

## HALDIMAND COUNTY

The County was established for legal purposes in 1850. At the first election, Brant was elected to the Assembly. The County was noted for its hot elections. In 1851 George Brown and William Lyons Mackenzie ran for the seat and Mackenzie was elected. He was elected twice after this, but resigned in 1860. He was the Grandfather of William Lyons Mackenzie King. The present holder of this office is Mr. Charles Martin and the County is represented at Ottawa by Mr. Mark Senn of Caledonia.

Sir Frederick Haldimand, the man after whom the county was named, was born in Switzerland. He was a soldier of fortune and joined the British Army in 1756. He became Governor of Quebec in 1778-1786.

The original deed of the lands in the county given by the Governor to Chief Brant was registered in 1795 by William Jarvis. It was confirmed by Governor Simcoe in 1837.

The pioneering days have long passed and now the county is well served by both railroads and highways and lately with airports. Electric and telephone service is quite general and it is no longer necessary to be self sustaining. Perhaps it would be better if we had more of the self reliance and confidence of the pioneers.

## Settlement of Townships in Haldimand

— By Ruby Johnston —

### Walpole

The Township of Walpole was named after the first prime minister of Great Britain, Sir Robert Walpole.

The township was surveyed by Thomas Walsh and was open for settlement in 1800. Before this time most settlers who came, moved out because of the swampy nature of the land. The Hoovers were the first who effected a permanent settlement in Walpole, they bought several hundred acres of land on the lake shore, south of Selkirk. Captain Francis who settled near the mouth of the Sanduski Creek, was an early settler. One of the first, if not the first, white man who lived in Walpole, was a man named Peacock, from whom the point of land on which he lived took its name. He did not, however, make any attempt at clearing a farm, but subsisted by fishing and shooting. Other early settlers were Abraham Doan, Peter Klinger Smith (who settled at the mouth of the Nanticoke Creek), Richard Gibbs, John Hesthunt, William Steel, Samuel Montgomery and Joseph Abraham.

In 1840 the Government sent a company of coloured troops to clear out the stage road, which is Highway No. 3, and fit it for travel. They graded and turpiked it and built several bridges. The road had been previously chopped out by settlers and sufficiently cleared to admit travel with ox sleds.

In 1843 the Hamilton and Port Dover Plank Road was completed by the Government through Walpole, and in a few years, the whole of the northern part of the township was settled. Previous to this in 1826, Abraham and Elvert Van-ton were the only settlers in the part of the township.

In 1839 Dr. H. H. Wells was established and Walpole, as well as Rainham, was attached to Norfolk, with headquarters at Simcoe. Previous to this, a sort of township municipal organization had existed in which meetings were held annually.

Business now transacted by the Township Councils, was on that day for the ensuing year. In 1850 the Township Councils were first organized in Ontario, and Walpole and Rainham were put with Haldimand. In 1850 John Gowen was elected the first Reeve of Walpole.

## The Indians of Haldimand

— By Molly Cooke —

ED. NOTE:—The following is the first in a series of articles relative to the early life in Haldimand County. The articles were written by pupils in Grade X in the local Continuation School. We feel sure our readers will find the articles both interesting and informative.

One of the most interesting features in the early and later life of Haldimand is its Indian population. In these later days we sometimes forget that the ancestors of the Indians of Haldimand and of Brant were true United Empire Loyalists. Joseph Brant (Theyendenegea) an educated savage was one of the most loyal Indians in our national history. When the American Revolutionary War in 1783 ended, Brant applied for land in Canada. This being granted the chiefs chose forests bordering the Grand River. The original tract was six miles deep on each side of the Grand from the "forks" to the mouth. The first principal settlements were at York and Brantford. There are at present 3,500 Indians in this section of the province.

The Six Nations were the best of the United Empire Loyalists, because they gave up their homes in the beautiful valleys of New York to suffer the terrible hardships in Upper Canada.

The dominant band was the Mohawk tribe who originated where Montreal now stands. They were driven from their land and emigrated southward, dividing into bands under different names. They became five distinct nations, the Mohawks, Senecas, Oneidas, Cayugas and Onondagas. They entered a confederacy of "five Nations." Later the Tuscaroras entered, and it became the "Six Nations."

In the American Revolution, Theyendenegea was a great figure. He and his braves joined the British forces. In 1779 they were forced to seek shelter at Fort Niagara. Here huddled in disorder with their families they put in the terrible winter of 1779-80. Still in Spring, they showed the same loyalty to the English cause. Finally in 1783 when a general peace was announced, they would not remain under the Revolutionary government, but came to Canada. They were forced to look for new homes in Canada, so with this point in view they sent Theyendenegea to England to settle this question.

So, in 1784 the Six Nations were granted a strip of land, six miles wide on each side of the Ohio, now called the Grand, as some have said as far as Theyendenegea could walk in one day. The Chippewas or Ojibways were the original inhabitants and had exercised rights to these lands, but they relinquished these rights to the Six Nations. They settled on this land, then, of course, all forest. About ten years later the Indians started to sell their lands but great difficulties arose because the Indians kept no account of their business transactions. So after 1830 the Canadian government took over the reserve and sold their lands for them. They sold all the lands in Haldimand except a part in Oneida. This money has since remained in the hands of the government and is annually paid to the Six Nations. There is 52,000 acres left along the Grand River only a little of the original tract. On this spot live all the Indian descendants of the Empire Loyalists, part of the great Iroquois Nation, whose warriors reigned supreme from the Mississippi to the Atlantic and from the far south to the Great Lakes.

## Religious Life of Haldimand

— By Marjorie Butcher —

The first Protestant Church in Canada was built by the Indians in 1784 between the present site of York and the city of Brantford. A monument still stands to Brant's devotion to the Church of England. It contains a large Bible and a complete service of communion plate presented to the Mohawks by "The good Queen Anne," when they resided at Fort Hunter in Mohawk Valley of New York.

When King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Brantford recently they were accompanied by four Indians to a table to sign the historic Queen Anne Bible, property of the Six Nation Indians. The signatures of many persons of royal blood are inscribed on the fly leaves of the Bible but this was the first time a reigning King and Queen signed it.

The Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Roman Catholics settled in large numbers in Haldimand. While the Church of England is scarcely as well represented as in other counties of equal extent and population, its history is perhaps the most striking. The Germans who comprised a majority of the population of Rainham and South Cayuga were mostly Lutherans. Their services were held in German and they built a fine church in Fisherville Township of Rainham. There were several other German sects of which the Mennonites were the most prominent.

## Military Activity of Haldimand

— By Margaret Marr —

The County of Haldimand has always been noted for its military connections. There are many families in Haldimand which have a long military standing. The county was named after Sir Frederick Haldimand who served Britain as a soldier at the time of the American Revolution. He was Governor of Canada in 1784 when the first grants to Loyalists were made.

The first settlers were military friends of Joseph Brant who gave them tracts of land in the Indian reservation along the Grand River.

War of 1812-15  
At the time of this war Haldimand was very sparsely settled and the few white inhabitants living along the Grand River and the lake shore had little to tempt the marauding parties from United States. One party under the leadership of a man named Dickson plundered settlers at Long Point and Talbot settlement of what they had. They shot Captain Francis, a United Empire Loyalist, who lived at the mouth of the Sanduski in Walpole. These raiders got food and shelter from the Hoovers who being Mennonites, could not refuse food and shelter to anyone.

During the war the Six Nation Indians who lived in the Brant tract did good service for Canada. The Butler Rangers defended Canada bravely. William Nelles, formerly of this county, fought in the war. Port Maitland was a naval station. Canadian militia and regular British troops were stationed along the lake and they stopped any more incursions of such bands as those led by Dickson.

Rebellion of 1837-38  
Haldimand played a small part in this Rebellion. Most of the few settlers took an active part in the suppression of the Rebellion. Captain W. H. Nelles was one of these. Some of the settlers secretly agreed with the cause of the agitation and felt a need for change in government. Some of these were accused of raiding and a few arrests were made. However these parties were held for a short detention only and were then liberated.

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