the Bethesda Methodist Church and James taught Sunday School. After Charlotte died suddenly of a stroke, James lived another five years and was killed when he was hit by a car on Dundas Street in front of his home. Both were laid to rest at Park Lawn Cemetery in Etobicoke.

George had been maintaining the farm for his father for sometime, then he inherited it upon his father's accidental death. It has been said of George that "he was a good farmer, a great family man and a wonderful church worker." When George and Edith retired, they sold the farm and moved to Stanfield Road, where they enjoyed a leisure life and spent time at their daughter Amy's summer cottage in Tobermory. They had seven grandchildren. They celebrated their 60th anniversary on March 28, 1959, and died in 1963 and 1967 respectively. They had 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Hector's son, James Ivan, grew up on his parents' farm on Dixie Road, just north of the Middle Road (Queen Elizabeth Way - QEW). He and his

Dorothy and Ivan Death ►



brothers attended the Dixie Public School and Port Credit High School. He married Dorothy Cowieson (b.1913) on June 9, 1937. They had Robert, 1941, and James, 1944, and lost a baby in infancy. In 1951, Hector sold some of his land for the QEW overpass and in 1953, 11 acres (4.4 ha) to G. S. Shipp and Son for the Applewood Acres subdivision. When he died in 1959, Ivan inherited the house. He worked for the Imperial Life Assurance Company until 1973 when he retired. He and Dorothy resided on Dixie Road until 1963 when they sold the family home and moved to Orchard Heights. Ivan passed away on December 14, 1996. Dorothy Death still lives in Mississauga. She has four grandchildren, Corina, Jason, Michael and Shaun.

The two-storey, 10 room Death house, built by Hector in 1913, is still in existence at 2116 Dixie Road, set amongst stately trees and secluded behind a hedge that shuts out the busy world. It was used by two nurses, Mary Pettigrew and Carol Jereb, for a nursing home from 1963 to 1975, when they sold it to Angelo and Nancy Battista. Anthony passed away on May 2, 2004, and Nancy has moved, but still owns the house today.



▲ Hector Death's House, 2005 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

NEWS ITEM

Watson-Death Wedding

A very pretty wedding took place at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon on the lawn of Silver Birch Fruit Farm, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. George Watson, of Dixie, when their only daughter, Ida May, was united in marriage to Norman P. F. Death, B.A. Sc. of Toronto. The bride wore a gown of mousseline de soie adorned with Venetian lace with tulle veil and orange blossoms, and she carried a shower of white roses and lily of the valley.

The bridesmaid, Miss Bessie Watson, cousin of the bride, was attired in pink and carried a shower bouquet of pink roses. Little Miss Faye Neal, of Newmarket, made a very pretty flower girl, carrying a basket of sweet peas which she scattered before the bride. The groom was supported by a brother of the bride, Mr. Charles Watson. The bride, who was given away by her father, approached through an aisle of white ribbon and smilax held by her four brothers, the arch of flowers, ferns and evergreens, where the ceremony was performed by Rev. G. Sydney Smith, assisted by Rev. T. W. Neal.

After the congratulations, the bridal party and guests sat down to a wedding breakfast. Among the gifts was a silver service of six pieces, presented to the bride by the choir and members of Bethesda Methodist Church, as a slight token of their esteem and in recognition of her service as organist for the past five years. After the toasts were drunk, Mr. and Mrs. Death left in a taxicab for Toronto, and then to Buffalo and points east.

Streetsville Review
Thursday, June 24, 1909

John Wilson - 1850

JOHN WILSON (b.1817, d.1873) EMIGRATED from England at an early age and settled in Toronto. He was trained to be a butcher by his adopted father, Mr. Dunn. He moved to Chinguacousy, where he worked for John Craig, Lot 18, Con.2, EHS. He helped raise and ship sheep and cattle. This job worked out so well, he became a partner and made quite a fortune at his trade.

John bought 18.5 acres (7.5 ha) of Lot 9, Con.1, SDS, in Sydenham (Dixie) on March 12, 1850, from Samuel Mills. He and his new wife, Sarah Ann Pimlott (1828-1905) moved there and he built a modest house. They had Frederick (1851-1855), George (1853-1865), Annie (1855-1856) and Robert, (1861-1863). He purchased several acres of Lot 9 in 1856, 1863, 1866 and 1867 until he owned 100 acres (40 ha) of the former grant of Johann Schiller. The Kennedys owned the south half, where the Atlantic Hotel was located.

On November 13, 1856, he purchased Peter Romain's property, Lot 16, Con.1, NDS, in the village of Cooksville for £300 (\$750), built a butcher shop and worked plying his butcher trade.

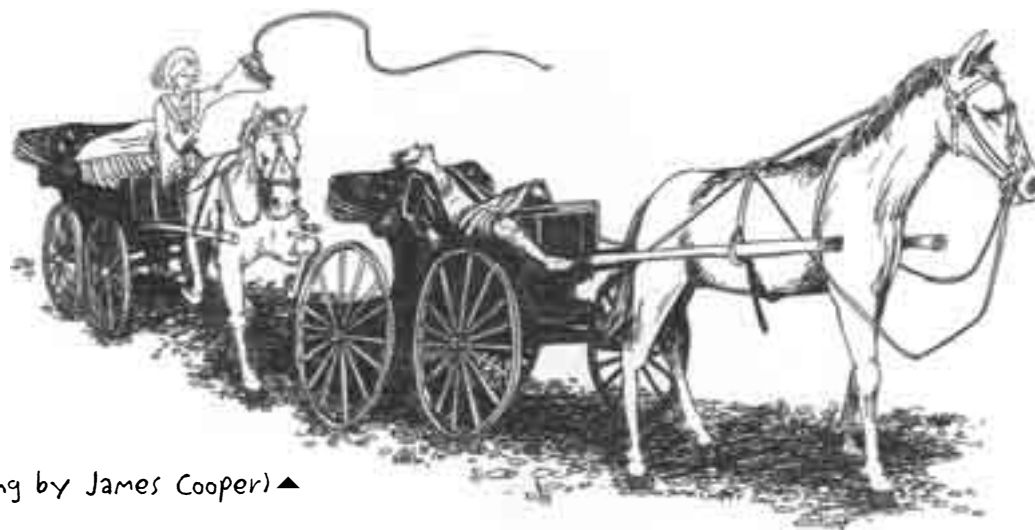


▲ The former Wilson House, 883 Dundas Street East (Norma Peabody)
Inset: John Wilson (Region of Peel Archives)

John and Sarah were notable residents of the area. They were a flamboyant couple, about whom everyone passed on tales of their antics. Sarah enjoyed new clothes and dressed with a flair for elegance, which earned her the name of “Belle of Dixie.”

John, on the other hand, had a penchant for alcohol and many times his swankily dressed wife had to go to the tavern to bring him home.

Being financially secure, they each had their own carriage. When Sarah was summoned to pick up her erring spouse at the tavern, she would have him thrown into his buggy and leap into her own and then urge the horses homeward-bound, occasionally lashing her whip over her husband's inert body all the way home.



(Drawing by James Cooper) ▲

When her husband was under the influence, Sarah would hide his clothes, so he couldn't go out, but he would rifle through her closet and don her garments, which once was a red petticoat, and leap out the bedroom window. Dressed in women's clothes, he would run through the village, dropping in on one tavern after another, causing a riot everywhere he went.

On April 4, 1863, John purchased 148 acres (58.2 ha) of Lot 10, Con.1, NDS, from Thomas Newlove, and here he built an elegant mansion and when it was completed called it "The Manor." The Wilsons held elaborate garden parties on their veranda, which was festooned with Chinese lanterns. Next door, he put up a building, which became a tavern named "Rat's Castle." He put a manager in charge and continued to operate his butcher shop. When people began to comment that Sydenham, now Fountain Hill, should receive a new name, his neighbours suggested Wilsonville. But he turned down the honour and said it should be named for his good friend Dr. Beaumont Dixie. So it was called Dixie in July 1864, and the post office, located at Kennedy's Atlantic Hotel and Emporium, was changed to the Dixie Post Office.

He donated a piece of his Lot 10 in 1869 for the St. John the Baptist Anglican Church to be built. He made a condition with this deal that no pews were to be rented. Sarah played the organ at St. John's Church as did her daughter, Caroline.

It has been written that when John died in 1873 at age 56 a piece of property was given to his old retainer, John Bell, but this could not be substantiated. Bell, like his longtime friend, was also a comical and notorious gentleman. One of his trades was making coffins, which he did for his deceased client.

The widow Sarah married Francis Silverthorn, of the Summerville Silverthorns, at St. James Cathedral in Toronto on June 16, 1880. On January 14, 1892, Sarah sold Miles Cook nearly an acre (0.4 ha) of Lot 10 to add to the Dixie Union Chapel's Cemetery. Her husband, Francis, died in December 1894, making her a widow for a

second time. Sarah passed away in 1905. She, John and their children are buried in the Dixie Cemetery. A John B. Wilson, said to be John and Sarah's son (but not listed), who had become a Texas oil baron, sold the Lots 9 and 10 property that was left to Thomas McCarthy on October 10, 1907, for \$7,250.

The Wilson house at 883 Dundas Street East was later owned by the Aikenheads, then the Grebeldingers, who ran a second hand shop out of it. John Price bought the house and tore it down and had an apartment building constructed, which is now a Peel Living building at 880 Riley Court.



▲ The Wilson Gravestone
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

The Clarkson Family - 1850

William (b.1808, d.1892) and Sarah Clarkson (1818-1905), who hailed from Yorkshire, England, came to Toronto Township in 1850 from Lambton, where they had lived since 1843. After residing on Third Line (Dixie Road) for a few years, William purchased 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, for £250 (\$625) on September 8, 1853. He cleared the property to enable him to build a stone house. Many of the oak and pine trees were sold for ship building. He was a farmer his entire life and farmed the land with much pride. The Clarksons had eleven children, four boys and seven girls. William was a lay preacher and the family attended local church meetings and then the Burnhamthorpe Methodist Church and later Bethesda.

William was instrumental in working to improve Dundas Street. He used his team of horses to plough up the old corduroy from the roadway. He and William Shaver were said to be the only farmers in the area to have a good team and they were involved in forming bees to build the Bethesda Church in 1863, which opened in January, 1864. On January 4, 1873, he bought 60 acres (24 ha) of Lot 5, Con.1, NDS, on Dundas Street from Robert Craig for \$2,400.



▲ William, Sarah and Family
Top Left: William. Lower Right: Sarah

HE BUILT A HOUSE HERE AND AGAIN SOLD ALL THE LUMBER from the massive trees. When William retired, he and Sarah moved to Islington, where they resided until their deaths in 1892 and 1905, respectively.

Their son, John (1845-1933), who took an active part in agricultural affairs in the community, bought 60 acres of Lot 4, Con.1, NDS, on April 6, 1877, from Thomas Elgie for \$3,200 and 65 acres (24.2 ha) of Lot 2, Con.1, NDS, in 1905 for \$6,500 from Victor Alderson. It was part of this property that he sold on September 23, 1914, to trustee William Watson for the expansion of the Bethesda Church. He married Mary Ann Pallett, from the Pallett family of Dixie, in 1882 and they



◀ John Clarkson



William and Sarah's sons ▲

(Photos courtesy of Grant Clarkson)

▲ Mary Clarkson

took up occupancy on his Lot 4 property, where John started to farm in earnest. Arthur Wilmot Clarkson was born in 1884. His middle name comes from the surveyor Samuel Street Wilmot. He grew up to become a successful operator of market gardens on the Dundas highway. In 1894, John purchased 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 3, Con.1, NDS, from Candace Willcox for \$6,200, the former home of Absalom Willcox, who harboured the rebellious William Lyon Mackenzie during his Rebellion in 1837. Under John Clarkson and Sons, John, who raised Holstein-Friesian cattle, won many prizes at the Canadian National Exhibition for his general purpose horses in the early 1900s. He later purchased the Alderson estate, where he and Mary Ann

resided with their son, Norman, until their passing, Mary in 1922 and John, 1933.

Arthur met Elizabeth Alice Price (1882-1956), who was the assistant principal at Annette Street Public School on Annette Street in Toronto. She was the daughter of Rebecca Irwin and John James Price, who had married on September 21, 1866, and had seven children. Elizabeth was their baby. She was born July 1, 1881, and her oldest brother, William, had also come into the world the day of Confederation, July 1, 1867. Arthur and Elizabeth were married in 1910 and they lived in a roughcast house built by Arthur's father. Here their first child, Irwin, was born in 1911 (died 1975). Arthur bought some adjoining property on Dundas, Lot 4, Con.1, NDS, and built a two and a half storey red brick house, where three more children were born, Grant, 1915, Betty (1917-2003) and Margaret, 1919. The old homestead was used to house their workers.

In 1919 and 1922, Arthur purchased more property between Bloor and Dundas Streets, Lots 2 and 5, until he was operating 300 acres (122 ha), with 50 acres (20 ha) in sweet corn and an apple orchard. His fruit and produce were sold to Toronto outlets. He had a herd of high quality Holstein cattle and sold milk to a Toronto dairy.

The Clarkson children went to the small one-room red brick school-house on Dixie Road, and then to the new school below Dundas Street. Mail was delivered from the Islington Post Office to a mailbox on the roadway. They used the Royal Bank in Islington, managed by a Mr. Hodson. They went to Summerville to a general store for their sundry items. Mr. Halsey, a butcher from Cooksville, stopped by regularly to bring their meat supply. Groceries were delivered by Mr. Mickey and although the Clarksons didn't require milk, it was available to their neighbours from Cooksville Dairy.

Grant worked alongside his father from a very young age. His first task was picking peas. He also had to milk cows in the evenings. He can remember the family having a telephone party line and their number was 31 ring 1-3, which was one long and three short rings.



▲ Grant, Irwin and Betty Clarkson

The Clarkson family attended the Bethesda Methodist Church (became United in 1925), which was located on property Grant's grandfather had owned. They were involved with most of the church's activities. When Grant grew up, he taught Sunday school and was chairman of the building committee when they added a section to the back.

Grant never considered going into farming, so he did not follow in his father's footsteps when he graduated from the University of Toronto as a mechanical engineer in 1938. His first job took him to Sault Ste. Marie, working for Algoma Steel. He was then interviewed in Sudbury for a job in the aeronautical inspection directorate for the British Air Commission, which brought him to Malton, where he inspected the construction of aircraft. He was then assigned to Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica, California. He had met Janet Johnston (1921- 2004) in Sault Ste. Marie and they corresponded. They decided to get married which took place at her family home in Windsor on December 29, 1940. She accompanied him to California. They returned to Canada in 1942 to Montreal, and then Edmonton and on to Winnipeg, where Barbara was born. Then they moved to Islington for Grant's job at Brazilian Traction in Toronto. Son, David, who became a doctor, was born in 1945 and Phillip in 1950. David operates his practice at Creditview Medical and works out of the Credit Valley Hospital.

In 1950, they moved to the family farm in Dixie, where Grant became a leading figure in the development of the apple growing industry in southern Ontario. At this time, the Toronto Township Council decided to create a planning board and there were not too many people with engineering experience, so Grant was appointed as part of a committee to create the new board. Then he was elected to the Public Utilities Commission to establish a public works commission to run the waterworks. Anthony Adamson was the first president and Grant the second.



▲ The Clarkson House and Barn



In 1956, his mother, Elizabeth, passed away and in 1964, Arthur began to sell off the farm to developers, one being S. B. McLaughlin Associates. Grant bought a farm on the south side of Eglinton and had a house constructed by Glenn Grice. In 1964, he purchased 85 acres (34 ha) on Barbertown Road where he planted an orchard and numerous trees. His father, Arthur, died on May 17, 1971, and was buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery with his wife. He was survived by three children, 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

When a municipal election was called in 1959, Grant ran for councillor of Ward 4 and lost out to Roy McMillan. When McMillan became Reeve in 1968, Grant won as councillor, which he held until 1971. He became deputy reeve in 1971 until 1974. He was acting mayor in 1971 when Mayor Robert Speck was ill and reeve for the last seven weeks in 1973. He also joined the board of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority in 1968 and served as chairman from 1975 to 1980, when he retired.

He and Janet had a lovely ranch-style bungalow constructed on their Barbertown Road property and moved there in 1981. He sold off

most of the property over the years, but still maintains three houses on 17 acres (7 ha) that harbours an apple orchard and lovely gardens.

In 2003, Grant was honoured by the Etobicoke Collegiate Institute during its 75th anniversary reunion, by being inducted into the Etobian Gallery of Distinction in recognition of "his career achievements and meritorious contribution to his country and community." On June 30, 2004, Janet Clarkson passed away. Grant still resides in the family home.



▲ Arthur and Elizabeth Price Clarkson



◀ Grant and Janet in California



▲ Grant Clarkson during his Football Days



▲ Janet, Grant, and children Philip, Barbara and David, 1967



▲ Grant, Don Pallett, Archie Turner and Morris Magwood



▲ The Credit Valley Conservation Board



◀ The Clarkson Family



▲ Grant and Janet, 2001

Andrew Allison and Family - 1850

The Allison family came to the United States from County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, when Andrew Allison was a young man. He had been born there in 1802 and graduated from Edinburgh University with an engineering degree. Once settled in their adopted homeland, Andrew worked in New York State for a time on the Erie Canal, which opened in 1825.

Shortly after this historical involvement, he came to Upper Canada on his own and settled in York, where he purchased property on the waterfront. He traded this acreage for property in Toronto Township, Lot 2, Con.3, EHS.



▲ The Allison House

(Photos courtesy of William Pinkney)



▲ Andrew Allison



▲ Sarah Moore Allison

HE BUILT A LOG HOUSE IN 1825 AND IN 1826, MARRIED SARAH Moore (b.1802, d.1875). Sarah had been born in Onatonabee Township near Peterborough. They had six children, Mary Ann (1830-1905), Henry (1831-1951), James (1833-1916), Andrew (1834-1914), Samuel (1836-1928) and Thomas (1837-1913). By 1835, the family was ready for a larger house and Andrew built one of bricks, which he made on his own property.



▲ The Allison House

In October, 1850, Andrew purchased 189 acres (76.6 ha) from David Culp of Lot 10, Con.2, NDS, which had been the 1808 grant of Elizabeth Eastman. He built a stone house, a sizable barn and numerous outbuildings and the family settled in to raise livestock. The family joined the Presbyterian Church that held services in the Union Chapel.

His first business enterprise was a brickworks, which he operated in partnership with George Tolman. They supplied bricks for the Kennedys' Atlantic Hotel and Store and other buildings around the area, such as the former Cook/Copeland Store that was built in 1853 and still stands today at 14 Dundas Street East.



▲ Fairview Farmhouse and Outbuildings

When his son, James, married Mary Ann Madden (1849-1940) in 1874, they resided in a small house on the family farm and then he built a two-storey brick house with a slate roof and elegant gingerbread trim that he named Fairview Manor. James and Mary Ann had Sarah (1875-1966), Thomas (1877-1943), Minnie (1879-1978), Margaret (1880-1971), Annie (1881-1882) and Henrietta (1886-1981). James' only son, Thomas, would grow up to enjoy working on the farm and he raised and trained the colts and horses.

The Allison family bought other property, one of which was where the Pucky Huddle Hotel was located, west of Second Line



▲ James Allison

(Tomken Road). This property would be farmed until 1975, with the last owners being Jim and Gwen Laurence. It was sold to Gordon S. Shipp & Son for a subdivision in 1965.

Andrew passed away in 1866 and was buried in the Streetsville Presbyterian Cemetery. His wife, Sarah, joined him in 1875. Their son, Thomas, took over the family residence and farmland. He was married to Lucinda Cook, who was the daughter of Jacob Cook, for whom Cooksville was named. They had a daughter, Sarah Lucinda,



▲ James' Children

and a son, Andrew. Sarah became a nurse and worked in Peterborough. When she retired, she moved back to the family home- stead. She then spent her time caring for family members during their various maladies. She was the last remaining Allison to live in the house before it was demolished in 1969, when it was torn down to make way for present day development. Sarah passed away in the Bahamas. Andrew married Golda Elliott and they had two sons, Thomas and Jack.



▲ Allison's Three Seater Wagon



▲ Billy, Jim and Helen



▲ Thomas Andrew Allison

James and Mary Ann's oldest child, Sarah, married William Pinkney (1873-1957) in 1906. The Pinkney family owned Lots 12 and 13, Con.1, NDS. They had two sons, Allison (1908-1986) and James (1911-1999). James became a veterinarian, having graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph. Both boys took to raising cattle and won numerous prizes for their livestock at the Royal Winter Fair. In 1936, Dr. Jim was a champion of the agronomy division, champion of the stock division and grand champion showman at the "College Royal."

When James Allison's son, Thomas Andrew, and his wife, Nellie Price, were residing at Fairview with their three children, Jim, Helen and Billy, a terribly brisk wind storm came up. In the backyard was a tall windmill. As the children watched the windmill from an upstairs bedroom window, the wheel spun around crazily as the wind picked up. It went faster and faster until the windmill broke free of its base

and flew up in the air and landed in the orchard. Of course, the children had to scramble downstairs and tell their father that his windmill had blown away.

The family owned a three seater wagon called a "Democrat." It was mostly used to get the family to church on Sundays.



◀ Fairview
Farm
Backyard

James and Mary Ann Allison moved to Toronto in April, 1915, and before they left, the Dixie Presbyterian Church presented them with a certificate for their dedicated service from 1878 when the church was formed. They had been instrumental in the building of the church in 1910. James died at his residence, 19 Hurndale Avenue, Toronto, on May 3, 1916. His service was held in the church that had been like a second home to him and his family. Allison Park at 575 Willowbank Trail is named for the family.

Sarah and William Pinkney's son, Allison, who died in 1986, was the father of William Allison Pinkney, who is the last in a long line of the Allison family.



▲ Allison Pinkney



▲ James Pinkney



▲ William Allison Pinkney



▲ Sarah Allison at the original homestead

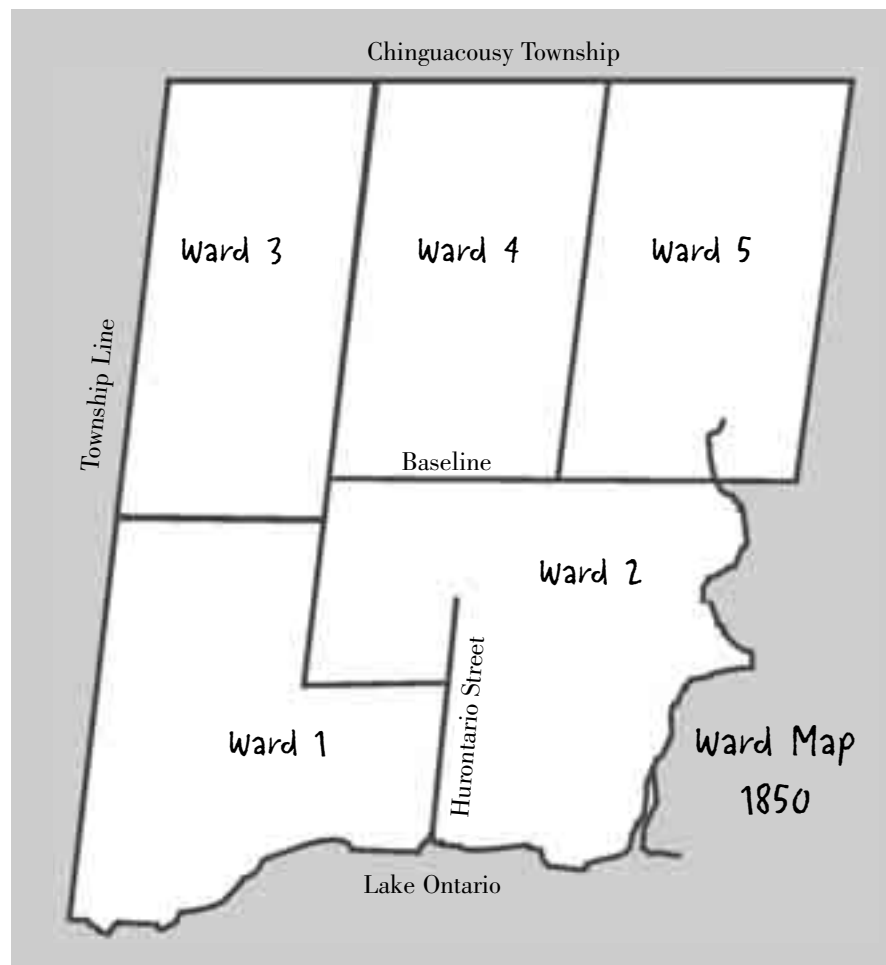


▲ William and Sarah Pinkney

Toronto Township Incorporated - 1850

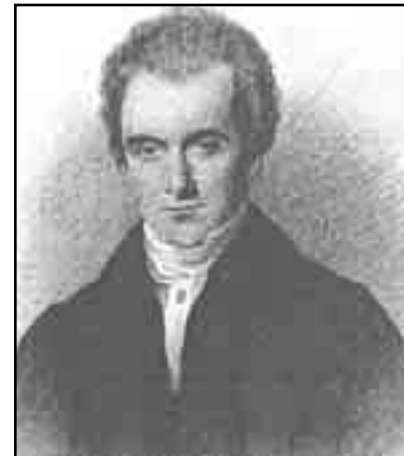
IN 1850, TORONTO TOWNSHIP WAS INCORPORATED under the District Municipal Act, which reads:

Incorporation under the Act by the Legislature in the Twelfth year of Victoria, chapter eighty and eighty one; entitled as Act to repeal the Acts in force in Upper Canada, relative to the establishment of Local and Municipal Authorities and other matter of a like nature.



The Baldwin Act of 1849 brought about the reformation of municipal self-government in Canada West, a democratic system of government. Robert Baldwin (b.1804, d.1858), a lawyer and politician, was the leader of the movement for representative government in Canada. He had been a Member of Provincial Parliament (1829-1830) for York and Hastings, Attorney General of Upper Canada, Executive Council (1836 and 1841), Solicitor General (1842-1843) and was co-premier of the United Canadas with Louis LaFontaine (1848-1851). He abolished districts and developed counties. He established police villages, of which Port Credit and Malton became.

This process had started through the appointment of Lord Durham (John George Lambton, 1792-1840) by the British Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, as Governor-in-Chief of British North America in 1838. It was through the workings of this very industrious gentleman,



▲ Robert Baldwin



▲ Lord Durham

(Photos courtesy of the Toronto Public Library TRL)

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Lord Durham, who realized that the Canadian people were outgrowing the existing colonial system. The District Municipal Council Act was first proposed on January 31, 1839, by Lord Durham in a letter to Queen Victoria (reigned, 1837-1902), and his plan, passed in July, 1840, finally came into being in 1850, ten years after his death.

The townships across Canada West (Ontario) would now handle their own business of tax levies, school ordinance, road maintenance and administrative duties. Also passed was The Stamp Act and the English pound system being converted to Canadian currency (the decimal system was adopted January 1, 1858). An Act that revised the judicial system was put into effect, and an Act to transform Kings College into the nonsectarian University of Toronto.

The Township was divided into five wards with the passing of By-law 220 at a meeting of the Home District Council on October 2, 1849, which went into effect on January 1, 1850. At an election held

the first Monday in January, the councillors for the year of 1850 were decided upon: Ward 1, William Thompson, Ward 2, Charles Romain, Ward 3, Christopher Row, Ward 4, Joseph Wright and Ward 5, Samuel Price. John Embleton was the town clerk. The council now had the jurisdiction to hold municipal elections and control its own governmental undertakings.

On January 21st at the Telegraph Inn in Streetsville, the councillors took their oath, then proceeded to appoint a town reeve and deputy reeve. The yeas and nays for Joseph Wright as reeve went “yeas,” Price, Row and Romain, and “nays,” Thompson. For Samuel Price as Deputy, “yeas,” Wright, Row and Price, “nays,” Thompson. Joseph Wright became the first reeve. William Thompson of Clarkson became the reeve in 1851 and Samuel Price in 1867 at Confederation.

The population of the Township at this time was nearly 7,000.



▲ Charles Romain
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Samuel Price
(Mississauga Library System)



▲ The First Stamp, 1851, 3 pence,
designed by Sir Sanford Fleming
(Canada Post Corp. Ottawa)