

THE DAILY SENTINEL REVIEW, SATURDAY JUNE 23 1913

OLD DAYS IN BONNIE BLENHEIM

Reminiscences, Grave and Gleeeful, of the Historic Township's Old Times and Old-Timers.—An Historical Review of Particular Pertinence In Connection With the Drumba Reunion and Celebration Scheduled For the Coming Week.—Compiled and Prepared By Major G. K. Pattullo.



MAJOR G. K. PATTULLO.
Registrar of the County of Oxford.

Major G. R. Pattallo, the author of the following article, is himself a Blenheim boy, a native of the Drummond district, and one of the brightest, bravest and most genial of all the men the township has produced. In his younger days he did splendid work in the field of Provincial journalism, and might have made his mark in the metropolitan field as well had his tastes and interests drawn him in that direction. Though many years have elapsed since he gave up his connection with active newspaper work his pen has forgotten none of its skill. His style is still as clear, as graceful and as effective as it was in the days when he was building up the Sentinel-Review to be one of the living forces in Ontario journalism.

In his younger days, too, Mr. Pattallo took an active part in the politics of the country, and those who remember him in those days will not need to be reminded that there were few more capable, more pleasing or more convincing speakers in the public life of the country. He still retains his power of speech, though he has not exercised it now for many a year on the political platform, and when he is heard, on occasions that are all too rare, on some non-political subject, it is always with pleasure to his audience. His military title is a reminder that in his younger days he rendered intelligent and patriotic service to his country in connection with military training and organization.

One of Mr. Pattallo's special delights to-day is in maintaining his own interest and stimulating the interest of others in the study of pioneer history. He is a leading spirit in the local historical society, and takes

part in all its activities. Under all the circumstances it will be seen that the township of Blenheim, and especially the Blenheim district, could have no more competent historian for such an occasion as the present. It only remains to be said that with Mr. Pattallo the preparation of the article that follows was purely a work of love.—Editor Sentinel-Review.

Blenheim is one of the two largest townships in the County, and contains 37,200 acres. It extends approximately ten miles from east to west and twelve miles from north to south, and forms part of the north and the most eastern part of the County of Oxford. Its boundaries are: On the north, the Township of Whitton, County of Waterloo; on the east, North Dumfries, County of Waterloo, and south Dumfries, County of Brant; on the south, Township of Whitton, County of Brant; and on the west, Township of Blandford, County of Oxford. It has fourteen townships running from east to west and is subdivided from north to south by the quarter, middle and three-quarter town lines.

The township was originally well wooded, chiefly with hardwoods, such as maple, beech, oak, hickory and elm. There was also a considerable quantity of basswood, pine, cedar, hemlock and tamarack, the three latter in the central part of the township.

Blenheim's principal streams are Horner's and Smith's Creeks. Both run zig-zag courses, crossing and recrossing lots and roadways. Smith's Creek, extending practically as a hypotenuse from the northwest corner to the southeast corner of the township, crosses 67 lots, and Horner's Creek, running through the southwest corner, crosses 21 lots. Many bridges, therefore, are necessary and the question of bridge-building has always been a live one in Blenheim's municipal affairs. Both Horner's and Smith's Creeks eventually flow into the Grand River, which runs eastward past Paris and Brantford.

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Blenheim's principal streams are Hornor's and Smith's Creeks. Both are zig-zag courses, crossing and recrossing lots and roadways. Smith's Creek, extending practically on a hypothesis from the north-west corner to the southeast corner of the township, crosses 57 lots, and Hornor's Creek, running through the southwest corner, crosses 21 lots. Many bridges, therefore, are necessary and the question of bridge-building has always been a live one in Blenheim's municipal affairs. Both Hornor's and Smith's Creeks eventually flow into the Grand River, which runs eastward past Paris and Brantford.

WHEN BLENHEIM WAS BORN.

By proclamation of Governor Simcoe, dated July 16, 1792, Blenheim was first included in "the west riding of the County of York" and was described as lying "to the northward of Dundas Street, opposite Burford." In 1795 the Township of Blenheim became part of the County of Oxford as then formed. Prior to this there had been three surveys made of the Township, the first by Jones in 1755, the second by Kiddell in 1795, and the third by Stegman in 1798.

Joseph Laycock was the first Township Clerk after the formation of a municipal council. His term of office extended from 1840 until his death in 1871. Mr. Laycock's successor as township clerk was Matthew P. Ainslie, who filled the position with satisfaction until his death in 1880, when he was succeeded by the present efficient clerk, Hugh Allan. Thus there have been only three township clerks in the township since it was formed as a municipality, and it is worthy of note that three were residents of the Village of Richwood. Richwood seems to be the breeding ground of Township Clerks—all of them good ones.

These officials were also the township treasurers. Thomas Grierson was collector of the township in 1840 and among the early assessors were F. Hill, Benjamin Horwood, Jeremiah Cowan. Early township clerks were William O'm Jackson.

It is claimed that Margaret Galbraith was the first white settler in the township. She

Thomas Hornor erected the first grist-mill in the township on Lot 16, Concession One, known until recent years as the Hersee farm.

HISTORIC PLACES AND NAMES.

The villages of the township of Blenheim are Princeton, Gobles, Canning (Mudge Hollow), Drumbo (Muma's Corners), Richwood, Wolverton (Warsaw at first), Bright, Plattville and Washington. Moscow, once a flourishing gristmill centre on Smith's Creek, east of Drumbo, has disappeared. Captain Wesley Howell owned and operated a mill there during the sixties.

The historic and sentimental origin of the names Princeton, Canning, Moscow, Bright and Washington is readily apparent.

Plattville is from the name of its founder, Samuel Platt; Wolverton from its founder, Enos Wolverton, and Gobles from W.L. Goble. The origin of Drumbo and Richwood is variously accounted for. It is said that the meaning of Drumbo is a cow's humped back. Ireland has also a Drumbo, and perhaps those readers familiar with Irish folk-lore may be able to shed some light on its origin.

Topographically, Blenheim is considerably broken by Smith's and Hornor's Creeks. Some parts of the township are quite picturesque in appearance. There is not much waste land, as even the big cedar swamp in the centre of the township may eventually be reclaimed and made arable. All the flat land along the beds of the creeks are most valuable for pasturage. The soil throughout the township is principally clay loam, except where there was pine timber or on the windfall, both of which are sandy loams.

WHEN THE SETTLERS CAME.

Settlement of the township of Blenheim began early in the nineteenth century and it was not until the middle of the century that the township was fairly well settled. At first settlers located at or near the Governor's Road on the south of the township, between Blenheim and Bur-

ton. Crown grants had been made for Church, State and Political purposes during the last years of the eighteenth century, the first of these recorded being in 1797, but actual settlement, as we have said, began a little later.

Educational advantages early occupied the attention of the first settlers of Blenheim. Their efforts to secure them were necessarily feeble and imperfect. Our pioneer forefathers were, however, not easily discouraged. They were men of courage and high-purpose. This will be the more readily recognized and acknowledged, if we consider and reflect upon what they accomplished and how fine were their achievements, considering that they were, themselves, for the most part, uneducated, and in many cases quite illiterate.

Upon this phase of early life in Ontario, a magazine writer in 1877, made the following comment, which does no more than justice to the sturdy Canadian pioneers of whom he writes:

BLENHAIM'S STURDY, SANB FOREBEARS

"It is true we have several publications relating to the early settlement of Upper Canada; but these generally present the subject from a public standpoint. They never really introduce us to the interior life of the people—their domestic, social and religious state and habits. From all we can learn from these publications we might suppose the difference between the condition of the early settlers and our own, consisted chiefly, or wholly in the hardships and privations which they had to endure from which we are exempt.

The singular fact, that a large body of people, all of them of one class—the humble, illiterate uneducated—moved on beyond the boundary of civilization into the trackless forest, unaccompanied by their clergyman, their schoolmaster, or even their physician, or any educated class; totally unsupplied with any literature; unknown to the press—that this body of people and their descendants, subsisted under these circumstances, during two entire generations without deterioration not only in material things but also in culture and intelligence—is passed over in silence, as of not sufficient importance to attract notice, though to me it seems a most interesting phenomenon.

We generally expect a sad deterioration of morals to accompany or follow similar emigrations. Bodies of men moving into the wilderness in advance of permanent settlements, unaccompanied by their religion teachers, are apt to give license to their passions, forget their early training and become profane, intemperate, reckless, and not infrequently blood thirsty and cruel.

Such has been the complexion of the movement westward of most of the advanced settlements in the United States, and many of us still remember the accounts we had of the deplorable state of society (if it could be called society) in California after the hasty emigration of '49 and '50. But in the settlement of this Province no such efforts followed; on the contrary, a satisfactory state of morals was maintained throughout; nay, a satisfactory state of religion.

EDUCATION UNDER DIFFICULTIES

For though they had no educated clergy or teachers, they improvised a Christian ministry for themselves—weak and simple it is true, and from some standpoints might be considered very defective, but it met the wants of the time. The morals of the people were preserved; The worship of God was maintained; The Sabbath was honored; Churches were organized and walked in fellowship and Christian discipline. Nor was the education of the young entirely neglected. Every settlement erected its schoolhouse—a primitive structure indeed—built of logs and roofed with split shingles. Meetings were held in

their place by poles (weight poles) laid horizontally atop them. The school was only kept open in winter. It was thought desirable that every child should be taught to read and as many as possible to write and cipher; but beyond this, except in a very few settlements nothing was attempted, or even thought necessary."

WHEN NEIGHBORS WERE FAR APART.

In the township of Blenheim, about the year 1795, there were only six or eight families. Half of these were on the South side of the Governor's road in the township of Burford, which was then a part of the County of Oxford.

The Rev. W. H. Landon, who was for many years a teacher and local superintendent of education, is authority for the statement that a school house, a good log building, was erected on lot ten, con 1, about the year 1808. About the same time, there was a smaller school house erected in East Oxford, on a lot which is now a part of the City of Woodstock. Only five or six families then formed the settlement which is now Woodstock. In Oxford, including North and West Oxford, there were thirty or forty families, and these constituted the entire population of what is now the County of Oxford.

THE DAYS OF WILDERNESS.

In this connection, it should be remembered also that Oxford, then, as now, is an interior county and at that time, to reach it from the east one had to follow a blazed trail from Ancaster, the nearest village, some thirty-five miles distant to the eastern boundary of the township of Blenheim, while westward it was practically an unbroken forest to the French settlement on the Detroit River. The nearest store and the nearest mill was at Ancaster. No newspapers were published and no books could be bought. In such surroundings, it may be that the unlettered pioneers felt more fully than they otherwise would the urgent need of educational advantages. At all events, they set manfully to work to build school houses and to establish schools. But there were few if any teachers. Hence it was frequently necessary to secure the services of some pioneer, who was better educated than his neighbors, to give such instruction as he was able. He was engaged for only part of the year, the time and labor of both himself and his pupils, being too precious in helping to clear the forest, to allow them to keep the school open during the summer season. The wage of such teachers was small. He boarded around in the houses of the school supporters and suffered his full share of all the privations of his fellow pioneers.

UNIQUE CONTEST IN SCHOLARSHIP.

Before the middle of the nineteenth century great progress had been made in educational matters in the township of Blenheim, and indeed throughout the whole Province of Ontario. The township had been divided into school sections, school houses erected and qualified, competent teachers secured. There was also frequently keen rivalry between the schools and the teachers. Each school and each teacher (in those days they were all male teachers) sought to show the highest results at the quarterly examinations which were made by the local superintendent and trustees.

These were always interesting occasions and were much better attended by the parents and scholars than they now are. On two occasions at least there was a competitive examination of all the schools in the township. The last one, held on Wednesday, April 25th, 1866, will be long remembered, at least by those who took part in it, as a great occasion. The contest lasted three full days, running far into the night on the last day. Between two and three hundred pupils took part, representing fifteen out of the eighteen sections in the township. The local chronicler of the affair says that Chesterfield, Springhill, Platteville, Drumbo and Richwood schools mustered strongest, while there were two or three pupils from each of the other sections. The competition took place in the town hall at Drumbo, which was appropriately garlanded with green festoons, mottoes, etc. The proceedings were appropriately opened by singing the 100th psalm, to the accompaniment of the harmonium, "ably manipulated by Miss Blackmar of Ingersoll." Then followed a prayer by the Rev. William Robertson of Chesterfield. The local superintendent of the township was Rev. J. E. Dockrèy and the secretary was Mr. Robert McLean of Richwood, then retired, but for many years the most prominent teacher in the township. This

unique educational tournament seems to have been a complete success, one of the judges having expressed the opinion at its close, that it was "questionable if such a creditable appearance, or such a number of pupils, so intelligent, active and well trained, in all their departments and so near equal in merit, could be assembled in any township in Upper Canada." They specially commended the proficiency of the competitors in "reading, spelling, grammar, recitation and drawing." The competition closed appropriately on Friday evening by a grand re-union of teachers, examiners and friends, the most interesting feature of the programme being "a dialogue, en costume, entitled The Question of Dress Reform (that is still a live question, with both sexes) by Misses Charlotte Secord Pine, E. B. Thomson, M. Lennon, Lizzie Allan, Annie Hester, M. A.

Thomson and Helen Rathbun." This elicited great applause and was followed by congratulatory speeches by Messrs. Izard, Donald McLean, Robert McLean, M. F. Ainslie, Smith, Alex. Fisher, Frank Burgess, R. S. Mann and others. At "high twelve" the programme was closed by singing the National Anthem "and giving three hearty British cheers for our noble Queen and the Commonwealth and educational interests of Canada."

THOSE WHO JUDGED THE SCHOLARS

From a newspaper that comes down

to us from that far off day, nearly a half-century ago, we take the names of the judges who presided over this unusual event in Blenheim pedagogics. They were:

Reading.—Hon. Geo. Alexander, M. L.C.; Rev. W. Robertson, A.M., Chesterfield; Rev. W. H. Landon, Princeton.

Boy's Writing.—Hon. Geo. Alexander; Mr. A. S. Cruikshank, of Cairnville; Mr. Fitch, Brantford.

Girl's Writing.—Mrs. Cullen, Woodstock; Mrs. Dockery, Blenheim; Mrs. Landon, Princeton.

Geography.—General.—Mrs. Cullen, British America.—Rev. J. E. Dockery.

Greek and Latin Roots.—Mr. A. S. Cruikshank.

Grammar.—M. J. F. Cullen. Spelling and Meaning and Dictation.—Mr. A. S. Cruikshank.

Physiology.—Mr. J. J. Settle, of South Dumfries.

Mechanical Philosophy.—Mr. J. J. Settle.

Recitation.—Hon. Geo. Alexander; Rev. Wm. Robertson; Rev. J. E. Dockery, umpire.

Arithmetic.—Mr. D. McLean, of Ayr. History.—Mr. J. F. Cullen.

Book-Keeping.—Mr. H. Izard. Geometry.—Mr. H. Izard.

Drawing.—Mr. J. F. Cullen; Mr. Izard; Mrs. Cullen.

Composition.—Rev. J. E. Dockery.

THE SCHOLARS WHO SHONE.

From the same ancient newspaper is taken the appended list of those whose scholastic attainments made the tournament memorable and themselves and their kinsfolk to swell with pride. The triumphant champions of the tournament were:—

Reading.—Third Class, under 9—1st prize, Geo. Clapperton, Sect. No. 24; 2. Lavinia Rycroft; 3. Fred Claus, 17; 4. Agnes Woods, 12; 5. James Cheswright; 6. Almira Huber, 6; 7. Sarah J. Burgess, 11; 8. Annie McKenzie, 11; 9. Martha A. Daniels, 11; 10. Margaret McGulnes, 24. Number competing 23.

Reading.—Under 10, (Fourth Book) 1. Bella McVenn, 24; 2. Robert McLean, 14; 3. Maggie Bastedo; 4.

Charlotte Scott, 24; 5. Margaret Hastings, 1; 6. Thomas Moffat, 11; 7. Helen Burke, 21; 8. Lina Pine, 14.

9. Emma Brown, 3.

Brown, 1. Number competing 24.

Reading.—(Fifth Book) 1. Kate Macaulay, 11; 2. John Fair, 6; 3. Bella McVenn, 24; 4. John Fair, 6; 5. John Potter, 7; 6. Ellen Snider, 1; 7. Jane Smart, 24; 8. Margaret Hastings, 1; 9. Geo. Lewis, 14; 10. Maggie Bastedo. Number competing 54.

Recitation.—Boys.—1. Stephen Perry, 6; 2. Wm. Henderson, 1; 3. Adam Allison, 13; 4. George Lewis, 14; 5. John Fair, 13; 6. Benjamin Shannon, 15. Additional prize, Thomas Taylor (aged 5 years), 14. Extra prize for a specially composed declaimed subject, R. G. McLean, 15. Number competing 18.

Recitation.—Girls.—1. Kate Macaulay, 11; 2. Jane Allan, 14; 3. Isabella McVenn, 24; 4. Anne Spiers, 13; 5. Margaret Lennan, 14; 6. Charlotte Seccord, 14. Number competing 18.

Writing.—Boys.—1. Wm. Veitch, 24; 2. John Fair, 13; 3. Hugh Mann, 11; 4. Stephen Perry, 6; 5. Burnett French, 14; 6. D. H. McLean, 14. Number competing 43.

Pencil or Chalk Drawing.—1. James Stewart, 12; 2. J. Wesley Wilson, 12; 3. Christian Fry, 12; 4. John Blackwood, 12; 5. Matilda Wilson, 12; 6. Geo. Harris, 16. Special prize to John Fair, 13, for a mechanical drawing of a section of a Stationary Steam Engine. Number competing 14.

Mechanical Philosophy.—1. Ebenezer Pinkham, 14; 2. John Fair, 13; 3. Andrew Pattullo, 13; 4. James Hunter, 8; 5. Mary Shiel, 8; 6. Lizena Pine, 14; 7. Burnett French, 14; 8. Helen McDonald, 8. Number competing 14.

Junior Arithmetic.—1. Wm. Veitch, 24; 2. James Brown, 1; 3. Isaac Hewitt, 1; 4. James Smith, 1; 5. Jane Scott, 1; 6. Isaac Rouse; 7. Samuel Bastedo, 17; 8. Thomas Dawson, 15. Number competing 31.

Junior Geometry.—First Book Euclid.—1. David Brown, 9; 2. Lizena Pine, 14; 3. Andrew Pattullo, 13; 4. Helen McDonald, 8; 5. Mary Shiel, 8; 6. Edward Wilson, 1. Number competing 6.

Spelling from Dictation.—1. Stephen Perry, 6; 2. John Fair, 13; and Abraham Bretz, 1, equal; 3. George Bouchier, 7; 4. Samuel Crosby, 7; 5. Bella McVenn, 24; 6. Wm. Henderson, 1; 7. Isaac Rouse, 8; 8. Lucinda Huber, recommended. Number competing 53.

Girls' Writing.—1. Annie Spiers, 13, and Ellen McCrow, 13, equal; 2. Ellen Cockburn, 13 and Cathrine Conkin, 16, equal; 3. Margaret Marshall, and Jane Brown, equal. Number competing 45.

Book-Keeping.—Junior.—1. Wm. Veitch, 24; 2. Robert McLean, 14; 3. James Young, 14; 4. George Lewis, 14. Number competing 6.

English History.—From the Norman Conquest to the Commonwealth.—1. Andrew Pattullo, 13; 2. John Dalziel, 11; 3. George Lewis, 14; 4. Wm. Veitch, 24; 5. Helen McLean, 14; 7. Ellen Cockburn, 13; 8. Mary Pattullo, 13. Number competing 29.

Physiology.—1. John Fair; 2. Andrew Pattullo; 3. Mary Pattullo; 4. M. Freeman; 21 Union; 5. Lizena Pine; 6. Burnett French; 7. Helen McCrow; 13; 8. Jane Allan; 14. Number competing 27.

General Geography.—1. John Fair; 2. Wm. Turner; 16; 3. Ellen McDonald; 8; 4. Ebenezer Pinkam; 5. Stephen Perry; 6. Jas. Hunter; 8; 7. Andrew Pattullo; 8. William Henderson; 9. James Hastings; 1; 10. Adam Allison; 13. Number competing 39.

Latin and Greek Roots.—1. John Fair; 2. Wm. Veitch; 3. Mary Pattullo; 4. Eliza Snider; 5. James Brown; 1; 6. Henry Stevenson; 17. Number competing 41.

Spelling and Meaning—Third Book.—1. Charlotte Secord; and Mary Stanley; 13. equal; 2. Bella McVenn; 3. Henry Stevenson; 4. Samuel Crosby; 5. Betsy Innis; 14; 6. Richard Falc; 13; 7. Melissa Masters; 24. Number competing 35.

Ancient History.—1. Daniel Stauffer; 1; 2. Andrew Pattullo; 3. Emma Brown; 4. Ellen McCrow; 5. George Lewis; 6. John Thomson; 7; 7. John Fair; 8. James Hastings; special competing 15.

Geometry — Senior. First Three Books.—1. John Fair; 2. W. Bretz; 3. Jas. Hunter; 4. Burnett French. Number competing 4.

Geography—British America.—1. E. Pinkham; 2. John Fair; 3. George Lewis; 4. Andrew Pattullo; 5. Adam Allison; 6. John Thomson; 7; 7. Lizena Pine; 8. Mary Pattullo; 9. Isaac Rouse; 10. Burnett French. Number competing 12.

Grammar—Senior.—1. — McCrow; 2. John Thomson; 3. Adam Bretz; 4. William Henderson; 5. Emma Brown; 6. John Fair; 7. Wellington Stauffer; 24; 8. Wm. Veitch; 24. Number competing 28.

Arithmetic—Senior.—1. John Fair; 2. Absolam Bretz; 3. Wm. Veitch; 4. Edward Wilson; 1; 5. Wm. Henderson; 6. James Hunter; 7. Adam Allison; 8. Wellington Stauffer.

Mensuration — Surfaces.—James Hunter; 3; 2. Robert Treneman; 14; 3. Andrew Pattullo; 4. Edward Wilson; 1. Number competing 7.

Mensuration—Solids.—1. John Fair; 2. James Petrie; 12. Two competitors.

Algebra — First Class and Second combined.—1. John Fair; 2. Edward Wilson; 3. William Veitch; 4. James Hunter. Special prize, to Ellen Macdonald; 8. Number competing 5.

Grammar—Junior.—1. Richard Burgess; 2. Mary Pattullo; 3. James Brown; 4. E. J. Bouchier; 6; 5. W. Isckhart; 11; 6. James Smith; 7. Jane Scott; 8. Elue Thomson. Number competing 49.

Canadian History.—1. John Fair; 2. Andrew Pattullo; 3. George A. Burgess; 4. Kate Macaulay; 5. Hugh Mann; 11; 6. Isaac Shantz; 24; 7. Emma Brown; 8. George Lewis. Number competing 13.

Friday Evening—Extra Grammar Prizes given in money by the people of Drumbo.—1st. Hugh Mann; \$1; 2nd. Emma Brown; \$1; 3rd. Andrew Pattullo; \$1. Eighteen competitors.

Writing Composition.—Extra prizes, Friday Evening.—1. Helen McCrow; 2. Kate Macaulay; 3. John Fair; 4. John Thomson; 5. Lizena Pine; 6. Adam Allison.

Declamation — Friday Evening — Girls.—1. Jane Allan; 14; 2. Margaret Lennon; 14; 3. Kate Macaulay; 11; 4. Charlotte Secord; 14. Boys.—1. Adam Allison; 2. John Fair; 13.

Special Prizes.—Agnes Woods; No. 12; Annie Barr; 11; Roxanna Dodge; 24; Wesley Wilson; 12; Flora Cromwell; 14; Catherine McLean; 14; Mary Treneman; 25; Thomas Dawson; 25; John Burgess; 25; Martha Daniels; 14; Mary Andrews; 25; John Squira; 4; Mary Ferguson; 1; Robert McLean; 14; John Blackwood; 12; John Hazel; 12; Sarah J. Burgess; 11; George Burgess; 11; Mary Lilico; 9; Mary Bruce; 9; David Brown; 9; Margaret Bastedo; 17; Adelia Fitch; 15; Margaret Rupert; 15; Murray Kelly; 12.

TEACHERS WHO STROVE.

Most, or all of the teachers whose ability reaped a vicarious reward at the tournament have passed on to their higher reward; but their surviving pupils will be interested to recall their memories from this list of prize honors won by the school that took part:

The following viduus shows the number of each section and name of Teacher of pupils competing; also the number of prizes carried off by each—including extras:

Section No. 1, Wm. Smith, teacher; number of prizes 32.

Section No. 6, George Perry, teacher; prizes 2.

Sec. No. 7, John Irving, teacher; prizes 5.

Sec. No. 8, Robert McLish, teacher; prizes 11.

Sec. No. 9, John McK. Anderson, teacher; prizes 4.

Sec. No. 11, John W. McLean, teacher; prizes 22.

Sec. No. 12, A. Fisher, teacher; prizes 13.

Sec. No. 13, Thomas Allan, teacher; prizes 44.

Sec. No. 14, M. F. Alnalie, teacher; prizes 40.

Sec. No. 15, C. Cochrane, teacher; prizes 2.

Sec. No. 16, R. B. Harris teacher; prizes 3.

Sec. No. 17, Robert Parsons, teacher; prizes 9.

Sec. No. 21, A. C. Orr, teacher; prizes 2.

Sec. No. 24, John Robinson, teacher; prizes 20.

Sec. No. 25, William Laughland, teacher; prizes 4.

Total number of prizes distributed, not including the Composition, 226.
Number of Schools competing, 15.
Average of prizes to each school 15.

The foregoing forms an interesting roll of fame for Blenheim boys and girls. Not a few of those whose names appear above have since achieved fame and won prizes in life's great battle, but it may be doubted that any of their later victories gave them more alloyed pleasure and cause for just pride than their victories in the Blenheim township educational tournament in the old town hall of Drumbo, in April, 1866.

WHAT PIONEERING REALLY MEANT.

The pioneers of Blenheim were confronted with the same difficulties that met the early settlers everywhere in the Province of Ontario. A dense forest surrounded them everywhere. Even to make "a clearing" sufficient as a site for their little log house and barn, they had to chop down the trees trim the brush off, cut the trees into logs, roll them into log heaps and burn them with the brush—wood was of no commercial value. In the clearings thus made, the crops were grown and on the wheat, oats and buckwheat, and corn, potatoes and beans, they planted, they had to depend for their food during the long winter.

There were scarcely any horses and where there was a yoke of oxen or cows, they browsed on the green foliage of the trees for their food. Grist mills were few and far apart, so often the wheat was ground into flour by the primitive means of two stones, one of which was hollowed out rudely in the shape of a mortar, the other doing duty as a pestle. Where grain was taken to the mill, it had to be packed on one's back into Ancaster, now Dundas, the nearest point where gristing was done.

There were no roads, but narrow trails were blazed through the woods. For several years, settlement was sparse and there were no schools or churches, neither was there any market for produce, should the settler have a surplus. Consequently little or no money was in use, "black salts" (potash) being used as current coin of the realm.

Nevertheless the "Queen's Bush" grew less and less from year to year, the number of settlers steadily increased, roads were made, churches and school houses were built, the services of teachers and clergymen were secured, at intervals at least, and the blessings of civilization began to overflow the new settlements.

DIVINE WORSHIP NEVER NEGLECTED.

Religious services were first held by outside clergymen sent in by their respective denominations. Other religious services were contributed by local preachers, who added their Sabbath Day labor of love to the heavy toll of the week.

During the summer months, camp-meetings held in the open air usually, in some shady grove were much in vogue. Partly because of their novelty and the absence of other entertainment, these were almost always largely attended by everyone, young and old, in the neighborhood. Sometimes the proceedings immediately outside the range of the pulpit service were not always decorous, though there was seldom any rowdiness. Camp-meetings in those days were popular, and to many they doubtless brought deep religious comfort, apart from the relief they gave to the dull monotony and harsh conditions of pioneer life.

Though notably earnest and devout, the pioneer local preachers were seldom men of scholastic learning. If they had good voices, however, they generally satisfied their hearers and, in some cases at least, they abundantly pleased and satisfied themselves. I remember, as a boy, being amused to hear one of these worthy expounders of the gospel modestly telling his congregation that he had refrained from reading Spurgeon's Sermons, lest his hearers should think that he was giving them Spurgeon and not himself. He had been prompted to do this, he said, because some of his kind friends had told him that his sermons resembled Spurgeon's. He really was not quite equal to the great Spurgeon.

Baptisms by immersion, in Smith's Creek and other streams, by clergymen of the Baptist persuasion, also frequently attracted large crowds. These baptismal services were usually held in the spring or autumn, though there were occasions when they were performed through the ice, in the winter. Rumors were rife, at the time, that an occasional candidate, as he emerged through the ice, described the temperature in language far from icy.

THE CHURCHES OF THOSE DAYS

The religious denominations in Blenheim were chiefly protestant. These were Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Anglicans, United Brethren and German Lutheran. A small Catholic Church was built in Princeton a few years ago.

The Presbyterians were early in the field, Rev. George Murray representing the U.P. Church at Princeton; Willis Church, on the fourth concession, was the religious centre of the Scotch settlement in the south of the township. Its ministers were in

turn Rev. Duncan McKuer, Rev. John Ghiesple, and the Rev. Hector McQuarrie. This congregation was during the sixties divided and congregations formed and churches built at Princeton and Drumbo. The Rev. Mr. Shearer is now the highly esteemed pastor of this congregation. Another branch of the congregation from Willis church was also formed and a church built at Shower's Corners, fourth concession. This was united with the congregation in East Oxford and is now under Rev. Mr. Clugston.

In the north of Blenheim, at Chesterfield, the Presbyterians had an early and flourishing congregation under a devoted and most scholarly minister, the Rev. William Robertson. How many aspiring "callants" to the ministry, law, medicine, teaching and other professions, had their first "drill" in the classics from this kindly, learned and deeply read country minister? His was a fine spirit and he was a grand man. Rev. Mr. Johnston is the present minister.

The Methodists had churches latterly in all the villages of the township

and they are a strong body. They have enjoyed the service of many earnest and devoted pastors, but the itinerant system prevents them from being so fully identified with the township as other clergymen with a longer pastorate. The Rev. William Griffin, who though bearing the weight of more than four score years, is still the efficient treasurer of the Methodist body, opened the Methodist church at Richwood more than fifty years ago.

The Baptists were represented at Gobles by the first free will Baptist church in the County. Later, the regular Baptists built the River church, east of Richwood, and also at Drumbo, Plattsville and Wolverton. Elders Haviland, Pickle, Patten, Currey and other local preachers served the Baptists with great faithfulness in early days and their names are still recalled with gratitude by the Baptist community. In later years, graduates from the C.I. Institute, Woodstock, and McMaster University, have filled the pastorates of the several Baptist Churches in the township.

The Anglicans have churches in Princeton and Drumbo, both built by the efforts and during the incumbency of the Rev. H. Bartlett.

The United Brethren have long had a church on the windfall, near Hornor's Creek. They are a small but much respected religious community.

THEY THAT HEALED AND TAUGHT.

In the earliest days of Blenheim's settlement the pioneers were without a physician. Later on for some years their health was cared for by outside physicians, who came from Ayr, Paris, Burford and Woodstock. Of the early resident physicians, Dr. James B. Rounds, Drumbo, and Dr. Daniel Clark of Princeton, will be best remembered. The latter afterwards became the able and efficient superintendent of the Toronto Asylum for the Insane.

The early teachers whose names will be most readily recalled are Robert McLean of Richwood and M. F. Ainslie of Drumbo, both of whom gave long years of efficient service; together with George Perry of Perry's Corners, James Winterburn of Washington, A. S. Cruikshank of Princeton, A. Fisher of Windfall, John Clinton of Springhill, and William Henderson of Chesterfield.

SPORTS OF THE OLDEN TIMES.

There are two small lakes in the Township, Burgess Lake (now alas! drained) near Drumbo, and Pine Pond in the south west part of the township. In certain seasons there is still good fishing at Pine Pond and in early days, Burgess' Lake was a favorite resort of fishermen.

I have heard the late John Burgess (Bunnel) tell of paddling in a dugout through shoals of fish at the mouth of the outlet of Burgess lake, that were so thick that the prow of the boat pushed the fish aside, so that they could be picked with the hands, and landed, without hook or spear.

Burgess lake is located just opposite our old homestead and I have myself paddled a dugout around the shore of the lake, in the spring of the year with a light-jack—an iron hoop basket stuck on a short bowsprit and filled with resinous pine knots—at the bow, while my brother Thomas speared the finny beauties as they lay in the shallow water around the shore into which they had run to bask in the midday sun. It was rare sport and our boyish enjoyment was keen as the bottom of the dugout was gradually covered with fine bass, sun fish, perch and pike.

But there was an occasional break in that enjoyment. The spearman, when opportunity offered, would prove his skill and also gratify his delight for mischief, by picking up a turtle, as it lay basking in the water. The turtle upon being landed, immediately made for my end of the dugout. And as my small boy summer days were largely spent bare-footed, there was imminent danger that a toe, or some other section of the bare foot

might soon be gripped in the jaw of the approaching turtle. It was a case of jump overboard and swim to shore (which meant sinking in slough of soapy mud) or fight. The small boy with the bare feet fought. He was probably brave because he couldn't help himself. And so with a deadly blow from the paddle, the enraged turtle was knocked silly and then pitched overboard. "It was a famous victory," a great naval engagement on the shore of Burgess Lake.

BLENHEIM'S PATRIARCH, THOMAS AS HORROR.

The early settlement of Blenheim township, and indeed of the County of Oxford, must always be closely associated with the name of Horror. Thomas Horror was the township's first white settler. Shenston (and he is the only local chronicler of authority) tells us that Thomas Horror was born March 16th, 1767 at Bordentown, State of New Jersey, then part of Great Britain. He was married in 1801 by James Ingersoll, J.P., father of Colonel James Ingersoll, who was for fifty-two years the Registrar of the County. Thomas Horror died in Burford on August 4th, 1834, of cholera. He came to the township of Blenheim, Upper Canada, at the suggestion of his uncle, Thomas Watson. During the Revolutionary War, Watson had rendered Colonel Simcoe, who afterward became Canada's first Governor, some valued personal service, when Simcoe had been taken prisoner by the American forces. In recognition of this service, Colonel Simcoe, when he was appointed Governor of Upper Canada, wrote to Mr. Watson and urged him to come to Canada and bring all his friends and relations with him. As an inducement, the Governor promised that Watson should be given a whole township. In making this promise, Governor Simcoe had two objects in view: First, to reward Mr. Watson for his personal and patriotic services, and second, to secure a number of desirable settlers from the United States. Not being able to come himself, Mr. Watson sent his son, Thomas Watson, who brought with him a cousin, Thomas Horror.

A PROMISE UNFULFILLED.

This was during 1793 and on May 17th, 1802, lots ten and thirteen, Concession one (Governor's Road) were granted to Thomas Watson, and on June 24th, 1809, part of lot nine, concession one, Burford, was granted to Olive Hornor, wife of Thomas Hornor. This lot was just across the Governor's Road from Mr. Watson's. An earlier grant on December 22nd, 1804, of lots 15 and 16, concession, one, Blenheim, was made to Thomas Hornor. But the promise of a township to Thomas Hornor, like many other official promises, before and since, was not kept. Thereafter Mr. Hornor lived for some time in Newark (Niagara), and Detroit which latter city he left in 1796 when it was handed over to the British to the Americans. He then resolved to return to Oxford.

HORNOR STARTED A SAW MILL

With this object, he bought at Albany, New York, the necessary machinery for a saw mill. The mill machinery and other necessities were brought up the Hudson in two small boats to Mohawk River, up that river one hundred miles, then across the Norvel Creek, then down the same creek to Lake Oneida, then across that lake to the Oswego River, from there into Lake Ontario and thence along its southern coast to the Beach at Burlington Bay, Hamilton, Ontario; then across the bay to the beach where subsequently stood Dundas Castle, the residence of Sir Allen McNab and afterward of the Hon. Isaac Buchanan. From there the machinery and other impedimenta were drawn by oxen on roughly made sledges to Blenheim. The mill was thereafter erected and ready for operation in 1795. Before being started however, the dam was unfortunately swept away and it was not until 1797 that the mill was rebuilt and the first lumber sawed. Lumber from this mill was used in building the Hornor homestead, part of which afterwards became the first Registry Office in the County of Oxford. Later, Mr. Hornor erected a grist-mill also, the first in the County. In 1809, this was burned down and never rebuilt.

THE PIONEER GOES UNREWARDED.

From the foregoing it will be seen that Mr. Hornor fully filled the conditions which should entitle him to claim the Township of Blenheim in accordance with the promise made to him by Governor Simcoe. The latter's successor, however, refused to acknowledge Mr. Hornor's claim and refused to carry out the promise made to Mr. Hornor by his predecessor.

HORNOR PROVES HIS LOYALTY.

In 1798, Mr. Hornor had been appointed Captain of the Norfolk Militia and in 1806 he was appointed deputy lieutenant of the County of Oxford. But on the breaking out of the war of 1812, official influence seems to have again interposed itself against Mr. Hornor's interests. Political intrigue was clearly doing its work. Mr. Hornor was known to be a liberal and representative person not to be trusted as a loyal citizen. True, he had left the United States chiefly because of his attachment to the British Crown and to British institutions. But this did not prevent the intriguers from misrepresenting his position, character and services. Mr. Hornor, however, rose above the petty prejudices which had been falsely raised against him, and offered his services for any position where they were needed. He was known to have great influence with the Indians on the Grand River. This fact and efforts to induce the Indians to join the expedition, which was being then formed under General Brock, had been unsuccessful. Mr. Hornor eagerly seized the opportunity, succeeded to the Grand River, assembled seventy-five Indian warriors and with them marched to the scene of action. In doing this he incurred great personal risk, as General Hall, the American officer in command, had already issued a proclamation threatening to give no quarter to any white man who enlisted and fought beside an Indian. Mr. Hornor and his force remained upon the frontier until discharged. It should be added also that every penny of the expense of this expedition was paid by Mr. Hornor himself and not a penny of it was ever returned to him.

HORNOR ENTERS PARLIAMENT

Such conspicuous public service as Mr. Hornor had given to the new Colony of Canada, could not fail to favourably impress his fellow pioneers and colonists. He was consequently elected the first member of the legislature for the County of Oxford in 1820. This position he continued to occupy, except for an interval of two years, until his death in 1834. He seems to have been an

Continued on page

OLD DAYS IN BONNIE BLENHEIM

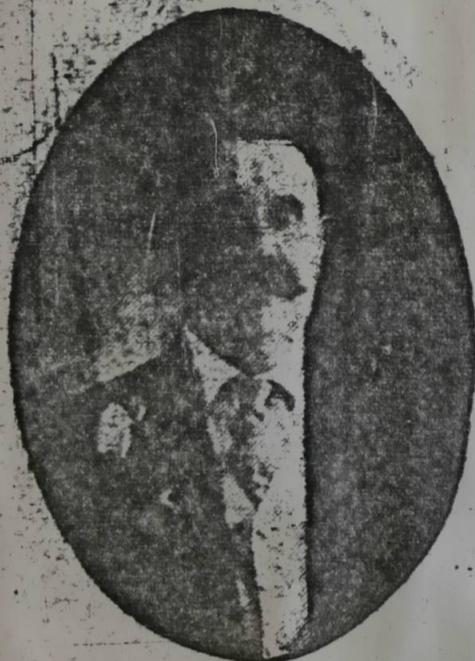
Continued from page 1

industrious representative and took a prominent position in the committee work of the House.

An incident of Mr. Hornor's fidelity to principle, his independence of character, as also his recognition of the rights of his constituents to be consulted by their representative, is thus related by Shenston:— Just before the passage of the "Alien Act," which caused such intense excitement throughout the Province at the time, Mr. Hornor called a meeting of his constituents, and addressed them as follows: "Gentlemen, I wish to know how you desire me to vote on this bill, and I will vote just as I am instructed by you; but mind, if you say I shall support this bill, I will do so, because there is not time for you to elect another member before the vote is taken, should I resign, but I never will come to the County of Oxford again. I shall give my vote as you direct, leave the House, and the country, send for my family, and never return again." He was directed to oppose the bill.

WHEN MARRIAGE WAS COMPLEX

In early days in the Province of Ontario, marriages were lawfully performed only by clergymen of the



GEORGE LAW.

President Reform Association of Oxford County, and a prominent Drumbo Business man.

Church of England. In many isolated settlements, where there were no clergymen of that church, this was found to be an inconvenience and hardship. Public opinion and the personal convenience of matrimonially inclined pioneers demanded a change, and at last governmental and ecclesiastical influence unbent so far as to permit marriages by other persons officially qualified, but do not within a less distance than eighteen miles from the nearest church of England. On this condition, Magistrates, duly qualified, were allowed to perform the marriage ceremony, but not before posting up in some conspicuous place the following significant notice:—"Whereas, A.B. and C.D. are desirous of inter-marrying with each other, and there being no person of the Church of England living within eighteen miles of them; all persons who know of any impediment why they should not be joined in matrimony, are to give notice thereof to E. F., Esquire, of— one of her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the district." Another restriction imposed was that Magistrates must use only the church of England service. Otherwise a fine was imposed.



HON. DR. J. F. BURGESS

Son of Joseph L. Burgess, an early Drumbo postmaster, and now Coroner for Detroit, Mich.

THE DETERMINED BRIDEGROOM

On one occasion, this territorial limitation stood in the way of a young couple who were very anxious to be married at once. They were only fifteen and a half miles distant from the residence of the parson of the church of England, as ascertained by Mr. Horner to whom they had applied to perform the service. But as "love laughs at locksmiths," so also it disregards unreasonable, legal and ecclesiastical limitations. In his dilemma the resolute bridegroom proposed that they should walk through the woods, a distance of two and a half miles farther from the parson's residence. This was promptly agreed to by everybody and the bride, bridegroom, their friends and the Magistrate penetrated the woods until they had surely reached not less than the required eighteen miles from the home of the dreaded and distant parson. There, perched on a log, under Heaven's high dome as a Cathedral, and with the sighing of the wind through the forest trees as their bridal anthem, and the flowers and trees of the forest as the floral decorations, they were made a happy man and wife. Gretta Gilm, the Mecca of Scottish couples similarly circumstanced,—was never more well.

Mr. Horner married many of the early settlers who became prominent afterwards and whose names are still known throughout the township and county.

AVE ET VALE.

May the writer be permitted, in closing this somewhat hurried and

very imperfect sketch, to say what a real pleasure and labor of love it has been to collect and prepare such local facts with reference to the history of the good old township of Blenheim and the County of Oxford. The more so, that this is being made public through the columns of the same old journal that some member of my family was wont to speak through



DR. A. S. VOGT.

An old Washington boy, famous as the leader of the renowned Mendelssohn Choir of Toronto, and a musician of world-wide repute.

weekly to his friends, men and women, boys and girls, for more than one-third of a century. The kindness and confidence always extended by them to the editors during that long period have always been a source of profound gratitude and unfeigned pleasure. Meantime, the mellowing influences of time have given us all a broader and certainly a more kindly and charitable outlook. The asperities of the past, if such there were, have disappeared and are forgotten. And now, as we reassemble to meet and greet each other in friendly reunion, we can all unite in a common and unalloyed friendship.

NOTE.—T. S. Shenston, from whose Gazetteer are drawn some of the data above given, was in early days a highly respected business man and citizen of Woodstock. He took a keen interest in politics and was a warm friend of Sir Francis Hincksby whose influence he became Registrar of the County of Brant. This position he held with credit to himself and the satisfaction of the public until his death a few years ago.

TO OUR FRIENDS.

Many photographs of Blenheim's noted men, kindly sent to the Sentinel-Review for possible use in connection with this issue, unfortunately reached us too late to permit of our using them. With our readers we share the regret their absence will cause; but we heartily thank our friends for their fine courtesy in loaning those treasured pictures, which will be carefully and promptly returned.

PUBLISHER, THE SENTINEL-
REVIEW.

SOME NOTABLES

THE DAILY SENTINEL-REVIEW, SATURDAY

WHO HAVE MADE

PAGE 5.

BLENHEIM'S HISTORY

Scenes in Drumbo, "The Hub of Bonnie Blenheim"



From Photos By Hall, Drumbo.

Typical Parts of the Busy Little Community
Its Old Boys and Girls, and a Carnival
and July 1, 1913.

which will Hold a Grand Re-Union of
of Sports and Fun, June 20, June 30,

These Men of Bonnie Blenheim
 Link Her Past Progress
 With Her Present Prosperity
 Each of Them Has Borne a Part Worth
 Recording in the Annals of Oxford County
 and of our Great Canada



ARCHEBISHOP
 Ex-Warden of Oxford County, a Presbyterian, but still



A. S. CRUIKSHANK
 An old Blenheim teacher, now Dean of Hamilton's teaching staff.



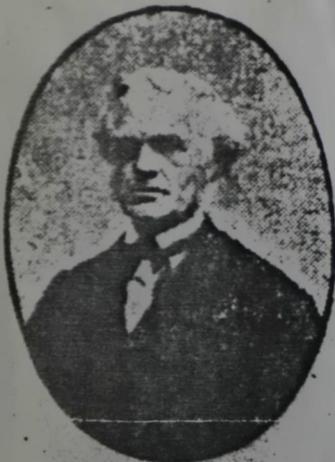
ANDREW LAIDLAW
 Dean Postmaster of Drumbo, and an active Member of the Board of Trade.



SAMUEL T. BASTEDO,
Chief of Appeals Dept. at Ottawa,
and grandson of Mrs. Peter Baste-
do; who is believed to have been
the first white child born in the
Township.



DR. DANIEL CLARK,
Formerly of Princeton, later Supt. To-
ronto Asylum for the Insane.



JEREMIAH COWAN.
An old Magistrate, Township and Coun-
ty Councillor, and noted citizen of
Oxford County.



W. E. COBLE,
born in the township of Mon-
rovia, and founder of the Village
of Cobles.



STEPHEN HALL.

Long a leading member of the County Council, Bridge Commissioner, and Warden of the County.



JOHN HENDERSON, M.A.

A Bilkdonnk boy, and for a quarter-century Principal of Collegiate Institute, St. Catharines.



CAPTAIN F. B. HORNOR.

Grandson of Thomas Hornor, M. P. P., first County Registrar, and Oxford County's first white settler.



R. B. HORNOR.

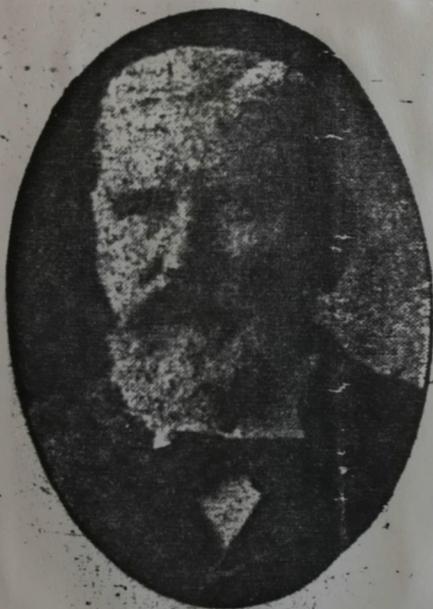
Another grandson of Thomas Hornor, M. P. P., and now a well-known business man in the United States.



CAPTAIN WESLEY HOWELL,
Organizer of Drumbo Infantry Company,
and a prominent miller of the early
days.



JAMES H. HULL,
Leading lumberman, farmer, and an old-
timer who, in the good old days, won
some local fame as a lawyer.



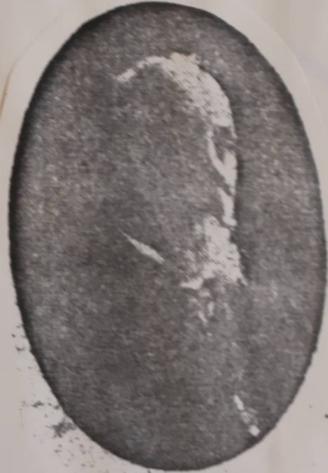
PETER IRVING,
Now of Woodstock, but a prominent old
Blenheim boy.



CAPTAIN JOHN HARLOW,
Successor to Captain Howell in com-
mand of Drumbo Infantry Company,
and a most enthusiastic soldier.



REV. W. LONDON.
An early educator of Oxford, and prominent Episcopal clergyman of the early days.



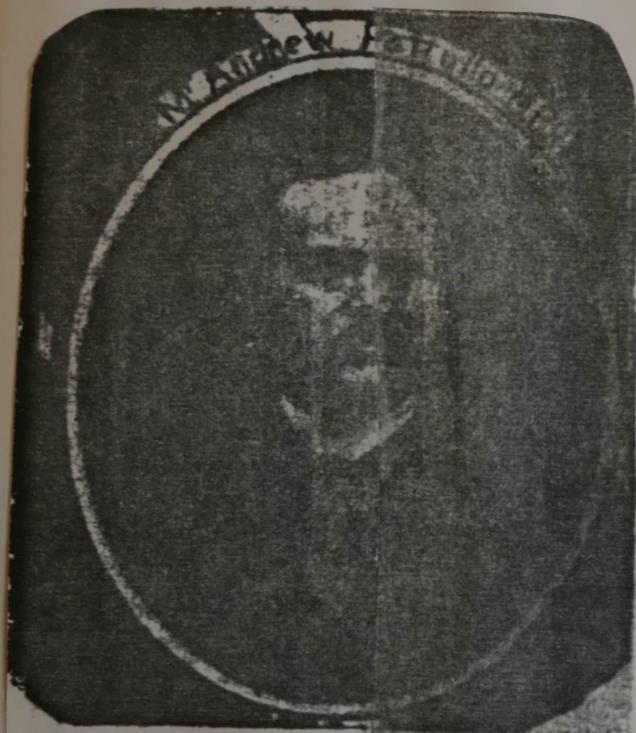
CHARLES A. MUMA.
Secretary Drumbo Board of Trade, journalist, and Drumbo's senior native son.



HENRY MUMA.
Founder of Drumbo, and a Dominion Land Arbitrator.



WALTER MURRAY
add name, Revere of Blenheim, and W. Oxford County. A prominent man of affairs.



ANDREW PATTULLO,
Formerly M. P. P. for North Oxford, and
sometime Editor of The Sentinel-
Review.



SHERIFF GEORGE PERRY,
Formerly M. P. P. for North Oxford, re-
tiring in 1872 to make way for Hon.
Sir Oliver Mowat, Prime Minister of
Ontario.



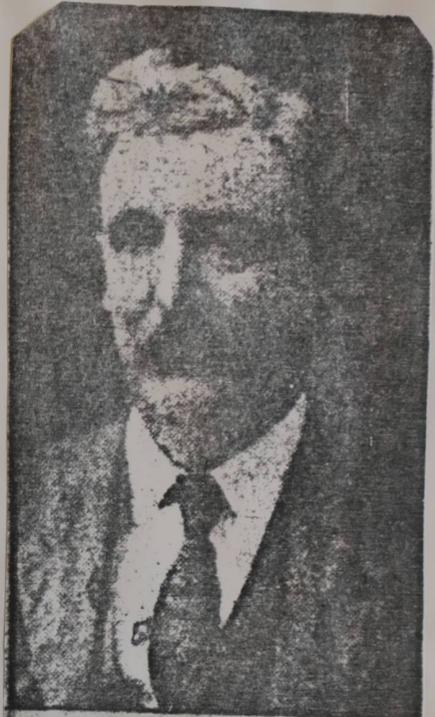
E. F. PINKHAM,
Formerly a Richwood merchant, and
now a wealthy fruit-grower near Los
Angeles, California.



DR. C. D. ROUNDS,
Son of Dr. J. B. Rounds, one of Blen-
heim's oldest and best-beloved physi-
cians.



DR. THOMAS SPARKS,
For a quarter-century a successful physician, and a poet of no mean powers.



DANIEL R. STAUFFER.
Reeve, Blenheim Township.



CAPTAIN JAMES STITT
Former Commanding Officer of
Princeton Rifles.

