

# PRINCE ALBERT

## THE UNTOLD STORY

*All you ever wanted to know about  
Prince Albert - and more!*

**J. PETER HVIDSTEN**





# Introduction

The name chosen for this book, *Prince Albert The Untold Story*, is perhaps a bit misleading, considering many of the stories and accounts of Prince Albert's early pioneer settlers and businesses have been documented and written about in the past.

Rev. R. Monteith, Joseph Bigelow, J.E. Farewell and Samuel Farmer are among the many who produced records expounding the history of one of Reach Township's earliest and most prosperous hamlets - Prince Albert.

While the written history of Prince Albert has been well documented, sadly there are no photographs of its bustling business community during the 1860s and early 1870s. Unfortunate, since there were at least two photographers providing their services to residents of the village at this time.

~

One of the comments heard most often in this town, especially with newer residents to the area, is "Where is Prince Albert?". This often leads to a conversation about how the settlement, on the southern boundary of Port Perry, was once one of the busiest and most prosperous commercial and farming settlements in the former County of Ontario.

Port Perry, as it is known today, was once three distinct communities - Prince Albert, Borelia and Scugog Village. The three small hamlets, over a century-and-a-half ago were amalgamated to become the Corporation of the Village of Port Perry.

The information in this book deals primarily on Prince Albert, and in assembling the information we have taken a number of liberties. Because there are no photographs of the village of Prince Albert, circa 1860, I have featured pictures and sketches from other similar sized communities of that era to illustrate the style of buildings which might have been found in the village. Also, a number of pictures have been colorized, to project what they may have looked like in the day.

It is also important to admit, the location of businesses is at times a best guess, based on information available. During 19th century, businesses often moved to new locations, making it difficult to pinpoint exactly what year they were located in a given spot. The maps showing locations of individual shops is based on often vague information gathered from advertisements and land registry records.

I hope the book will shed some light on the vibrant and important part Prince Albert played in the earliest days of the settlement of this part of the former Reach Township.

~

It goes without saying, writing a historical document is not the work of one person. The writer is dependent on many sources to pull together all of the pertinent information to complete a project such as this book.

First and foremost to thank is my good friend, and historical colleague, Paul Arculus for sharing his vast knowledge of Scugog Township history. Without his exceptional support and generosity in sharing documents, maps and illustrations and archival material, this document would be far less complete. Paul's friendship, encouragement and willingness to share his knowledge with our amazing community is sincerely appreciated.

More sources and thanks:

- Scugog Museum and Archives
- Lake Scugog Historical Society
- Scugog Digital Newspaper Collection
- Michael Fowler for his help in acquiring Village Plans from the 1860s.
- Samuel Farmer's important history book, "On The Shores of Scugog".
- The Ontario County Atlas of 1877, village plans and sketches
- Ontario Land Registry
- Ancestry.com

## PRINCE ALBERT



Prince Albert of  
Saxe-Coburg and  
Gotha

The first white settlers in Reach Township were Reuben Crandell (1821), Abner Hurd and Daniel Dayton (1824).

The settlement we know today as Prince Albert was initially recorded on maps as 'Reach' or 'Dayton's Corners', Daniel having built his original house to the east of the four corners of the village.

When the young Queen Victoria married her first cousin Prince Albert, of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha, in 1840, the community celebrated its loyalty by renaming the village "Prince Albert" in his honour.

### **PRINCE ALBERT - THE UNTOLD STORY**

Researched and Published by J. Peter Hvidsten

January 2022

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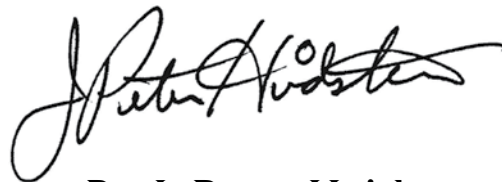
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# PRINCE ALBERT

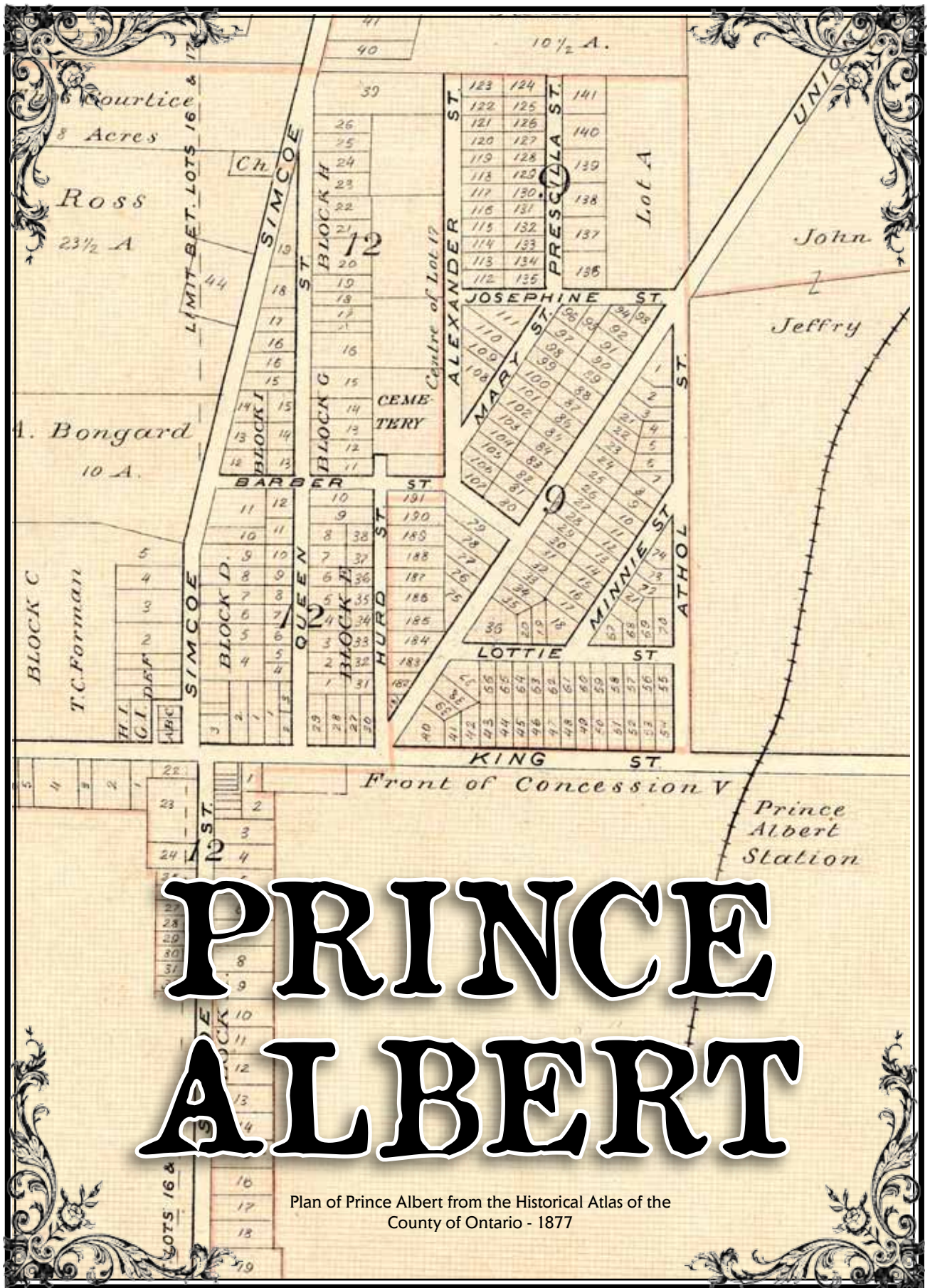
# THE UNTOLD STORY

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The signature appears to read 'J. Peter Hvidsten'.

By J. Peter Hvidsten

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# PRINCE ALBERT

Plan of Prince Albert from the Historical Atlas of the County of Ontario - 1877



# FIRST ROADS INTO REACH TOWNSHIP

## **SIMCOE STREET** was also known as the **NONQUON ROAD**:

The original Simcoe Street, circa 1845, began in East Whitby, extending north through Columbus and Raglan, and then angling slightly west on the north side of "The Ridges", and continuing through Prince Albert, and Borelia and continuing north to the Nonquon River east of Seagrave. It was then extended to the northern boundary of Reach Township.

Today's Simcoe Street was not one of the original, circa 1845, roads. It was constructed a number of years later. The later route combines the original Simcoe Street north to the Reach Township boundary, and the newer section beginning on the north side of "The Ridges" to Port Perry.

## **BROCK ROAD:**

Today is Marsh Hill Road.

This road goes north from Whitby, passing through through Ashburn, Utica and Epsom and continuing north until it disappears north east of Greenbank, at Scugog Line 14. Below Scugog Line 4, this road is known as Ashburn Road.

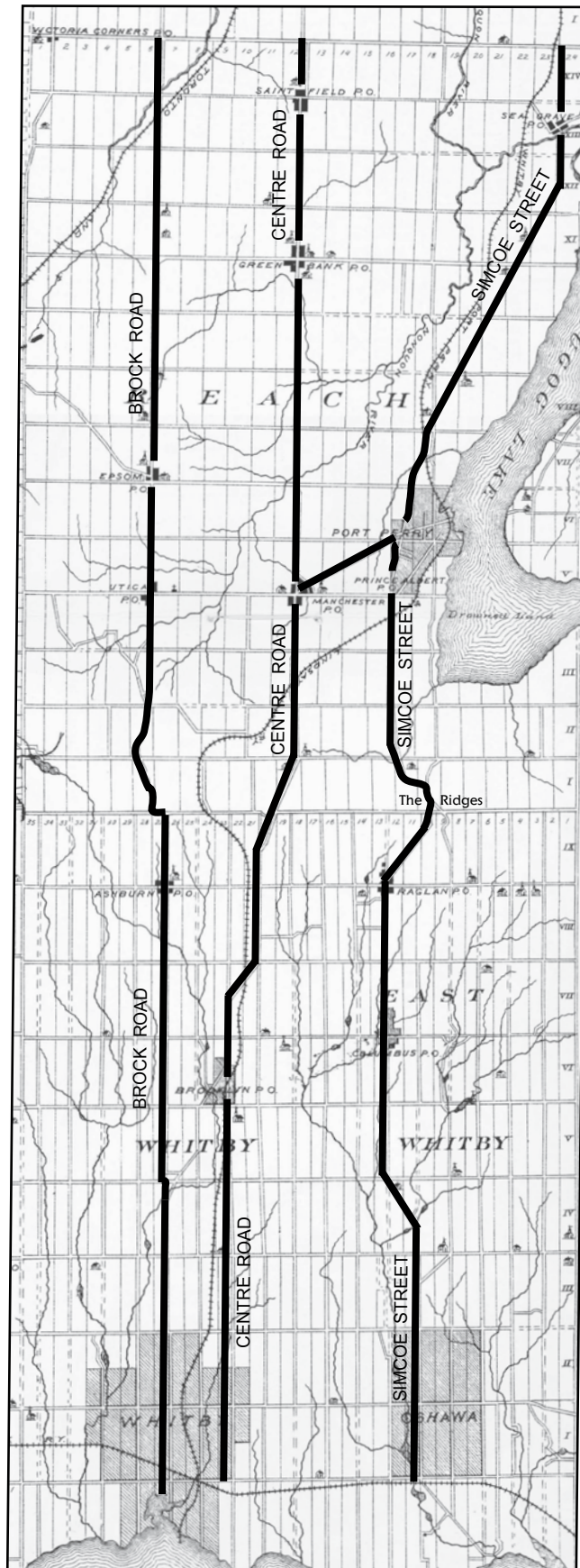
## **CENTRE ROAD** was originally called the **PLANK ROAD**:

Today is known as Highway #12.

This road winds north from Whitby through Brooklin, Myrtle and Manchester, then east to Borelia and Port Perry.

Built about 1848, and referred to as the "plank road", it was built of three inch pine plank, ten feet long, with three stringers made of 3"x6" pine. This road went the entire 19 mile distance from Whitby to Manchester and was a toll road until the arrival of the railway in Port Perry in 1872.

The northern section of Centre Road, from Manchester, Greenbank and Saintfield was built a few years after the original "plank road" was completed.



*This map shows the three main roads leading into Reach Township from the southern part of Whitby, circa 1850.*

# Prince Albert

## A Brief History

When the young Queen Victoria married her German cousin, Albert, in 1840, many communities celebrated by holding banquets and elaborate celebrations. The people at Dayton's Corners celebrated by renaming their settlement Prince Albert in honour of the queen's consort.

Also that year, the Post Office, the first in Reach, was opened in Prince Albert. James Leach, another store owner, was the first postmaster. This post office became the distribution centre for all mail for the settlements to the north in Reach, Brock Township and Victoria county. The mailman, William Thomas, brought the mail on horseback once a week from Oshawa to Prince Albert. He travelled up Simcoe street and then Old Simcoe Road.

Today, Prince Albert is a large residential community on the south side of Port Perry. Its main intersection being at the junction of Old Simcoe Road and the 5th concession of Scugog. The once booming commercial village has become a "ghost town" in the sense that there are few businesses in the village. Its entire reason for existence has completely changed over the past century and a half.

A hundred and forty years ago Prince Albert was the second largest grain buying centre in Canada! It was the first major settlement in Reach and, for several years it was the commercial centre not just of Reach, but the surrounding townships as well! There were mills, hotels, blacksmiths and manufacturers of various kinds. Most of the area's churches had their start in Prince Albert, and the first newspaper in the area was published here.



### OLD SIMCOE ROAD

When Reuben Crandell he made his way north into Reach in 1821, he followed an established but narrow Indian footpath. This path, for the most of its distance, followed Simcoe Street to near Columbus, veered slightly west and up to the Ridges. From there, it followed what is now Old Simcoe Road to Prince Albert. When he had reached roughly that point, he made his way west along the 5th concession almost to where Manchester is now located. Here, Crandell established the first homestead in Reach Township.

The Mississaugas had occupied this region for many years but they lived off the fish, wildlife and rice in the region. They were not farmers and had not cleared any land. It was still entirely virgin forest. Once Reuben and his family had begun to clear some land and build a cabin, word of their efforts would have reached the front and other pioneers would then feel confident about moving into the region.



### NEIGHBOURS

In 1824, Abner Hurd brought his family to create a homestead at the point where Crandell had turned west, on concession 5, lot 17. He took possession of the east side of the intersection. That same year another family, the Daytons settled just west of the Hurds. The Hurds and the Daytons began the community of Dayton's Corners. On some early maps of the region the little community was simply called Reach, since it was the first and only community in the township for several years.

## MORE SETTLERS

The Hurds and the Daytons were joined by several families in the late 1820s, including William Boynton who opened a tavern just south of the intersection on the west side of Old Simcoe road. After opening the tavern, the area was most often referred to as Boynton's Corners, after Mr. Boynton.

By 1829, there were enough settlers to justify the opening of a school just west of the settlement on the north side of the road just east of Cawker's Creek. Later a school was built right in the settlement just east of the four corners on the north side of the road.

The beginnings of Prince Albert's rise as a commercial centre can probably be credited to Prosper Hurd, Abner's son. He opened a general store here in 1833 to supply the local residents with their needs.



## GROWTH OF COMMERCE

When the early settlers hacked their way into the forests of Reach, their first task was to provide a shelter for their families. Their next task was to clear land on which to grow food for their own consumption. But, as more land was cleared, and more crops were produced, the early settlers had some left over for sale. They would then seek out places to sell their produce. There was a ready market for grain, particularly barley and wheat. This grain was sold in the larger communities and abroad.

James and Andrew Laing of Oshawa had a highly profitable general store in Oshawa. As their business grew, they began to look for further opportunities to expand. They decided to venture into the buying and selling of grain. Realizing that Prince Albert would be a good place to set up a grain buying business, thus providing the farmers in the area and to the north with a convenient place to sell their grain, they asked one of their employees, Thomas C. Forman to operate a store for them in Prince Albert.

Thomas C. Forman agreed and a large barn was built in Prince Albert to store the grain. His store and barn were on the north side of the 5th Concession just west of Old Simcoe road. Forman married Laing's daughter. When his father-in-law died, Forman took over full control of the business in Prince Albert.

Another major grain buyer in Prince Albert was George Currie. In Oshawa, the Gibbs brothers had become prosperous grain merchants and store owners. George Currie was one of their partners. Currie opened a store immediately west of Forman in 1844, in partnership with Aaron Ross. Currie became the principal grain merchant in the community for many years.

The fact that Prince Albert became the second largest grain handling centre in Canada was due to the large numbers of people who ventured into the grain buying business. Other grain centres had elevators able to handle large volumes of grain. No grain elevators were ever built in Prince Albert. Here the buyers stored their purchases in barns and all the grain was handled by shovels.

In addition to Thos. C. Forman, George Currie and Aaron Ross, other businessmen ventured into the grain buying business. They included Abner Hurd's son Prosper, J.H. Brown, Joshua Wright, Robert Perry a son of Peter Perry, J.B. Warren, and A. Farewell.

The seasonal nature of grain buying meant that the buyers had to have other sources of income for the remainder of the year. In the case of T.C. Forman and George Currie, they each ran general stores. Prosper Hurd was a carpenter, Aaron Ross ran a shoe shop, Brown was a painter and Wright was a tanner. At a later date, Currie and Ross joined to operate one store.

Once Prince Albert had become a centre for farmers to bring their grain to sell, other services and businesses sprang up. In addition to the grain buyers, the Canada Directory of 1857 lists the following businesses in Prince Albert; 7 shoemakers, 6 carpenters, 5 carriage or wagonmakers, 4 blacksmiths, 4 saddlers or harnessmakers, 4 tailors, 3 painters, 2 hotel keepers, 3 general stores, 2 tanners, 2 millwrights, 2 chemists, 2 bakers, a grocer, a surveyor, a tinsmith, a mason, a watchmaker, a plasterer, a butcher, a dentist and a cabinetmaker.

Not mentioned in the directory was the fact that Prince Albert even boasted of a brass band which entertained its residents at church gatherings and social affairs. Prince Albert could even boast of its own zealous Temperance Society. In 1850, Abner Hurd petitioned the government of the day to have the seat of Ontario County established at Prince Albert. Needless to say, the larger settlement at Whitby was





# Decline of Prince Albert

## Arrival of the railway to Port Perry

When businessmen from Whitby and Port Perry began to talk of a railway to link the two communities, the citizens of Prince Albert opposed the plans, realizing that their community would become a mere stop on the line.

However, shortly after Prince Arthur turned the first sod for the construction of the line in Whitby in 1869, the businessmen of Prince Albert faced the fact that greater profits were to be made in Port Perry, the northern terminal of the railroad. Relocating a store or office from Prince Albert to a new location in Port Perry, a mile away, was not an overwhelming challenge.

Even before the first train rolled into Port Perry, George White, the carriage maker, pulled up stakes and moved to Port Perry, building a new carriage factory. But the arrival of the first train in Port Perry in 1871 was what triggered the mass exodus of businesses from Prince Albert. Stores, factories,

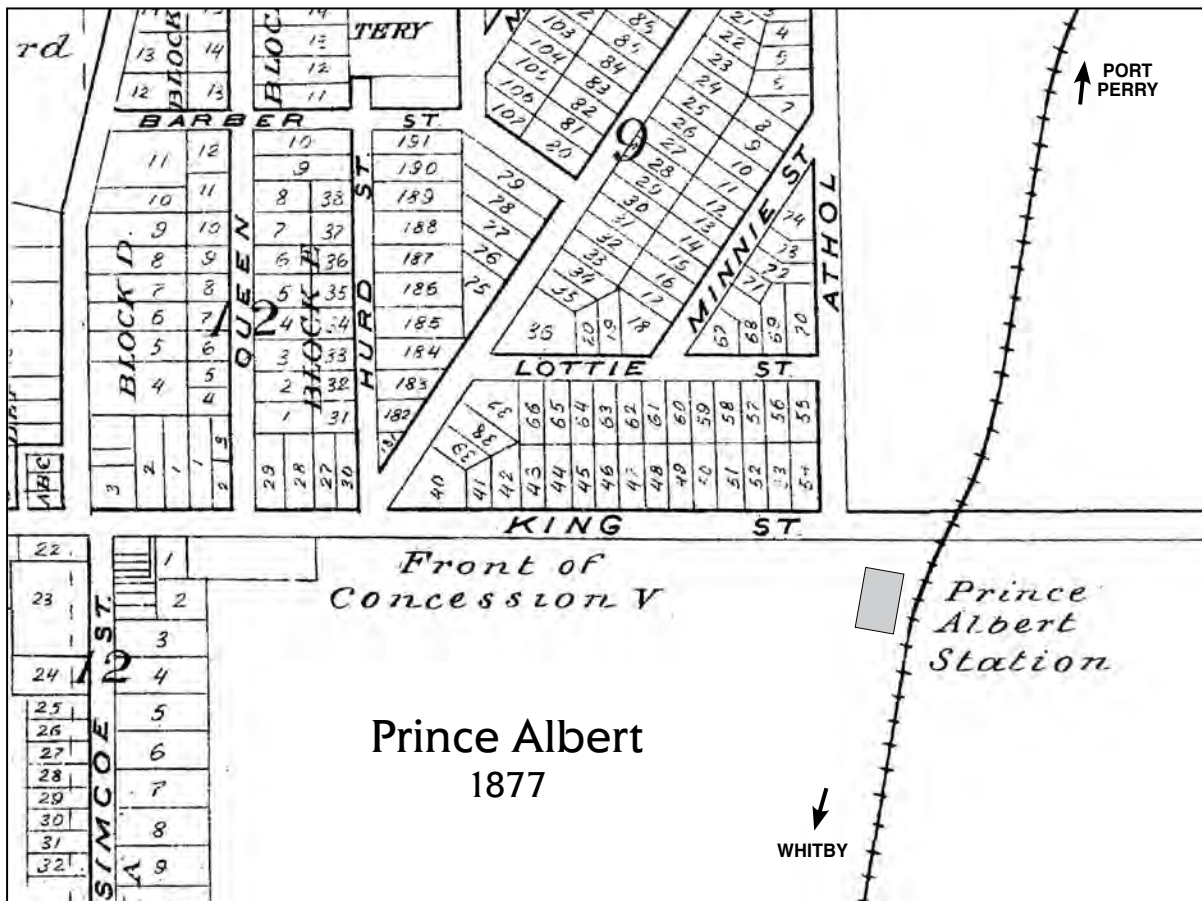
hotels, tradesmen and professionals, all moved to Port Perry.

George Currie was Prince Albert's first major grain buyer. In September 1872 he moved to Port Perry. He then began to build the grain elevator that still stands at the Port Perry waterfront. The building of this structure was a stark and convincing symbol of the changing times, as it served to underline the transference of the grain market, once the basis of Prince Albert's economic strength, to Port Perry.

Over a five-year period beginning in 1868, the population of the community of Prince Albert was reduced to less than half of its pre-railroad size.

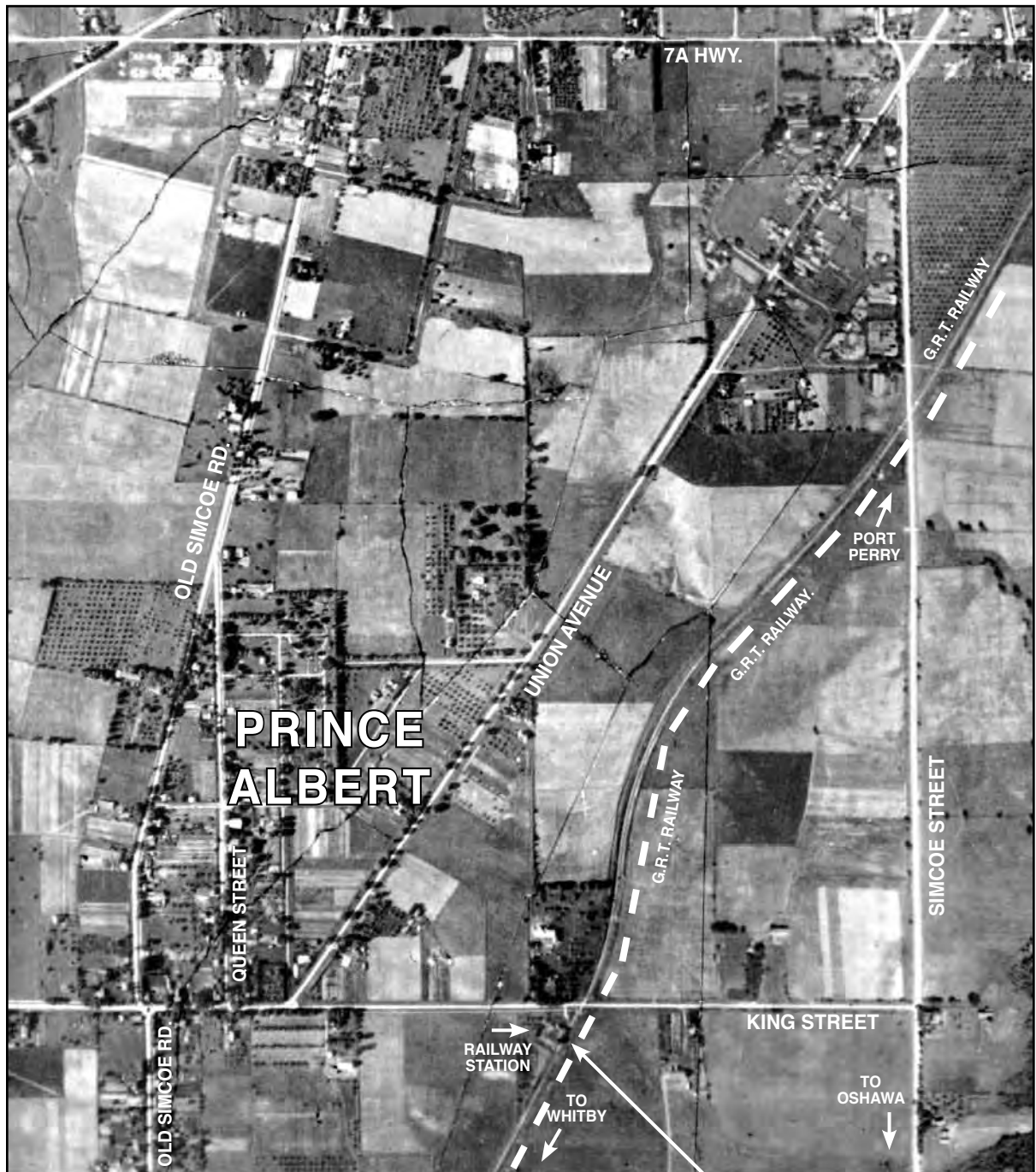
Among the last to leave was the newspaper, the *Ontario Observer*. Ironically, the owner of the *Ontario Observer* had always approached the possibility of a railroad with cynicism and,

*Continued on page 8*



This 1877 street plan of the village of Prince Albert shows the route of the Port Whitby/Port Perry railway line as it bypassed about half a mile east of the four corners of the village.

# Aerial photo of Prince Albert, 1928



This aerial picture, taken in 1928, shows the route of the G.T.R. Railway and the location of the Prince Albert Station, east of the village centre, along side of King Street.

Photograph at right, is the only known picture of the Prince Albert Railway Station. It was kindly provided by Denise Jeffrey, whose family have lived in the area for more than a century.









The only known photograph of the Prince Albert Railway Station, circa 1920. Picture courtesy of Denise Jeffrey. (colorized photo)

## Prince Albert Railway Station

The Prince Albert railway station had not even been constructed when the first official run of the Port Whitby & Port Perry Railway arrived in Port Perry on November 23, 1871.

It was a momentous event to many of the citizens of Reach Township but a disappointment to Prince Albert residents who watched from a vacant lot as the train, pulled by the engine "Scugog" whistled passed the village. The vacant lot they stood on, would later become the site for the Prince Albert Station.

Two months before the first train arrived, a contract had been let to construct stations along the route. Prince Albert contractor, Harrison Maw received a contract from the PW&PP Railway Co. to build five station houses between Brooklin and Port Perry. The stations were for Brooklin, Myrtle, High Point, Manchester, Prince Albert.

Determining the railway route proved to be a difficult task. As far back as July 1868 the original plan called for a single station to be constructed along the road between the villages of Prince Albert and Manchester.

But both Manchester and Prince Albert wanted a convenient station in their own community. Eventually, operators of the PW&PP Railway consented to two stations. For Prince Albert they would run the rail line just east of the commercial section of the village, and would construct a station on the south side of King St., with platforms and storage facilities.

The Prince Albert station was an approximately 30' x 20' single-storey building with a low peaked roof, and a wide wood platform along the entire frontage. It had a ticket booth and two entrances for the men's and women's waiting rooms which were heated by a wood store, and a baggage room for storage.



Manchester Railway Station.



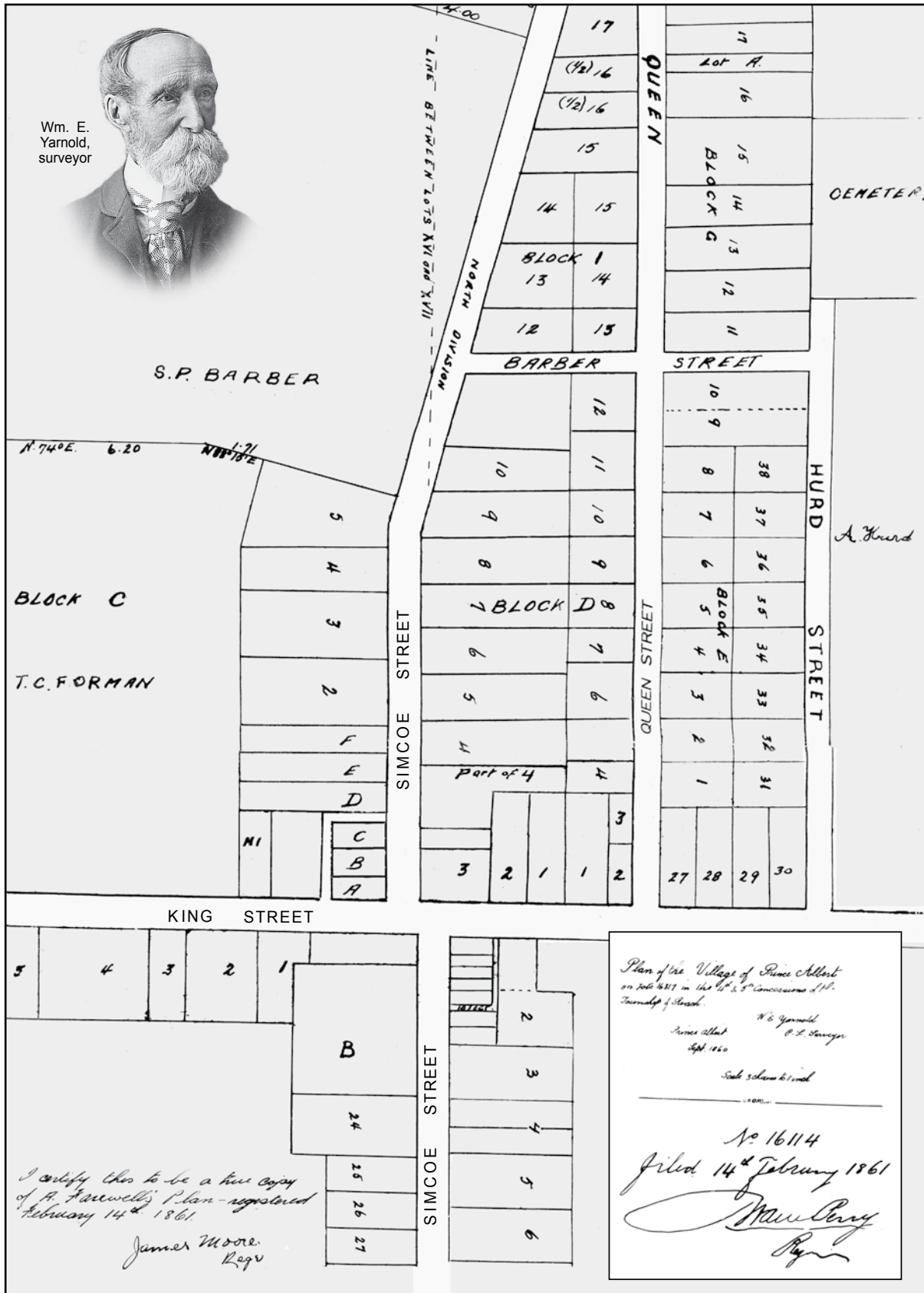
Myrtle Railway Station.



Seagrave Railway Station.



# 1860 Plan of the Village of Prince Albert

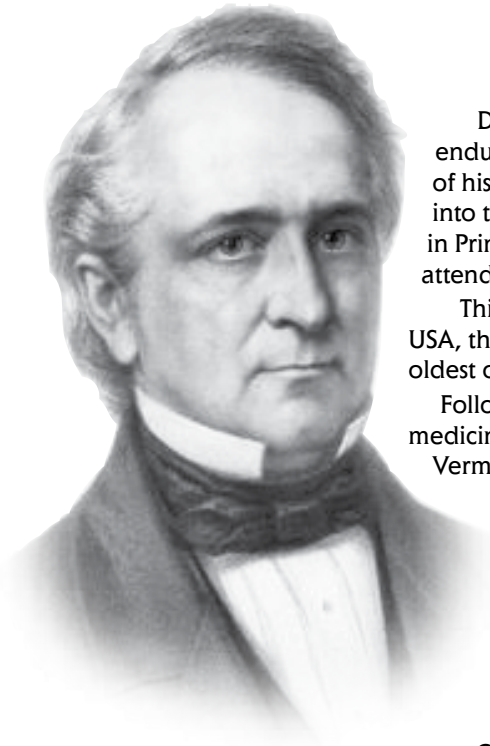


The earliest known plan for the Village of Prince Albert, drawn by surveyor William E. Yarnold, in September 1860.



# Pioneer Physicians

of Prince Albert and Reach Township



## Dr. Jonathan Foot

Dr. Jonathan Foot was fortunately a man of iron frame and great endurance, and he spared neither himself nor his horse when the welfare of his patients required it. He was the first medical practitioner to venture into the wilds north of Whitby and Oshawa to tend to the medical needs in Prince Albert and Reach Township. Rich and poor alike were promptly attended to with sympathetic kindness.

This early pioneer doctor was born on October 31, 1804, in Vermont, USA, the son of Dr. Solomon Foot and his wife Betsey (Crossett). He was the oldest of four children in the family.

Following the example of his father, Jonathan took an interest in medicine and graduated from the Vermont Medical College in Castleton, Vermont in 1829.

A few months later he made his way to Buffalo, and then to Upper Canada to the town of "Little York", which was later renamed, Toronto.

With him he brought letters of introduction to Dr. Burnside and others. He contacted the medical authorities in Upper Canada, who advised him that a doctor was needed east of York, in Whitby Township, but he needed to be re-licensed for Upper Canada.

On September 30, 1830 he was examined by Drs. Widmer, Powell and Delhi. He passed his certification to practice medicine in Upper Canada on November 9, 1830. He took up residence in Brooklin, Whitby Township

### Dr. Jonathan Foot

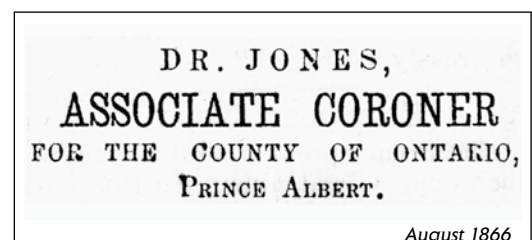
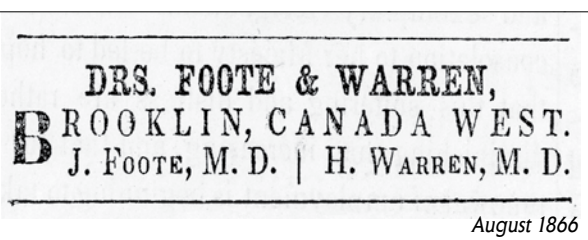
Jonathan Foot was 30 years old when he married Robina Dow on February 1835. She was the daughter of William Dow, of Whitby. They had six children, two sons and four daughters.

In the early years of his practice, his territory extended from Scarborough to Port Hope and north to Prince Albert, in Reach Township. He traveled on horseback, visiting Prince Albert once a week. Later he stayed for two or three days each week. When Dr. John E. Ware arrived in Prince Albert in 1854, this enabled Dr. Foot to remain full-time in Whitby.

In his path of duty, with "unsullied honor" he trod through his long life, and died leaving an untarnished reputation. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and had an "unflinching trust in God."

Dr. Jonathan Foot, Scugog's first doctor, died in Brooklin on January 2, 1885, in his 81st year, and was accorded a stately funeral. The pall-bearers were Judge Zacheus Burnham, Sheriff Thomas Paxton, Elder Smith, Samuel Beall, James Thompson and George McGillivray.

He was accorded a stately funeral and was buried in Union Cemetery, Oshawa, Ontario. His wife, Robina (Dow) died on September 2, 1884, in Brooklin, Ontario, at the age of 70, and was buried in Oshawa.



## Dr. John Edward Ware

John Edward Ware was born in England in April 1818, and immigrated to the USA in 1840 when he was only 22 years old.

By 1851, as a young physician, he came to Canada and was practicing medicine in Whitby. Three years later, in 1854, he left Whitby and set up a practice in his home office, in Prince Albert.

A physician, surgeon and accoucheur, he cared for the people of Prince Albert the next 30 years. He also had a brief partnership with Dr. Francis H. Brathwaite in office and residence across from Port Perry's town hall, on Queen Street.

On November 6, 1884 he was given a farewell dinner before he moved to Pickering leaving Prince Albert without a resident physician.

He later returned to New York city, USA, where he lived until his death on December 30, 1900. He was 82 years of age when he passed away.

**J. E. WARE, M.D.,**  
**Coroner for the County of Ontario,**  
 PHYSICIAN, SURGEON AND ACCOUCHEUR,  
**PRINCE ALBERT.**

June 1869

## Dr. Niven Agnew

One of the early physicians of Reach Township was Dr. Niven Agnew, who had an medical office and residence in Boynton Hotel, in Prince Albert.

Niven Agnew was born on May 6, 1828, in Edinburgh, Scotland. He married Jane Sommerville Ross on January 14, 1863 and they had seven children in ten years.

Niven's wife Jane, 34, died in Toronto as a young mother on April 19, 1875, following a miscarriage. Two years later he married Jennie E. McEwen on July 19, 1877, in York (Toronto), Ontario.

Dr. Agnew and his wife moved to Winnipeg in 1879, following his lawyer son John, who became a prominent politician in the western province.

Dr. Niven Agnew spent the rest of his life in Manitoba, passing away on March 1, 1905, in Winnipeg, having lived a long life of 76 years.

**N. AGNEW, M. D.,**  
**PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, AND AC-**  
**COUCHEUR, Medical Adviser of the**  
**Scottish Provincial Life Assurance Com-**  
**pany, PRINCE ALBERT.**

May 1859

## Dr. Francis H. Brathwaite

Francis Horne Brathwaite was born in Middlesex, England about 1840 and immigrated as a young man to Canada, settling in Reach Township as early as 1855.

In 1865, he took over the practice of Dr. N. Agnew of Prince Albert. About 1871 he joined the exodus of business moving from Prince Albert to Port Perry due to the arrival of train service to the village. He moved into an attractive brick house and set up his new office, at the corner of Queen Street and Lilla Streets, across from the town hall.

Dr. Frank, as he became known, married Anna Warren about 1869, and the couple had two children, Augustus and William.

Dr. Brathwaite became severely ill about 1873 and suspended his service to the people of Prince Albert and Port Perry for a time. On the urging

of more than 200 residents of the townships, he agreed to return to Port Perry as soon as his health and strength permitted. Dr. Brathwaite did return to work for a short time, but at only 38 years of age, died in Port Perry on July 15, 1879.

Dr. Braithwaite was reported to have been found dead in his surgery room at 9 o'clock in the morning. He had apparently laid down on his lounge for a rest, and died in his sleep.

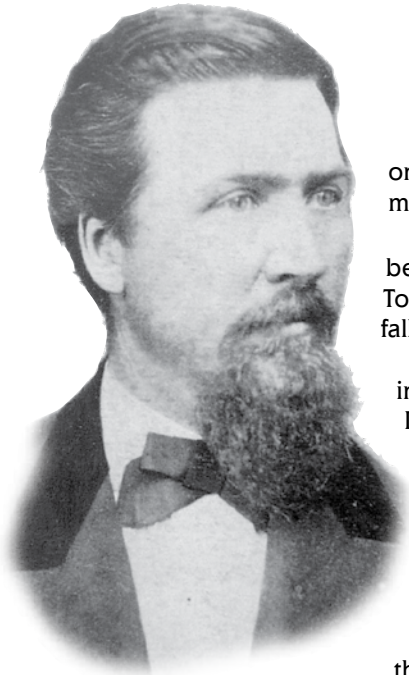
A notice of his death, in the *North Ontario Observer* newspaper reported:

"Deceased had been in the habit of taking advantage of the soothing influences of chloroform, to cool down a somewhat excitable, over wrought brain. His having taken it when alone with one to attend to him, was doubtless the cause of the fatal effects."

**FRANCIS H. BRATHWAITE, M.D., C.M.,**  
*Graduate of University McGill College, Montreal,*  
**PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, &C.,**  
**RESIDENCE—PRINCE ALBERT.** 1866

**Drs. Brathwaite & Baldwin,**  
**PRINCE ALBERT,**  
**Physicians, Surgeons and Accoucheurs.**  
 L. H. BRATHWAITE, M. D., C. M. May 1868  
 W. A. BALDWIN, M. D. 48-6m

## Dr. George W. Jones



Dr. George W. Jones

Dr. George Jones was born in Orono, County of Durham, Ontario on February 11, 1839 being one of ten children of Methodist Episcopal minister, Rev. George and Laura Jones.

He received a common and grammar school education and in 1854 began the study of medicine, afterward attending Victoria College in Toronto and the University of Buffalo Medical College. He graduated in the fall of 1857 with his M.D.

Dr. George W. Jones commenced his medical career in Prince Albert in early 1859 and entered into a partnership with his younger brother, Richard, when he graduated from medical school. About 1861 he married Almira C., at Reach Twp. In October 1866 the young doctor was appointed Associate Coroner for the County of Ontario. In 1868, the brothers opened an office above Allison's Drug Store, and also opened a Medical Hall on Queen Street.

When he was 29 years of age, Dr. George Jones, became embroiled in controversy, when his application for a divorce from his wife Almira C. Jones for adultery was refused. He moved to Michigan, then returned a few years later, taking with him young Anna Paxton to be his bride. A malicious scandal followed, with Dr. Jones being accused of kidnapping young Miss Paxton, all of which disputed as mere fabrications by both Dr. Jones and his wife.

George Jones and Anna were married on December 22, 1871, at Port Huron, Michigan and immediately moved to Imlay City. Dr. Jones was the first physician to settle in Imlay City, Michigan, arriving there on December 23, 1870.

He immediately became active in the community, becoming the first president of the newly chartered Imlay City, served as postmaster for 12 years, was a member of the School Board, and spent 24 years on the Imlay City Fair Association, seven years as president.

Dr. Jones was in active practice until near the end of his life and in the full possession of his mental powers. He was honoured with a complimentary dinner to mark his whole life as a medical professional in Michigan. At this time he was the oldest physician in active practice in the state.

He passed away at Imlay City on Saturday, September 29, 1928 at the age of 89 years. He was held in high esteem and had been prominently identified with the business of Imlay City for 60 years at the time of his death.

His wife, Anna, predeceased him on February 13, 1914.

DR. JONES,  
ASSOCIATE CORONER  
FOR THE COUNTY OF ONTARIO,  
PRINCE ALBERT.  
*August 1866*

**DRS. JONES & JONES,**  
PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS,  
RESPECTFULLY advise the public that they have formed a partnership for the practice of their profession.  
All calls received at their respective places of residence will be promptly attended to.  
G. W. JONES, M. D. | R. JONES, M. D.  
Coroner, County of | Late residence of Dr.  
Ontario, | Oakley,  
PRINCE ALBERT. | PORT PERRY.  
April 20th, 1867. | 37

*Drs. Jones & Jones advertisement, April 1867.*



*Home of Dr. Richard Jones, Queen Street, Port Perry about 1877.*





# Grain Centre of Canada

Prince Albert became the second largest grain handling centre in Canada during the late 1850s and 1860s

MARKETS.			
PRINCE ALBERT, DEC. 11.			
Fall Wheat	3s 9d to	4s 6d	
Spring ditto	3s 0d	3s 6d	
Oats	0s 0d	1s 3d	
Other grain, none offering.			
Pork	20s 0d	27s 6d	
Beef	20s 0d	25s 0d	
Butter, fresh	1s 0d	0s 0d	
“ firkin	0s 9d	0s 10d	
Eggs	0s 0d	0s 9d	
Geese	1s 10d	2s 0d	
Turkeys	2s 6d	3s 9d	
Very little doing, in consequence of the bad state of the roads and scarcity of money; wheat and pork being the only articles which fetch ready sale for cash.			
TORONTO, DEC. 10.			
Wheat	3s 6d to	4s 4d	
Spring ditto	0s 0d	3s 6d	
Barley	0s 0d	2s 0d	
Rye	0s 0d	2s 6d	
Oats	0s 0d	1s 6d	
Peas	2s 6d	2s 9d	

Market Report December 10, 1857

THE MARKETS.		
PRINCE ALBERT, JULY 6, 1859		
Fall Wheat	1 35	a 1 50
Spring Wheat	1 20	a 1 30
Oats	0 50	a 0 60
Peas	0 75	a 0 86½
Barley	0 90	
Pork	6 00	a 7 00
Beef	5 50	a 6 00
Green Hides	6 00	
Butter (fresh)	0 12½	
Eggs	0 10	a 0 0
Wool	0 20	a 0 27

Market Report July 6, 1859

Prince Albert and Port Perry Markets.		
February, 5, 1863.		
Fall Wheat	\$0 80	a \$0 90
Spring Wheat	0 75	a 0 81
Flour	4 50	a 5 00
Oats	0 30	a 0 37
Peas	0 45	a 0 50
Barley	0 70	a 0 8
Hay	10 00	a 12 00
Butter	0 10	a 0 12
Cheese	0 10	a 0 12
Eggs	0 08	a 0 19
Pork	2 50	a 3 50
Beef	3 50	a 4 55
Potatoes	0 30	a 0 30
Apples	0 20	a 0 50
Cordwood	1 25	a 1 50
Green Hides	5 00	a 5 00

Market Report February 5, 1863

More than 160 years ago Prince Albert was hailed as the second largest grain buying centre in Canada!

It was the first major settlement in Reach Township and, for several years it was the commercial centre not just of Reach, but the surrounding townships as well!

When our pioneer forefathers hacked their way into the forests of Reach, their first task was to provide a shelter for their families. Their next task was to clear land on which to grow food for their own consumption. But, as more land was cleared, and more crops were produced, the early settlers had some left over for sale. They would then seek out places to sell their produce.

James and Andrew Laing of Oshawa had a highly profitable general store in Oshawa. As their business grew, they began to look for further opportunities to expand. They decided to venture into the buying and selling of grain. Realizing that Prince Albert would be a good place to set up a grain buying business, thus providing the farmers in the area and to the north with a convenient place to sell their grain, they asked one of their employees, Thomas C. Forman to operate a store for them in Prince Albert.

Forman agreed and a large barn was built in Prince Albert to store the grain. His store and barn were on the north side of the 5th Concession just west of Old Simcoe Road. Forman married Laing's daughter. When his father-in-law died, Forman took over full control of the business in Prince Albert.

**New Fall and Winter Goods**

Is now complete. The Stock is unusually large and varied, and will be

**SOLD CHEAP FOR CASH!**

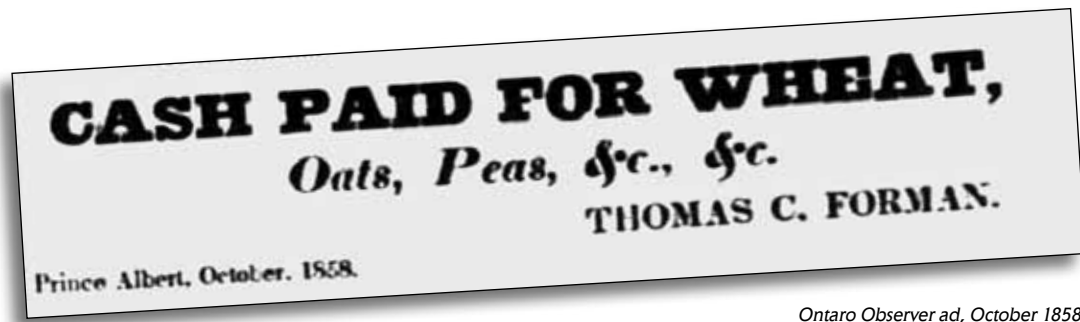
Or anything that can be converted into Cash, or on credit, to customers who pay promptly, on cash terms.

**CASH PAID AT ALL TIMES FOR**

*Oats,*  
*Barley,*  
*Peas,*  
*Corn & Wheat.*

**G. & M. CURRIE**

Prince Albert Oct. 12, 1858.



*Ontario Observer ad, October 1858*

Another major grain buyer in Prince Albert was George Currie who opened a store immediately west of Forman in 1844, in partnership with Aaron Ross. Currie became the principal grain merchant in the community for many years.

The fact that Prince Albert became the second largest grain handling centre in Canada was due to the large numbers of people who ventured into the grain buying business. Other grain centres had elevators able to handle large volumes of grain. No grain elevators were ever built in Prince Albert. Here the buyers stored their purchases in barns and all the grain was handled by shovels.

In addition to T.C. Forman, George Currie and Aaron Ross, a number of other businessmen ventured into the grain buying business including: Abner Hurd's son Prosper, Joshua Wright and other small operators.

The seasonal nature of grain buying meant that the buyers had to have other sources of income

for the remainder of the year. In the case of T.C. Forman and George Currie, they each ran general stores. Prosper Hurd was a carpenter, Aaron Ross ran a shoe shop, and Joshua Wright a shoe and boot manufacturer.

On January 27, 1859, The Ontario Observer reported; *"Prince Albert has been unusually enlivened by the arrival of an astonishing number of teams bringing in an immense quantity of wheat. We now have no less than six extensive buyers of wheat."*

It was at this time, 1859 that Prince Albert assumed its role as the second largest grain handling centre in Canada! In the period from 1851 to 1861, the number of acres of wheat in Reach Township alone doubled from just under 5,000 acres to 10,000, while the bushels of wheat almost tripled from 77,000 to just under 200,000 bushel.

Prince Albert's dominance ended with the arrival of the railway to Port Perry in 1871.



*Paxton-Tate Marsh Harvester about 1865.*

### **The Marsh Harvester.**

During the 1860s, the Paxton, Tate & Co. of Port Perry secured a patent for the manufacture and sale of the Marsh Harvester, which was boon to harvesting wheat and other grains.

The manufacturers maintain that the Marsh Harvester is the cheapest, the most durable, has the lightest draft, and is the greatest labour saving machine of the age, and give the following reasons to substantiate this assumption:

There is a saving of \$230 in cutting one hundred acres of grain, by using the Marsh Harvester, in preference to the combined hand rake reaper, and it is the most durable because of its simplicity in construction.





# The Grain Merchants



## Major T. C. Forman

Major T.C. Forman was one of Prince Albert's most colourful characters, and he played a significant role in laying the economic foundations of this community. In fact he became one of the largest grain merchants in Ontario during the 1850s.

Thomas Chalmers Forman was born on October 28 in St. Fergus, Aberdeenshire Scotland in 1827. As a teenager he set out on his own to make his fortune in the Canada. He found his way to Oshawa where he met another Scotsman, James C. Laing, a successful and prosperous grain merchant.

Laing was immediately impressed with the energy of the bright eyed young Thomas Forman. When Laing decided to expand his grain merchant business, he looked north to Prince Albert which had no grain merchant to service the many farmers in Reach Township. He sent young Thomas to open up an operation buying and selling grain.

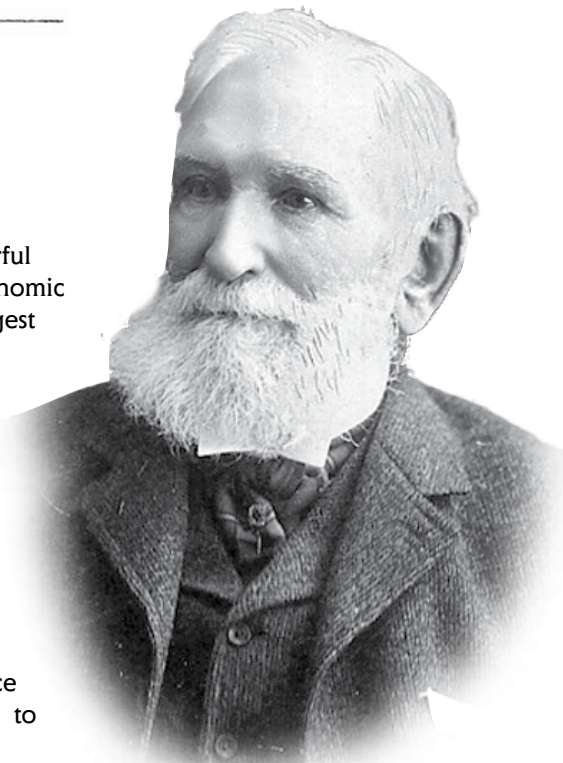
Forman prospered and felt that he had enough success and credibility with his employer to ask for his daughter's hand in marriage. Thomas and Margaret were married in 1845. Tragedy struck the young family in on April 20, 1863 when Margaret died of cholera and the following year their 15 month old daughter Janet died.

By 1850 Prince Albert had evolved into the second largest grain market in Canada and Thomas Forman was the leading merchant.

In January 1866 Captain T.C. Forman volunteered to go to the front to fight the Fenians when they crossed the Niagara River into Fort Erie. After returning, at a Patriotic Concert in 1901, he was presented a Fenian Raid Medal for his service in the Fenian Raids of 1866, and was decorated for his long service to the military. His generosity in the organization and maintenance of a Volunteer Company was unprecedented in Canada.

Following his military service he returned to his grain business in Prince Albert. But by the the first train of the Whitby to Port Perry Railway arrived in Port Perry in November 1871, all the grain merchants except Mr. Forman had made the move to Port Perry.

T.C Forman finally sold his merchandise and sold his store in Prince Albert in 1874 and moved his business to Port Perry where he opened one of the largest dry goods, grocery and hardware stores in the town. He continued to live in Prince Albert until 1885 when he built a large brick home in Port Perry at the corner of Queen and Caleb Street.



Thomas Forman



The Major, white haired, distinguished and highly respected. The community was shocked to hear of his sudden death when he collapsed on the Queen Street, near the Town Hall, while rushing to the scene of a fire in the centre of town.

Thomas Chalmers Forman was 76 years old when he died on January, 4, 1904, and in spite of the cold January weather the entire community turned out for his funeral. He was laid to rest at the Pine Grove Cemetery in Prince Albert where a large monument marks his burial and commemorates his long and colourful life.

### DISSOLUTION.

The Partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned in the Village of Prince Albert, County of Ontario, under the style of

### CURRIE & ROSS,

Has this day been dissolved by expiration of time. The business will be continued by Mr. G. Currie. A Ross will pay all liabilities and collect all debts due the said firm.

GEO. CURRIE.  
A. ROSS.

September 1st, 1870.

### AUCTION SALE! OF Store, Storehouse & Village Lots IN PRINCE ALBERT.

The Subscriber will offer for sale by Public Auction on

### MONDAY, 3rd May, 1875

That Storehouse and Lot formerly occupied by him in the Village of Prince Albert.

The Store is one of the largest buildings in the place, being 50 ft long by 40 ft wide, and is well finished with solid Oak Counters, Butternut Cornices and Drawers. Large Windows, Cases, &c., with Stone Cellar the full size of Building.

This would make one of the best dwelling houses in the township at very little expense, or if required could easily be taken down and rebuilt.

The Storehouse is 50 ft by 26 feet, and the Lot 100 ft by 99. Each will be sold separately or jointly as may be required.

At the same time will be offered a first rate Double Carriage, cost \$300, and is very little the worse of wear. A NEW Lumber Wagon, and other Chattel property.

Terms of Sale.—For Store, Storehouse and Lot half cash; balance as may be agreed on. For Wagon, Carriage, &c., credit to 1st Nov., with interest at 2 per cent from date if not paid when due.

T. C. FORMAN.

Prince Albert, April 21, 1875.

The Sale of Mrs. Moggridge's Hotel Property takes place same day MONDAY, 3rd May, (and not Tuesday as formerly advertised) at 2 o'clock precisely.

T. C. FORMAN.

## REMOVAL REMOVAL!

THE SUBSCRIBER begs respectfully to inform his numerous customers, and the public generally, that he has removed from his Old Stand on Simcoe Street, to his

### NEW AND COMMODIOUS PREMISES ON KING STREET,

2 Doors west of G. & M. CURRIE'S, where he has just opened out a LARGE STOCK of

### DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,

Crockery,  Hardware,

### BOOTS AND SHOES, &c., &c.

And having imported largely from the ENGLISH MARKETS, he is prepared to sell at unusually

### LOW PRICES FOR CASH,

Or on his usual terms of Credit to good paying Customers.

To do justice to CASH PAYING CUSTOMERS, he will deduct, for Cash, 10 per cent. on all purchases over \$1.

ALL KINDS OF FARM PRODUCE TAKEN IN EXCHANGE.

T. C. FORMAN.

Prince Albert, June 8 1859.

## BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

FOR

### NEW GOODS & CHEAP GOODS

AT THE

### Broadway Emporium!

THE Subscriber begs to intimate that he has now to hand one of the largest and best assorted Stock of Goods in every department, that he has ever had the pleasure of offering to a discerning public, and which he has determined TO SELL AT LOW PRICES to suit the times, for Cash only, being tired of the Credit business, and believing it to be to the advantage of both Buyer and Seller, to deal for Cash or its equivalent, every possible advantage will be given to those who can pay the Ready Money.

Just compare the following with Prices charged anywhere in this County:

Dress Goods in Orleans, Cobourgs, Reys,	2,000 lbs Tobacco, from . . . . .	1s 6d per lb
Flaids, Winesys, &c., from . . . . .	Sugar, (beautiful), 10 lbs for . . . . .	5s 0d
Black Cloth, double width,	Rice, 17 lbs for . . . . .	5s 0d
from . . . . .	Currants, (new fruit), 8 lbs for . . . . .	5s 0d
Tweeds, all wool, regular price	Pails, 2 hoops . . . . .	0s 11d
5s 7 1/2d, from . . . . .	Pails, 3 hoops . . . . .	1s 1 1/2d
Satinets . . . . .	Coal Oil, per gallon . . . . .	3s 4d
Cotton Yarn, American . . . . .	Cut Nails, only . . . . .	18s 9d per 100 lbs
Cotton Bags, (heavy), per dozen . . . . .	Herrings . . . . .	15s per bb
Men's Fur Caps, good . . . . .	White Fish, [Fall caught] . . . . .	30s do
Boys' do do . . . . .		
Young Hyson Tea, 4s 6d per lb., guaranteed		
equal to any sold in this County at 5s 6d.		

And other Goods equally Low.

A splendid lot of

### Furs, Boots, Shoes, Ready-made Clothing, - - Cheap!

Parties will remember the above prices are for Cash only. Those having accounts now open will be supplied with Goods on credit to the first of January, after which the Books will positively be closed, unless where parties have paid up in full and definite arrangements have been made. Those having accounts, &c., now past due must remember they have already had due notice to pay up, and unless settled at once, they will find them in the Sheriff's and Bailiffs' hands for Collection forthwith, as on account of heavy losses sustained this year on wheat and flour, it is impossible to grant longer indulgence. With many thanks to those who have heretofore kindly favoured me with their patronage, and trusting still to receive a continuance of the same liberal support.

Prince Albert, Dec. 5, 1861.

T. C. FORMAN.



*There are no pictures of the commercial buildings in Prince Albert, Ontario, during the 19th Century. The above photograph is not from Prince Albert. It is used only as an example of the style of building typical of the 1850s and 1860s in Ontario and we have added T.C. Forman's name to identify a building that might have been similar to his.*

### Thomas Forman's Location

Definite proof of the location of Thomas Forman's store is difficult to prove beyond a doubt. Information obtained from Ontario Land Registry records, and newspaper advertisements show that he owned a number of properties in Prince Albert during the 1850s and 1860s.

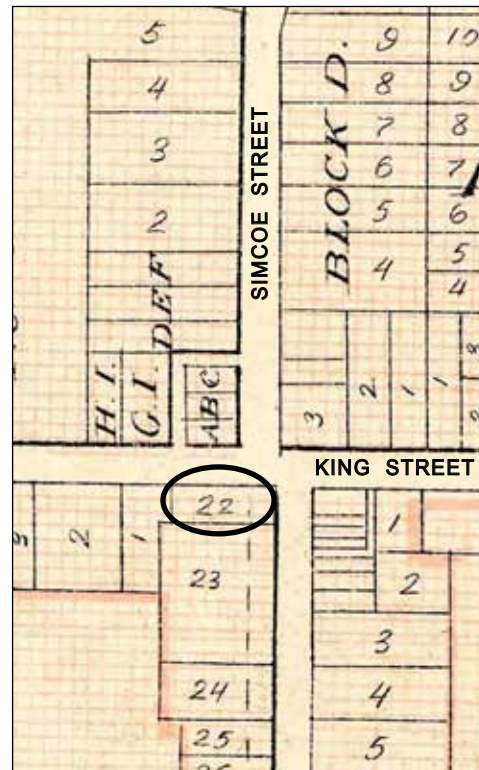
As best can be ascertained, from these records, it appears his main store during this period was on Lot #22, at the intersection of Simcoe and King Street, Prince Albert (circled lot on village plan).

Forman's store was one lot north of the popular Victoria Hotel, located on Lot #23.

The illustrated drawing above, is not George Currie's actual storefront and is not meant to portray the store would have looked like the drawing.

The sketch is only provided to present an representation of what an Ontario merchantile store would have looked like ,circa 1860.

In arriving at the design, information was obtained by researching historical construction documentation and local buildings of the same era which are still in the Port Perry, Prince Albert communities.





# The Grain Merchants

## George Currie

George Currie was born in Scarboro on Aug. 21, 1821, the son of John and Hannah (Lockey) Currie. As a young man of 23-years old, he moved to Prince Albert from Oshawa to open a grain buying business in the year 1844. He and his brother Mark also opened a general merchandising business consisting of dry goods, liquors, wines and children's wear in the village.

Mr. Currie was married to Sarah Ann (Cronk) on Dec. 3, 1845, and they raised a family of six children: John, Catherine, Luther, Sarah, Hannah and George Jr. All children were born in Prince Albert between 1846 and 1862.

Throughout the 1850s, the Curries became one of the principal grain purchasing businesses in the area, and it was during this time that George tried out his hand a politics. In 1857 he was elected Reeve of Reach Township. He later held the position of Treasurer of the Township for a number of years, before moving to Port Perry.

The Currie brothers dissolved their partnership as General Merchants in September 1861 with George continuing the business. During the 1860s, he formed another partnership with Aaron Ross becoming one of the largest grain companies in the county, as well as respected clothing, hardware and grocery merchants.

During the early 1870s, business began to trickle out of Prince Albert and George Currie, realizing that the tide of business was on the move, purchased a property on the north-east corner of Queen & Perry St. In 1872, he constructed an attractive two-storey



George Currie



Continued on page 19

**SOMETHING NEW.**

 1859. 

**G. & M. CURRIE**  
 HAVE RECEIVED THEIR USUAL FULL ASSORTMENT OF  
**GOODS IN EVERY DEPARTMENT!**

The stock is large and very complete, and offered to the public on the most liberal terms.  
 Prince Albert, May, 1859.

**1862.) (1862.**

**SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS.**

**GEO. CURRIE**  
 HAS RECEIVED A VERY LARGE AND  
**COMPLETE ASSORTMENT !**  
 OF  
**New Goods !**  
 IN ALL  
**THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**  
 INCLUDING ALL THAT IS  
**New, Cheap, and Useful,**  
 WHICH HE WILL BE  
**HAPPY TO SHEW AND SELL !**  
 ☞ **CALL AND SEE !** ☞

Prince Albert, May 7, 1862. 21-4





This picture of S.H. Christian’s store in Manchester, has been used as a representation of storefronts found in Prince Albert during the 1860s. The signage, “Currie & Ross” has been added to show what the store may have looked like. There are no pictures of the commercial buildings in Prince Albert, Ontario, during the 19th Century.

### George Currie’s Location

Definite proof of the location of George Currie’s store is difficult to prove beyond a doubt. Information obtained from Ontario Land Registry records, and newspaper advertisements show that he owned a number of properties in Prince Albert during the 1850s and 1860s.

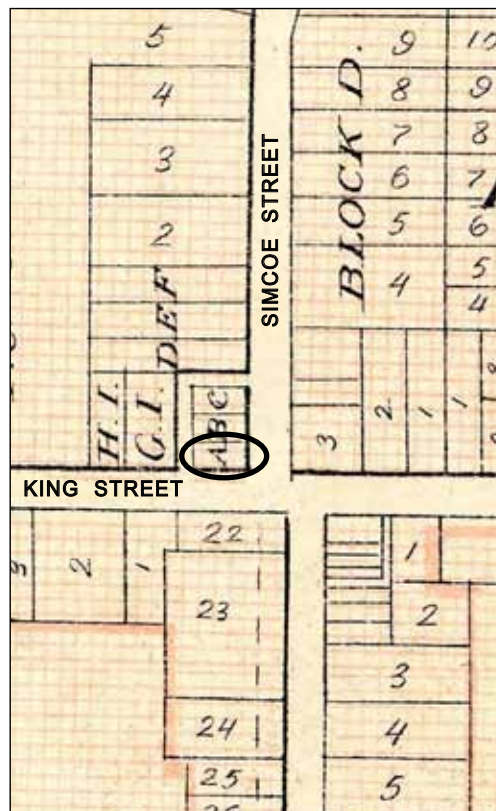
As best can be ascertained, from these records, it appears his main store during this period was on “Lot A” on the northwest side of Simcoe and King Street, Prince Albert (circled lot on village plan).

Currie’s establishment was located across King St., from Thomas Forman’s store and warehouse.

The illustrated drawing above, is not George Currie’s actual storefront and is not meant to portray the store would have looked like the drawing.

The sketch is only provided to present an representation of what an Ontario merchantile store would have looked like ,circa 1860.

In arriving at the design, information was obtained by researching historical construction documentation and local buildings of the same era which are still in the Port Perry, Prince Albert communities.



Continued from page 16

brick building into which he moved his new business.

During the summer of 1873 he built an impressive new home at the south-west corner of Queen and Ella St. This was also the same year that he began construction of his most notable building, the large grain elevator located near



George Currie built this impressive red-brick block on Queen St., Port Perry in 1872, and moved his businesses from Prince Albert. (colorized photo)

the railway station at Port Perry's lakefront.

Mr. Currie tried his hand at provincial politics in July 1876, running as a candidate for North Ontario County, but losing his bid to W.H. Gibbs of Whitby.

George Currie sold his interests in Currie's Elevator to Aaron Ross towards the end of the 1870s, and retired from business. Sometime later, George and Sarah Currie moved to Montana with their youngest son George Jr., where they purchased and lived on a ranch until the death of Mrs. Currie on May 9, 1891. Mr. Currie returned to Toronto as some point to spend the remainder of his life at the home of his daughter and son-in-law.

The Currie's daughter, Sarah, was married to noted lawyer Norman F. Paterson, who had practiced in Port Perry for about 18 years, as well as held the position of village Clerk.

George Currie was 81 years of age when he passed away in Toronto, on Saturday, October 4, 1902, at the residence of Sarah and N.F. Paterson.

**Fresh Arrivals!**  
**New Goods!**  
 Are constantly being received  
**SUITABLE FOR THE SEASON,**  
 And at much  
**REDUCED PRICES.**  
 Cottons, Shirting, Prints, Tickings, Gambroons, Summer Coat-  
 ing, Ready-made Clothing, Ladies' Hats and Bonnets, Men's  
 Straw and Felt Hats, in great variety.

Cash paid for Wool.  
 Cash paid for Wheat.  
 Cash paid for Oats.

**Currie & Ross.**

Prince Albert, June, 13, 1866.

**GURRIE & ROSS**  
 Are receiving their Spring Goods  
**DIRECT FROM ENGLAND**  
 A LARGE PORTION  
**EXPECTED DAILY!**

**CURRIE & ROSS**  
 HAVE  
**FOR SALE!**

Salt, Plaster, Timothy Seed, Tares, Garden and Field Seed,  
 Clover Seed, ALL NEW AND FRESH.

**SEED BARLEY, PEAS & OATS.**  
 Prince Albert, March 17, 1869.



## THE MARKETS,

PRINCE ALBERT, JUNE 22, 1859

	\$ cts.	a	\$ cts.
Fall Wheat.....	1 35	a	1 50
Spring Wheat.....	1 20	a	1 30
Oats.....	0 50	a	0 60
Peas.....	0 75	a	0 86½
Barley.....	0 90		
Pork.....	6 00	a	7 00
Beef.....	5 50	a	6 00
Green Hides.....	6 00		
Butter(fresh).....	0 18		
Eggs.....	0 10	a	0 0
Geese.....	0 50	a	0 75
Turkeys.....	0 50	a	0 75
Wool.....	0 25	a	0 25

### Farmers Read This !

## PORT PERRY UNION MILLS IN FULL OPERATION !

THE undersigned feeling grateful for past favors, would respectfully intimate to the public that they have their New Grist and Flouring Mill in full operation. It has been built specially for Gristing, on the latest improved principal, with a view of insuring each person who favors them with their custom work, flour from their own wheat, and to accomplish this, the proprietors have succeeded in getting the machinery so arranged that the flour empties directly from the Bolt to the Bag. They have also engaged

**A First Class Miller,** who has had long experience in gristing and merchant work ; consequently the subscribers feel confident that they are in a position to give the very

### BEST OF SATISFACTION

to all who may favor them with their patronage.

Parties from a distance will get their Grist home with them.

## FLOURING !

Done for Farmers by the Barrel.

Give them a fair trial with Good Wheat, and by that they are willing to be judged.

T. & G. PAXTON.

Port Perry, May 12, 1862.

22-1f

Thomas & George Paxton advertise inviting farmers to bring their grain to their Union Mills for processing in 1862.

# Wheat News

Wheat crops were an important part of the economy of Prince Albert during the 1850s and 1860s, and every season there were numerous reports on the volume and quality of the crops reported in the local Ontario Observer.

### The Crops in North Ontario.

We have taken considerable pains to ascertain, from every farmer we have come in contact with, what position the various coming crops are in, as well as the future prospects of that staple commodity, the wheat crop. It is pretty generally known that the townships of Reach and Brock, and, indeed, we may say, the largest portion of North Ontario, has been a large wheat-growing country for a number of years, and also that the weevil has, in very few instances, been seen. Last year the wheat sustained considerable damage in consequence of rust. We are extremely happy to learn that it is an ascertained fact that the crops in this neighborhood are in splendid condition ; and hopes are confidently entertained that we shall be blessed with an abundant harvest.

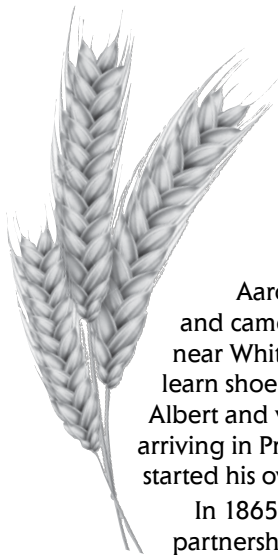
Prince Albert, June 1859

Prince Albert has been unusually enlivened by the arrival of an astonishing number of teams bringing in an immense quantity of wheat. We have now no less than six extensive buyers of wheat, viz :—Messrs G. & M. Currie, T. C. Forman, J. Gilchrist, two buyers who have come from Belleville, and one from Columbus. We intend next week furnishing an estimate of the greater portion of the wheat brought into Prince Albert, Borelia, and Port Perry, and thus afford our readers some idea of the extraordinarily large amount of business done in the village by our enterprising merchants

Prince Albert, June 1858



# The Grain Merchants



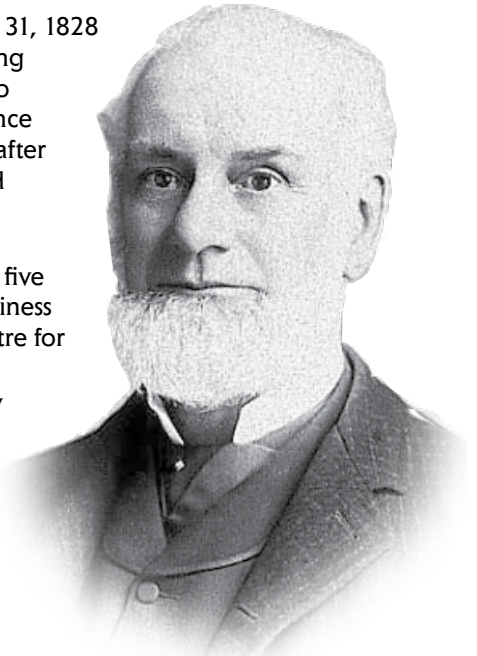
## Aaron Ross

Aaron Ross was born in London England on July 31, 1828 and came to Canada when he was 14 years old, settling near Whitby. After a few years he moved to Brooklin to learn shoemaking, and upon completion moved to Prince Albert and worked at his trade for about a year. Shortly after arriving in Prince Albert he married Lucinda (Fitchett) and started his own business manufacturing boots and shoes.

In 1865, Aaron Ross and George Currie formed a partnership and carried on the dry goods business for five years. In 1870 he moved to Port Perry. His shrewd business tact showed that the town would be the business centre for the future.

He then built the Ross Block on Queen Street, a fine three story building which was destroyed in the great fire of 1884; and was rebuilt in that year. The business from 1871 to 1876 was carried on by Aaron Ross. In 1876 the firm of A. Ross and Sons (Robert and William) was carried on about four years, after which the business was carried on by the two sons. Of late the business of A. Ross and Sons has been owned solely by Mr. Wm. Ross.

Aaron Ross was identified for more than 30 years with the purchase of grain and seeds from farmers of Reach and Scugog Townships, operating warehouses at Seagrave and elevators at Port Perry and Manchester, after establishing his grain business in Prince Albert during the 1860s in partnership with George Currie. About 1876, he purchased George Currie's



Aaron Ross

grain elevator in Port Perry, and operated it as the Ross Elevator for a number of years, before his son William joined him.

His strong points were he business ability and indomitable will all through life from his first start in

**CURRIE & ROSS**

Are receiving their Spring Goods

**DIRECT FROM ENGLAND**

A LARGE PORTION

**EXPECTED DAILY!**



**CURRIE & ROSS**

HAVE

**FOR SALE!**

Salt. Timothy Seed.  
Plaster. Tares.  
Clover Seed. Garden and Field Seed,  
ALL NEW AND FRESH.

**SEED BARLEY, PEAS & OATS.**

Prince Albert, March 17, 1860.

**BOOTS AND SHOES!**

THE SUBSCRIBER BEGS TO ANNOUNCE TO THE PUBLIC GENERALLY that he has at present one of the largest and best-assorted stocks of Boots and Shoes ever offered in this Township. They are principally of my own manufacture, comprising all the varieties, both fancy and substantial, for Gents, Ladies and Children, and are

*Of Superior Style and Workmanship,*

AND SUITED TO THE SPRING AND SUMMER TRADE.

As I have been engaged in, and given up my whole attention to, the manufacture of boots and shoes for the last twelve years, I feel confident that I can suit my numerous friends, both for neatness and durability. In connection with my long experience, I have facilities for manufacturing which are not surpassed by any other establishment in the County. - I am prepared to offer, at

**WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,**

At less prices than those of equal quality can be procured in the County. I have, also,

**A LARGE STOCK OF LEATHER**

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, AND

**SHOE-FINDINGS!**

Of every kind, kept constantly on hand.

I hope you will give me an opportunity to show you my stock, feeling assured that I can meet your wants, both as to quality and price.

Prince Albert, March 9, 1860. **AARON ROSS.**

## PRINCE ALBERT

business in Prince Albert up to the date of his death - it was a series of success from first to last, so much so that the deceased during his business life was a provisional director of the Dominion Band and always took an interest in that prosperous institution.

He was at one time a director of the old Midland Railway, before being taken over by the G.T.R., and was also a prominent member of the Toronto Board of Trade.

His force was his business tack and ability. He was as public spirited a man as was to be seen in his support of institutions of religion and educational character; at one time he was vice president of Whitby Ontario Lakes' College and was often chosen by his church to represent that body in conference.

In politics he was a consistent Reformer, but never accepted any public position. As a Methodist he was loyal to his church enterprises; the deceased will greatly be missed by the church of his choice in this town. He was also a liberal giver to the poor, but very few knew of it. Thus has closed the private and public career of a man who was always a wise councillor; one who was loved and respected by his family.

Aaron Ross died in Port Perry on Saturday, July 11, 1896 at 68 years of age. Left to mourn his loss is his family, consisting of his wife Lucinda, sons Messrs. Robert, William, James, Fred, Charles and John, and daughters Mrs. Hossack and Sarah.


The large funeral two days after his death was a tribute of respect and esteem in which the deceased and the family are held in the town and vicinity. Services were held in the Methodist Church. To show the esteem in which the deceased was held by the church, his seat, the pulpit and choir railing were heavily draped in black and ornamented with beautiful white and purple flowers.

Pallbearers were Messrs. J.H. Brown, H. Doubt, Thos. Courtice, J. Powers, C.W. Jones and William Brock. After the solemn services at the church the large funeral cortege wended its way to the Pine Grove Necropolis for interment.



*This large grain elevator was constructed by George Currie in 1874, and sold to Aaron Ross two years later. It was located on Port Perry's lakefront just north of the railroad station.  
(picture has been colorized)*

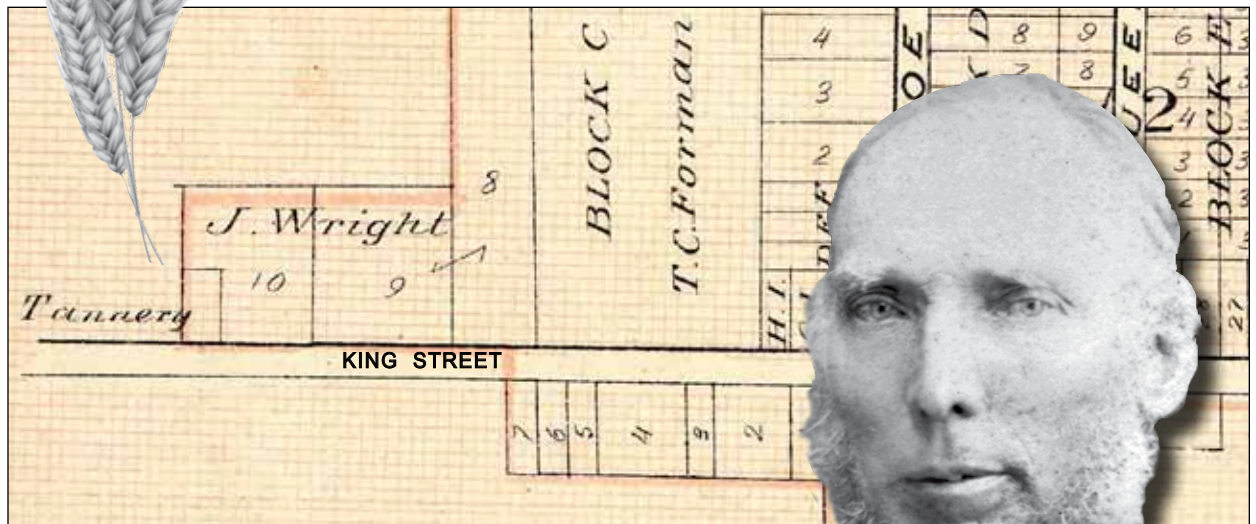
**A. ROSS,**  
MANUFACTURER OF  
**BOOTS AND SHOES,**  
KEEPS CONSTANTLY ON HAND A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF  
**HOME MANUFACTURED AND IMPORTED WORK!**  
ALSO,—AN ASSORTMENT OF  
**Shoemakers' Findings and Sole Leather,**  
UPPER KIPS, CALF SKINS AND LINING SKINS.  
**PRINCE ALBERT, REACH,**  
**OPPOSITE T. C. FORMAN'S STORE.**



December 10th, 1857. 1



# The Grain Merchants

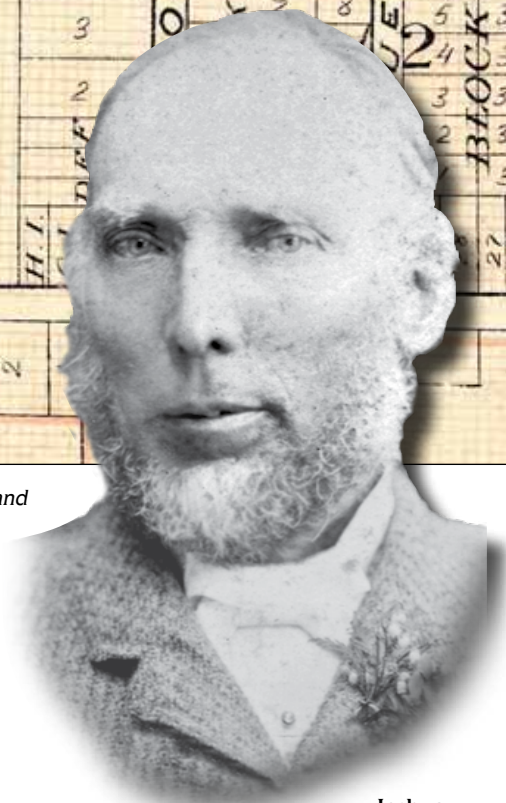


This village plan, dated 1877, shows the location of Joshua Wright's tannery and residence, just west the four corners at Simcoe and King Street, Prince Albert.

## Joshua Wright

Joshua Wright, who was born in Ireland in 1825, was one of the areas most active and influential political leaders a period for more than 30 years, being elected councillor and reeve in both the township of Reach and in Port Perry and also serving as Warden of Ontario County.

Joshua began his business career in Prince Albert as a successful maker of boots and shoes gradually expanding and establishing his own tannery on property to the west of his home. He expanded his operation to Manchester in the mid 1860s. He was the first in the village to install a steam powered engine into his tannery business.



Joshua Wright

**Leather! Leather!!**

**J. WRIGHT**

**B**EGBS TO ANNOUNCE TO ALL WHO deal in LEATHER, (and who does not?) that he is prepared to supply them with that necessary article upon the SHORTEST NOTICE and SHORTEST TERMS,

**At the BEAVER-MEADOW TANNERY, PRINCE ALBERT.**

About 500 SIDES of UPPER, and a good supply of KIP, CALF and SOLE LEATHER, now on hand.

*Highest price paid for Hides.*

Prince Albert, Dec. 10, 1857. 1

**IMPORTANT QUESTION.**

WHERE CAN WE GET GOOD

**BOOTS & SHOES, CHEAP ?**

The question satisfactorily answered by calling at

**Joshua & Wright's**

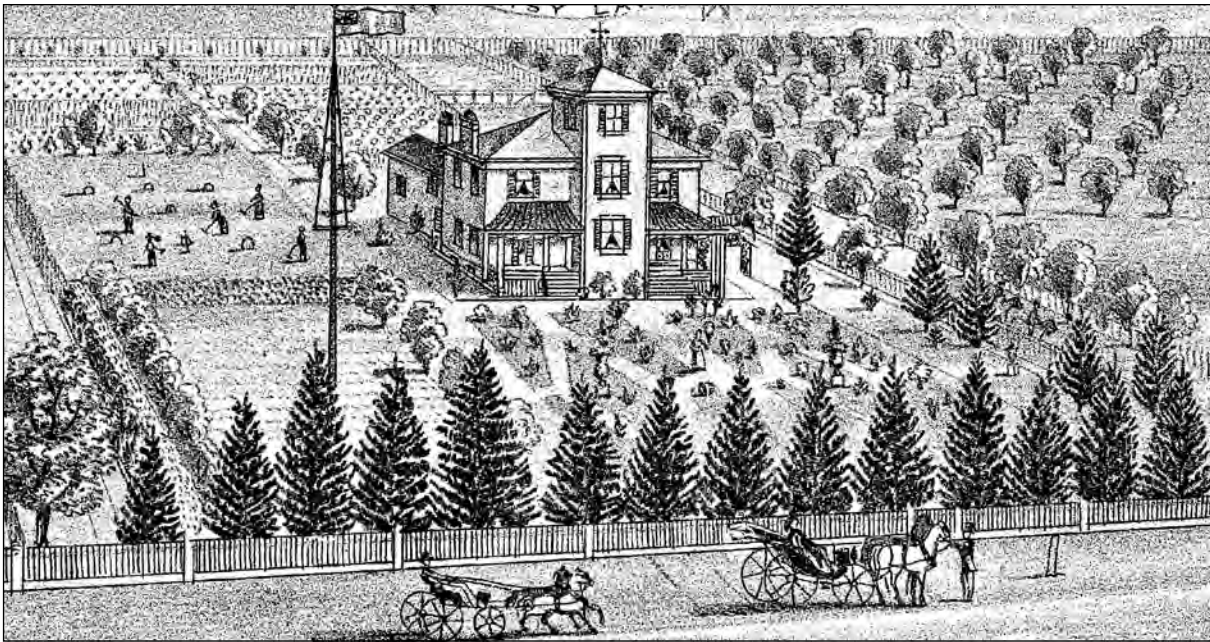
**BOOT AND SHOE STORE,**

**PRINCE ALBERT, C. W.**

CASH PAID AT ALL TIMES FOR HIDES, SHEEP SKINS, AND TALLOW.



## PRINCE ALBERT



Sketch from the Ontario County Atlas of 1877, illustrates the property of Joshua Wright. It was located just west of the intersection of the village of Prince Albert. Below, is a photograph of the Wright residence, as it looked circa 1890.

With the shift in trade, he moved his Boot and Shoe Store to Port Perry and in 1877 purchased and outfitted the Sexton Mill property for a large new tannery.

In September 1880 he leased the Port Perry Grain Elevator and ventured into grain buying. When his lease on the building ran out, Mr. Wright proceeded to build a new grain elevator on his property near the railway station, finally selling out in 1883 to D.C. Downey.

In 1891, Mr. Wright returned to the grain business, taking over his building, which had been closed down and refitted it for an elevator and grain facility. Less than a year the entire building and stock was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Wright started his municipal career as a councillor in 1859 when he was elected as a

councillor for Reach Township. In 1866 he was elected Reeve of Reach, a position he filled for three terms, and was honoured in 1869 by being elected Warden of Ontario County.

Between 1877 and 1893 he was elected as Reeve of Port Perry on seven occasions. During his years as Reeve of Port Perry, Mr. Wright served as a commissioner of the Scugog Bridge and through his efforts convinced his colleagues at the County of Ontario to complete the bridge as a permanent roadway. He retired from municipal politics at the end of his term in 1893. In 1871, Mr. Wright tried his hand at provincial politics, running as a candidate for North Ontario Riding, but was defeated by Charles Paxton.

On the home front, he served in the Reach Volunteer Infantry Company as a Captain during the 1860s and was a director of the Prince Albert Public Hall Joint Stock Company.

Joshua Wright was married to Mary Ann (Richardson) and they had three children. She died in November 1897 and a funeral was held at the beautiful Prince Albert residence and she was buried at Pine Grove Cemetery. Joshua was 63 years old when he passed three months later, on February 2, 1898. He was buried beside his wife at Pine Grove Cemetery.



Joshua Wright's new elevator built about 1880 along the railroad line, Port Perry.

# Places of Worship

The pioneer churches in Reach Township, including Prince Albert were simple structures, usually built of wood or logs.

Records show the first churches were raised in the far rural areas of the township in 1848. They were a Primitive Methodist on the 11th concession and a Presbyterian on the 12th concession. Also in 1848, a Presbyterian church was raised at Utica.

Prince Albert's first church was erected in 1851 – the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. It had long been needed in the village, the Wesleyan Methodists in being numerous, having had the benefits of preaching since 1830.

In 1852, the Wesleyan Methodist chapel was built in Utica, and four years later, the Wesleyan's opened their first church in Epsom.

In 1857 two more chapels were raised, the first an Episcopal Methodist near Borelia, on October 18, 1857; and the United Presbyterian Free Church at the north end of Prince Albert. The Presbyterian Free Church was a wood structure constructed at a cost of about \$2000.

A Bible Christian Church was opened in 1862 in the same section of the village.

By 1865 the village of Prince Albert boasted to

having a large, brick Wesleyan Methodist church; a Bible Christian Church, and the Presbyterian Church.

Up to this time, the Anglicans did not have a building of their own, but they held services every alternate Sabbath morning in the Presbyterian Free Church.



*The "Primitive Methodist Church" at Manchester is a good example of churches from the 1800s.*

## BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### PRINCE ALBERT

There is little information about the Bible Christian Church of Prince Albert, although records from the Ontario County Directory of 1869 published the church was built of wood in 1862.

The church was located on the east side of Simcoe Street, at the north end of the village, across from the Presbyterian Church.

The legal description of where it was constructed was Lot #17, in the 5th concession, Lot 25, Block H.

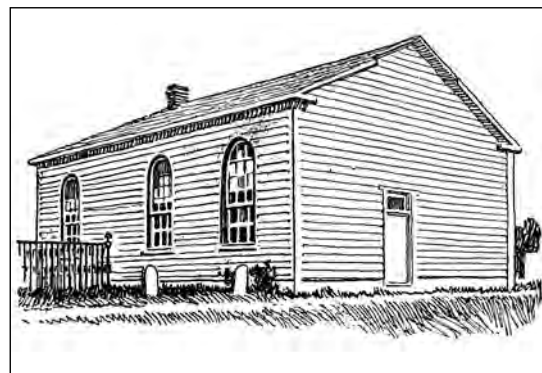
Years later the church underwent a thorough renovation and re-opened for services in August 1875.

Tragedy struck the Bible Christian parsonage in the village in March 16, 1880 when the house was discovered to be on fire, but despite the prompt efforts of the community, it was reduced to a few smoking embers in short time.

The church and the stables, located directly beside the parsonage, were both saved. (fire story page 43)

The Bible Christian congregation, and the Methodist Episcopal united their congregations with the Methodists of Canada, who began services in a new church consummated the first day of June, 1885.

Six months later, in December 1885, the property was sold to James Baird, editor of the *North Ontario Observer* newspaper.



*This sketch of a church from the mid-1800s provides an example of an early wood structure churches.*

# PRINCE ALBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A new church in Prince Albert, belonging to the United Presbyterians, was opened for public worship on December 8, 1857.

The church, located on Simcoe Street, was of frame construction, with Gothic styled doors and windows and an octagonal tower 25 feet height. The interior walls were about 18 feet high and the commodious building had comfortable seating for up to 300 people.

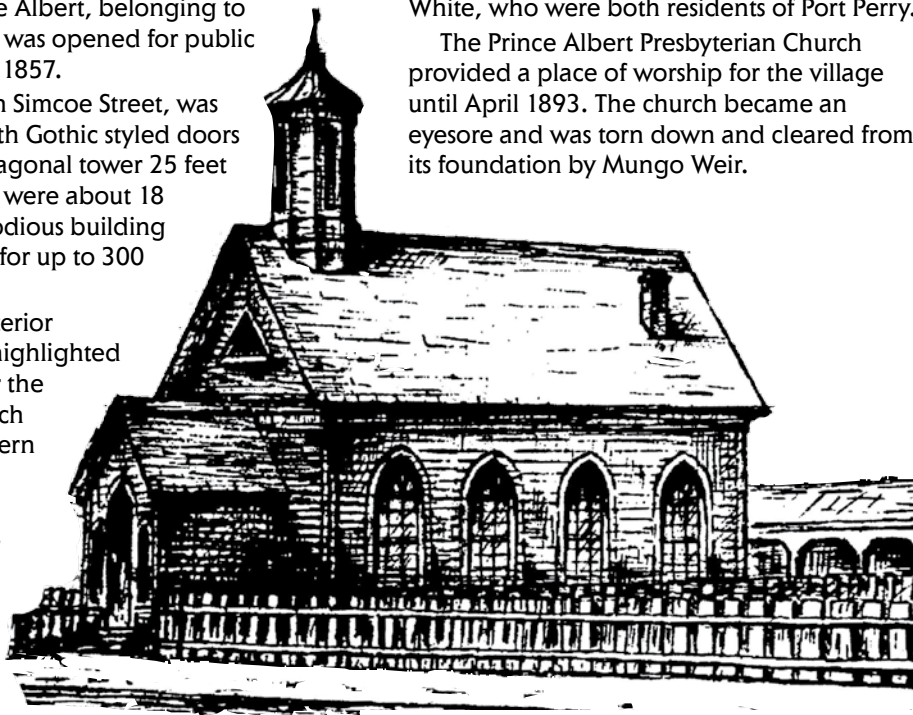
It had a handsome exterior appearance, which was highlighted with white paint. Cost for the Presbyterian Church, which was located on the northern side of the village, was estimated at \$2,000.

During the first service sermons were preached by Rev. A. Kennedy of Dunbarton and the Rev. R. Monteith, the pastor of the Prince Albert congregation. A second service was held the evening of December 9, 1857.

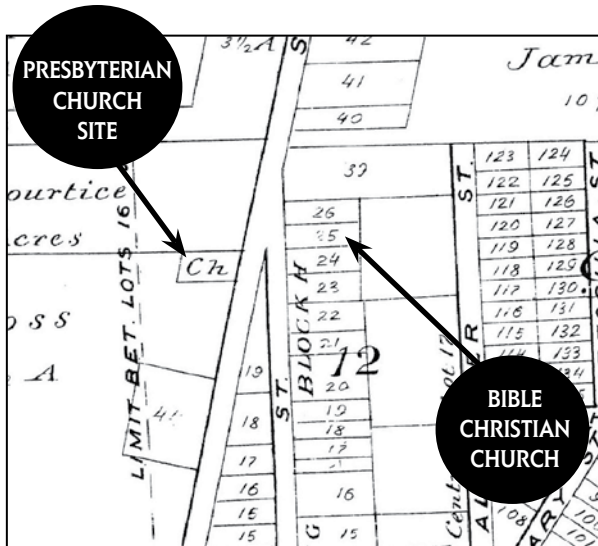
The church plan was provided by Silas J. Haight and the work of construction supervised by Mr.

White, who were both residents of Port Perry.

The Prince Albert Presbyterian Church provided a place of worship for the village until April 1893. The church became an eyesore and was torn down and cleared from its foundation by Mungo Weir.



1861 sketch of the Prince Albert Presbyterian Church.



The Presbyterian Free Church was located on the west side of Simcoe Street, (Old Simcoe Rd.), near the intersection with Jeffrey Street.

**PRESBYTERIAN FREE CHURCH**  
 Legal Description: Lot 16 & 17 in the 5th Concession  
 Lot #43; west of Simcoe Street

**BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
 Legal Description: Lot #17 in the 5th Concession  
 Lot #25; east of Simcoe Street

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PRINCE ALBERT.

We beg to inform our readers at a distance, that the new church here, belonging to the United Presbyterians, was opened for public worship on Sabbath, the 8th of last month. Sermons were preached by the Rev. A. Kennedy, of Dunbarton, and the Rev. R. Monteith, the pastor of the congregation. The collections amounted to over \$59. A public meeting was also held on the evening of Monday the 9th, when addresses were delivered by the above mentioned, and by the Rev. J. King, of Columbus, and the Rev. T. Sharp, of Utica. The church is a frame one, painted white, and is seated for upwards of 300. The doors and windows are gothic. The walls are about eighteen feet high; and from the roof in the front part, there arises an octagonal tower, measuring 25 feet. Altogether, this new church is a very excellent one, comfortably seated inside, and presenting a handsome appearance outside. The plan was given by Mr. Haight, and the work was superintended by Mr. White, both of Port Perry.

December 12, 1857



# WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

A Wesleyan Methodist Church had long been needed in Prince Albert before the village parishioners constructed the first church in the village about 1845. Prior to this, Methodists had been meeting for services in the common school-house since about 1830.

William H. Smith, publisher of the 1851 Canada Gazetteer, described the village as having a population of about 300 people. He wrote -

*"It appears to be a busy little place, being at a sufficient distance from Oshawa and Whitby to enable it to command a tolerable trade of its own.*

*It is pleasantly situated, and will probably in time become a thriving little town. It has been settled about eight years, and contains two tanneries and three asheries, and a Post Office. There is no Church at present in the village, but one is now being built by the Methodists."*

By 1857 the Methodist Church was in need of repairs and enlargement and the work was undertaken during the summer months adding a vestry to the church, over which was located a spacious gallery appropriate for the use of the choir.

The renovated Prince Albert Wesleyan Methodist Church was officially re-opened for divine worship on December 20th, 1857, with Rev. Mr. Spencer preaching in the morning and Rev. W. Stephenson during the evening service.

Eight years later the Prince Albert Wesleyan Methodist Church was destroyed by fire in 1865.

Undeterred they constructed a large, new 40'x55' brick building, at the corner of Queen and Barber Street, at a cost of about \$3,000. The church opened for services in September 30, 1866.

In 1885, a number of denominations, including the Wesleyan Methodists, joined together to form the Methodist Church of Canada. Not quite 50 years later, the Methodist Church became part of the United Church of Canada.

The Prince Albert United Church celebrated its 150th year in 2017.



Prince Albert Wesleyan Methodist Church.

RE-OPENING OF THE  
**WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.**

**T**HE Wesleyan Methodist Church will be RE-OPENED for DIVINE WORSHIP  
**On Sabbath Next, December 20th.**

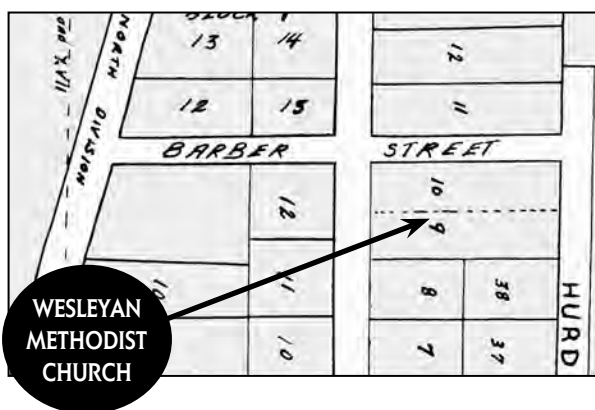
☞ The Rev. J. Spencer, Editor of the *Christian Guardian*, will preach at 10½ A.M., 2½ P.M., and the Rev. W. Willoughby, of Whitby, in the Evening at 6 o'clock.

☞ A Collection will be taken up after each Service to liquidate the expenses incurred.

**J. W. SAVAGE.**

Prince Albert, Dec. 17, 1857. 2

The renovated Wesleyan Methodist Church, opened in 1857, was located on the same property as the present Prince Albert United Church, on the southeast corner of Jeffrey & Barber Street.



RE-OPENING OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH,  
PRINCE ALBERT.

This Church, which has recently been undergoing repairs and enlargement, was re opened on Sunday last for Divine worship, when sermons were preached in the morning and afternoon by the Rev. Mr. Spencer, and in the evening by the Rev. W. Stephenson. Each service was well attended, and collections were taken up to defray expenses attendant upon the alterations. There is now a vestry attached to the church, over which is a spacious gallery, the front part being appropriated to the use of the choir. The gallery at the other extremity will now be used for the congregation.

December 2, 1857

# First Schools

In 1879 the number of students attending the Prince Albert Public School was 240, of which 115 were boys and 125 girls.



*Prince Albert school, circa 1875. The south wing was removed in 1934, and the original building is now used as a community hall.  
Original black & white picture colorized by j. Peter Hvidsten*

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## Prince Albert Sabbath Schools

Sabbath schools began to appear across Upper Canada beginning as early as the 1920s, but it wasn't until about a decade later, the first sabbath and local schools were organized in Reach Township.

Prince Albert was one of the first sabbath schools in the township, opening about 1830, but others followed, with schools being organized in Port Perry, Borelia, Prospect and Utica to name a few.

As near as can be determined the Wesleyan Church organized a "Sabbath School" in Prince Albert in 1830-1831. One of Reach Township's first settlers, Abner Hurd, was the driving force to establish a school, and he became the first Superintendent of the Prince Albert Sabbath School. It was a position he held for almost 30 years, until he retired in 1859.

During the school's Anniversary celebration, held in June 1859, Mr. Hurd was praised for his work and contributions to the success of the school, and presented a Bible subscribed by many scholars who attended the school. During a presentation address, William Robinson, editor of the Ontario Observer praised Mr. Hurd for so nobly sustaining, almost single-handed, the success of the Prince Albert school.

Mr. Hurd responded to his colleagues and students, recalling how 30 years earlier after collecting a small amount of money from the few scattered inhabitants of Reach Twp., he travelled to "Little York" (now Toronto) to obtain a quantity of second-hand books.

On his return, with the help of some friends, organized three schools - one in the vicinity of Columbus, one on the 9th Conc. of Whitby and one in Prince Albert. He said the quantity of books received constituted our library for quite a period of time; and from that time to the present, the Prince Albert Sabbath School, with the exception of a few short intervals, has been in continual operation.

# Prince Albert Public School

As early as 1828, the Crandells, Hurds, and Dayton, the earliest settlers of Reach Township, got together and built the first schoolhouse for their young children. It was of log construction and built on a knoll just west of Prince Albert village.

The school opened in the summer of 1829 and William Ashton, a Derbyshire man, was said to have been the first to teach in the school. A Scotsman named John James Alexander Cameron Cull is believed to have been the first permanent teacher in the township's new school.

A second school was built in the township on the front of the 4th concession about 1835, and a third school was built at Cedar Creek about 1841, just a few miles south of Prince Albert. Until this school was opened, only two schools had provided education classes for the entire township, including Prince Albert and Utica. By the year 1848 there were thirteen schools in Reach Township.

The exact date of construction of the Prince Albert Public School, as seen in the above picture, has not been determined, but it is believed to have been built during the 1850s. The original schoolhouse consisted of only the peaked section of the building.

As the number of students increased there became need for additional space. This was discussed at the annual meeting of the Prince Albert School board on January 14, 1869. A number of motions were brought forward, with the motion of William Scott - *"that the Trustees be recommended to expend \$500 in procuring additional accommodation"*, carried.

Months went by with nothing further being

mentioned until the school held its semi-annual examination in July 29, 1869. At this time comments were published about a large and comfortable addition being added to the school building.

Trustees agreed that the addition would add to the comfort and convenience of both teachers and pupils, and facilitate the progress of the school. It was expected to be ready for the students at the beginning of the next school year in September.

Less than five years after the school expanded, a report of the trustees at their annual meeting showed the number of students attending the school was 240, of which 115 are boys and 125 girls.

In August 1893, almost 20 years after the school was expanded, it underwent another renovation.

The Prince Albert school experienced further renovations and changes beginning in June 1934.

The south and east wings were removed and the original school building was lifted up and moved back from Jeffrey Street and placed on a new foundation with a full basement.

The school trustees also had a new heating and ventilation system installed. The refurbished school reopened in time for classes in September 1934.

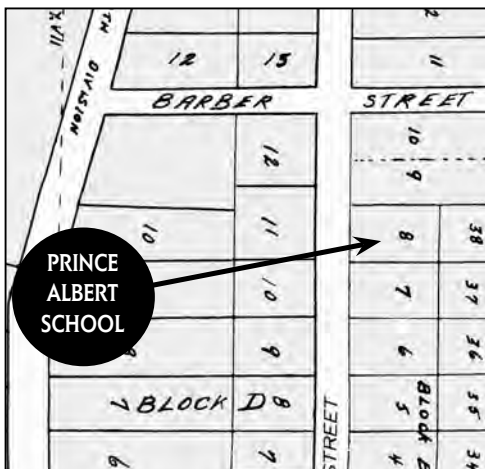
About 25 years after the 1934 renovations, the number of pupils had outgrown the aging school and plans got underway to build a new school.

Prince Albert's modern new one storey public school, with a full gymnasium, opened in 1958. It was located on Simcoe Street about half-a-mile south of the former school, and still serves the community to this day.

**Prince Albert School Section 7**

**School Examinations**

were held twice yearly during the 1850s & 1860s in Prince Albert. The Junior classes were examined in the morning and Seniors during afternoon classes.



Prince Albert Community Centre, 2007.



# Memories

## of Prince Albert Public School

*In researching the history of the Prince Albert Public School, two sisters, and former students, Cathy Daigle and Helen Chalifoux shared their memories of the school. Both of the sisters attended the school during the 1930s and today, live in separate houses directly across the street from the school they attended when they were children.*

About 80 years before sisters Cathy and Helen Clark began their first years attending school, the Prince Albert Public School was constructed on Jeffrey Street. At that time, circa 1850, the street was known as Queen St., and their family home was located on the narrow dirt street opposite the new school.

The schoolhouse sat on a small rise of the land, adjacent to the local United Church, and it was here the youth of the village received their early education. The building was a typical one-storey, wood frame structure with a peaked entrance, flanked by four small windows. Along each side were three larger windows which allowed light in to the otherwise, dimly lit classroom.

During the summer of 1869, a large addition was added to the south side of the school, to accommodate the growing number of students attending. By 1875 a report from the trustees at their annual meeting showed the number of students attending the school was 240, of which 115 are boys and 125 girls.

Sixty years after the addition was constructed it was removed. In 1934 the original school building was lifted and moved further away from the Jeffrey Street. Here it was placed on a new foundation with a full basement, in which a new heating system was installed. The only access to the basement was through a covered entrance on the south side of the building.

By 1935 when Helen Clark began attending the school, the property south of the building, which had previously housed the school's extension, was being used as a playground and a place where children gathered before school and for recesses.

Kathy remembers, at the front of the schoolhouse near the sidewalk there was a old water pump, on which a metal cup hung. It was here all the students could get a drink of water when they were out for recess – all using the same cup.

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“There was an old water pump at the front of the school and we all drank from the same old tin cup.”

*Kathy Daigle*

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The Prince Albert School was entered by ascending a set of narrow steps into a small foyer, before coming into a single, large classroom. To the right, at the back of the room, was a small area for coats and boots, and on the left a table with a wash basin. There were five or six rows of double-seated desk sets spread out across the room in front of a small desk, from which the teacher taught her classes. Behind the teacher, stretched across the rear wall were two or three large blackboards.

Helen, now 90, was the older of the sisters. Cathy joined her two years later and they were assigned to sit together at one of the two-seated desks. They could not remember exactly how many desks were in the classroom, but did remember it was very full.

When asked how their day started, she recalled there was an opening prayer, followed by the singing of God Save The King. The teacher, who was responsible for instructing Grades one to eight, would then hand out work for the younger students to keep them occupied, while she spent time with the senior students. She would go back and forth from junior graders to seniors throughout the day.



*Front of the old Prince Albert School, circa 1875.*

If at any time during the day, the teacher felt more time was needed to instruct the senior students, she would “scoot the younger ones off to the basement,” said Helen, who was often the one asked to take the Grade one, two and three students to the basement.

Getting to the basement involved leaving the school through the front door, walking to the south side of the building and descending down another set of stairs. Once inside she settled near the furnace and Helen would read them stories until the teacher called for them to return to class.

A lifetime resident of Prince Albert, Beth Willes, attended the school from grade one through grade eight. Among her many memories was a large iron grill in the middle of the classroom which provided heat from the furnace, which was directly under the floor in the basement. If chilled, at recess she and other students would stand on the grill to get warmed up.

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“The kids would stand on the large grill in the centre of the classroom to get warm at recess.”

Beth Willes

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Beth’s father, Grant Hunter, was a student at the school during the 1920s, and would ride to school on a horse from the family farm, just south of the present day public school in Prince Albert.

The little Prince Albert School in the centre of the village, served the entire community about a century before a new school was constructed. The new public school opened on September 2, 1958, featured four classrooms for senior grades and its first years enrolment was 125 students.

Denise Jeffrey, who was a student at the new school, recalls “There was no full gymnasium at the Prince Albert school. It only consisted of four rooms that are still at the front of the school. We only had physical education in the good weather outside. We might have pushed desks aside for the odd game in the classroom but the gym wasn’t there until they put on the new addition.”

The original little schoolhouse in the centre of the village, on Jeffrey Street, continued to accommodate about 35 junior grade students for about eight years after the new school opened. Construction of an addition to the new school was completed in November 1966. The students were transferred to the new school, ending 90 years of educating children in the old Prince Albert school house.

After the school was closed, the hall converted into a community hall, which is used to this day.

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## Prince Albert Community Centre

During the mid-1960s, after the school ceased operation on Jeffrey Street, a group of Prince Albert residents, including Merv Pugh, Bill Heayn and Carl Graham, approached Reach Township council, requesting permission take over the old school and convert it into a Community Centre for the village.

They received the council’s blessing on the condition they were responsible for the maintenance and costs to operate the hall. They paid the township \$1 for the building, and went to work clearing out the inside and making it ready for use.

The Community Centre has been operated and maintained continuously for more than 55 years by group of Prince Albert residents who still value the community’s historical old schoolhouse.



*The Prince Albert Community Centre as it looked in 2014.*

# HOTELS & INNS

## Hurd's Hotel

There is very little documentation about Hurd's Hotel but it is believed that Abner Hurd constructed this handsome building as his residence and a hotel about 1845. It was not unusual for families to live in the same building that housed a hotel or tavern.

The building was two storeys with a curved-roofed verandah across the entire front of the building. At the time, this frame building was the largest and most substantial in the community.

Later in life Abner Hurd signed the property over to his son Prosper Hurd, who sold the house to James Holden in 1865. Holden was the founder of the community's first newspaper, *The Ontario Observer* in 1857.

He owned this hotel for less than three years, selling it to Hugh and Sarah Carmichael in March 1868. Holden then moved to Whitby.

The Carmichaels sold the hotel to George Robson in 1873. Robson had considerable previous experience in hotels in Whitby. Two years later he sold the hotel to

Eugene R. Eddy.

It appears that sometime during Eddy's 24-year ownership, the building ceased to be used as a hotel.



*Abner Hurd's home/hotel as it looked in the late 1800s.*

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## Prince Albert Hotel

The Prince Albert Hotel presents a mystery when researching the history of this hotel in the village of its namesake. Newspaper records of the earliest days of the village are not available until 1857, when first newspaper, the *Ontario Observer*, began publishing in December that year.

It was in *Observer* newspaper, on May 26, 1858, the Prince Albert Hotel is first brought to light in and small advertisement. The ad simply states that a Mr. H.P. Harrington had leased the hotel and furnished it in a "most modern style" and was requesting the patronage and support of the public in his new venture.

This advertisement is the only record of the "Prince Albert Hotel" found to date, and we can only speculate as to the true history of the Prince Albert Hotel. Mr. H. P. Harrington is also a mystery.

We can speculate that the Prince Albert Hotel may have been the name used by locals to describe William Boynton's first hotel, established circa 1840. This is highly unlikely as both the Boynton's Hotel (also known as the Victoria Hotel) and the Prince Albert Hotel were advertising in the same issue of January 27, 1859. It is more likely that the reference was to Hurd's Hotel, but that too is speculation.

Another possibility, is that the Anglo-American Hotel may have been known as the "Port Perry Hotel" when it first opened (date unknown). It wasn't unusual for hotels to be referred to by the name of a community, or the surname of the current owner.

The first mention of the Anglo-American is found in advertisement in May 1859, when James Calhoun leased the hotel. The fact he leased an existing hotel, indicates the Anglo-American hotel had been in operation for some time before he took possession.

We may never know the true story about the Prince Albert Hotel, but as time marches on, just maybe something will come to light in the future.

**Prince Albert Hotel,**  
H. P. HARRINGTON would inform the travelling community that he has leased the above Hotel, and has furnished it in the most modern style, and hopes by strict attention to business to share a part of public patronage.  
Prince Albert, May 26, 1858.

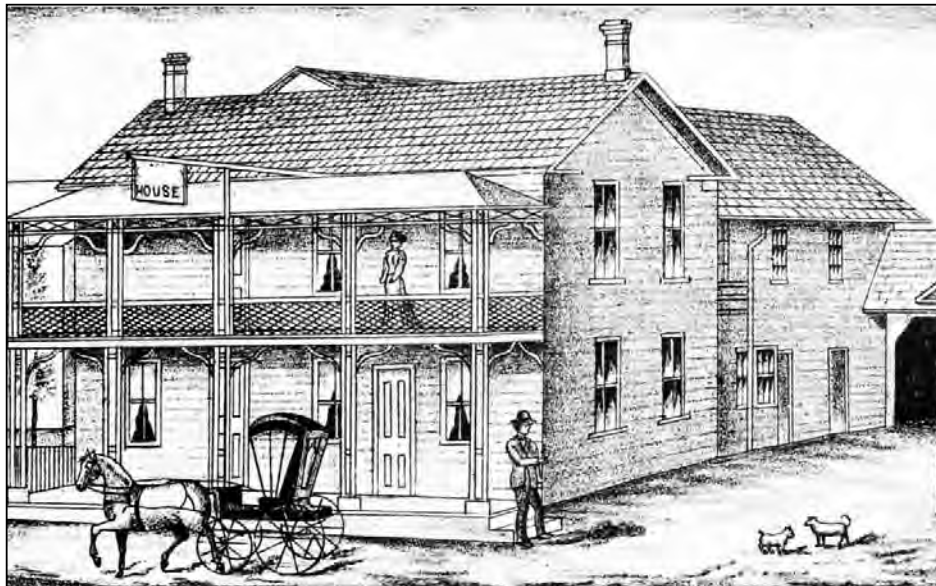


# Anglo-American Hotel

Exactly when the Anglo-American was constructed has not been determined, but information suggests it was in operation in the early 1850s and may have been known as simply the "Prince Albert Hotel".

This theory is fueled mainly by a single advertisement placed by H.P. Harrington in the Ontario Observer on May 26, 1858, stating that he had recently leased the Prince Albert Hotel and was seeking the patronage of the public. No other mention of the Prince Albert Hotel or H.P. Harrington has been found.

The earliest use of the name Anglo-American Hotel appears in the March 9, 1859 edition of the Ontario Observer. In this issue, James Calhoun, a resident of Uxbridge, announced that he had entered into proprietorship of the hotel. Once again little is known about Mr. Calhoun, and his tenure at the hotel was short.



*No picture has ever been located of the Anglo-American Hotel, thus, what the hotel looked like is unknown. This sketch is of a typical village hotel circa 1860, but is not meant to suggest it might have looked similar.*

## The Hotel

The Anglo-American Hotel was centrally located in the heart of Prince Albert, on the northeast corner of Simcoe and King Street, on Lot 3, Block D.

This put the hotel directly in the path of anyone traveling north along Simcoe Street, from points south, including Oshawa. Weary travellers would find the Anglo-American Hotel a perfect spot for rest, food and beverage before continuing their trip.

The Anglo-American was large for a small village like Prince Albert, providing accommodation in one of 10 rooms for overnight clients. The bedrooms ranged in size and features, some with French bedsteads, rag carpets, wash stand and mirror, and cane chairs for seating. Others were more sparsely furnished, but adequate for anyone travelling north towards Brock Twp., or south to Whitby and beyond.

The hotel featured a large dining room with seating for more than 24 patrons; a sitting room with a half dozen chairs and a wood stove; a bar room with more than a dozen chairs and a good selection of liquors and wines; a carpeted parlour nicely finished with a piano, large central table, rocking chair and cane chairs; and a fully equipped kitchen.

Attached to the hotel, at the rear, were a number of sheds and a large stable for horses and wagons.

Continued on page 36

Continued from page 35

As with most buildings at this time, it was a wooden structure and in May 1863 it narrowly escaped disaster, when a fire broke out in the hotel, which was believed to have been started by firecrackers. Due to quick action by local residents who formed a bucket brigade the building was saved from being destroyed.

But fire spelled eventually did spell the doom of Prince Albert's largest hotel in August 1890. Within two hours fire consumed the Anglo-American hotel, its barns, stables, and driving sheds, leaving only a gapping black hole to mark its location. (see story on page 34)

**ANGLO-AMERICAN HOTEL!**  
 PRINCE ALBERT.

**JAMES GALHOUN**  
 LATE OF UXBRIDGE,

**B**EGBS to intimate to the Public, that he has recently entered upon the proprietorship of the above Hotel; and, as no expense will be spared to render satisfaction, he trusts that a liberal share of the patronage of the travelling community will be extended to him.

Prince Albert, March 9, 1859. -tf

**ANGLO-AMERICAN HOTEL,**  
 PRINCE ALBERT, C.W.

JOHN MOGGRIDGE, - - - PROPRIETOR.

Best Accommodation for Travellers.

**CHOICE WINES, LIQUORS & CIGARS.**

**GOOD STABLING**  
 AND  
**ATTENTIVE OSTLERS.**

Prince Albert, 1866

**A**NGLO-AMERICAN HOTEL,  
 PRINCE ALBERT, ONT.

**WM. BADGEROW, PROPRIETOR.**

The above commodious hotel has been newly renovated and furnished throughout, and has ample accommodation for the reception of guests. It supplies a most convenient point for Commercial travelers. Comfortable and roomy stabling and attentive ostlers.

**EXTENSIVE AUCTION SALE!**  
 Of the Contents of the  
**ANGLO-AMERICAN HOTEL!!**  
**PRINCE ALBERT,**  
 ON  
**Wednesday, 15th October, 1873.**

**T**HE Proprietor of the above Hotel being about to retire from the business, has determined to dispose of the following, viz:

**DINING ROOM**  
 2 dozen dining Chairs, nearly new, 2 long dining Tables and oil cloth Covers, 1 fall leaf Table, 1 Side Table and oil cloth cover, 1 Refrigerator, 1 Hardwood Side-Board, 3 Cruet Stands, 1 Cupboard, with glass doors, 1 Tea Tray, 1 Clock, A quantity of Shelf Glass and Pictures.

**SITTING ROOM**  
 ½ dozen common Chairs, 1 Stove, Zinc and Pipes, 5 large Pictures, 1 Lounge, 1 fall leaf Table and oil cloth cover, 5 small Pictures, 2 Maps, 1 Sewing Machine "Osborne."

**BAR**  
 1 dozen bar Chairs, 1 Stove, with North's heater, pipes and zinc, 1 hot water apparatus, with 2 beer heaters, 11 Pictures, 1 Tumbler Strainer, 1 Desk, 1 large case of stuffed Birds, 1 Coat-of-Arms, in oil painting, 1 Clock, Half Pint Pewter Mugs, 1 set large Vases, a lot of Decanters, Wine Glasses, Whiskey Glasses, and Beer Glasses, 1 hanging Lamp, 1 soft water Tank, 1 door Screen, 1 carriage for whiskey Barrel, 2 Spittoons, A quantity of stone Jars.

**KITCHEN**  
 1 cook Stove and Utensils, 1 Kitchen Table 1 large Cupboard, 1 meat Safe, 1 small Table, 1 bread Tray, 1 Sink, ½ dozen kitchen Chairs, 8 flat irons and 2 iron stands, a lot of tins and other kitchen apparatus, 3 wash Tubs, 2 wash Boards, 1 Wringer, Clothes Baskets.

**PARLOR**  
 1 large centre Table and Spread, 1 Walnut Whatnot, 1 Damask covered Lounge, 1 seven octave Piano, by Grovesten, New York, 1 music Stool, 1 music Stand, ½ dozen cane seated Chairs, 1 large cane seated Rocking-Chair, 1 Book case and Cupboard, 1 Kid-minister Carpet, 5 large Pictures, 3 small Pictures, 1 large Mirror.

Ads from the Ontario Observer in October 1873 show the contents up for auction at the Anglo-American Hotel.

# The Hotel Keepers

**CALHOUN:** James Calhoun was 31 years old when he arrived in Prince Albert to take over as the proprietor at the the Anglo-American Hotel. The young man only stayed for about two years, before he sold the hotel and moved to Manilla, where he continued working as an innkeeper. During the two years he was in the community, there are no mention of his involvement in the community.

**A**NGLO-AMERICAN HOTEL,  
PRINCE ALBERT.  
W. H. PARK, - - - PROPRIETOR.  
Having purchased the above pleasantly situated Hotel, I have thoroughly repaired and renovated the entire premises even to the Sheds. The Hotel has been furnished in First-Class Style and Stocked with the best Liquors and Cigars!  
Strict attention paid to the comfort of guests.  
The table and bar well supplied.  
W. H. PARK.  
Prince Albert, June 12, 1875.



**FOR SALE OR TO RENT**  
**The Anglo-American Hotel**  
**PRINCE ALBERT.**

**T**HE Subscriber is giving up business and offers to Sell or Rent her Hotel, the Anglo-American. The Hotel is well arranged and in good condition with an abundance of accommodation, extensive and comfortable Sheds, Stables, &c. Convenient to the Hotel there is a capital Fruit and Vegetable Garden.

This is an excellent opening for a comfortable country business.

The Anglo-American has been long and favorably known throughout this whole section of country.

For particulars apply to the subscriber on premises.

**MRS. MOGGRIDGE.**  
Prince Albert, Aug. 1873.

**MOOGRIDGE:** The next owners were John and Jane Moggridge who purchased the Anglo-American Hotel for \$2,750 on February 28, 1861. Prior to moving to Prince Albert, Mr. Moggridge had been working in a tavern in London, Ontario.

Ten years later, John Moggridge seems to have disappeared, and by 1871 his wife Jane was operating the hotel. Two years later, in August 1873, Mrs. Moggridge appears to have tired of hotel life, and offered the hotel for sale, or to rent. At the same time she advertised the entire contents of the hotel would go up for auction if a new owner was not found.

Mrs. Moggridge was highly esteemed in the community, and was credited with having conducted her business in. Manner that was a credit to her and the community. "It (hotel) was a model of comfort; good order and everything desirable such as our best hotels ought to furnish," the Ontario Observer editor wrote.

About two months after disposing of all the chattels, she rented the hotel.

**BADGEROW:** William Badgerow rented the Anglo-American in November 1873. Before opening to the public, he renovated and refurnished the commodious building. It's unclear what happened while he was the keeper of the hotel, but in July 1874, eight months after taking over the establishment, the hotel was advertised as being under the proprietorship of Ezra Bates.

**PARK:** Jane Moggridge was finally able to sell the Anglo-American in May 1875. The new owner of the hotel was William Henry Park, a successful businessman in Prince Albert since the early 1860s. Mr. Park was owner of the Ontario Cabinet and Chair Factory which built all types of furniture, cabinets and coffins. As a service to his customers, he also had a hearse which he hired out.

In May 1879, four years after purchasing the



## PRINCE ALBERT

Anglo-American, Henry Park undertook an extensive renovation and refitting of the facility. He then reopened and operated it successfully until August 1890.

Shortly after midnight on Sunday, August 3, 1890 the alarm bell rang out and residents of the village awoke to find the Anglo-American Hotel was engulfed in fire (see Fires on page 30).

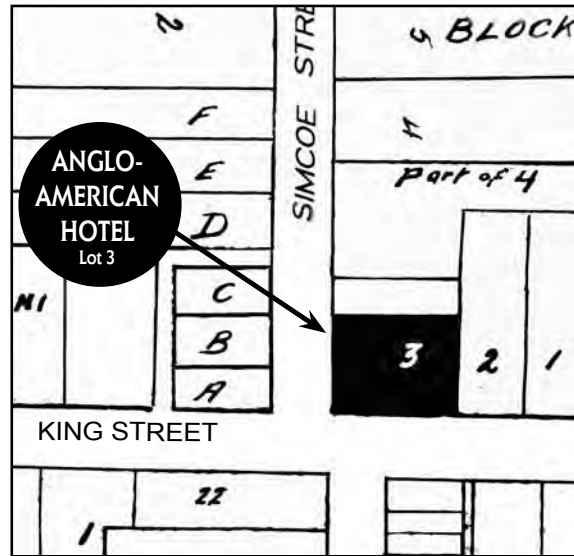
By the time the people got organized the flames had full possession of the kitchen and were rapidly spreading over the main building, and had also progressed to the point there was no hope of saving the property.

For two hours the fire spread rapidly consuming everything in its course, including the large Anglo-American hotel, its barns, stables, driving sheds, and a lot of extensive and substantial buildings.

While the hotel had been completely destroyed, there was anger in the village at the slow pace of cleaning up the charred ruins of the buildings. Three months after the fire, village residents complained about the unsanitary bottomless pit of the burned out hotel which still lay exposed in its black and ruined desolation.

This was end for the Anglo-American Hotel after almost 60 years at the intersection of Simcoe and Queen St., Prince Albert. The property went through various ownerships over the next half century. In 1952 it was purchased by James Double, who operated a small general store on the easterly part of the property before building a new one storey block building and opening up Carload Food Market in 1960.

That business has undergone numerous changes over the years, and a second storey was added about 1971. (see story)



*The Anglo-American Hotel was located on Lot #3, seen on this plan of the four corners of the village. The Prince Albert General Store is presently located on this site.*

# Anglo-American Hotel fire

Shortly after midnight on Sunday, August 3, 1890 our attentive and watchful village bell sounded an alarm of fire which was then quietly at work in the kitchen of the old Anglo-American Hotel.

When the people got around it was found that the flames had full possession of the kitchen and were rapidly spreading over the main building, and had also so far progressed that there could be no hope of saving the property.

For two hours the flames held unrestricted away and made a magnificent display until they had consumed that large hotel, its barns, stables, driving sheds, and a lot of extensive and substantial buildings.

Mr. Coomb's residence north of the hotel, was burned down at the same time. Had it not been for the timely rain which wet the roofs of the neighbouring buildings one-half of the village

would have been consumed. The lighted embers were flying through the air in all directions and thrown on the roofs of the houses, but the wet shingles saved the buildings.

The cause of the fire is a mystery, but the effects of it are obvious to all, it has left an abominable gap in the centre of the village.

We were not particularly anxious to know the amount of insurance but the public have a right to know all the particulars of such fires.

As near as could be determined, there is somewhere in the neighborhood of a thousand dollars insurance on buildings and furniture.

Active and willing hands saved some of Mr. Park's furniture. Insurance on the Anglo-American Hotel, is as follows: Main building, \$500; barn and shed, \$200; contents of hotel, \$300; and on Melodeon (accordion) \$100. Making total insurance in all \$1,100.

# After the Anglo-American

## ~ Prince Albert General Store ~

Following the 1890 fire, the former site of the Anglo-American hotel went through multiple ownership. At some point over the next half century, a small frame structure was built on the east side of the property, which became a general store. There was also modest house constructed on the extreme southwest corner of the lot.

Among the owners of the property during the 20th century were – Richard Edwards, James Vernon and James Warren. James and Leta Doupe purchased the property in July 1952, and operated the Prince Albert General Store from this location for about eight years. In 1960, they built a modern new red-brick building, with large showroom style windows, just west of their store.



*Prince Albert General Store, circa 1950. (colorized photo)*



*Prince Albert General Store, circa 1960.*



*Prince Albert General Store, circa 1975.*

The Doupe's proudly opened their new store on August 25, 1960, taking on the Carload Food Market franchise for the area. The store provided a great selection of food products, hardware and a meat department with a full-time butcher.

The Doupe's were also the postmasters, operating the Prince Albert Post Office. This made it become the central meeting spot for area residents, who came to shop, but also use the post office services.

After more than 15 years as owners of the store Jim and Leta decided to retire. They and sold their thriving business to their daughter Margaret, and her husband Ross Sweetman in January 1969.

Under the ownership of the

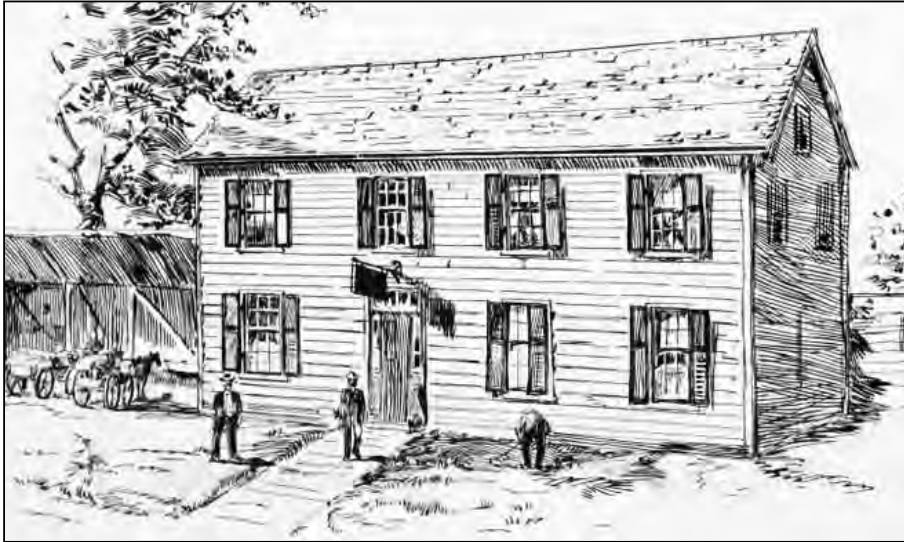
Sweetman family, Gulf gas pumps were installed in front of the store, and they added gas and automotive products to their line of merchandise.

The store changed hands again in 1973. Donald and Wendy Tran purchased the property and business. Not long after taking over the business, the Tran's added a second storey to the building which became their living quarters.

While the general store had undergone many changes of ownership since the Trans owned the store, little has changed in its exterior appearance. The store and post office closed a number of years ago.

# The Victoria Hotel

also known as Scott's Hotel



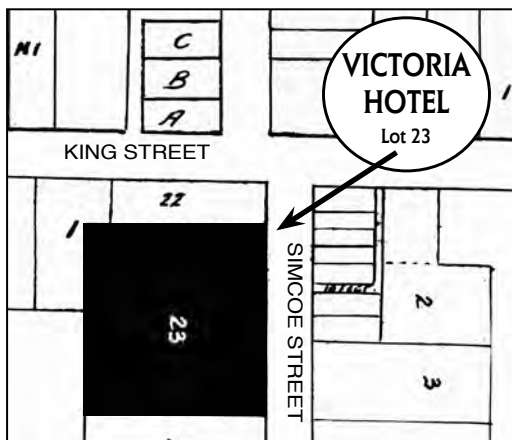
There is no picture of Boynton's "Victoria Hotel", as there are very few pictures of Prince Albert taken during its boom years, but this sketch of a small Ontario-style tavern/hotel from the same era, provides an idea of what Boynton's Hotel may have looked like.

One of Prince Albert's most popular hotels during the 1860s and 1870s was the Victoria Hotel. This hotel was located on the Lot 23 on the southwest intersection of Simcoe and King Street. It was part of a large property owned by William Boynton, Sr. who settled in there in 1839. Boynton owned about 200 acres of land in Concession 4. The land stretched west and south from the centre of the village.

When England's Queen Victoria married her first cousin Prince Albert in 1840, the area which had become known as Boynton's Corners, celebrated its loyalty by renaming the village "Prince Albert" in his honour.



Ontario Observer  
June 23, 1859



Boynton's 'Victoria Hotel' was located south of King Street near the four corners of the village, on lot 23.

William Boynton built a home on his property and its believed his home, near the corner of King and Simcoe Streets, also served as a tavern which was known locally as Boynton's Hotel. At some point he changed the name to the Victoria Hotel, possibly in honor of Queen Victoria.

William Boynton Jr., took over his father's business including the Victoria Hotel about 1857. Four year later, in July 1861, he sold the Victoria Hotel to William Scott and moved to Lindsay where purchased "Jewett's Hotel" and renamed it "Boynton's Hotel".

Mr. Scott operated the hotel very successfully, and during his ownership the hotel was often referred to as Scott's Hotel. Mr. Scott's "Victoria Hotel" served as the village stagecoach office and his hotel became a popular



# VICTORIA HOTEL!

## PRINCE ALBERT.

W. SCOTT, - - - - Proprietor.

Best attention to Travellers and Good Stabling.

*Ontario Gazetteer & Directory - 1866*

venue for large gatherings, meetings and celebrations held in the village. Of the two hotels in the village, Scott's was reported to have been the more popular, doing a thriving business, not only in liquors, but also in hotel trade.

It appears that hotel rooms were also rented out for longer periods of time. Dr. Niven Agnew, Surgeon and Accoucheur listed the Victoria Hotel as his residence during the early 1860s.

No information has been found describing the Victoria Hotel, although there is some indication it was small in size than its neighbour, the Anglo-American Hotel. Despite its size, it must have been large enough to support large group events, as it was often host to a variety of banquets and special events.

About 12 years after taking over the Victoria Hotel, William Scott made plans to leave Prince Albert to purchase a hotel in Whitby. In March 19, 1873 he advertised his hotel and property "For Sale, To Rent, or Change for Land." The property was described as having a First Class Hotel, on 1 1/2 acres of land, with excellent fruit and vegetable gardens, a first class cattle-yard surrounded with comfortable sheds, and good stabling for nearly 100 horses.

Three years later, and now the owner of the Lockhart House in Oshawa, Mr. Scott was still trying to sell his Prince Albert hotel and property. At this time he included in the sale, seventy-five (\$5) shares in the Prince Albert Public Hall Company, and also three-fifths of the Prince Albert Public Weigh Scales.

On the evening of May 23, 1873, the village of Prince Albert honoured William Scott and his wife Anne, hosting a complimentary supper for the esteemed couple at the Anglo-American hotel. A large crowd of merchants, farmers medical and professionals crowded the hotel to honour their worthy guests. Chairman James Emanuel expressed the sincere and general regrets felt by the all present at their removal from the community.

The last record of the hotel and Mr. Scott came in the February 18, 1875 issue of the North Ontario Observer. During a meeting of Reach Twp. Council, at which increases in the licensing for liquor at hotels was being considered, council member Mr. Holman commented the following:

"When Mr. Scott was in Prince Albert, though his house (hotel) was a miserable thing, and the location not nearly as good as that of the Anglo-American, yet it was first class, while the other (Anglo-American) was second." He went on to say, "But so soon as Mr. Scott left the house it soon fell from being first class, and now I consider that neither hotel in Prince Albert was either 1st, 2nd or 3rd class." It was the opinion of Mr. Holman that he would support the "wiping out" of both hotels as he felt neither of them should have licenses.

Ironically, the Victoria Hotel averted a disaster months later. In September 1875, when a house just south of the hotel was consumed by fire, and threatened the same for the hotel. Local residents put their efforts into saving the hotel by removing the south shed to prevent it from spreading to the stables, which would have then moved onto the hotel. No records can be found identifying who was operating the Victoria Hotel at the time of the fire, although it was still owned by Wm. Scott.

After years of trying to sell his property, in October 1879 William Scott advertised "House and Lot formerly known as the Victoria Hotel, in the village of Prince Albert" would be sold at a cheap price. By this time he was the hotelkeeper at the Lockhart House in Oshawa.

## FOR SALE OR Exchange for Wild Land!

THE undersigned offers to Sell or Exchange for Wild Land, subject to a certain Lease, the

**VICTORIA HOTEL,**  
Pleasantly located in the Village of  
**Prince Albert,**

Reach, County of Ontario. The lot contains an acre and a half with a Large Orchard of vigorous bearing trees of choice fruit. A large amount of stabling, barn and shed accommodation. Good wells and pump and an abundant supply of choice water with a large cistern for soft water.

There will also be included in the Sale seventy-five (\$5) shares in the Prince Albert Public Hall Company, and also three-fifths of the Prince Albert Public Weigh Scales.

For particulars, apply to the proprietor  
WM. SCOTT,  
Lockhart House,  
Oshawa.

March 21, 1876.

# Reach Hotels & Taverns

Small village hotels scattered throughout the township.

Prince Albert, like most small Ontario hamlets and villages in the early to mid-1800s had a number of hotels/taverns. These establishments provided a valuable service for tired and weary travellers throughout the counties to rest, eat and enjoy a beverage while travelling. They were also a meeting place for local residents.

Prince Albert's two main hotels were the Anglo-American Hotel and the Victoria Hotel. Earlier hotels included Boynton's Hotel,



The Railroadhouse hotel, on Water Street circa 1857.

The structures of these hotels varied, but most were wood construction of either one or two storeys in height. There were few photographs for this era in these small communities, but sketches and pictures of buildings in similar size communities give us an idea of what these hotels could have looked like.

In his book *On The Shores of Scugog*, written by Samuel Farmer in 1913 he said "within 60 years past, there were 24 places where you could buy liquor in the Township of Reach."

Mr. Farmer was referring to the boom times of Prince Albert and area during the 1850s and 1860s. Following are some of the hotels he listed in his book.

He writes that three hotels supplied the Prince Albert people with liquid refreshment, and they were run by a number of people including Messrs. McCorquodale, Boynton and Scott. The hotels were Boynton's Hotel, Victoria (Scott's) Hotel; The Anglo-American Hotel.

There were three tavern/hotels at Borelia, Jewett's being the oldest, Sinclair's Hotel and a tavern run by Reuben Crandell from his home.

Manchester was as well supplied, with three hotels - Revere House, operated by Wm. Parkin, C. Dawes and

later B. Plank. Charles McClue's Union Hotel, and the Plank House, which was originally called Revere House.

Opposite Beare's Mill, just west of Manchester, there was another hotel to save the traveller from becoming dry before he reached Dafoe's Hotel (1869) in Utica.

Hamilton's Hotel was kept at Epsom, and Cameron's "Centre Hotel" at Saintfield (1878).

At Greenbank where the Methodist (United) Church stands today, was the location of R.A. Murta's "Cottage Hotel" (1867).

Two hotels flourished for some years at Seagrave. In 1858 there was Nonquon Hotel operated by C.E. Coryell, and later by W.S. Lattimor (1879); The Nonquon House operated was

**THE RAILROAD HOUSE**  
**PORT PERRY.**  
 N. SINCLAIR, - - - PROPRIETOR.

THE Subscriber begs to state that having re-furnished the above establishment, the travelling public will find it to be a most comfortable home.

Good Stabling, attentive Ostlers, and the best of accommodation are always at the service of our customers.

The Bar is kept constantly supplied with Liquors of the choicest brands.

Parties wishing to enjoy a day or two of Fishing or hunting on Lake Scugog can always be accommodated with good boats and Fishing Tackle.

N. SINCLAIR.  
 Port Perry, August 8, 1866. 1-tf.

**REVERE HOUSE**  
**MANCHESTER,**  
 C. DAWES, - - - PROPRIETOR.

GENERAL STAGE OFFICE.

GOOD STABLING ATTACHED TO THE HOTEL.

Ontario Observer, 1866

**THE OLD STAND FOR EVER!!**  
**UNION HOTEL, MANCHESTER.**

THE undersigned begs to acquaint the public that no expense has been spared in fitting up the Hotel lately occupied by Francis Rusnell; he trusts, therefore to receive a liberal share of the patronage of the travelling community. The best brands of wines, liquors and cigars. Roomy and convenient sheds, good stabling, and an attentive Ostler,—Hugh Moore. N.B. Meals at all hours.

CHARLES McCLUE,  
 Proprietor.  
 Manchester, Aug. 3. 1861. 34



The Ocean House hotel, Seagrave, Ontario.

**THE NONQUON HOTEL.**  
 The undersigned having purchased the above Hotel has had it thoroughly overhauled in every department in and around the premises fitting it in every way to secure the comfort of guests.  
 The supplies for the table and bar will always be the best the market can supply. No effort will be spared in making this large and pleasantly located Hotel an agreeable resting place for the traveling public.  
**W. S. LATTIMOR.**  
 Seagrave, May 1, 1879

also operated by Joseph Hadley in 1858.

Charles E. Coryell was listed as an innkeeper in 1861 & 1871, probably of the Ocean House in Seagrave. The street in front of the former Ocean House hotel is named Coryell Street.

At the top of the "Ridges" stood Covey's Hotel, and a little south of Manchester was Payne's Hotel.

In Saintfield, at the north end of the township, Joseph Brown was the operator of the Central Hotel.

At one time there were 24 tavern/hotels in the Township of Reach. They are difficult to track as the names of the hotels were changed often, due to change of ownership, making it seem like there were many more.

Exact locations of the hotels in many cases are difficult to determine, although some of the buildings that housed taverns still stand today.

**CENTRE HOTEL, SAINTFIELD.**  
 The undersigned having throughly renovated and repaired the above conveniently located Hotel, would now inform the traveling public that the utmost attention will be given to the comfort and convenience of all guests.  
 Choice supplies for the table and the bar.  
 Good Stabling and a careful hostler  
**JOS. BROWN, Proprietor.**  
 Saintfield, March 25, 1879.

**COTTAGE HOTEL, GREENBANK.**

**T**HE Subscriber is desirous of informing the public that he has purchased the above premises, which he has renovated throughout. First class Liquors and Cigars, and the best accommodation with careful attention can always be found. Good stabling, enclosed yards, and attentive Ostlers.

**R. A. MURTA,**  
 Greenbank, June 12, 1867. 44-1y

**DAFOE HOUSE  
 U T I C A**

**G**OOD accommodations. Careful attention to the requirements of travelers and guests. The bar supplied with the best wines, liquors and cigars Good stabling.

**J. DAFOE, Proprietor.**  
 Ontario Observer, 1869

**Centre Hotel,  
 SAINTFIELD,  
 JAS. CAMERON, Proprietor.**

Port Perry Standard, 1879

**"REVERE HOUSE," MANCHESTER  
 B PLANK,.....PROPRIETOR.**

**H**AVING purchased the above hotel, and has furnished the Bar with the choicest liquors and cigars. Every attention paid to guests.— Stages to and from Whitby call daily. Careful ostlers always in attendance. 8

Ontario Observer, 1869

**BORELIA HOTEL,  
 And American Drovers' Home,  
 JAMES JEWETT, - - - - - PROPRIETOR.**

**THE BAR SUPPLIED WITH THE BEST  
 WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS.**

The Daily Line of Stages from Ludlow, Beaverton, and Manilla, to Oshawa and Whitby, and returning, call each way.  
 Careful Ostlers always in Attendance.

Ontario Observer, 1866

**HURD'S HOTEL,  
 LUTHER H. HURD, Propr.**  
 Perry Street, - PORT PERRY, ONT.  
 This House has been recently remodelled and newly furnished throughout, and offers to the travelling public all the advantages of a quiet and comfortable home.  
 ONE BLOCK FROM DEPOT. TERMS REASONABLE.

Port Perry Standard, 1884



# THE FIRE FIEND

The "Fire Fiend" was a constant threat that hung over the heads of early settlers Prince Albert, like so many other communities had its share of destructive fires throughout the late 1800s. Following are newspaper reports of some of these fires.



## DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

The Village of Prince Albert experienced another heavy loss by fire on the evening of the 14th inst. About half-past eleven on Friday night, Mr. George White's Carriage Factory was observed to be on fire.

This must have been the commencement of it, as parties were constantly passing the building up to that time. The moment the fire was observed the bell was rung, and in very short time the building was surrounded by lots of men anxious to save the property, but all were entirely powerless to do so, there being not water within reach.

The consequence was that there were no means to doing anything except saving the loose property and protecting the houses on the opposite side of the street by means of snow.

This was gone into with a will and a large quantity of loose property saved, and doubtless some of the opposite buildings; but as far as the burning buildings were concerned it was most provoking to stand and look at them burning without being able to put forth a hand to save them in the entire absence of water, and not having the advantage of hook and ladder.

The result was the Carriage Factory was entirely consumed, with an excellent large house two stories high, the property of Mr. James Sanders and a large unoccupied house the property of Mr. Courtice, with a dwelling house attached belonging to the same party.

The loss of real estate must be about \$2000, with the loss on loose property cannot be under \$900, of this only \$800 covered by insurance - \$400 on the Carriage Factory and \$400 on Mr. White's stock.

Mr. Sanders loses about \$1,300, no insurance; while Mr. Beatty, Mr. White's carriage building loses considerably in stock. The origin of the fire is a complete mystery.

Had their been a strong wind from the north or west the consequences to the village would have been more disastrous. Some more efficient means of fighting fires will have to be introduced into these villages.

*North Ontario Observer  
February 18, 1868*

## SCHOOL HOUSE BURNED

We feel exceedingly sorry to have to record the destruction by fire of the excellent and comparatively new School House of School Section No. 4, (east settlement), Reach.

About midnight on Tuesday last, Mr. Wm. Coates whose residence is convenient to the school house, saw a light issuing from the roof and at once hurried to the spot and running into the school house had barely time to save the clock and some maps.

They had but lately got a capital supply of new maps. In fact, the section deserves much credit for their generous efforts in sustaining not only a good school but a comfortable, well furnished house.

The house has been only a few years built at a cost of \$500; the loss however, must be considerably

more than that. There is an insurance of \$300 on the whole.

The section is very small and the cost of the house and furniture will be a heavy burden on the few ratepayers on whom the weight of the section rests.

The Educational Department fought by all means to make up the loss to a section which has just lately gut through paying for the house which has just been destroyed

The loss of the winter school will be severely felt by the pupils.

*December 2, 1873  
North Ontario Observer*

## BOYNTON'S BARN DESTROYED BY FIRE

The useful but unwelcome sound of the fire-bell again rang throughout our village on the evening of the 13th, and on turning out it was found that the barn of Mr. R. Boynton, half-a-mile south of the village, was already enveloped in flames. The fire busting forth in every direction and licking up everything which came within its reach.

All hands went to work with a will and notwithstanding the proximity of the two barns – being only a few feet apart – one of them was saved, but not without the utmost exertion of many willing hands.

In fact, it seemed at one time to be a hopeless task, but the will was there and the fire was beaten back and building saved. Had the second barn burned, the dwelling house would have stood a poor chance of being saved.

The threshing machine had been at work all day threshing barley in the barn which was saved, and they had just turned the machine into the other barn with the intention of threshing the produce of

26 acres of wheat on the following day, but the greedy flame threshed it for them, but consumed it all and did not even spare the machine, the south barn and all it contained was licked up by the devourer.

The loss will range from \$1,500 to \$2,000 covered by insurance to the extent of \$1,250. So far as we know, Messrs. Coates & Lamb, owners of the machine, had no insurance. Theirs was a capital machine.

That the fire was the work of an incendiary cannot be doubted for a moment – not a devilish one we admit, but one nearly as guilty, a foolish and reckless one who could not deny himself, even for a short time, the pleasing doors of the abominable weed tobacco.

Our friends from the neighboring village on this as on all other occasions when assistance is required were present in large numbers and aided with all their might in fighting the fire.

*North Ontario Observer  
September 1870*

## ANOTHER BIG FIRE IN PRINCE ALBERT

On Tuesday the 1st of April about 11 o'clock at night the inhabitants of the peaceful, happy village of Prince Albert were startled by the trice unwelcome Fire! Fire! Fire!

Those who had not yet returned to rest were on the street in an instant and those who had retired were speedily summoned to do battle against the devouring monster but the timely and well sustained clatter of the fire bell.

This at once indicated the course of action to be pursued and presently a lot of willing hands assumed the responsibility of saving these buildings and succeeded in doing so.

The scene of conflagration was not long left in doubt. The fire doubtless originated in the upper storey of the Willcox's Drug, Grocery and Liquor Store, but it was not long confounded to that, it soon burst forth in all its fury illuminating the heavens and giving a crimson hue to the snow for a large space around.

There was a strong south-east wind blowing at the time, in the first place carrying the flame right towards the Victorian Hotel and Mr. Currie's empty store.

As the fire progressed northward it threatened the Anglo-American Hotel, Rolph's Harness Shop and other buildings. The devouring fed was by this time at the height of his strength shooting his thousand forked tongue far up into the heavens and kissing the buildings all around.

But strong hands and willing hearts aided by the wetness of the night met the devourer at every point and confined him to the block in which he first began, and his maddening fury speedily consumed that on which he fed and soon rendered him powerless for further devastation.

At this stage the well known sound of the Port Perry Fire Brigade was heard approaching, and though under the circumstances they could not make themselves felt in saving the property – the monster having been shorn of its strength ere they arrived – still their presence was highly acceptable and their generous effort most thankfully received.

The generous and persevering effort put forth by many from surrounding villages and neighbourhood as well as by

**THE UNION  
DRUG, GROCERY!  
AND  
Liquor Store!**

**W. M. WILLCOX,**  
Sign of the Pestle and Mortar—opposite Scott's Hotel.  
**PRINCE ALBERT!**

Invites the special attention of the public to their extensive newly imported Stock of the BEST BRANDS OF PURE LIQUORS, consisting of Brandy,—Gins, Holland and Old Tom—Wines, Port, Sherry, &c.—Rum—Whisky, Malt and Old Rye—John Bull Bottles, &c.

A large and well selected Stock of Fresh Groceries of superior quality.  
Our Tea can't be beat! Try them! We guarantee that for excellence in quality, and moderation in price they cannot be beat in North Ontario.  
A choice lot of Tobaccos, Pipes, Pickles, Sauces, &c.

**PURE DRUGS,** wholesale and retail. Also the best qualities of Chemicals, Dye Stuffs, Paints, Oils and Varnishes. Thoroughly reliable Patent Medicines.  
Books and Stationery.  
Liquors for medicinal purposes carefully selected.  
Everything in Stock is of superior quality and will be sold at the lowest remunerative Prices.  
Remember the place opposite Scott's Hotel, Prince Albert.

W. M. WILLCOX,  
Prince Albert, Dec. 20, 1868.

*Fire started at Willcox "Union" store.*

## PRINCE ALBERT

the people of Prince Albert is worthy of the highest praise; and the village tender their sincere thanks to the Fire Brigade and all other outsiders who manifested their sympathy at this time in so tangible a manner. It is comforting to know that no bodily injury was received.

At eleven o'clock the fire was first discovered in the upper part of Willcox's store, a little larger than the light from a lamp, but within a very few minutes it burst forth with great fury spreading south to Mr. Wright's Boot and Shoe Establishment and north to Mr. Wightman's extensive Dry Goods, Grocery and Clothing establishments; and within three hours from its first discovery it had laid in ashes that splendid block on the north-east corner of Simcoe and King Streets, extending along Simcoe St., 100 feet and King St., 100 feet.

The following stores were totally consumed: Mr. Wright's extensive boot and shoe establishment; Mr. Willcox's drug, grocery and liquor store; Mr. Wightman's extensive general dry goods, clothing, grocery and establishments; and the Masonic Hall.

Mr. Wright's loss on the building is \$1,200, covered by an insurance of \$1,000.

Mr. F. Graham, owner of the building in which Mr. Willcox kept store, loses \$700 and no insurance. Mr. Willcox loss on stock amounts to \$3,000 of which \$2,000 is covered by insurance.

A. Hurd, Esq., the proprietor of the Wightman buildings and the Masonic Hall buildings sustains a loss of \$2,000 and no insurance. Mr. Wightman's loss in stock is \$8,000 on which there is an

## LAZIER'S FACTORY DESTROYED BY FIRE

We regret exceedingly to have to record another conflagration which took place at Mr. James Lazier's Factory, about a couple of miles north of Prince Albert, on Monday night last.

A little after ten o'clock the unwelcome sound of Fire! Fire! rang through this and the neighboring villages. Large numbers of willing hands at once turn out, and making for the light; soon found that Mr. Lazier's wood kiln, containing about \$600 worth of wood suitable for making Grain Candles and other agricultural implements, best stuff for carriages, etc., was on fire all of which - we regret to state - was concerned.

Insurance offices won't touch such risks, so the entire loss falls upon the proprietor. The Port Perry Fire Company lost no time in reaching the scene.

*North Ontario Observer  
September 29, 1870*

**GOOD LIQUORS!!**  
AT  
**W. M. Wightman's,**  
**PRINCE ALBERT.**

The inhabitants of Reach and surrounding townships are respectfully informed that the Subscriber has added a

**Choice Stock of Liquors**

to his Dry Goods and Grocery Store, where purchasers will find the very best Brands at the lowest possible rates.

**Don't forget** W. M. WIGHTMAN'S  
New Store,  
Prince Albert.

PRINCE ALBERT, Jan. 24, 1873.

*William Wightman's store was destroyed in the fire.*

insurance of \$7,000.

The Prince Albert Masonic Lodge 183 loses \$400 and no insurance.

The destruction of Mr. Wright's establishment, though not the most costly, is by far the greatest calamity to the village. That gentleman through his interring energy and enterprise has done much towards the up-building of this village by the number of hands he constantly keeps employed and the correspondingly large amount of expenditure of money which these hands create.

Besides, his boot and shoe establishment, from its well merited and now thoroughly established reputation for first class material and workmanship, is regarded with much favour throughout a large section of country and its removal from this would be regarded, by large numbers of his customers, as a misfortune.

We heartily sympathise with all who have sustained injury by this unfortunate event, especially with our highly esteemed and worthy townsman, Abner Hurd, Esq., who is by far the heaviest loser by this calamity.

*North Ontario Observer  
April 1, 1873*

**NOTICE!**

The destruction of my Boot and Shoe Establishment with the Stock, in the late fire in Prince Albert, necessitates an immediate squaring up of my accounts. All parties whose accounts are now over due are hereby notified that an immediate settlement is expected of all accounts which are now past due.

**NOTE LOST!**

Lost in the village of Prince Albert, on Tuesday, April 1, 1873, a note of hand for Twenty-Six Dollars (\$26) with interest, made by John Dresser, in favor of Joshua Wright. All parties are hereby forbidden to negotiate said Note as payment has been stopped.

**J. WRIGHT.**  
Beaver Meadow Steam Tannery, }  
Prince Albert, April 3, 1873. }

*Joshua Wright announces destruction of his business.*



## FIRE, FIRE, FIRE!

About 12:30 on Sunday last the discordant clatter of the Prince Albert fire bell announced the presence in our midst of the fire fiend who appears to have a preference for Prince Albert above any other village and shows that preference in the most decided manner by clearing off one or two of our best buildings annually.

On this occasion it was the residence of Mr. W.H. Hayes which was consumed. This was a good house immediately south of the Victoria Hotel. The fire first developed itself from under the shingles not the roof of the kitchen.

There was a strong south wester blowing at the time and it is almost miraculous that the fire was confounded to one building seeing that it was surrounded by wooden buildings in close proximity all round; but there were an abundance of willing hands and lots of pails and platy of water which was used to good purpose.

It were impossible for men to do more or direct their energies to better purpose than was done on this occasion. By unflooring and removing the south shed of the Victoria Hotel the fire was prevented from spreading further in that direction, but how the stables at the back of the burning building - there being only a passage between them and the house - were saved is almost unaccountable and proves how well and skillfully the fire was fought.

Had the fire taken the stables the greater part of the village must have gone. The had fire engines supplied by Elija Cash and Mr. Hilborn were of the greatest service and did much towards confounding the fire to

the one building.

On this as on all similar occasions there are many exhibitions of genuine pluck and true heroism. Amongst the daring ones Mr. Cash held on honourable position he not only supplied two powerful hand pumps whose valuable serves helped save a large portion of the village from being laid in ashes.

With only a single board placed between him and the blazing building he stood about three feet from the flames and keep his useful little engine playing on the most exposed part of the stable which could not otherwise have been saved. And had the stable been burned a large portion of the village must of necessity have gone.

While mentioning the heroes we must not overlook the heroines, many of the ladies were no less active than the men they wrought the pumps and did their part nobly. As well as the active and daring their was the ludicrous and trifling, there were many who appeared to lose all self control and would have been better in their bed.

Men would clamor to the tops of houses and when they got there they could not stir for fear of falling and they would get straddle on the ridge and sit there like mummies only in the way of those who could do some good.

Some did capital serve on the tops of houses but these were parties who went up to work not to see and be seen.

*North Ontario Observer  
September 16, 1875*

## CHRISTIAN BIBLE PARSONAGE LOST TO FIRE

The Village of Prince Albert, one of the most pleasant and healthful locations in the province, seldom meets with anything to disturb the even tenor of her way, but we are sorry to state that the disturbing element of fire declared itself there on the 16th inst.

About 11 o'clock a.m. the Bible Christian Parsonage was discovered to be on fire and not withstanding the most prompt, active and persistent exertions, the devourer held on to his pray till that fine, comfortable residence was redacted to a few smoking embers.

All hands - the ladies were no way behind - wrought like heroes and the value of their efforts may be appreciated when it is known that the church and the stables were both safe and neither of them is twenty yards from the parsonage.

There was no engine at the fire but the activity of the defenders and the timely snow storm which prevailed just then succeeded in confining the fire to the parsonage.

The loss will amount to \$900 of which Rev. R. Allin, the worthy pastor of the church, loses about \$200 on his effects - no insurance.

The cause of this as of most other fires was a defective chimney.

Our Bible Christian friends are by no means behind in intelligence, enterprise or liberality and doubtless ere long another comfortable residence for their excellent Pastor and his amiable family will occupy the spot which is now a heap of blackened cinders.

*North Ontario Observer  
March 18, 1880*

# Prince Albert Public / Town Hall



The Prince Albert Town Hall, or Public Hall as it was often called, was located on the west side of Simcoe Street, about three lots north of the Anglo-American Hotel (now the former general store property). It's prime function was that of a community gathering place for concerts, social gatherings, election returns and meeting of a variety of organizations including the school board, agricultural society.

The first mention found about the "Town Hall" in Prince Albert comes in January 1865 when it is announced that a Grand Social Re-Union would be held at the Town Hall, Prince Albert.

In June 1866, with the return of the Prince Albert Infantry Company marching into the village after the Fenian Raids, the men gathered at the Town Hall, where a large crowd welcomed them home. That November, the Town Hall was used as a courthouse for the Third Division Court of Ontario County.

Reach Township's official Town Hall, or municipal office, was located in Manchester, and it was from here most political meetings and township business was done. The one storey wood-clad building was located on the southwest corner of Hwy. 7A and Rose St., and is still used to this day.

Hall was used as a courthouse and for local entertainment and special events.

**GRAND SOCIAL**




**RE-UNION !**

A GRAND Social Re-Union will be held in the  
**TOWN HALL, PRINCE ALBERT**  
ON  
**Friday Eve'g, Feb. 17,**  
To which the public are respectfully invited.  
**Tickets admitting Gent and Ladies \$1.50**  
E. B. CLEARWATER's full Quadrille Band will be in attendance.  
The Committee will spare no effort or expense to make this entertainment the most brilliant and chaste of the kind ever held in the County.  
DANCING will commence at 8 o'clock.  
SUPPER to be provided by W. Scott, of the Victoria Hotel.  
By ORDER OF COMMITTEE.  
Prince Albert, Jan. 25, 1865. 3-3w

The Prince Albert Hall was owned by a group of men and operated under the name of the Prince Albert Public Hall Joint Stock Company. It's unclear when the joint stock company was formed, but they met annually to approve reports and elect directors each year. As an example, in May 1867 the board consisted of well known and



The Reach Township Municipal Office, Manchester, 1979.

Ad for a Grand Social Reunion in the Prince Albert Town Hall, Friday, Feb. 17, 1865.

**NOTICE.**  
 The Annual General Meeting of the Stockholders of the  
**Prince Albert Public Hall Joint Stock Company**  
 Will be held at their Hall,  
**On TUESDAY, 4th May**  
 1869, at 7 o'clock p. m.  
**JAMES BAIRD,**  
*President.*  
 Prince Albert, April 14, 1869. 15-4d

established businessmen including: James Baird, president; Thomas Courtice, vice-pres.; William Scott, treas., and James Emaney, secretary.

As Port Perry began to grow after the arrival of the railway, Prince Albert businesses began to relocate their businesses to the thriving community. At the same time, the Prince Albert Public Hall also began to lose its importance to the community. The building began to deteriorate as it was being used less local activities.

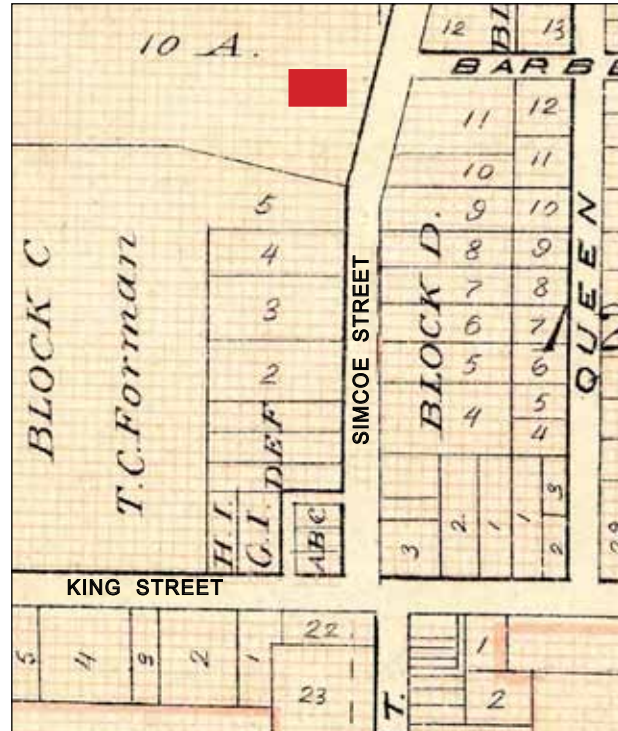
In February 1900, the County Treasurer for Reach Township advertised the Prince Albert Public Hall would be sold for taxes. The hall was identified as being located on a 33/100 acre property at Block C, Conc. 5, Lot 17, in the village of Prince Albert.

By this time the Public Hall had fallen into a sad state of repair. A year later work began on restoring the hall and refurbishing the interior in preparation for a special re-opening.

On September 25, 1901, the Hon. J. Dryden, M.P.P. and Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, presided over a "re-opening" of the Prince Albert Public Hall. All the seats were filled, but a smaller than expected crowd attended the opening.

The last mention of the Prince Albert Public Hall was recorded in the *Ontario Observer* on October 1916, when it was in danger of being destroyed by a fire. The building on a property just north of the hall were consumed by fire, but local citizens rallied together and were able to save the hall from destruction.

No photograph of the Prince Albert Public Hall has ever been located, and there is no description, but information found throughout the *Ontario Observer* newspaper suggests it would have been a modest, but good size hall, capable of holding significant crowds.



The precise location of the Prince Albert Public Hall is difficult to determine, but it was identified as being in Block 'C', Conc. 5 in the village, shown on this map. Lot #17 is not identified, but the red square points to approximately where the hall was located.

**PROGRAMME**  
 FOR THE  
**Social Entertainment**  
 IN THE  
**TOWN HALL, PRINCE ALBERT,**  
**TO-MORROW,**  
**FRIDAY EVE'G, OCT. 6TH.**

**PART I.**

Opening Ode.....  
 Reading..... Mr. W. Bongard  
 Reading..... Miss L. Eddy  
 Song..... Mr. Lu Hurd  
 Song..... Miss M. Cleghorn  
 Comic Song..... Mr. Ralph Hurd  
 Song..... Mr. J. G. P. Books  
 Song..... Miss J. Bongard

**PART II.**

Dialogue—"Polly Ann".... Members of Lodge  
 Song—"Killarney" (by request) Mr. J. G. P. Books  
 Instrumental..... Miss M. Cleghorn  
 Song..... Miss L. Eddy  
 Comic Song..... Mr. Ralph Hurd  
 Song..... Miss J. Bongard  
 Song—"Wandering Refugee".... Mr. Lu Hurd  
 Duett.... Messrs. W. Bongard and Ralph Hurd

The Resilent Ministers are expected to be present to Address the audience.  
 Tea Served a 6:30 p. m.  
 Admission 25 cents. Children 15 cts.  
 Committee, { L. HURD,  
 { W. BONGARD,  
 { E.C. STEPHENS.

Ad for Social Entertainment at the Prince Albert Town Hall, Friday, October 6, 1865.



# First Newspaper

## The Ontario Observer

The first newspaper to be published in the area was started on December 12, 1857 by Mr. James Holden. The paper was published every Thursday morning from Prince Albert., C.W.

At some point during the year 1858, the *Ontario Observer* changed hands and began to be published by M.G. Robson. Mr. Robson was the proprietor of Robson & Co. which also operated the Prince Albert House, a store selling clothing, footwear and hardware, located at the corner of Simcoe and King St. in Prince Albert.

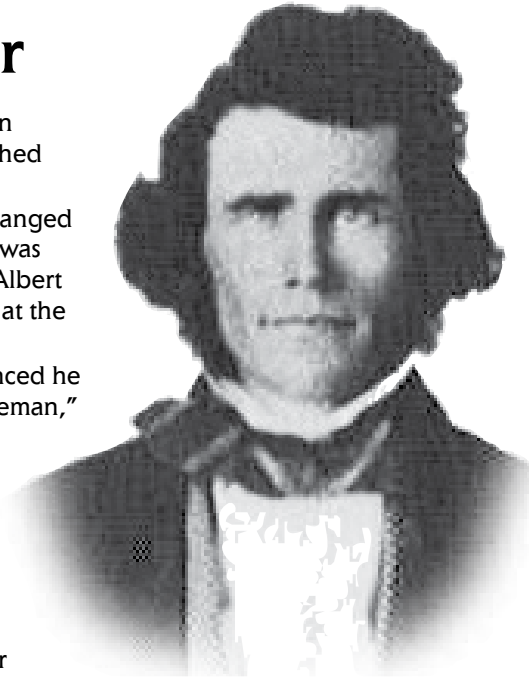
In a notice in the December 2, 1858 issue Mr. Robson announced he had secured the services of Mr. Alfred Sylvester, a "literary gentleman," to assume management of the *Observer's* editorial department.

Just a few months later, on May 24, 1859, Mr. James Holden and Mr. Edward Oliver entered into a co-partnership for the purpose of publishing the *Ontario Observer*. They began publishing the paper from Prince Albert with the first edition on Thursday, June 23, 1859.

Sometime during the next year and a half (due to missing copies the exact date is unknown), Mr. Oliver left the newspaper and publication of *The Observer* was continued by James Holden.

Edward J. Mundy, who would later start his own newspaper in Port Perry, was editor of the *Observer* for a time during 1860. The last record available shows Mr. Holden as publisher is May 28, 1863.

A further change in ownership occurred sometime prior to



James Holden

**"ONTARIO OBSERVER"**  
BOOK AND JOB  
**PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT,**  
PRINCE ALBERT, C.W.

**JAMES HOLDEN**

WOULD RESPECTFULLY ACQUAINT THE Public generally of Ontario, that he has opened a Business in the above Branch at Prince Albert, where he trusts, by assiduity to all commands, to obtain that amount of support which it will ever be his study to deserve.

Every description of BOOK AND JOB PRINTING executed in the best style, and at the cheapest rates, including—

PAMPHLETS, BY-LAWS, CIRCULARS, PROGRAMMES, BUSINESS CARDS, SHOW BILLS, POSTERS, HAND BILLS, BLANK AND PROMISSORY NOTES, INDENTURES, MINISTERS' PLANS, BLANK DEEDS AND FORMS, &c., &c.

PRINTING IN COLOURS, GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZES.

The utmost despatch will uniformly be observed in the execution of all orders.  
Prince Albert, Dec. 16th, 1857.

THE  
**Ontario Observer**  
IS PUBLISHED  
Every Thursday Morning,  
BY  
**ROBSON & Co.,**  
Prince Albert, C.W.

TERMS PER ANNUM:  
If paid in advance, 8s. 9d.; at the end of one month 10s., at the end of the year, 12s. 6d.  
No subscription taken for a less period than six months.  
Remittances mailed in a letter (registered) and addressed to "ROBSON & Co., PRINCE ALBERT," will be at the risk of the Publishers.  
Letters and Communications, addressed to the Publisher of Editor, must be post-paid.

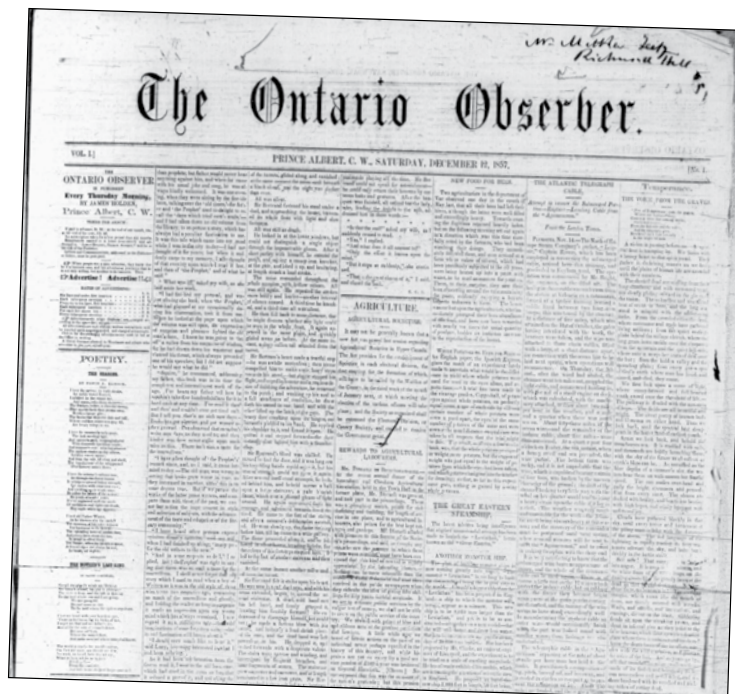
When people see a man advertise, they know that he is a business man, and his advertising proclaims that he is not only willing, but anxious to do business. Then

**Advertise! Advertise!**

RATES OF ADVERTISING:

Six lines and under, first insertion	2 6
Each subsequent insertion	0 7 1/2
From six to ten lines, first insertion	3 4
Each subsequent insertion	0 10
For each line above ten	0 4
Every subsequent insertion	0 1

Advertisements when displayed are charged according to the space they occupy.



First issue of the Ontario Observer, December 12, 1857

February 2, 1865 when the *Ontario Observer* began to be published by Mr. Henry Parsons and William Robinson from the Victoria Block in Prince Albert. On Monday, June 25, 1866, Mr. William Robinson died in Prince Albert at the age of 23 years, 11 months and five days of age.

A report following his death says that Mr. Robinson's first connection with the *Ontario Observer* dated back to 1857 when he commenced to learn the art of printing at the *Observer* office. Except for a few



JAMES BAIRD

months in the United States, he continued in the office as compositor until the retirement of James Holden. He then purchased an interest in the *Observer* and assumed the duties of Editor until his untimely death.

On August 30, 1866, Mr. James Baird became the new Editor of the *Ontario Observer* and became partners with Henry Parsons. This partnership continued for the next 18 years.

On August 28, 1873, the *Ontario Observer*, under the ownership of Baird and Parsons made the announcement that the paper would be moving to Port Perry to continue publishing. The announcement stated "Due to shift of the greater part of business, the newspaper must move as near as possible to the business centre of the locality in which it is published." Their new offices were located in the Warriner Block immediately west of the Post Office in Port Perry.



HENRY PARSONS

At this time, the *Ontario Observer's* name was changed to the *North Ontario Observer*, the newspaper now being published a couple of miles north of its original location in Prince Albert. And, in the first edition of the *North Ontario Observer* published on September 11, 1873 from its' new Port Perry location, the owners ran an apology for missing one issue of the paper, stating "the work of moving and printing was more than they could accomplish in one week".

**"ONTARIO OBSERVER"**  
BOOK AND JOB  
**PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT**  
PRINCE ALBERT, C.W.

**HOLDEN & OLIVER**

**WOULD REPECTFULLY ACQUAINT THE** Clergy, Merchants, Auctioneers, Tradesmen, and the Public generally of Ontario, that they have opened Business in the above Branch at Prince Albert, where they trust, by assiduity to all commands, to obtain that amount of support which it will ever be their study to deserve.

Every description of **BOOK AND JOB PRINTING** executed in the best style, and at the cheapest rates, including—

**PAMPHLETS, BY-LAWS, CIRCULARS, PROGRAMMES, BUSINESS CARDS, SHOW BILLS, POSTERS, HAND BILLS, BLANK AND PROMISSORY NOTES, INDENTURES, MINISTER'S PLANS, BLANK DEEDS AND FORMS, &c.**

PRINTING IN COLOURS, GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZES.

The utmost despatch will uniformly be observed in the execution of all orders.  
Prince Albert, June 9, 1869.

**The Ontario Observer,**  
A WEEKLY  
**POLITICAL, AGRICULTURAL**  
AND  
**Family Newspaper ;**  
IS PUBLISHED AT THE  
**VICTORIA BLOCK, PRINCE ALBERT**  
COUNTY OF ONTARIO,  
**EVERY THURSDAY MORNING**  
BY  
**BAIRD & PARSONS.**

**TERMS:—\$1.50** per annum, if paid within six months; if not paid within that time, \$2.00. No subscription taken for less than six months; and no paper discontinued until all arrears are paid.

Letters containing money, when addressed to this office, pre-paid and registered, will be at our risk.

**RATES OF ADVERTISING.**  
For each line, first insertion..... \$0 08  
Subsequent insertions, per line..... 0 02

**THE ONTARIO OBSERVER,**  
A WEEKLY  
**Political, Agricultural and Family Newspaper,**  
IS PUBLISHED AT  
**The Victoria Block, Prince Albert, County of Ontario,**  
**EVERY THURSDAY MORNING,**  
**BY PARSONS & ROBINSON.**

**TERMS:—\$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.**

**THE ONTARIO OBSERVER** is the Official Paper of the County, and has a circulation in the County far exceeding that of any other paper published in Canada. Advertisers will find it an invaluable medium through which to make their wares known to the public. Advertisements inserted at reasonable rates. Communications on matters of Public Interest solicited for publication. Notices of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, inserted gratis.

**JOB PRINTING.**

Every description of Plain and Fancy Letter Press Printing executed on the shortest notice, at City Prices, and in a style not to be surpassed in Canada.

**PARSONS & ROBINSON.**

**The Ontario Observer.**  
A WEEKLY  
**POLITICAL, AGRICULTURAL,**  
AND  
**Family Newspaper**  
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Letters containing money, when addressed to this office, pre-paid and registered, will be at our risk.

**RATES OF ADVERTISING.**  
For each line, first insertion - - - \$0.08  
Subsequent insertions, per line - - - 0.02  
Cards, under 6 lines, per annum - - - 5.00

Ontario Directory ad 1866

# James Holden

Ontario Observer Owner

James Holden was born in Stouffville, County of York on February 29th, 1828. His first engagement in mercantile pursuits began in 1857, at the age of 29 years, when he moved to Prince Albert. Here he commenced publication of the *Ontario Observer*, the areas first newspaper. The first issue came off the press on Thursday, December 10, 1857. He sold the newspaper to Henry Parsons about 1864.

After seven years in Prince Albert, he moved to Whitby where he immediately identified himself with the interests of the County Town and was largely responsible for the progress of the railway and particularly the extension of the railway line from Port Perry to Lindsay.

In Whitby, Mr. Holden, held almost every municipal position, from councillor to reeve, and mayor of the town by acclamation. His only public defeat was to the Hon. T.N. Gibbs in 1873, the newly appointed Minister of Sir John A. MacDonald's cabinet.

His death at the age of 53 years came as a shock to his many friends and to his colleagues from the Whitby, Port Perry and Lindsay Railway Company of which he was managing director.

He passed away at Dominion City, Manitoba, on October 24, 1881. His funeral was the largest ever seen in Whitby for over a quarter century, with between three and four thousand people attending.

He is reported to have been a man of great perseverance, and public enterprise, and although undemonstrative, a warm friend; he never forgot a friend or missed an opportunity to do him a good turn. At the time of his death, Mr. Holden left behind a widow, Orrilla (Fitchett) and large family of nine.



James Holden

## NOTICE OF CO-PARTNERSHIP.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Subscribers have this day (May 24, 1859,) entered into co-partnership, for the purpose of carrying on the general business of Printing and Publishing; and as Publishers of the "*Ontario Observer*."

Signed May 24th, 1859.

James Holden, } WITNESS, M obson.  
Edward Oliver. }

## "ONTARIO OBSERVER"

BOOK AND JOB  
PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT,  
PRINCE ALBERT, C.W.

### JAMES HOLDEN

WOULD RESPECTFULLY ACQUAINT THE Clergy, Merchants, Auctioneers, Tradesmen, and the Public generally of Ontario, that he has opened a Business in the above Branch at Prince Albert, where he trusts, by assiduity to all commands, to obtain that amount of support which it will ever be his study to deserve.

Every description of Book and Job Printing executed in the best style, and at the cheapest rates, including—

PAMPHLETS, BY-LAWS,  
CIRCULARS, PROGRAMMES,  
BUSINESS CARDS, SHOW BILLS,  
POSTERS, HAND BILLS,  
BLANK AND PROMISSORY NOTES,  
INDENTURES, MINISTERS' PLANS,  
BLANK DEEDS AND FORMS, &c., &c.

PRINTING IN COLOURS, GOLD, SILVER AND BRONZES.

The utmost despatch will uniformly be observed in the execution of all orders.  
Prince Albert, Dec. 10th, 1857.

## A RARE CHANCE

FOR A

## BUSINESS MAN !

THE Subscriber offers for Sale at a low price one of the best business stands in the County of Ontario. The property is situated in the flourishing Village of



## PRINCE ALBERT !

In the centre of the business part of the place. The Building is large and commodious, being 25 by 50, 24 feet high, with stone cellar the whole size of the building. The first story is fitted up for a Store, and is one of the best finished shops in the County; the second flat is well finished and occupied as a Printing office. The purchaser can have any reasonable time to pay for the property, by paying 6 per cent. interest.

For further particulars apply to the undersigned if by letter post-paid.

JAMES HOLDEN.

Prince Albert, May 20, 1863. 22-4f



# Pioneer Newspaper Publishers



Henry Parsons

## Henry Parsons

Ontario Observer Publisher

Henry Parsons was born in Lincoln, England in 1838 and came to Canada in 1850 with his parents, who took up residence in Stouffville.

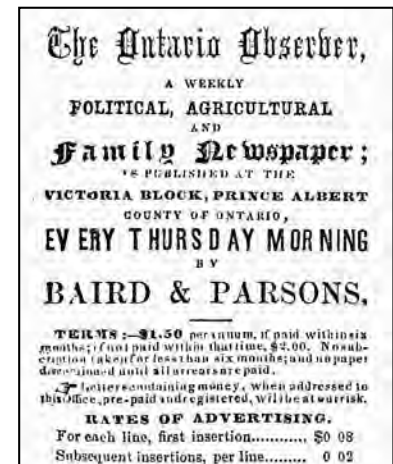
In February 1853 he was apprenticed as a printer to the *Whitby Reporter*, and after finishing his apprenticeship, he moved to New York State. A year later he returned to Canada and in 1858 settled in Prince Albert and joined William Holden on the staff of the *Ontario Observer*, established a year earlier.

Mr. Parsons became identified with the *Observer* newspaper for over 50 years. He purchased the paper and published it in partnership with James Baird until 1884 when the partnership was dissolved.

In 1873 when Prince Albert began to wane and Port Perry to grow, the newspaper was moved and re-named the "*North Ontario Observer*." After taking over sole ownership of the paper in 1884, he carried it on until 1920 when he stopped publishing, but continued in the printing business under the name of the *Observer Printing Office*, assisted by his grandson, Victor Stouffer. Henry Parsons took a keen interest in municipal affairs, at one time serving a couple of terms in the council.

In 1864 he was married to Francis Ruby (Palmer), of Prince Albert, who predeceased him by some 20 years. He was survived by one daughter, Mrs. Andrew Stouffer and one grandson Victor P. Stouffer.

Henry Parsons passed away in his 94th year at his home in Port Perry on Thursday, September 29th, 1932. Interment at Pine Grove Cemetery.



## James C. Baird

Ontario Observer Editor

For almost 20 years, James Baird was associated with the *Ontario Observer* of Prince Albert, the first newspaper to begin publishing in the area.

James Baird was born January 9, 1824 in Glasgow, Scotland, one of four children for Janet (Ewin) and John Baird. He arrived in Reach Township in the late 1850s and quickly got involved in the community. By 1861 he had been elected to the position of Superintendent of Schools for Reach.

It was about this same time he met Mary Ann (Graham) whom he married on October 13, 1863. She was the daughter of Thomas and Jane (Crawford) Graham of Oshawa, Ontario.

In August 1866 he became editor of the newspaper and partners with its owner, Henry Parsons.

James was an outspoken critic of actions and politics, and an advocate of anything that would benefit the progress of the community. After 18 years as editor, in October 1884, his partnership with Henry Parsons as proprietors and publishers of the *North Ontario Observer* was dissolved, with the business being taken over by Mr. Parsons.

Aside from his publishing career, he became involved in the community, serving as president of the Reach and Scugog School Teachers' Association and superintendent during the 1860s.


James Baird died, the result of a stroke, on January 11, 1898 at 74 years of age. He was buried at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert, Ontario.



James Baird

# BUSINESS

**Ontario Carriage Factory**  
  
**PRINCE ALBERT, C. W.**  
 ESTABLISHED 1855.  
**JAMES H. MANDY,**  
 MANUFACTURER OF  
**Carriages, Wagons, Sleighs, and Cutters,**  
 And all kinds of Agricultural Implements made in the latest and  
 most approved styles and of the very best materials.  
*Repairing executed with neatness and dispatch. All work warranted.*

**WM. DECKER,**  
 PRACTICAL  
**WATCHMAKER & JEWELER!**  
  
 His Shop is removed to the premises lately occupied by Mr. D. Davis, in the "Victoria" block; two  
 floors south of the Town Hall, where he has a good stock of  
**WATCHES, CLOCKS & JEWELRY.**  
 As a practical watchmaker he defies competition, and will warrant all work executed by him.  
 His Shop will not be responsible for any work left in his possession over one year.  
 Remember the signpost for "Victoria" block, nearly under the "Observer" office,  
 Prince Albert, Dec. 8, 1865.

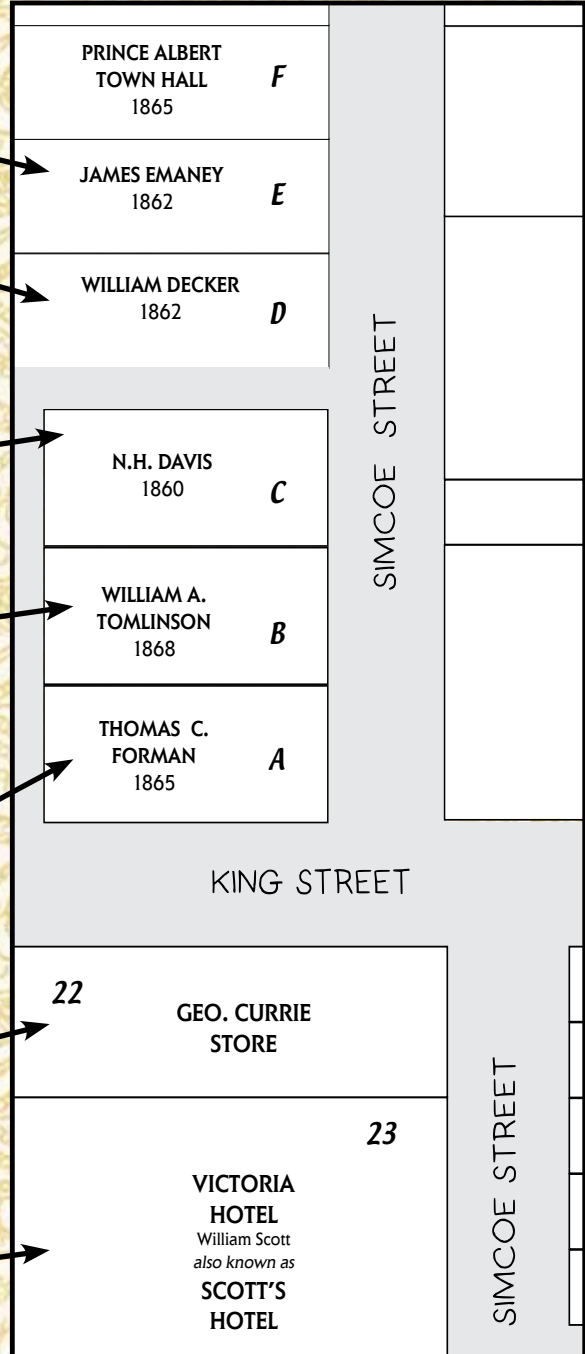
**NEW STORE!!**  
**N. H. DAVIS,**  
 HAS COMMENCED BUSINESS AT  
**PRINCE ALBERT,**  
 Next Door to Tomlinson's Drug Store, and has just opened a splendid  
**STOCK OF DRY GOODS,**  
 Ready-made every variety and style, which he will sell for CASH at prices equal to the  
 most and Montreal House. He has also an extensive stock of  
**FAMILY GROCERIES,**  
 And various kinds of choice wine, liquors, and  
**READY-MADE CLOTHING!!**  
 He is at home in DAVIS' NEW STORE, and awaits his customers.  
 N. H. DAVIS.  
 Prince Albert, July 20, 1865.

**Dye Stuffs**  
 BEST Madder, Extract, Logwood, Blue  
 & Violet, Cambrine, and all other dye Stuffs  
 for coloring with receipts how to use them given  
 free. For Sale from Dye House at the  
**MEDICAL HALL,**  
 Adjoining the Store of T. C. Forman, Esq.,  
**PRINCE ALBERT**  
 No stock of Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, etc.,  
 necessary, is complete and will be sold at the lowest  
 reasonable prices. Every article warranted  
 pure and genuine. W. A. TOMLINSON.  
 Prince Albert, Sept. 20, 1865.

(1862.) (1862.)  
  
**SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS,**  
**GEO. CURRIE**  
 HAS RECEIVED A VERY LARGE AND  
**COMPLETE ASSORTMENT!**  
 OF  
**New Goods!**  
 OF ALL  
 THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS  
 INCLUDING ALL THAT IS  
**New, Cheap, and Useful,**  
 WHICH HE WILL BE  
**HAPPY TO SHEW AND SELL!**  
 CALL AND SEE!  
 Prince Albert, May 9, 1865.

**First Arrivals!**  
  
**FALL & WINTER GOODS**  
 The Largest, best selected and Cheapest Stock  
 of Goods in North Ontario!!  
 T. C. FORMAN.  
 Prince Albert, Sept. 10, 1865.

**VICTORIA HOTEL**  
 SIMCOE ST. PRINCE ALBERT.  
**WILLIAM BOYNTON, JUNR.**  
 PROPRIETOR.  
 3 GOOD STALLS ATTACHED  
 THE MAIL STAGES FROM GRANA  
 WILL CALL STOPPING WITH LINDSAY'S  
 PORT BERT & WHITBY STOP AT THE

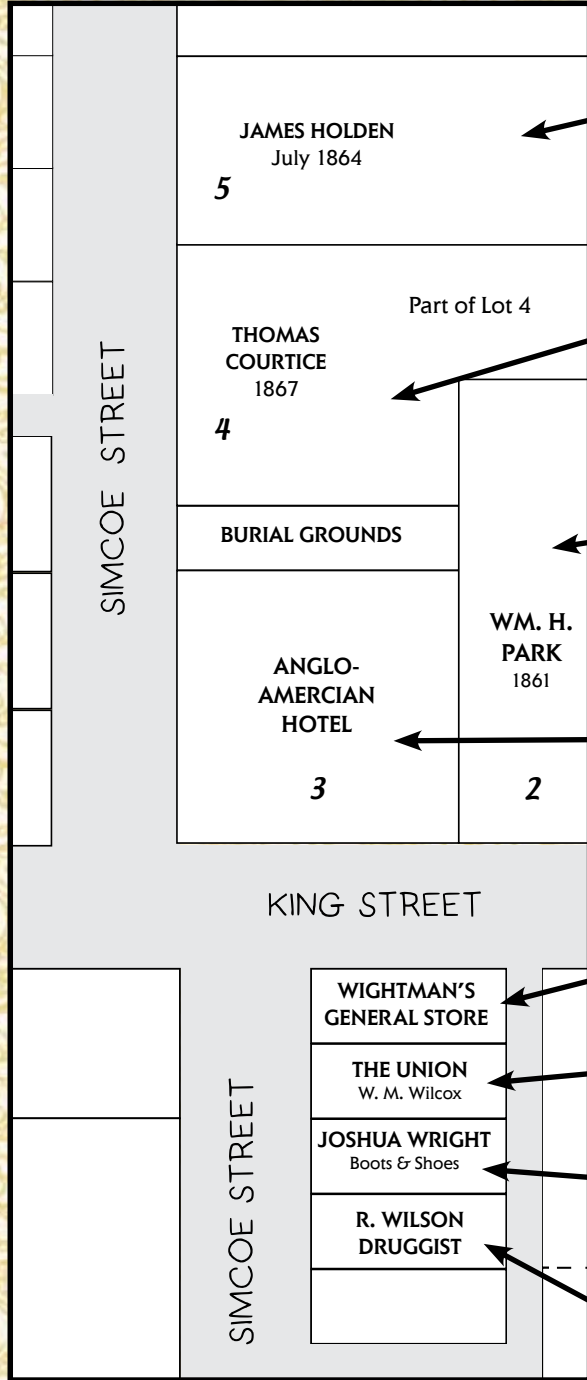


WEST SIDE OF SIMCOE STREET

This village plan is an approximate view of the Prince Albert central business district circa 1865. The plan is not accurate to any specific year due to business often moving to new or larger locations in the village from the mid-1850s to the 1870s.



# DISTRICT



**J. HOLDEN'S COLUMN.**

**MONEY TO LOAN**

HAVING completed arrangements with a few of the largest Capitalists in Upper Canada, to invest their money, I am therefore prepared to lend any amount on good improved farms for five or ten years, at a low rate of interest—less than Bank interest.

Apply (if by letter pre-paid) to  
**JAMES HOLDEN,**  
Prince Albert.

**OFFICE--Opposite the Town Hall, 3 doors North of Moggridge's Hotel.**  
Prince Albert, Dec. 1, 1864.

**T. COURTICE,**

MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN ALL KINDS OF  
**SADDLES, HARNESS,**  
TRUNKS, &C.  
Simcoe Street, PRINCE ALBERT.

**PRINCE ALBERT FURNITURE WAREHOUSES.**

Every description of Furniture now on hand and will be sold  
**10 per cent Cheaper**

Than any other establishment in the County, for  
**Cash or Cordwood.**

As I am determined to sell Cheap you may depend on getting good bargains, as the times are hard. (C) I would call attention to the Undertaking department. Coffin Trimmings of all kinds. Coffins of every size constantly on hand. Also the best Harness in North or South Ontario. Charges moderate. (C) A Stock of Sewing Machines on hand.

PRINCE ALBERT, March 1, 1871. **W. H. PARK.**

**ANGLO-AMERICAN HOTEL,**  
PRINCE ALBERT, C.W.

JOHN MOGGRIDGE, - - - PROPRIETOR.

Best Accommodation for Travellers.

CHOICE WINES, LIQUORS & CIGARS.

GOOD STABLING  
AND  
ATTENTIVE OSTLERS.

**GOOD LIQUORS!!**  
AT  
**W. M. Wightman's,**  
PRINCE ALBERT.

The inhabitants of Beach and surrounding townships are respectfully informed that the Publisher has added a  
**Choice Stock of Liquors**  
to his Dry Goods and Grocery Store, which promises to be the very best Stock at the lowest possible price.

Don't forget  
PRINCE ALBERT, Dec 19, 1868. **W. M. WIGHTMAN'S,**  
New Store,  
Prince Albert.

**THE UNION DRUG, GROCERY!**  
AND  
**Liquor Store!**

**W. M. WILLCOX,**  
PRINCE ALBERT!

Notifies the special attention of the public to his extensive ready assortment of all kinds of  
DRUGS, GROCERIES, and **PRINCE ALBERT'S** variety of **Whiskies, Cigars, and** the best and finest of **Tea, Coffee, Ac.-Bacon, Ham, and Cold Cuts.**

A large and well selected Stock of **Fresh Canned** of superior quality.  
(C) All Goods can be had by **Order.** We guarantee that the medicines in our store are of the best quality, and that the goods in our store are of the best quality of **Whiskies, Tea, Coffee, Ham, Cigars, and Tobacco.** Thoroughly reliable **First Medicines.**

(C) **DRUGS and Medicines.** Also the best quality of **Whiskies, Tea, Coffee, Ham, Cigars, and Tobacco.** Thoroughly reliable **First Medicines.**

Remember the place opposite Scott's Hotel, Prince Albert.  
PRINCE ALBERT, Dec 19, 1868. **W. M. WILLCOX,**

**IMPORTANT QUESTION.**  
WHERE CAN WE GET GOOD  
**Boots & Shoes, Cheap?**

If you want a good **HOME-MADE** article, call at

**JOSHUA WRIGHT'S,**  
**BOOT & SHOE STORE,**  
PRINCE ALBERT.

(C) All **Importations** are **assured** of the **best** quality **and** at the **lowest** price **and** will be **sent** you **free** of **charge.**

**Wanted.**—200 Cords of **Hemlock Bark.**  
May 10, 1868. **J. WRIGHT.**

**R. WILSON,**  
**DRUGGIST!**  
OPPOSITE SCOTT'S HOTEL,  
PRINCE ALBERT.

DEALER in **Drugs, Patent Medicines, Tryp-Salts, Potions, Oils, Perfumery, Tinctures, Hair-Treatment, Nail Brushes, Combs, Spoons, Soap, Lard, etc.**

Special attention given to the preparation and dispensing of **Prescriptions.**

(C) **Medical** preparations will **please** call and **examine** in **Person.**  
PRINCE ALBERT, April 6, 1864. 15-1y



# Memory of Prince Albert

This following account of life in Prince Albert during its developing years,  
written by Rice Eugene Eddy, about 1900.

~

*Eugene Rice Eddy was born about 1854 at Prince Albert, Ontario, one of two sons of Rice Honeywell and Mindwell (Unger) Eddy who came to the village about 1840. During the 1850s, Eugene's father was the operator of a general store in Prince Albert.*

*When he was a young man in his 20s, Eugene was a teacher, but for how long is unknown. He is also believed to have owned and operated a hotel for many years in the village, but once again, which hotel has not been determined.*

*Eugene moved to Pickering, Ontario sometime in the 1890s and by 1901 was living in Whitby. He died when he was 50 years old on February 5, 1905 in Denver, Colorado. His body was returned to Prince Albert and he was buried at Pine Grove Cemetery.*

*Following his memory of Prince Albert when he was a young lad.*

Friends and fellow citizens - "lend me your ears".

This is ye lode folk entertainment, and I have the honour to be the oldest inhabitant of Prince Albert and not one of you envy me.

My parents R.H. Eddy and wife, (Mindwell Unger), came to the village in 1840 they were Canadian born.

It was mostly woods when they settled here but a thriving village soon replaced the bush. The house Wm. Martian resided in was the old Eddy homestead.

Simcoe Street, running north and south, was the business section and was thickly populated with about 400 to 500 inhabitants.

One of my earliest remembrances was of a boy walking the streets ringing a hand bell and shouting "Auction sale at Enoch Davis store". I would have liked to be that boy.

G. C. Forman bought the Davis block. He and his sons kept a general store for years then it was removed to Port Perry in sections

G. C. Forman was also Major of a company of volunteers who wore red coats and drilled in a shed built for that purpose, when the men were wanted out a bugler would stand on the corner and blow - la -la -la -la- la- la.

Then the shed and grounds were used for fairs and menageries with circus, little pourer, big and little elephants, gorgeous gilded chariots etc. parading all kinds of animals. So tall they cut the telegraph wire. They had

jungle animals in cages. The shed afterwards was know as the Victoria skating rink.

Traveling was by stage coach from Oshawa and Uxbridge. Sometimes four horses when coming from the south. The driver would crack his whip - blow a horn and dash up to "Scotts Hotel" in great style. That hotel occupied the space between Mr. Rainers store and the brick house south.

There were three churches - a tower hall - several lawyers - two doctors, one jeweller, two drug stores, three general stores, two harness shops - shoe store where shoes and high boots were made to order - two drug stores - three tailor shops - one cabinet shop (the family lived upstairs with an outside stairway) - a bakery - tin shop, also sold stoves and a ware - two blacksmith shops, over one a bell which rung four times daily, twice on Sunday and toiled for funerals. Then a thriving granary which employed quite a few men and smelled badly.

We have a copy of the *Ontario Observer* printed at Prince Albert by Mr. Parsons and Robinson. Mr. Parsons is still alive and lives in Port Perry, which was then just a wharf and saw mill. The railway coming to Port Perry killed Prince Albert as a business centre,

The same old school house - main body with belfry and bell that would work - that school children were taught by an assistant in a gallery reached by a stairway.

The Post Office has been moved six times."

# BUSINESS LEADERS

## of Prince Albert

### William Boynton

#### Pioneer Settler

William Boynton, Sr., was born on October 22, 1796, at Stillington, Yorkshire, England to parents Bartholomew and Catherine Boynton. He married Frances Cass on June 25, 1820 at Stillington and over the next 11 years they had five children - William James, John, Thomas, Edward and Robert. Only one child was born in Canada.



1851 map shows Wm. Boynton's property at Prince Albert.

William was 40 years old when he and his family immigrated Canada in 1836, first settling in York Region. In 1839 he moved to Reach Township, taking up residence in Prince Albert where he built a tavern on Simcoe Street. The area in which he made his home became known as Boynton's Corners but the village was later named Prince Albert.

William was elected to Reach Township council by a show of hands at the Town Hall in Manchester in 1858. His career was a prosperous one, accumulating considerable property. He was a kind and generous man and highly respected by a large circle of friends.

William Boynton, 72, died in Prince Albert on June 29, 1868. Following a service at the Prince Albert Presbyterian Church, a procession was formed and marched to the place of interment at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert. His wife, Frances, was buried beside her husband four years later.

### William J. Boynton

#### Hotel Proprietor

William James Boynton was born on May 8, 1821 at Stillington, West Yorkshire, England to parents William and Frances Boynton. He received his early education in England and when he was a young man immigrated to Canada with his family, settling in Reach Township about 1839.

William Boynton Jr. married Mary Ann Mark on July 14, 1844 at Prince Albert in Reach Township. They had 12 children during their life together.

He operated the Victoria Hotel in Prince Albert, Ontario from about 1857 until 1860 when it was sold to William Scott. In December 1854 William moved to Lindsay where he took over Jewett's Hotel on William Street and operated it as Boynton's Hotel until his death.

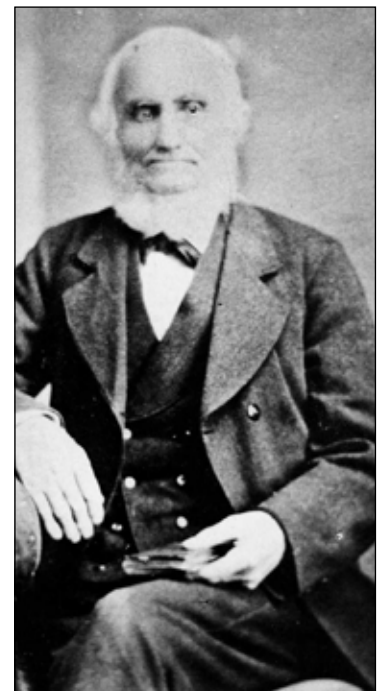
William J. Boynton was 51 years old when he passed away on November 21, 1872 at Lindsay, Ontario. He was buried at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert.

His wife, Mary Ann died on November 30, 1894 at Saginaw, Michigan, USA.

**BOYNTON'S HOTEL,**  
(LATE JEWETT'S.)

**W**M. BOYNTON begs to inform the inhabitants of the County of Victoria and surrounding Counties, that he has opened the Hotel on William Street, lately occupied by Jewett, and as he has had it fitted and furnished in first style, visitors will find every convenience Wines, Liquors and Cigars of the best quality.

An attentive ostler always in attendance.  
Lindsay, Dec. 16, 1864. 229-tf



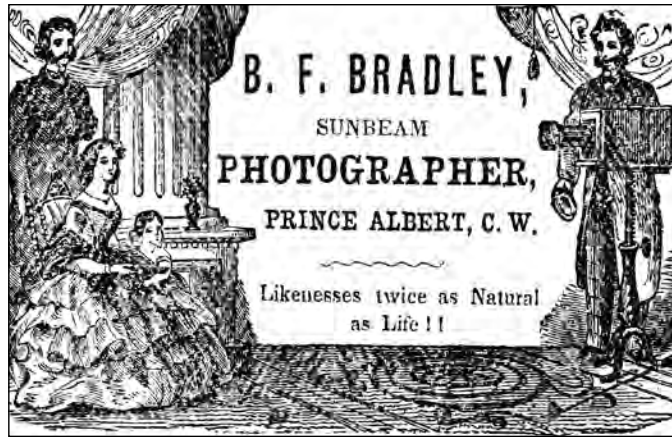
William Boynton, Jr.

# B.F. Bradley

Artist - Photographer

B.F. Bradley was born about 1831 in the United States. He came to Canada, settling in Reach Township, Canada West by 1861, when he was 30 years of age. In the 1861 Canada census he was listed as an artist.

Here he set up a studio and became a Sunbeam Photographer, but it is unclear how long he stayed in Prince Albert, although he was still working from his studio in 1866. Where he moved after leaving Prince Albert has not been determined.



John Carswell

# John Carswell

Watch Maker

John Carswell was born in Suffolk, England in February 1790. John married Sarah Piper in London and they had two children, Lydia and Ann. The family emigrated to Canada, settling in Toronto, in 1834 during the massive migration from the British Isles in the 1830s.

In Toronto, Carswell perfected his skills as a watchmaker, working for a number of jewellers and watchmakers. With their young family, the Carswells made their way to Prince Albert, finally settling here in 1847.

Initially the Carswells lived on King Street, but later purchased a lot on Simcoe Street and built a modest home in 1857.

John opened a small business as a watch maker in Prince Albert and worked at his craft until he was in his 80s, before retiring.

John Carswell died on November 9, 1880 in Prince Albert and was buried at Pine Grove Cemetery beside his wife, who had died two years earlier.



Carswell's home at Simcoe & Barber Street.

## NEW TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT!

THE SUBSCRIBER HAVING RENTED the premises lately occupied by Mr. Unger, two doors east of the Anglo-American Hotel, where all kinds of Tailoring will be done in the most Fashionable and Approved Styles, with neatness and despatch, and hopes by strict attention to business and punctuality to all orders to merit a liberal share of public patronage.


☞ Merchants Cloths also made up.— All work done on the most reasonable terms.

☞ CUTTING ATTENDED TO. ☞

J. BULLEN

Prince Albert, March, 28, 1860. 15-11

## DENDISTRY.

MR. JAMES STÉPHENS, Dentist, from Oshawa,  takes great pleasure in offering his services to the inhabitants of Prince Albert, Borelia, Port Perry, Manchester, and surrounding country, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, of each week.— Whole upper sets from fifteen to twenty dollars; other dental work reduced accordingly, and all work warranted. Office in Excelsior Block, over J. P. Johnston's Jewelry Store, Prince Albert.

Prince Albert, March 11, 1863.





Samuel P. Barber

## Samuel P. Barber

### Hardware Merchant

Samuel Patterson Barber was born in January 1819 in Quebec City, Quebec and later moved to Ontario.

When he was 22 years old, he married Ann Gordon, and couple had two children during their marriage. Ann died as a young woman of 36 years.

Samuel remarried in 1856 to Margaret Gordon. Two of their three children were born before they moved to Reach Township and purchased a 30 acre property on Concession 5, Lot 16, in the village of Prince Albert.

He was honoured with a street being named Barber Street, (see map).

During 1861 he opened a business selling stoves, sheet iron, tin and copper in the village. The same year Samuel also served as a councillor on the Reach Township council. Ten years after opening his hardware business in Prince Albert he left the village, moving first to Caradoc, Ontario and later to Emerson, Manitoba. Samuel returned to Port Perry about 1888, after the death of his wife, to live with his daughter Sarah and son-in-law.

He was 78 years old when he died at Franklin, Manitoba.



1861 map shows land owned by Samuel P. Barber and Barber Street named in his honour.

**“KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES!”**

**PRINCE ALBERT A STEP IN ADVANCE!**

THE Subscriber being determined to stick to that motto, has laid in a large and complete Stock of

**Cooking, Box, & Parlor Stoves,**

Which comprise almost every variety manufactured in Canada, and among which he would name the following **COOKING STOVES:**

Maple Leaf,	Protectionist,	Superior,
King of Stoves,	Golden Plecton,	Ranger,
Iron Duke,	Canadian,	St. Lawrence,

Commonwealth, 3 sizes, a very superior Stove,

ALSO, Stove-Pipes, Tin, Sheet-Iron, Copper-ware, Sheet-Zinc, Japanned and other small wares, &c., &c.

TAKE PARTICULAR NOTICE.—He will sell as CHEAP, and on as favorable terms as any House in this part of Canada. No mistake—Come and see.

Sheep Skins, Rags, old Iron, Copper, &c., and most kinds of Country Produce taken in exchange.

**SAMUEL P. BARBER.**

Prince Albert, October 23, 1862. 46-U

**E. CASH'S**  
**Pump & Fanning Mill**  
**FACTORY!**  
**SIMCOE STREET, PRINCE ALBERT.**

THE Subscriber respectfully informs the inhabitants of Prince Albert, surrounding villages and country, that he is still carrying on business in the above line

**Opposite Jno. Heard's Blacksmith Shop**  
 Where he will be happy to supply the wants of his customers with a superior article on reasonable terms, and feels confident that by leaving your orders with him, you will find the workmanship and material such as cannot fail to give universal satisfaction. *Orders and Repairs Promptly Attended to.*

**ALL WORK WARRANTED.**  
 References given if required.

**E. CASH.**  
 Prince Albert, Sept. 25, 1860. 41-t

## Elija Cash

### Pump Maker

Elija Cash, was born at Markham, Ontario, Canada West about 1840, the eldest son of David Cash.

At 21 years of age, Elija married Emma at Burchville, on June 1861. He moved to Prince Albert after his marriage, having opened a Pump and Fanning Mill in the village a year earlier.

A number of years later, in 1867 Mr. Cash constructed a new building and opened a Cheese Factory. Two years later, due to an increase in business he moved to a larger store, which provided an excellent stock of groceries and provisions.

Elija and his family moved to Michigan, United States about 1875, where he changed his career, becoming a preacher. He later moved to Los Angeles, California to continue his new career path.

While visiting his father in Prince Albert, Elija Cash died on Wednesday, December 7, 1904. A funeral service was held at the residence of his father followed by buried at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert, Ontario.

# Thomas Courtice

## Harness Manufacturer

Thomas Courtice was born in 1829 in Buckland Brewer, Devon, England. He married Annie Cory, also of Devon, England, and the immigrated to Canada in 1852. Annie and Thomas had three sons and three daughters, with their first child being born at Prince Albert in 1857.

Mr. Courtice started in the leather and saddlery business in 1854 at Prince Albert, and in 1860 joined forces with John Rolph in the manufacturing of harness products. With the arrival of the railway in Port Perry, Mr. Courtice moved to his new building near the corner of Queen and Perry St. in 1874, to open his new harness shop. Unfortunately, like so many other businesses, the Courtice Block was destroyed in the fire of 1884.

Mr. Courtice's business was a success from the start, catering to needs that were widespread in the community. In 1887, he formed a partnership with Samuel Jeffrey, and they successfully carried on with their business, Courtice and Jeffrey Harness Shop, until his death.

In 1869 he served as treasurer of the Prince Albert Public Hall Joint Stock Co., and while a resident of Port Perry served on the town council. He was also a devoted Christian, who served as the Sabbath School Superintendent and for a time was the local preacher while in Prince Albert.

Thomas Courtice, one of the community's best loved and esteemed residents, passed away in Port Perry on Friday, March 1, 1901, at the age of 71 years. In respect for this pioneer resident, the businesses of Port Perry closed for the afternoon of his funeral as he was laid to rest in Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert. Left to mourn him was his wife, Annie (Cory), 79, who died on February 8, 1913 in Port Perry.

MASON & COURTICE,  
**SADDLE, HARNESS,**  
 CARRIAGE & TRUNK MAKERS,  
 SIMCOE STREET, PRINCE ALBERT

**H**A VE STILL ON HAND AN ASSORT-  
 ment in all the above Branches, which they  
 offer CHEAP FOR CASH or APPROVED  
 CREDIT.

Prince Albert, Dec. 10, 1857.

### GOOD NEWS.

## Courtice & Rolph

**H**A VE just received a quantity of New  
 Goods, comprising Whalebone and  
 Gut Whips [just imported from England.]  
 Horse Nets, Saddles, Bridles, Martingales,  
 and Harness of all descriptions, all of which  
 will be sold at the lowest remunerating pro-  
 fits. Please call and examine for your-  
 selves.

Prince Albert, Aug. 8, 1860.

34-tf

## T. COURTICE,



MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN ALL KINDS OF

## SADDLES, HARNESS,

TRUNKS, &C.

Simcoe Street, PRINCE ALBERT.

Ontario Directory, 1866.

## THE OLD STAND THE BEST!!

# T. Courtice

PREMIUM

## Saddlery Warehouse,

SIMCOE ST., PRINCE ALBERT.

*The Largest, Best, and Cheapest Stock in Ontario.*

**T**HE Subscriber returns his sincere thanks  
 for the liberal share of public patronage  
 received during the past seventeen years in  
 which his business has been in successful oper-  
 ation. His Stock is now complete in all its  
 branches, and he feels confident in saying, from  
 past experience, and present facilities for manu-  
 facturing, he can make as good as the best and  
 Sell as cheap as the Cheapest (and a little  
 Cheaper). *Just think, a complete Set of Harness  
 for only \$12.* Other things proportionably low.  
 Now is the time, and the Premium Saddlery  
 Warehouse is the place to buy your Harness,  
 Saddles, Trunks, Horse Clothing, Whips,  
 Sleigh Bells, Celebrated Sweeney and Scotch  
 Collars, &c., &c.

T. COURTICE.

N. B. Cash for Hides.

Prince Albert, Nov. 22, 1871.

48-1y

# George Currie

## Grain Merchant

George Currie was born in Scarborough Township on August 21, 1821, the sixth child of John and Hannah (Lockey) Currie, of Scotland. In 1844, at 23-years of age, he moved to Prince Albert from Oshawa to open a grain buying business. At the same time, he and his brother Mark opened a general merchandising business selling drygoods, liquors, wines and children's wear in the village.

Mr. Currie was married to Sarah Ann (Cronk) on December 3, 1845, and they raised a family of six children: John, Catherine, Luther, Sarah, Hannah and George Jr. All children were born in Prince Albert between 1846 and 1862.

Throughout the 1850s, the Curries became one of the principal grain purchasing businesses in the area, and it was during this time that George tried out his hand a politics. In 1857 he was elected Reeve of Reach Township. He later held the position of Treasurer of the Township for a number of years, before moving to Port Perry.

The Currie brothers dissolved their partnership as General Merchants in September 1861 with George continuing the business. During the 1860s, he formed another partnership with Aaron Ross becoming one of the largest grain companies in the county, as well as respected clothing, hardware and grocery merchants.

During the early 1870s, business began to trickle out of Prince Albert and George Currie, realizing that the tide of business was on the move, purchased a property on the north-east corner of Queen & Perry St. In 1872, he constructed an attractive two-storey brick building into which he moved his new business.

During the summer of 1873 he built an impressive new home at the south-west corner of Queen and Ella St. This was also the same year that he began construction of his most notable building, the large grain elevator located near the railway station at Port Perry's lakefront.

Mr. Currie tried his hand at provincial politics in July 1876, running as a candidate for North Ontario County, but losing his bid to W.H. Gibbs of Whitby.



George Currie, 1895

1862.) (1862.)

**SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS.**

**GEO. CURRIE**  
HAS RECEIVED A VERY LARGE AND

**COMPLETE ASSORTMENT !**  
OF  
**New Goods !**

IN ALL  
**THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS**  
INCLUDING ALL THAT IS  
**New, Cheap, and Useful,**  
WHICH HE WILL BE  
**HAPPY TO SHEW AND SELL !**

CALL AND SEE !

Prince Albert, May 7, 1862.

Prince Albert, May 7, 1862

**G. & M. CURRIE**  
OFFER TO THE PUBLIC A MAGNIFICENT  
**ASSORTMENT OF GOODS,**  
SUITABLE TO THE SEASON,  
**AT THEIR USUAL LOW PRICES!**

**THE ASSORTMENT WAS NEVER MORE COMPLETE, AND PRICES ARE ADAPTED**  
to the Times, many articles being less than  
**TORONTO WHOLESALE RATES !**  
And in all cases as LOW as any in the County of Ontario.

The Stock consists of the usual Assortment of—  
**DRY-GOODS, READY-MADE CLOTHING,**  
MANTLES, SHAWLS,  
LADIES' FURS,  
FUR CAPS & GAUNTLETS,  
BUCK MITTS & GLOVES, &c., in large quantities ;  
RAISINS, CURRANTS, RICE,  
COFFEE, TEA, SUGAR, TOBACCO,  
CODFISH, HERRINGS, &c. ;  
OIL, PAINTS, VARNISH,  
NAILS, GLASS,  
SHELF HARDWARE,  
CROCKERY, &c., &c.

Together with a general assortment of  
**LIQUORS, WINES, &c., &c.**  
—ALSO—  
LADIES' AND GENTS' RUBBER OVER-SHOES ; LADIES' CLOTH, PRUNELLA AND  
ENAMELLED GAITERS ; CHILDRENS' SHOES—MOROCCO AND CALF.

Prince Albert, December 10th, 1857.

George Currie sold his interests in Currie's Elevator to Aaron Ross towards the end of the 1870s, and retired from business. Sometime later, George and Sarah Currie moved to Montana with their youngest son George Jr., where they purchased and lived on a ranch until the death of Mrs. Currie on May 9, 1891. Mr. Currie returned to Toronto as some point to spend the remainder of his life at the home of his daughter and son-in-law.

The Currie's daughter, Sarah, was married to noted lawyer Norman F. Paterson, who had practiced in Port Perry for about 18 years, as well as held the position of village Clerk.

George Currie was 81 years of age when he passed away in Toronto, on Saturday, October 4, 1902, at the residence of Sarah and Norman F. Paterson.



# Pine Grove Cemetery



Monument raised to Abner Hurd at the south end of the Ontario Pine Grove Cemetery.

Land sold by Abner Hurd to the village of Prince Albert officially became "Ontario Pine Grove Cemetery Company in 1862.

For almost 200 years, the land mass known as Pine Grove Cemetery, has been the burial place for thousands of Scugog Township's residents. The first burial on the property, described as Lot 17, 5th Concession, was made in 1831 when Anna Hurd was interred in what is now Section A of the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Abner Hurd, one of the area's earliest settlers and owner of this piece of land then made the property available for burials for others in the community, and by 1860 over 50 burials had taken place, but unfortunately not all were recorded.

What we know as Prince Albert today was initially settled by Aaron Hurd in 1824, and they were joined by the Dayton family in 1829. The settlement was initially recorded on maps as Dayton's Corners or simply, Reach. When Queen Victoria married Prince Albert in 1840, the community celebrated its loyalty by renaming the community "Prince Albert" in his honour.

As the community grew, it became evident there was a need for an official cemetery, so in 1862 a committee was formed and the executive members selected were; President Thomas Forman, Secretary Richard H. Tomlinson and Treasurer Mark Currie. Directors included George Currie, Joshua Wright, Dr. John E. Ware, Aaron Ross, Samuel P. Barber, Edward Major and Wm. Sexton.

They created a company, the "Ontario Pine Grove Cemetery Company", with members required to purchase shares at \$5.00 each. Twenty-five people bought shares but 17 of those bought five shares each. The \$535 raised enabled them to buy, from Hurd, an eight-acre parcel containing all of the existing burial sites and spend \$300 to have the cemetery fenced.

The official name of the cemetery, "Ontario Pine Grove Cemetery" was decided at first meeting the board, but today it is more familiarly known simply as Pine Grove Cemetery. At that inaugural Board meeting in 1862, Francis Smith was selected as the caretaker and grave digger and the cost of a burial plot was set at \$5.00.

The cemetery was a jewel for the small community, but was not without its critics. In the spring of 1874, it was reported by the editor of the *Ontario Observer*, that the Pine Grove Cemetery was an admirable burial ground, although he thought it was too close to the village. He also addressed the poor conditions of the grounds, suggesting the entire space within the fence required to be cleaned of rubbish and weeds, and damaged stones needed repairs.

Just five years later, the cemetery caretaker, Francis Smith, was dismissed of this job. At a meeting of the stockholders of the cemetery, it was reported there had been many complaints

## ONTARIO PINE GROVE CEMETRY CO'Y.

### TAKE NOTICE.

ALL those claiming to have burial Sections in the Grave Yard lately the property of A. Hurd, Esq., in Prince Albert, and now the property of the ONTARIO PINE GROVE CEMETRY COMPANY, are requested to make immediate payment of said lots or of any balances due on the same to Edward Major or R. H. Tomlinson, the only parties now authorized to receive it, and on such payments being made, a deed will be given by the undersigned, and all amounts remaining unpaid on the first of October, will be placed in Court for collection, without further notice.

By order of the President,  
THOS. C. FORMAN.  
Prince Albert, July 22. 1862. 32

about his conduct during burials, over a long period of time. Even the Company president, T.C. Forman, complained that Mr. Smith “paid no more attention to him than he does a tombstone”.

Board member Joshua Wright felt it was the duty of the Company to dismiss the present caretaker forthwith and secure one better fitted for the position. The directors agreed and relieved Mr. Smith of his duties, and immediately appointed Thomas McCoy the new cemetery caretaker.

In 1882 the president of the OPGCC requested the council of Reach Twp., for permission to open a second entrance to the cemetery. He suggested opening up the street leading to northeast corner of the property, which was later approved.

In 1890 the board purchased four acres of land north of the current cemetery, from John Jury for \$1,000. At that time there were a number homes along the west side of Pine Grove Cemetery, fronting on Queen St., and the newly purchased land for the cemetery, abutted the rear of the residential properties.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

THE GROUNDS lately purchased by the

### Ontario Pine Grove Cemetery Co'y

as an addition to said Cemetery, are now laid out, Plans of which can now be seen at the office of J. Wright, President of said Company. Any person desiring

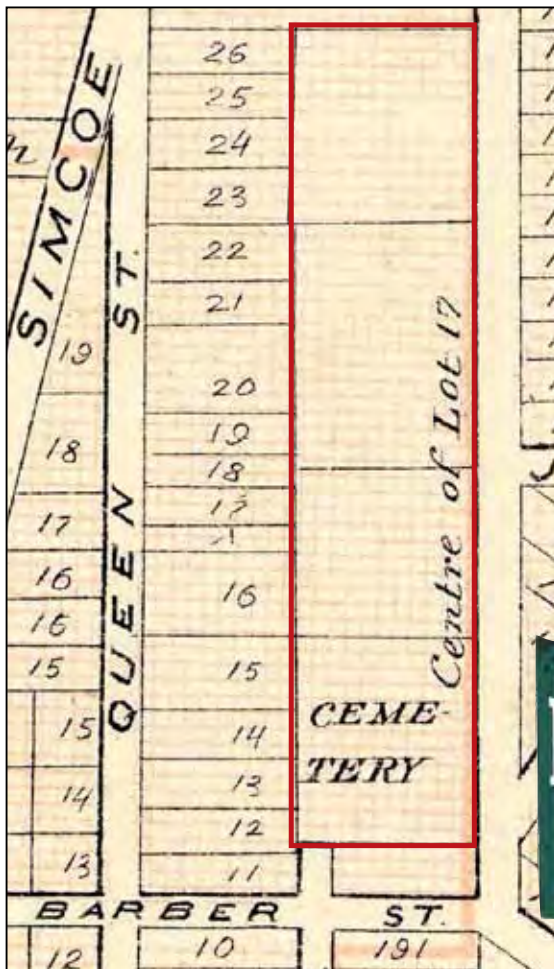
#### Choice Lots

will do well to call early and

Secure First Choice of these Lots!

By order,  
J. WRIGHT,  
President

Port Perry, Nov. 5, 1860



The Pine Grove Cemetery property, outlined in red, on an Atlas of Ontario County map dated 1877.

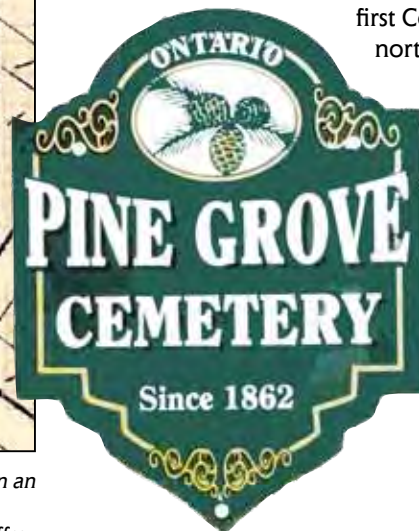
Note: Queen St., as shown on map, was renamed Jeffrey Street to avoid confusion with Queen St. in Port Perry.

It was a controversial issue, and at the annual meeting of the Ontario Pine Grove Cemetery Company, chairman Joshua Wright questioned the right of the directors to purchase the land without consulting the shareholders. Mungo Weir, speaking on behalf of the directors explained that an opportunity was presented to secure Mr. Jury’s property and it was considered a good and advantageous opportunity for the company.

Later that year, after the controversy settled, Ontario Pine Grove Cemetery Co. advertised that plans laid out for the new property were being offered for sale (see ad above).

There was a further expansion of the cemetery property in 1915, when the board purchased another adjoining property for \$800.00. And in 1911, a vault was constructed on the property.

At the northeast end of the property was an area referred to as “Potters’ Field” or “Paupers’” section reserved for those who could not afford to buy a plot. In 2008 the first Columbarium was erected at the northwestern section, just south of the main gate.



Today’s thirteen-acre cemetery has gone through many changes but it still remains in a beautiful and evocative setting in all seasons of the year. It is a tribute to those who have gone before and thus provides a fitting setting for us to pay our respects to them.

Researched  
& written by  
Paul Arculus



# BUSINESS LEADERS

## Daniel Dayton

### Early Settler of Prince Albert

Daniel Dayton was born on February 14, 1769, in New Milford, Connecticut, USA, a son for his parents Caleb and Sarah. He had five brothers and five sisters.

Daniel married Jerusha Thomas in Sandgate, Vermont about 1890 and during their life together they raised eight children.

About 1824, Daniel, Jerusha and their family emigrated to Canada from the United States, and settled in Reach Township. As one of the first settlers in the area, the new settlement became known as Dayton's Corners before the name of the young village was changed to Prince Albert.

When the young Queen Victoria married her German cousin, Albert, in 1840, many communities celebrated by holding banquets and elaborate celebrations. The people at Dayton's Corners celebrated by renaming their settlement Prince Albert in honour of the Queen's consort.

Daniel Dayton, who was a carpenter and farmer, built his original house to the east of the village and moved in with his wife Jerusa and his family.

Another early settler, Abner Hurd built to the east of Reuben Crandell's home. The two new homes laid the early foundations of this small pioneer community.

Before the winter of 1828 the Daytons and Hurds had erected a school house for their children. It was made of logs, and stood just west of sparse settlement on the knoll of a hill.

When Daniel's son Reuben died at the front in February 1828, the first burial ground was established in Prince Albert and young Reuben Dayton was interred in the cemetery, located near the corner of Old Simcoe Road and King Street.

Daniel Dayton died in Reach Township, Ontario in 1829 at the age of 60.

## N.H. Davis

### Store Keeper

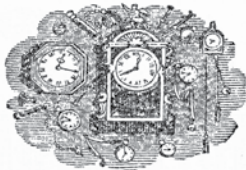
Little is known of N.H. Davis other than he spent a few years in business in Prince Albert.

Davis was born in 1806 in the United States and immigrated to Canada. He was married after arriving in Reach Township. He and his wife Caroline had three children; William, Mary and Frances.

In July 1859 he commenced business in a new store in Prince Albert, selling dry goods, clothing and groceries. Two years later he moved his business to Victoria Block in the bustling village of Prince Albert.

Ten years later he was living in Hamilton with his second wife, Barbara. Here he worked as an insurance agent in his later years.

**ATTENTION !**



**Decker Not Dead Yet.**

THE undersigned wishes to inform his friends and the public generally, that he is still alive and carrying on his business as usual, notwithstanding the many attempts made to extinguish him. His Shop has been removed to the

**Victoria Block, opposite A. Ross' Shop,**  
Where may be found a good stock of  
**Watches, Clocks, and Jewelry.**

As a practical watchmaker he defies competition and will warrant all work executed by him.

WM. DECKER.  
Prince Albert, Dec. 3, 1862. 51-tf

**NEW STORE!!**

**N. H. DAVIS,**  
HAS COMMENCED BUSINESS AT  
**PRINCE ALBERT,**  
Next Door to Tomlinson's Drug Store, and has just opened a splendid  
**STOCK OF DRY GOODS;**  
Replete with every variety and style, which he will sell for CASH at prices equal to Toronto and Montreal Houses. He has also an extensive stock of  
**FAMILY GROCERIES,**  
And receives fresh arrivals every week. GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHING cut and made to order, and  
**READY-MADE CLOTHING !!**  
Go at once to DAVIS' NEW STORE, and secure bargains.

N. H. DAVIS.  
Prince Albert, July 5th, 1859. 30-tf

**VICTORIA BLOCK, PRINCE ALBERT!**

**N. H. DAVIS**  
HAS NOW OPENED OUT HIS IMMENSE STOCK OF FALL AND WINTER  
**Dry Goods, Clothing, Groceries,**  
**Crockery, Hardware, Boots and Shoes, &c.,**  
Which he intends to Sell for "CASH AND CASH ONLY!" at such prices as will be an advantage to all parties wishing to purchase. The Stock is now complete in every Department. Give him a call. **FINE CLOTHING MADE TO ORDER.**  
Prince Albert, October 29, 1861. 46-tf



# Decker/Doll/Diesfeld

## Jewellers

William Decker, was born in Germany about 1821. He and his wife Christiana Barber (Lutz) immigrated to Canada, eventually setting up a jewelry store in Borelia About 1850.

They relocated their store Prince Albert in June 1862, setting up shop next to Charles Hiscock's bakery. He described himself as a practical watch maker and jeweller who repaired any style of watch, clock or jewellery.

Mr. Decker died at the young age of 43 years, on May 9, 1868. He had advertised himself as William Decker, and in his obituary he is given that name. Mysteriously however, his tombstone in the Prince Albert cemetery is not marked William Decker, but William Doll.

Within a few weeks of William Decker's death, his widow advertised that she was continuing to operate the jewelry shop as "Mrs. Doll, formerly Decker".

The widow Christiana Decker/Doll remarried in September 30, 1869, to John Diesfeld who had been born in Germany in 1833. He arrived in Prince Albert in 1867. After the marriage, the Prince Albert Jewelry store became known by the Diesfeld name.

The Diesfelds joined in the migration from Prince Albert in January 1875 when John Diesfeld, Watchmaker, announces his removal from Prince Albert to take up new premises.

Prince Albert Watch, Clock, Jewelry, &c. Establishment.



**WATCH MAKER AND JEWELER!**  
AND DEALER IN  
Gold and Silver Watches, Jewelry,  
Clocks, Fancy Goods, &c.

ALL of the newest styles and of the best workmanship, and at such prices as cannot fail to secure purchasers.

Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, &c., repaired with neatness and dispatch by a thoroughly trained workman.

All work warranted. Charges moderate.

**MRS. DOLL,**  
[LATE MRS. DECKER.]

Prince Albert, June 23, 1869. 25

**Prince Albert Jewelry**



**EMPORIUM.**

A LARGE and Fine Stock opened out for the  
**HOLIDAYS.**

Gold and Silver Watches,  
Gold and Silver Guards,  
Orpide and Goldene Chains,  
Gem and Signet Rings,  
Scarf Pins and Lockets,  
Gold Brooches and Ear Rings,  
Black Brooches and Ear Rings,  
Old Fellows' and  
Masons' Pins,  
Prince of Wales  
Tobacco Pouches,  
Albums, Cigar Cases,  
Children's Tea Sets,  
Briar Pipes, Cigar-holders,  
Meershaum Pipes, &c., &c.  
Clocks of all kinds,


All the above constitute as fine a Stock as ever was brought into a country place, and will be sold *really cheaper than ever before.*

Particular inducements to Cash customers for the Holidays. Come along and make a regular RAID on these fine Christmas and New Year's Presents.

Don't forget the place.


**JOHN DIESFELD,**  
Practical Watch Maker,  
PRINCE ALBERT,

**WILLIAM DECKER,**  
**WATCH & CLOCK MAKER,**  
AND DEALER IN  
**FINE GOLD & SILVER WATCHES!**  
CLOCKS, JEWELLERY, &c.,  
**SINCOE ST., PRINCE ALBERT,**



Watches, Clocks and Jewellery Repaired and Warranted.

**WM. DECKER,**  
PRACTICAL  
**WATCHMAKER & JEWELER!**



HAS Removed to the premises lately occupied by Mr. D. JOLTY, in the Victoria Block, two doors south of the Town Hall, where may be found a good stock of

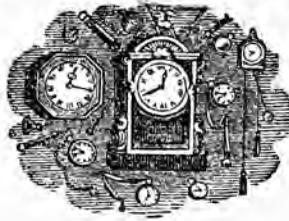
**WATCHES, CLOCKS & JEWELRY.**

As a practical watchmaker he defies competition, and will warrant all work executed by him. He will not be responsible for any work left in his possession over one year.

Remember the shop—in the Victoria Block, nearly under the "Observer" office.

Prince Albert, Dec. 5, 1865. 48

# G. H. FORD,



**PRACTICAL WATCH MAKER,  
Jeweller, &c.,**

**W**OULD respectfully inform the inhabitants of Prince Albert and vicinity, that he has removed to the *Excelsior Buildings*, next door to Mr. Hiscock's Bakery, where he has a full assortment of

**CLOCKS, WATCHES & JEWELRY,** which he intends to sell as *cheap* as any Establishment in the Canadas.

**All Clocks Warranted!**

N. B. Being a practical workman he feels confident that all work entrusted to his care will give satisfaction. Every style of Clocks, Watches and Jewellery repaired in the best manner and warranted.

Prince Albert, Jan. 23, 1861. 6-4f

# J. P. JOHNSTON,

IMPORTER AND



DEALER IN

**WATCHES, CLOCKS, & JEWELRY**  
EXCELSIOR BLOCK,  
**FORD'S OLD STAND.**

**T**HE SUBSCRIBER BEGS TO announce to the inhabitants of Prince Albert and vicinity, that he has just opened a New Store in the above business with a large and well assorted Stock consisting of

**Gold and Silver Watches, English and American Clocks,**

Gold and Silver Chains, Studs, Breast-Pins, &c., Brooches, Ear Rings, &c., Jet Bracelets and Brooches, Electro-plated Forks, Spoons, Tea Services, &c.,

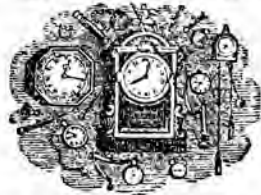
**Spectacles to suit all Sights,**  
*Pocket-Books, Penknives, &c.*

Watches, Clocks, and Jewelry, carefully repaired and warranted to give satisfaction.

Remember the Address—

**J. P. JOHNSTON,**  
**FORD'S OLD STAND.**  
Prince Albert, Nov. 5 1862. 47-1f

# R. BABCOCK



**W**OULD announce to the public that he has effected a purchase of the

**WATCH, CLOCK, AND JEWELRY**

ESTABLISHMENT OF

**G. H. FORD,** in the *Excelsior Block*, Next door to Mr. Hiscock's Bakery, in Prince Albert, where he intends prosecuting the above business in its various departments, and will sell Clocks, Watches, and Jewellery, &c., as *Cheap as the Cheapest.*

Having been a practical workman nearly forty years himself, and having secured the labors of the former proprietor, Mr. G. H. Ford, he trusts that all work entrusted to his care will be performed satisfactorily to all parties. *All work warranted.*

Every style of Clocks, Watches and Jewellery repaired on short notice with neatness and despatch.

*Ladies and Gentlemen call and see for yourselves.*

Prince Albert, Feb. 5, 1862. 8-1y

# Selling Off!

At the Red White and Blue

**BOOT & SHOE ESTABLISHMENT**

PRINCE ALBERT!

For Thirty Days Only, at and under Cost, for the purpose of making room for Spring and Summer goods. Encourage home manufacture and buy your Boots and Shoes of



**BAIN,** the Prince of Shoemakers,  
The man to make boots for the free—  
Men who dwell on Ontario's broad acres—  
All get the best work from thee;  
Thy Wellington's when Volunteers assemble,  
Bring every manly form into view,  
And they say to the shop-slope which tremble,  
We came from thee "Red White and Blue."

When mud spreads its woe desolation,  
And cold-wet, muck, and sidewalk reform,  
Thy Double-sole's no health's consolation,  
Thy Warm-lined brave sheet, wet, and storm;  
Thy Water-proofs, Rubber-bottomed, and Chaters,  
Of material the best, cut a few,  
Thy Dancing boots, Slippers and Skaters,  
Are the best of the "Red White and Blue."

A welcome, a welcome to you hither,  
To Prince Albert our village so grim,  
May thy calf, kip, or cowhide never wither,  
Nor thy Spanish sole let the wet in;  
May thy uppers and soles never sever,  
But still to thy stitches prove true,  
May thy Findings keep thy feet forever,  
Three cheers for the "Red White and Blue!"

JAMES BAIN.

Prince Albert, Feb. 1, 1865.

# James Emaney

Carriage Manufacturer, Blacksmith

James Emaney was born in Polstead, Suffolk, England on June 29, 1829, a son for William and Sarah Emaney. He lived there until the outbreak of the Crimean War, when he went to the front and took part in the battle.

He came to Canada in 1857, settling in Oshawa, where he practiced his trade as a carriage maker and blacksmith for a couple of years.

He moved to Prince Albert in 1859 where he went into partnership with Mr. White in the Ontario Carriage Factory. He later took over the entire business and successfully operated in the village until 1872, when he moved to Perry Street, in Port Perry. Here he built a large carriage factory and carried on a flourishing business for more than 10 years.

In 1881, at the age of about 49 years, he sold his workshops, residence and entire premises, and moved to Toronto, where he went into partnership with his son-in-law under the name of Emaney and Mallett operating the Nipissing House hotel at 172 King St.

East for almost 10 years.

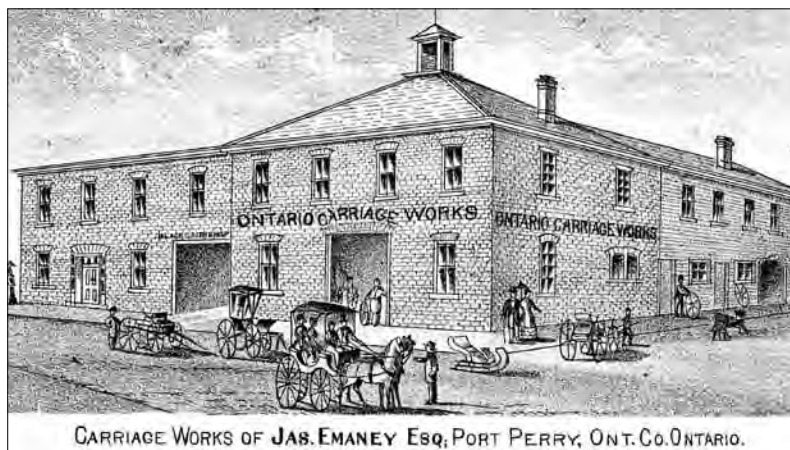
He left Toronto about 1890, moving to Whitby where he became owner of the Royal Hotel, located at 171 Brock St., North. Five years later he sold the Royal Hotel and moved to Toronto where he resided with his son-in-law and daughter. He also spent some time with the Malletts at the Prospect House, Cedardale, Oshawa.

While a resident of the community, Mr. Emaney became a charter member of the Prince Albert Public Hall Joint Stock Company, serving in a variety of offices. He was one of the organizers of the lodges at Uxbridge and Brooklin and Master of Port Perry Lodge. He was a devoted member of the Brethren of the Prince Albert Lodge of A.F. and A.M., a member of the Church of England, and a conservative.

James Emaney died from kidney trouble at the age of 76 years, on Monday, July 2, 1906 and was buried at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert.

**MESSRS. EMANEY & WHITE**  
**R**ESPECTFULLY ACQUAINT THE INHABITANTS of Prince Albert and vicinity, that they are prepared to execute all kinds of SMITH'S WORK on easy terms.  
 N. B.—Horse-Shoeing on improved principles.  
 Prince Albert, Dec. 10, 1857. 1

**EMANEY & WHITE,**  
 Carriage, Wagon, and Agricultural Implement Makers.  
 MILLWRIGHTS AND GENERAL BLACKSMITHS,  
 PRINCE ALBERT, C. W.  
 N. B.—Horses Shod on Improved Principles.  
 Prince Albert, June 23, 1859. 29-3m



*Ontario Carriage Factory.*  
**Now Ready!**  
 The largest and best assorted Stock of CUTTERS AND SLEIGHS!  
 Ever offered for Sale in North Ontario; manufactured of very best material, and by men who thoroughly understand t  
 business.  
**MUST BE SOLD.**  
 Call and see them before purchasing elsewhere.  
 A number of second-hand Pleasure Sleights for sale—cheap.  
 Repairs neatly executed and with despatch. All work warranted.  
 JAMES EMANEY.  
 Prince Albert, Dec. 5, 1871.

**Ontario Carriage Works!**  
 PORT  PERRY.  
 THE Subscriber takes this opportunity of thanking his numerous customers for the liberal and remissive patronage bestowed upon him during the many years in which he has been in business. Increasing business having required an extension of premises necessary, 1870.  
**MOVED TO PORT PERRY.**  
 Largely extended his premises and secured greatly increased facilities for business and are now prepared more promptly to meet the increasing demands of customers and to fill orders on the shortest notice.  
**CARRIAGES OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS, CUTTERS, SLEIGHS.**  
 BEGGIE'S WAGONS, built of the best material in the best style and by first class workmen.  
 Orders for Blacksmithing carefully attended to. Old Carriages repaired with promptness and dispatch. Work done in round and Carriage finished for the trade at reasonable rates.  
 Come and inspect our Works.  
 Port Perry, Dec. 21, 1873. JAMES EMANEY.





# Abner Hurd

## Pioneer Settler

Abner Hurd was 34 years old when he immigrated to Canada, arriving in the Township of Reach early in 1824, becoming the second settler in the area. He took possession of a 200 acre parcel on the east side of Simcoe Street where he built himself a residence.

Hurd was followed a few months later by Reuben Dayton. The Hurds and the Daytons were followed by several families, including William Boynton south of Hurd. He immediately set about devising means for improving the condition of the, then, thinly scattered population, and even the poor Indians did not escape his attention, nor did he consider them beneath his notice.

By 1830, the community around the intersection of Simcoe Street and the 5th Concession had become known as Dayton's Corners. The first buildings in the community were simple log cabins, built, in most cases as temporary structures until more adequate homes could be built.

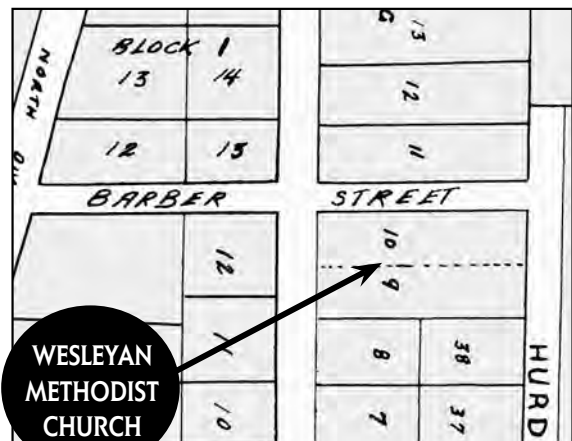
As the community grew, Boynton and Hurd recognized the need for hotels. Upon arrival, Hurd had built a log cabin west of the four corners. He later built this handsome building as his home and as a hotel, retaining his eastern acreage, selling his cabin and acreage in the western section of the community to T. C. Forman. Boynton built his hotel and residence on the west side of Simcoe Street, near the corner of Kings Street.

Abner Hurd stood nobly forward for over half a century as a leader and guide of the people in this section of the country, identifying himself with and taking a leading position in every movement which had for its object the encouragement of virtue and the improvement of the condition of his fellow men.

Mr. Hurd was held in a high degree of respect and esteem, and served many valuable services for the best interest of the village. He filled almost every position of honour and trust in the gift of the people, and never

gave them cause to regret their choice. He was honourable and upright, a loving husband and indulgent partner, a good citizen and faithful friend. He was for many years the head of the only Sunday School in Prince Albert. In public life, he held the office of magistrate for many years, and proved himself a terror to evil doers and protector to those that did well.

Abner Hurd passed away at Prince Albert on Monday, November 24, 1874, aged 84 years. Large numbers turned out to pay their last tribute at the funeral service was held at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Prince Albert.



Abner Hurd's gravestone, Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert, Ontario



Abner Hurd's home/hotel as it looked in the summer of 2002.

# Prosper A. Hurd

Attorney At Law

Prosper Armstrong Hurd was one of Prince Albert's important business professionals during the developing years in the village.

Born in Vermont, USA about 1922, Prosper immigrated to Canada with his parents and settled in York (Toronto) about 1848. It was here he met Priscilla Harnden whom he married and the couple had three children; Luther, Josephine and Ralph.

For a time during the early 1850s Prosper Hurd was in a partnership with A. Farewell in Prince Albert. This partnership was dissolved in May 1850, with Mr. Hurd continuing with their store and ashery business.

He was also a partner with Joshua Wright for a short time operating under the name Hurd & Wright. This was dissolved in June 1852 with Mr. Wright taking over the business.

While living in Prince Albert, about 1857, he set up office to work as an "advocate". In his capacity as an advocate, he worked diligently to have the Registry Office for the County of Ontario located in North Ontario, within the boundary of the villages of Prince Albert, Port Perry, Borelia and Manchester. He was unfortunately unsuccessful.

He later became a lawyer and served in this capacity

for many years. In May 1876 he asked Reach Township council for a \$15,000 grant to assist the construction of an extension, of the Port Whitby & Port Perry Railway.

After serving the community for about 18 years Prosper Armstrong Hurd returned to the USA, settling in Forest Park, Illinois. He passed away in Chicago, Illinois in 1904 when he was 73 years old.

## MONEY TO LOAN.

10,000 DOLLARS

OF PRIVATE FUNDS to Loan on Real Estate security, for a term of years, in sums from \$400 to \$2,000 at moderate interest. Parties wishing to obtain money should apply at once. Applications will be received at the

### LAW OFFICE OF P. A. HURD,

Prince Albert, and if the security offered be approved of, the amount applied for will be paid at the above mentioned place as soon as the papers are executed, and those requiring registration are Registered.

The undersigned is also prepared to negotiate for parties wishing to apply for money to "The Canada Agency Association," or "Real Estate Building Society," Toronto.

All transactions connected with the above business will be attended to with promptitude and despatch.

P. A. HURD,  
Solicitor, &c.

Prince Albert, Nov. 19, 1862. 49-1f

### P. A. HURD,

**B**ARRISTER, Attorney at Law, Solicitor in Chancery, Notary Public, Conveyancer, &c, Prince Albert. Office in the "Victoria Block," two doors south of N. H. Davis' Dry Goods Store, and over T. C. Forman's Furniture Warerooms, adjoining the *Observer* office.

Prince Albert, April 1862

# John Billings

Attorney at Law

John Billings was born in Ontario about 1827. It's unknown when he arrived in Prince Albert, but he set up his business as a lawyer, chancery and conveying officer in the village about 1857.

Billings was 31 years old when he married to Joanna Proudfoot in Whitby on October 2, 1860.

While a resident of the village he became a member of the Prince Albert Infantry Company and in 1867 was listed as Captain Billings.

By 1881, Mr. Billings had moved to Port Perry and was living there with his wife and three children.

## JOHN BILLINGS,

### Law, Chancery, & Conveyancing Office,

### PRINCE ALBERT.

Ontario Directory, 1857.

## JOHN BILLINGS,

**B**ARRISTER, Attorney at Law, Solicitor in Chancery, Notary Public, Conveyancer, &c., Prince Albert. Office two doors west of T. C. Forman's Store.

Prince Albert, April 1862



## Henry Graham

Shoemaker

Henry Graham was about 30 years old when he moved to Reach Township and opened his shoemakers shop in Prince Albert in 1857.

Before arriving in Prince Albert Henry was married Sarah Ann Barker, 21, in Scarboro on December 19, 1851 and they lived in East Gwillimbury, Ontario until moving to Reach.

Henry was loyal to his country and fought in the Fenian raids of 1868.

He became one of the leading businessmen in the village until the early 1870s and had a reputation for being industrious and honourable and kind. The "Graham" trademark was synonymous with perfection in all his products.

Henry Graham was in his 86th year when he died on March 11, 1912 in Port Perry.

## John M. Heard

Horse Shoeing

John Heard was born in England about 1833 and travelled to Canada.

When he arrived in Prince Albert about 1858 he opened a blacksmith shop on Simcoe Street, where he provided services including horse shoeing and wagon iron work.

In 1871, he moved his business to Port Perry when business started to trickle out of the Prince Albert. but he continued to live just west of the vilalge.

John was married to Jane Kilpatrick on November 29, 1866 in Whitby and they had three children before she passed away about 1871.

In 1878, after 30 years in business, Mr. Heard was honoured by the residents of Prince Albert and Port Perry at a public gathering.

GENERAL BLACKSMITHING  
AND  
**HORSE SHOEING ESTABLISHMENT!**  
**JOHN HEARD,**  
SIMCOE STREET, PRINCE ALBERT,  
**D**IRECTS ATTENTION TO THE FACILITIES afforded at his place of business, where all kinds of  
**Blacksmith's Work, Horse-Shoeing, Buggy and Waggon Iron Work,**  
Is done on the shortest notice, and at reasonable prices,  
☞ Observe the address—Simcoe Street,  
Prince Albert,  
Prince Albert, Dec. 10, 1857. 1

## Henry Graham

**B**EGBEGS LEAVE TO INFORM HIS CUSTOMERS that he has decided, for the future, to SELL BOOTS and SHOES

**For Ready Money only!**

This system he considers, in these *hard times*, will effect a saving of at least 20 PER CENT!

The plan of giving one year's credit, and Customers taking another year at the end of the first, is *too hard a road for a Tradesman to travel.*

H. G. wishes it also to be understood that he is anxious to pay his own just debts; to accomplish which, it will be necessary for him to *collect every shilling* due to him. He therefore takes this opportunity of notifying that all **OUTSTANDING DEBTS** will be sued for in the **NEXT COURT**, if not settled before that time. The next Court will be held

**On Wednesday, 30th December.**

Prince Albert, Dec. 10, 1857. 1

**CHEAPER THAN EVER.**

THE PLACE TO GET

**FURNITURE CHEAP**

IS AT

**W. H. PARK'S,**

*Opposite Scott's Hotel, Prince Albert.*

**Look at the following Prices**

**CHAIRS.**

Cain Seat, \$1 25, sold elsewhere for \$1 50.

Trafalgar, loose seat, hair cloth,  $\frac{3}{4}$

French, spring bottom \$3 25, sold elsewhere for..... \$4 50.

Sewing Chairs from \$1 upwards.

Boston Rockers from \$2 upwards.

**SOFAS.**

3 Sweep Serpentine \$15, sold elsewhere for.....

.....\$20 00

Small Straight, \$13, sold elsewhere

for..... 15 00

**TABLES.**

Centre Tables from \$4 upwards.

Fall Leaf Tables from \$3 upwards.

**STANDS.**

Wash Stands from \$1 25 upwards.

**BEDSTEADS.**

Common Bedsteads from \$2 upwards.

Walnut do from \$6 upwards.

**BUREAUS.**

Bureaus from \$5 upwards.

**CUPBOARDS.**

Cupboards from \$4 upwards.

All other articles in the above line will be sold in proportion. Now is the time to buy if you want bargains. Remember the place opposite Scott's Hotel.

☞ Lumber of all kinds taken in exchange.

February, 12, 1862. 9

# First Nation Burial Site

On a small rise of land, just north of the four corners of Prince Albert, is a small piece of vacant land believed to be an Indian burial site.



On the east side of Old Simcoe Road, immediately north of the intersection with King Street, there is an empty lot. This lot, the second north of the corner, is actually a First Nation Burial Ground.

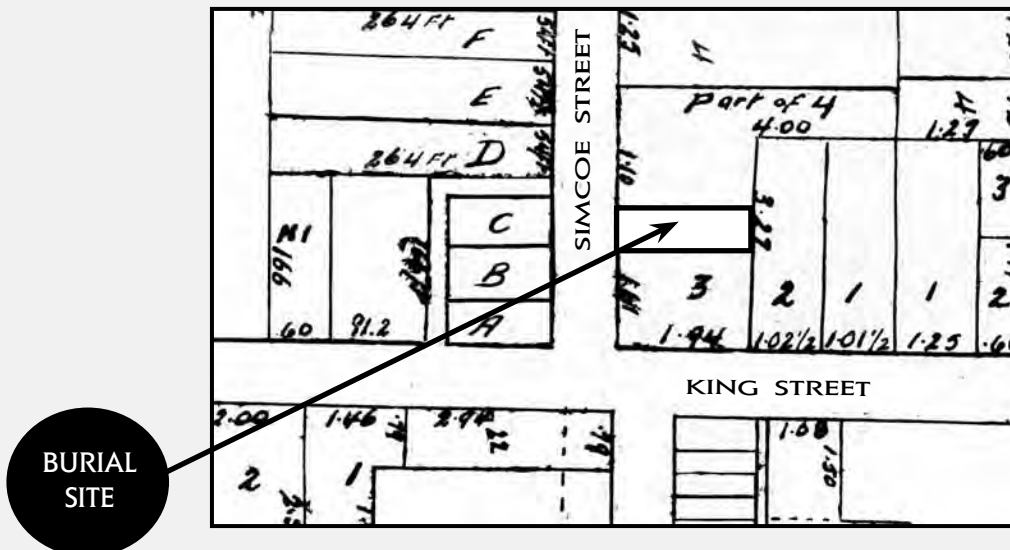
In early maps of this region the subject property is to be found designated as an "Indian Burial Ground." In later maps, it is labeled as "Graveyard" or merely left vacant.

The peoples of the First Nations are known to have inhabited this area of what is now Ontario for at least 10,000 years. At the time of the arrival of the first Europeans this area was inhabited by the Iroquois. In the 1660s and 1670s the Iroquois occupied a large area of the lands draining into the North Shore of Lake Ontario. After becoming involved in the European's conflicts, the Iroquois were largely driven out of this region during the later part of the 1600s.

Early in the 1700s the Mississaugas migrated into the Lake Scugog basin and the adjoining lands. The Mississaugas, a tribe of the Ojibway had moved here from the Mississauga River and Blind River region of Georgian Bay. There are several references to Mississaugas on the Lake Scugog shore in the early 1800s by travelling missionaries, including Peter Jones, a highly regarded Methodist missionary who was the grandson of a Mississauga chief.

Their language and culture was completely different from the Iroquois. They were quiet people who tended to travel in family groups and live off the wildife and natural vegetation of the land. Leslie Frost referred to them as "a virile, unspoiled, nomadic people."

In 1804 John Stegman made a quick survey of Lake Scugog because of a murder which had taken place on Washburn Island. On his map he indicates an existing path from Lake Ontario to Lake Scugog. Over the winter of 1809/1810 Major Samuel Wilmot conducted a detailed map of the Township. On that map he marked that path on his map as "Indian Foot Path." This path passes less than 100 metres from the Prince Albert burial ground and in his survey notes of the Fifth Concession



The above illustration is a section of map of Prince Albert in 1861. It shows the main intersection at Simcoe and King Streets, and just north of the intersection, the piece of land identified as an Indian burial ground on earlier survey maps.

of Reach, he makes reference to this “Indian Burial Ground.”

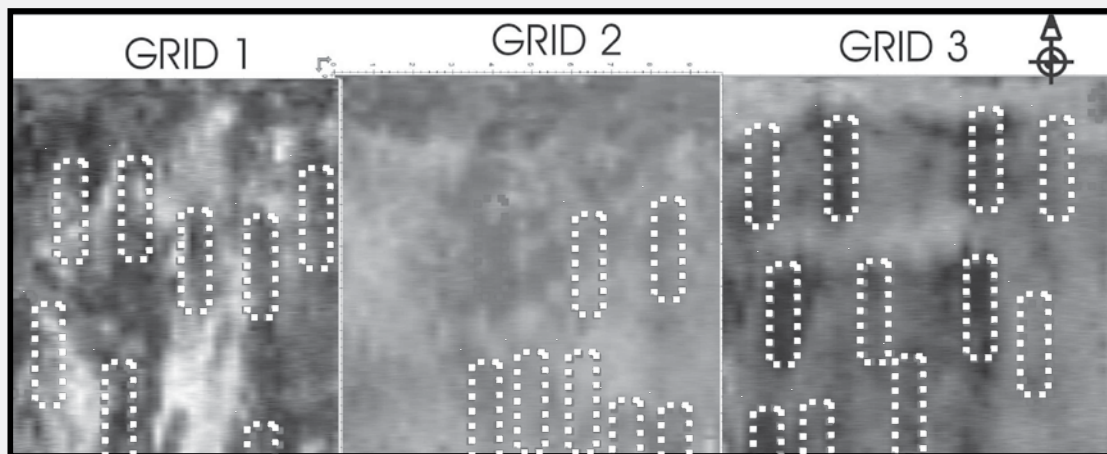
As the Europeans moved into this part of Ontario, treaties were signed, some controversially, to enable the land within the township to be granted out under patents.

On July 31, 1811 a patent was granted to Henry Learman for 200 acres in Lot 17 in the 5th Concession, the land containing the burial ground. On February 3, 1832 this 200 acre property was bought by Abner Hurd who settled here. At this time the burial ground property was approximately one acre on the south western portion of the 200 acres.

The Mississaugas of Scugog acquired property on Scugog Island in 1840 and established a cemetery there. Reuben Crandell and his wife Catherine made their way to just east of present day Manchester in 1823 to become the first European settlers. By 1830 a handful of settlers, including members of the Dayton and Hurd families had established homes in what is now Prince Albert. The first known death of a European settler occurred in 1828 when Reuben Dayton died. His burial site is not known, although the records tell us that he was buried “across the road from Mr. Ross’ store.” This was most likely the present day Pine Grove cemetery.

The second known burial took place in 1831 when Anna Hurd died. She is buried at the south end of present day Pine Grove Cemetery in Prince Albert. There may have been unrecorded deaths during the cholera epidemic of 1832-1833.

In 2007 The Lake Scugog Historical Society, with financial support from the Baagwating Association and the Mississaugas of Scugog, organized a study of the burial ground. York North



*Ground penetrating radar revealed a large number of burial sites when it was studied in 2007. The sites are outlined in white dots, to make them more easy to see.*

Archeological Services of Peterborough were hired to conduct a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey. The survey has determined that there are at least 29 burials on the property. There are no known records of these burials and they appear to predate the arrival of the first Europeans in the area.

For many years the property was used by neighbours as a storage area for firewood and other miscellaneous materials. Later the Municipality had all the materials removed and the property has been maintained by the Municipality of Scugog.



# BUSINESS LEADERS

## Charles Hiscocks

Businessman

Charles Hiscocks was born in Illesford, Somerset, England about 1817 and came to Canada with his wife Lydia and two children. The Hiscocks family arrived in Reach Township during the 1860s and Charles operated bakeries in both Prince Albert and Manchester.

Charles Hiscocks was an agreeable and exemplary townsman, honest, honourable and upright in his business transactions, a consistent and faithful Christian and a devoted member of the C.M. Church.

During his long residence and business career in Prince Albert. About 1872 he moved into Port Perry and four years later into a new store. Here established a reputation to which but few attain. He was not anxious to reap riches, but through industry, frugality and enterprise, was rewarded satisfactorily.

He was a kind and faithful friend, and affectionate and watchful father and the loving and beloved husband of Lydia (Spender).

Charles Hiscocks was 61 years old when he passed away at Prince Albert on Tuesday, January 27, 1880, aged 61 years, leaving his wife, Lydia, and six children.



Charles Hiscock's Baker and Confectioner at Manchester.

**B A K E R Y**  
AND  
**CONFECTIONERY ESTABLISHMENT,**  
PRINCE ALBERT.

**C**HARLES HISCOCKS TAKES THE present opportunity of informing the Public that all kinds of  
**Confectionery, Bread, Biscuits, &c.,**  
Are supplied by him at the above Establishment.

In thanking the Inhabitants of Prince Albert and vicinity for past favors, he trusts that attention and punctuality to all commands will secure to him a continuance of support.  
Tavern-keepers liberally supplied.  
Wedding Cakes made to order. Soirees furnished on economical and modern principle.  
N. B.—Orders per stage punctually attended to.  
Prince Albert, Dec. 17, 1857. 2

**CHAS. HISCOCKS,**  
**BAKER**  
AND  
**CONFECTIONER**  
DEALER IN

**CANDIES,**  
**BISCUITS,**  
**CAKES,**  
**BREAD,**  
**FLOUR,**  
**OAT MEAL,**  
**CORN MEAL,**  
**LOBSTERS,**  
**SARDINES,**  
**FRUITS,**  
**TOYS, &c.**

**Wedding Cakes** made to order.  
He is also prepared to furnish Soirees Tea Meetings, &c., on liberal terms.

He hopes by always keeping a large stock at the lowest prices, and punctually attending to all orders, to merit, as heretofore, a share of public patronage.

**S H O P S :**  
**Prince Albert**  
**and Manchester.**  
**CHAS. HISCOCKS**  
Prince Albert and Manchester, ?  
March 24, 1871. 1

## James Jewett

Hotel Keeper

Charles James Jewett was born on September 30, 1830 in Pickering, Ontario. When he was a young man he was a shoemaker while still living at his Pickering home.

He was married to Mary Ann Washington at Markham, Ontario in 1853 and they had two children Jannie and Frank.

James Jewett and his family moved to Reach Township about 1857 and opened Jewett's Hotel in the village of Borelia, and continued with his shoe making. He operated the hotel until about 1868.

James had a keen interest in education and in 1868 he became a trustee of the Port Perry Grammar and Common School serving for many years. He also served as trustee of High Schools for Port Perry from 1872 to 1879.

He was appointed to a committee to arrange celebrations for Dominion Day in June 1869, He also served as a constable in the village of Port Perry during the 1880s.

James Jewett passed away on June 14, 1899 at 69 years of age. His wife Mary Ann died in Barrie, Ontario on February 8, 1916 in her 83rd year. They were both interred at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert.

## Hugh H. McCaw

Tinsmith, Postmaster

Hugh Henry McCaw was born in Ireland in 1818 and immigrated to Canada with his parents Sarah (Thompson) and Price McCaw, settling in Quebec until 1855, when he moved to Reach Township.

He and his wife Elizabeth "Betsey" McKelvey, raised a family four sons and six daughters - Albert E., William Hugh, Margaret, Emma, Ellen, Andrew, Hugh H. Jr., Elizabeth, Annie and Mary Agnes.

In 1860 he began his business career as a tinsmith in Prince Albert. While a resident of that village he took a prominent and active part in every movement. Educational matters had his active support, both Public and Sunday School were indebted to him for his well direct efforts.

In 1866 when Prince Albert postmaster G. Robson resigned, Hugh McCaw was appointed his successor, filling the position until 1873 when he was honoured at a dinner before moving to Port Perry. Albert E. McCaw took over the tinsmith business of his father.

His son William H. McCaw became a jeweller and married Emma Bigelow, daughter of Joseph Bigelow.

Hugh was a worthy and esteemed townsman, was favourably remembered throughout the county for his good qualities.

Mr. Hugh H. McCaw was 74 years old when he passed away on July 24, 1892 at the LaGrange, Illinois home of his son-in-law N.E. Briggs. His wife, Elizabeth died on July 8, 1910, at 89 years of age.

## William H. Park

Furniture & Cabinets

William Henry Park was born in Ontario in 1831 and came to Reach Township about 1950 settling in Prince Albert, just of Port Perry.

He was married to Eliza Kendall on September 20, 1852 in Reach and during their life they raised five children - William, George, Augustus, Elizabeth, James at their home on Concession 5, Lot 17 in Prince Albert

William Park opened the Ontario Cabinet and Chair Factory, opposite Scott's Hotel, in Prince Albert and began constructing all types of furniture, cabinets and coffins. As a service to his customers, he also had a hearse which he hired out. It's not entire clear when he first opened his business, but it appears he operated from his Prince Albert shop until January 1873 when he moved to a new location in Port Perry opposite the post office.

Two years later, in May 1875, Mr. Park purchased the Anglo-American Hotel in Prince Albert, renovated and re-opened, operating it successfully until August 1890 when the hotel was destroyed by fire. Following the fire, William and Eliza moved to Mariposa, where William continued as a hotelkeeper for a number of years.

Ontario County for Ever.

## H. H. McCAW

WOULD RESPECTFULLY INFORM his old customers and the public in general that he has opened a Shop one door East of Calhoun's Hotel, Prince Albert, where he will keep constantly, or manufacture to order all articles of

**Tin, Sheet Iron, and Copper Ware, Stove Pipes, and Stove Furniture, &c.**

Particular attention paid to Eave Troughing and jobbing generally.

☞ *Old Copper, Rags, Sheep Skins, and all kinds of Produce taken in exchange.*

—ALSO—

General Agent for H. A. Massey of Newcastle, Manufacturer of all kinds of Agricultural Implements, consisting in part of Threshing Machines, Mowing and Reaping Machines, and a great variety of Plows and Cultivators.

H. H. McCaw would call particular attention at this time to Massey's Combined Reaper and Mower; and intending purchasers can see a specimen by giving him a call.

☞ **COME ONE, COME ALL!** ☞

Prince Albert, July 4, 1860.

29-t

## ONTARIO CABINET AND Chair Factory

W. H. PARK

TAKES this method of informing the public that he has now on hand a large Stock of

**FURNITURE!**

of every description at extremely

**Low Prices!**

Particular attention given to the **UNDERTAKING** department. **COFFINS** made to order. Coffin Trappings of all kinds for sale. He would also state that he has just fitted up a

## HEARSE,

Which will be hired at reasonable terms.

☞ Parties wanting to purchase Cheap and good Furniture will please call at the "**Ontario Cabinet and Chair Factory,**" *Opposite Scott's Hotel, Prince Albert.*

☞ **LUMBER** of all kinds taken in exchange.

Prince Albert, Sept. 24, 1862. / 41





# James MacBrien, Sr.

School Inspector

James MacBrien was born in the County of Farnanagh, Enniskillen, Ireland in the year 1832. Unfortunately his father, James Sr., died, so his mother Margaret Eaton left their homeland with her family of six small children destined to Canada. After a three month passage in an old-time sailing vessel they arrived, purchasing and settling on a farm in East Whitby, near Myrtle, Ontario.

After graduating at the Normal School, Mr. MacBrien was engaged for 15 years in public school work. His excellent work in this line was rewarded by his being appointed Inspector of Public Schools in Ontario County in 1872, which position he held for nearly 40 years.

**James MacBrien, Sr.**

About the same time he was appointed inspector, he purchased a home from Aaron Ross on the west side of today's Old Simcoe Road, in Prince Albert.

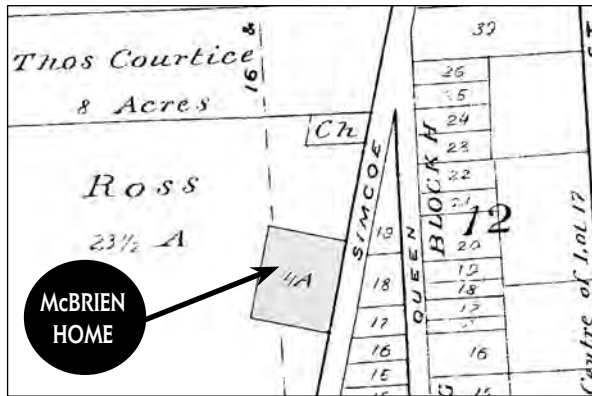
James and his wife Julia had nine children, all of whom attended Port Perry High School.

Mr. MacBrien passed away on Sunday, September 26, 1909, at 77 years of age. He left a wife, Julia Frances, three sons and six daughter. His wife Julia lived in the house until her death in 1938.

Mr. MacBrien is said to have "lived respected and died regretted" by the entire community. A large number of townsfolk turned out to pay their last respects at his funeral on Tuesday 28th inst. at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert.



The McBrien home at Prince Albert.



The McBrien home was located on Simcoe Street, north of King Street, Prince Albert. He purchased a 4 acre parcel of land from Aaron Ross and tore down the original small house. He then constructed the above home on the property about 1872. His family lived there for more than 65 years



James H. McBrien, Jr.

# James H. McBrien, Jr.

Knighthood by King George

Sir James McBrien was the son of the late inspector James MacBrien and his wife Julia and was born in the family home (above) in Prince Albert in 1878.

He received his public and High School education in Port Perry. After working locally for a year he joined the Northwest Mounted Police.

In 1906 he returned home to Prince Albert to marry Nellie Louise Ross, daughter of Aaron and Lucinda Ross, former owners of the house in which the was born. Unfortunately Nellie died in 1921 and McBrien later married Emily Harbridge of New York.

In 1931 he accepted a Government appointment to take over as Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In recognition of his efforts in organizing and modernizing the R.C.M.P., King George V made him a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath, in 1935.

Sir James McBrien's death came on March 5, 1938 and the funeral service at St. Paul's Church, Toronto, was one of the largest the city had witnessed many years, Mourners came from far and wide, from military, political and private life. To further honour McBrien, a mountain was named after him in Canada's North West Territories; Mount Sir James McBrien.



# Aaron Ross

## Grain & Seed Merchant

Aaron Ross was born in London England on July 31, 1828 and came to Canada when he was 14 years old, settling near Whitby. After a few years he moved to Brooklin to learn shoemaking, and upon completion moved to Prince Albert and worked at his trade for about a year.

Shortly after arriving in Prince Albert he married Lucinda (Fitchett) and started his own business manufacturing boots and shoes.

In 1865, Aaron Ross and George Currie formed a partnership and carried on the dry goods business for five years. In 1870 he moved to Port Perry. His shrewd business tact showed that the town would be the business centre for the future.

Aaron Ross was identified for more than 30 years with the purchase of grain and seeds from farmers of Reach and Scugog Townships, operating warehouses at Seagrave and elevators at Port Perry and Manchester, after establishing his grain

business in Prince Albert during the 1860s in partnership with George Currie. About 1876, he purchased George Currie's grain elevator in Port Perry, and operated it as the Ross Elevator for a number of years, before his son William joined him.

His strong points were he business ability and indomitable will all through life from his first start in business in Prince Albert up to the date of his death - it was a series of success from first to last, so much so that the deceased during his business life was a provisional director of the Dominion Band and always took an interest in that prosperous institution.

He was at one time a director of the old Midland Railway, before being taken over by the G.T.R., and was also a prominent member of the Toronto Board of Trade.

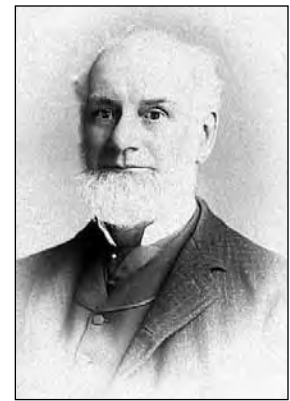
His force was his business tack and ability. He was as public spirited a man as was to be seen in his support of institutions of religion and educational character; at one time he was vice president of Whitby Ontario Ladies'

College and was often chosen by his church to represent that body in conference.

Aaron Ross died in Port Perry on Saturday, July 11, 1896 at 68 years of age. Left to mourn his loss is his family, consisting of his wife Lucinda, sons Messrs. Robert, William, James, Fred, Charles and John, and daughters Mrs. Hossack and Sarah.

The large funeral on Monday was a tribute of respect and esteem in which the deceased and the family are held in the town and vicinity. Services were held in the Methodist Church.

After the solemn services at the church the large funeral cortege wended its way to the Pine Grove Necropolis for interment.



Aaron Ross

**A. ROSS,**  
MANUFACTURER OF  
**BOOTS AND SHOES,**  
KEEPS CONSTANTLY ON HAND A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF  
**HOME MANUFACTURED AND IMPORTED WORK!**  
ALSO,—AN ASSORTMENT OF  
Shoemakers' Findings and Sole Leather,  
UPPER KIPS, CALF SKINS AND LINING SKINS.  
**PRINCE ALBERT, REACH,**  
OPPOSITE T. C. FORMAN'S STORE.  
December 10th, 1857. 1

**JUST RECEIVED**  
FROM MONTREAL  
**A LA GE STOCK**  
OF LADIES'  
**BOOTS & SHOES,**  
OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.  
**A. ROSS.**  
Prince Albert, Oct 6, 1858 4-4-m

**BOOTS AND SHOES!**

THE SUBSCRIBER BEGS TO ANNOUNCE TO THE PUBLIC GENERALLY that he has at present one of the largest and best-assorted stocks of Boots and Shoes ever offered in this Township. They are principally of my own manufacture, comprising all the varieties, both fancy and substantial, for Gents, Ladies and Children, and are

*Of Superior Style and Workmanship,*  
AND SUITED TO THE SPRING AND SUMMER TRADE.

As I have been engaged in, and given up my whole attention to, the manufacture of boots and shoes for the last twelve years, I feel confident that I can suit my numerous friends, both for neatness and durability. In connection with my long experience, I have facilities for manufacturing which are not surpassed by any other establishment in the County. I am prepared to offer, at

**WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,**  
At less prices than those of equal quality can be procured in the County. I have, also,  
**A LARGE STOCK OF LEATHER**  
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, AND  
**SHOE-FINDINGS!**  
Of every kind, kept constantly on hand.

I hope you will give me an opportunity to show you my stock, feeling assured that I can meet your wants, both as to quality and price.

AARON ROSS,  
Prince Albert, March 9, 1859.

# Matthew G. Robson

## Businessman

Matthew George Robson was a native of Markham born about 1836. He was the son of William Robson, a pioneer of much power and influence in the days of the early settlement of that now wealthy and prosperous township. His mother was Jane Holden Robson.

Mr. Robson came in the 1850s of Prince Albert and was appointed Postmaster, which position he retained during the larger portion of the time of the prosperity of that village. He also carried on an extensive money loaning business, was public spirited and enterprising and took a leading part in all that proved beneficial for the best interest of Prince Albert.

Beginning in 1857, operating under the name Robson & Co. he opened a dry goods store called Prince Albert House and also managed the Prince Albert Hotel, both at the corner of King and Simcoe Street, Prince Albert. This venture began with James Holden as a partner. Mr. Holden was the owner of the Ontario Observer newspaper, but it seems that for a short time in 1858, Mr. Robson became publisher of the Ontario Observer.

Matthew was married to Sarah Jane McCaw on September 12, 1859 at York, Ontario. They had three sons, William, Frank, Clarence and one daughter Elizabeth.

Having been highly successful in business, he purchased the magnificent Perry Castle in the town of Whitby, where he reside for a number of years, later

being a resident of Port Perry and afterward moving to Toronto.

While living in Prince Albert he was appointed Justice of the Peace of which office he exercised for a number of years.

Matthew W. Robson was in his 83rd year when he passed away at his residence at 314 Pacific Avenue, Toronto on Monday, January 30, 1911.



*Perry Castle, Whitby, Ontario.*

**Prince Albert House**

THE Subscribers take this method of informing the Inhabitants of Prince Albert, Manchester, Borelia, Port Perry, and surrounding country, that they have opened the above-named House, where they will give GENUINE BARGAINS of FIRST-CLASS GOODS, consisting of

STAPLE AND FANCY  
**DRY GOODS,**  
 READY-MADE CLOTHING,  
 BOOTS AND SHOES,  
 CROCKERY, GLASSWARE,  
 HARDWARE, &c, &c.,

At such Low Prices as the World never heard of.

“Let those now buy who never bought before,  
 And those who’ve bought already buy the more.”

ROBSON, HOLDEN & Co.  
 Prince Albert, Dec. 17, 1857, 2

**RARE CHANCE**  
 FOR A  
**SMALL CAPITALIST !!**

**A SPLENDID FARM OF 100 ACRES  
 FOR \$600 !!**

THE subscriber offers for Sale the N. 1/2 of Lot No. 14, in the 12th concession of Mariposa—about 8 acres cleared. Hardwood lot, good soil, and convenient to mills.

**PRICE \$600; \$200 DOWN,**  
 And the balance in four equal annual instalments with interest.

M. G. ROBSON,  
 Postmaster,  
 Prince Albert.

Prince Albert, Aug. 10, 1864. 31

**\$20,000**  
 (PRIVATE FUNDS)

**TO LOAN, AT 8 PER CENT.**

**M. G. ROBSON,**  
 POSTMASTER, PRINCE ALBERT.

Prince Albert, Oct. 25, 1864. -21t

# Archibald Sinclair

Groceries & Spirits

Archibald Sinclair was about 40 years old when he arrived in Reach Township, settling in Prince Albert and opening a store about 1861.

Archibald was born in Islay, Scotland in 1820 and lived in Prince Albert with his wife Mary for about 10 years. They had five children during their life together.

His store, known as The Union, provided teas, coffees, seafoods, crockery and sold bottled wines, brandies, and ales "for medical use". He served as a director of the Prince Albert Public Hall Joint Stock Company.

Mr. Sinclair and his wife moved to Cannington during the 1870s and he passed away on August 31, 1880.

**TEAS THAT ARE TEAS**  
AT  
**A. SINCLAIR'S.**

The Subscriber has just received his Fall Stock of  
**Teas, Coffees, Currants, Almonds, Raisins, Codfish,  
Herrings, White Fish, Oysters, Lobsters, Sardines,  
Crockery, Table Cutlery, Coal Oil, and Lamp.**  
**WINES AND SPIRITS, &c.,**  
which he will Sell Cheap for Cash. ☞ Bottled Wines, Brandies,  
Ale and Porter for Medical use, kept constantly on hand.  
Prince Albert, Nov. 13, 1861. (48-1f) ARCH. SINCLAIR.

**CARRIAGE AND CUTTER  
MANUFACTORY !  
Prince Albert.**

JAMES SANDERS

**E**MBRACES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO thank his numerous Patrons for the liberal support he has received during the 15 years he has conducted the above Business, and to solicit a continuance of their favours.

Having secured the assistance of Messrs. EMANY & WHITE, in the SMITH'S DEPARTMENT, he is now prepared to offer for Sale a variety of

**Cutters, Sleighs, Buggies, Waggon, &c.**

In order to meet the hard times, and to open the eyes of the Public, he is determined to sell the above articles at prices cheaper than have hitherto been offered.

With regard to elegance and comfort, the Public will find the articles sold at the above Establishment SUPERIOR TO ANY manufactured in this part of the country.

Prince Albert, Dec. 10, 1857.

**R. SIMS,**  
**House and Carriage Painter,**  
GLAZIER, GRAINER, AND PAPER HANGER,  
PRINCE ALBERT, C.W.


☞ *Paints, Oils, Paper Hangings, Putty, Glass, &c., furnished if required.*

Prince Albert, December 10, 1857. I

**E. S. DECKER**  
**LICENSED AUCTIONEER !!**

**A**LL ORDERS MADE TO ME, IN person, or left at the *Observer* office, Prince Albert, will receive prompt attention. Bills made out and attended to free of charge. Blank Notes arranged for decimal currency furnished at very cheap rates.

E. S. DECKER.  
Prince Albert, March 28, 1860. 15-43




**R. WILSON,**

**DRUGGIST !**

OPPOSITE SCOTT'S HOTEL,

**PRINCE ALBERT,**



**D**EALER in Drugs, Patent Medicines, Dye-Stuffs, Paints, Oils, Perfumery, Trusses, Hair Tooth and Nail Brushes, Combs, Sponges and Soaps, Leeches, &c.

Special attention given to the preparation and dispensing of Physicians prescriptions.

☞ Medical gentlemen will please call and examine our *stock*.

Prince Albert, April 6, 1864. 13-1y



## R.H. Tomlinson

### Drug Store Operator

Richard Herbert Tomlinson as born on September 25, 1835 in Canada West and when he was about 20 arrived in Prince Albert. He became a member of the community as a druggist, purchasing the business of his brother William.

In 1858 he attended a railroad meeting where he was elected secretary for a proposed railway line between Manverse Station, through Prince Albert and Uxbridge to the Northern Railway.

By December 1871 businesses began to trickle out of Prince Albert and take up locations in Port Perry due to the arrival of the railway in Port Perry and he was among the businesses who moved. He and his family moved to Toronto east, Ontario in 1871.



Richard Tomlinson

R.H. Tomlinson was married to Julia Ann (Young) about 1874 and they had one son, George H. Tomlinson and one daughter Alice. P. Tomlinson. She died in 1917 in Toronto. R. H. Tomlinson was 71 years old when he died in Sault St. Marie in 1906 and was buried at Saint James Cemetery, Toronto.

**COD LIVER OIL,**  
JUST RECEIVED—FRESH.  
R. H. TOMLINSON.  
December 10, 1857. 1

**C A R D.**

**T**HE SUBSCRIBER WOULD ANNOUNCE to his Customers and the Public generally, that he has disposed of his STOCK and INTEREST in the DRUG BUSINESS, in PRINCE ALBERT, to his Brother, Mr. R. H. TOMLINSON, who will conduct the business in future.

W. A. TOMLINSON.  
Prince Albert, Dec. 17, 1857.

**W**ITH REGARD TO THE ABOVE, I would say to the Customers of Mr. W. A. TOMLINSON, and the Public generally, that they will always find my Stock complete, and no pains will be spared to merit a continuance of the extensive patronage so long extended to my predecessor.

R. H. TOMLINSON.  
Prince Albert, Dec. 17, 1857. 2

**DR. WATSON'S**  
**FAMILY AND ANTIBILIOUS PILLS.**

**T**HESE PILLS WILL BE FOUND an excellent remedy for Biliousness, Jaundice, Headache, Pleurisy, Disordered Stomach, and generally when the system is deranged, acting in a mild, although effectual manner.

For common family use, from two to four may be taken at bedtime; for Jaundice and Fevers the dose will have to be repeated every, or every other night, for three or four times, for an adult, and children can take them according to age. A child of eight years old can take (when a powerful purge is required) two of the Pills, and one of four years old one of the same at bedtime.

These Pills have been used by Dr. Watson, and other physicians in England, for a number of years, and have given universal satisfaction.

Sold, wholesale and retail, by  
**R. H. TOMLINSON,**  
**DRUGGIST,**  
**PRINCE ALBERT.**  
Prince Albert, Dec. 17, 1857.

## William Wilcox

### General Store Operator

William M. Wilcox lived about 30 years in Reach Township, first in Prince Albert and later in Port Perry. He and was elected deputy-reeve of Reach Township in 1890 and 1895 and also as a councillor in Port Perry.

William opened "The Union" drug, grocery and liquor store during the mid-1860s and operated it successfully until April 1873 when a fire broke out in the entire block of stores on the north-east corner of Simcoe and King Street. Consumed by the fire were Wright's Boot and Shoe store, Willcox Drug and Grocery store, Wightman's extensive general goods store and the Masonic Temple.

In April 1872, Wilcox purchased a home on Cochrane Street where he lived for about a year. After deciding to move his business to Port Perry in October 1873, Mr. Wilcox began construction of a new residence at the corner of Queen and Bigelow Streets.

After moving to Port Perry, he worked as an auctioneer until his death. William M. Wilcox was 61 years old when he passed away in Port Perry on September 24, 1896.

**THE UNION**  
**DRUG, GROCERY!**  
AND  
**Liquor Store!**

**W. M. WILLCOX,**  
Sign of the Pestle and Mortar—opposite Scott's Hotel.  
**PRINCE ALBERT!**

Invites the special attention of the public to their extensive newly imported Stock of the BEST BRANDS of PURE LIQUORS, consisting of Brandies,—Gins, Holland and Old Tom—Wines, Port, Sherry, &c.—Rum—Whisky, Malt and Old Rye—John Bull Bitters, &c.

A large and well selected Stock of Fresh Groceries of superior quality.

Our Toss can't be beat! Try them! We guarantee that for excellence in quality, and moderation in price they cannot be beat in North Ontario.

A choice lot of Tobaccos, Spices, Pickles, Sauces, &c.

PURE DRUGS, wholesale and retail. Also the best qualities of Chemicals, Dye Stuffs, Paints, Oils and Varnishes. Thoroughly reliable Patent Medicines.

Books and Stationery.

Liquors for medicinal purposes carefully selected.

Everything in Stock is of superior quality and will be sold at the lowest remunerative Prices.

Remember the place opposite Scott's Hotel, Prince Albert.

W. M. WILLCOX.  
Prince Albert, Dec. 20, 1869. 36

Could be spelled "Willcox" or "Wilcox".

**DRUGS AND MEDICINES!**



**W. A. TOMLINSON,  
DRUGGIST AND APOTHECARY,**

**WOULD CALL THE ATTENTION** of his numerous Customers and the public generally, to his large assortment of

**European and Mediterranean Drugs;  
Chemicals—French, English & American;  
PAINTS AND OILS.**

**COPAL AND OTHER VARNISHES,  
SPIRITS TURPENTINE, OILS, &c.**

**Dye-Woods and Dye-Staffs.**  
LOGWOOD, FUSTIC,  
MADDER, ALUM,  
COPPERAS, INDIGO,  
NUTALLS, ABNOTTA, &c., &c.

**Brushes.**  
A large assortment from the most celebrated Makers, such as—  
**HAIR, CLOTH,  
PAINT, VARNISH,  
WHITEWASH, TOOTH,  
NAIL, &c., &c.**

**Perfumery, Soaps, &c.**  
**TRUSSES AND SUPPORTERS,  
BODY AND SHOULDER BRACES** of the most approved patterns now in use.  
**PURE WINES AND LIQUORS** for medicinal purposes.

**Physicians' Prescriptions and Family  
Recipes carefully compounded.**

As my stock has been selected with great care, from the best Houses in the Trade, every article will be found of superior quality. Being an experienced and careful Druggist, he hopes to give general satisfaction.

**W. A. TOMLINSON.**  
Prince Albert, Dec. 10, 1857. 1

**William Tomlinson**

**Drug Store Operator**

William Tomlinson was born November 11, 1833 in Ontario, Canada.

He was married to Phoebe M. Canniff in 1856 at Hastings, Ontario and moved to Prince Albert and by 1857 he was operating a business under the name, W.A. Tomlinson Druggist and Apothecary. Here he sold pure wines and liquors for medicinal purposes and filled physicians prescriptions.

In 1861 he was listed in the Canada census as being a dentist.

He and his wife Phoebe had five children; Ida, Albert., Emma, George and Estella. Wm. Tomlinson opened his drug store on King Street, two buildings east of the popular Anglo-American Hotel in Prince Albert.

William took a great interest in his community and in 1863 was part of a committee designated to convince the County of Ontario to put the Registry Office for North Ontario in Prince Albert.

He was still listed as a resident of Prince Albert as late as 1876.

William A. Tomlinson was 47 years old when he moved to Lapeer, Michigan, in the United States and in 1880 with his wife Pheobe Tomlinson. He died May 6, 1901 in Michigan and was interred Pinecrest Cemetery, Michigan, USA.

**MEDICAL HALL,**

PRINCE ALBERT, ONT.

**W. A. TOMLINSON,  
CHEMIST & DRUGGIST,**

PROPRIETOR OF TOMLINSON'S CELEBRATED

Pain Cure, Worm Confections, Black Oil, Condition Powders, White Oil, Bronchial Trochees.

These articles are so well known to the public that it is needless for me to enumerate their virtues.

DEALERS IN MEDICINES WILL FIND THE ABOVE GOODS MEET WITH READY SALE.

**L. C. CLARK,  
CARRIAGE & WAGON-MAKER,**

SIMCOE STREET,  
PRINCE ALBERT,



**TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY** of thanking his Friends and the Public generally, for the liberal support hitherto afforded him, and respectfully solicits a continuance of their patronage.

*Repairs executed with despatch, and in a workmanlike manner.*

Prince Albert, Dec. 10, 1857. 1

**MASON & COURTICE,  
SADDLE, HARNESS,  
CARRIAGE & TRUNK MAKERS,**

SIMCOE STREET, PRINCE ALBERT

**HAVE STILL ON HAND AN ASSORTMENT** in all the above Branches, which they offer **CHEAP FOR CASH** or **APPROVED CREDIT.**

Prince Albert, Dec. 10, 1857.



Joshua Wright

# Joshua Wright

Merchant, Politician

Joshua Wright, who was born in Ireland in 1825, was one of the areas most active and influential political leaders a period for more than 30 years, being elected councillor and reeve in both the township of Reach and in Port Perry and also serving as Warden of Ontario County.

Joshua began his business career in Prince Albert as a successful maker of boots and shoes gradually expanding and establishing his own tannery on property to the west of his home. He expanded his operation to Manchester in the mid 1860s. He was the first in the village to install a steam powered engine into his tannery business.

With the shift in trade, he moved his Boot and Shoe Store to Port Perry and in 1877 purchased and outfitted the Sexton Mill property for a large new tannery. In September 1880 he leased the Port Perry Grain Elevator and ventured into grain buying. When his lease on the building ran out, Mr. Wright proceeded to build a new grain elevator on his property near the

railway station, finally selling out in 1883 to D.C. Downey.

In 1891, Mr. Wright returned to the grain business, taking over his building, which had been closed down and refitted it for an elevator and grain facility. Less than a year the entire building and stock was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Wright started his municipal career as a councillor in 1859 when he was elected as a councillor for Reach Township. In 1866 he was elected Reeve of Reach, a position he filled for three terms, and was honoured in 1869 by being elected Warden of Ontario County.

Between 1877 and 1893 he was elected as Reeve of Port Perry on seven occasions. During his years as Reeve of Port Perry, Mr. Wright served as a commissioner of the Scugog Bridge and through his efforts convinced his colleagues at the County of Ontario to complete the bridge as a permanent roadway.

He retired from municipal politics at the end of his term in 1893. In 1871, Mr. Wright tried his hand at provincial politics, running as a candidate for North Ontario Riding, but was defeated by Charles Paxton.


On the home front, he served in the Reach Volunteer Infantry Company as a Captain during the 1860s and was a director of the Prince Albert Public Hall Joint Stock Company.

Joshua Wright was married to Mary Ann (Richardson) and they had two sons and seven daughters. She died in November 1897 and a funeral was held at their beautiful Prince Albert residence, followed by interment at Pine Grove Cemetery. Joshua was 63 years old when he passed three months later, on February 2, 1898. He was buried beside his wife at Pine Grove Cemetery.



Joshua Wright's home on King Street, Prince Albert.

**IMPORTANT QUESTION.**  
WHICH CAN WE GET GOOD  
**BOOTS & SHOES, CHEAP ?**  
The question satisfactorily answered by calling at

**Joshua  Wright's**  
**BOOT AND SHOE STORE,**  
**PRINCE ALBERT, C. W.**

CASH PAID AT ALL TIMES FOR HIDES, SHEEP SKINS,  
 AND TALLOW.

Prince Albert 1869

**Leather! Leather!!**

**J. WRIGHT**

**B**EGBS TO ANNOUNCE TO ALL WHO deal in LEATHER, (and who does not?) that he is prepared to supply them with that necessary article upon the **SHORTEST NOTICE** and **SHORTEST TERMS,**

**At the BEAVER-MEADOW TANNERY,**  
**PRINCE ALBERT.**

About 500 SIDES of UPPER, and a good supply of KIP, CALF and SOLE LEATHER, now on hand.

*Highest price paid for Hides.*

Prince Albert, Dec. 10, 1857. **1**



## George U. White

### Wagon Maker

George Uriah White was one of a number of young men who entered into the trade of blacksmith and wagon maker during the developing years of Prince Albert.

Born in England, George came to Prince Albert during the 1850s. He married and had seven children with his wife Mary.

About 1858 he became a partner with James Emaney, opening Emaney & White millwrights and general blacksmiths.

By 1866, Emaney & White disbanded and in November that year George opened a new carriage factory on Simcoe Street in the village. Just over a year later, in February 1868 his new facility was consumed by a destructive fire.


Following the fire, Mr. White moved to Port Perry, opening the Port Perry Carriage Factory. In September 1872, he again experienced tragedy when his new factory burned to the ground, causing a loss of \$6,000.

**EMANEY & WHITE,**  
Carriage, Wagon, and Agricultural Implement Makers.  
MILLWRIGHTS AND GENERAL BLACKSMITHS,  
PRINCE ALBERT, C. W.

---

**N B---Horses Shod on Improved Principles.**

Prince Albert, June 23, 1859. 28-3m



**GEORGE WHITE,**  
MANUFACTURER OF  
**CARRIAGES, WAGGONS AND SLEIGHS,**  
PRINCE ALBERT, C.W.

---

**ALSO, ALL KINDS OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.**

All our work is made of the best materials, and warranted.  
Repairing promptly executed.

Prince Albert 1861

## William E. Yarnold

### Land Surveyor

William Edward Yarnold was born in Kent, England about 1831 and when a young man came to Canada with his father. He was educated at the Simcoe County Grammar School and after completing his education was articled as a student to the firm of Rankin & Robinson, Provincial Land Surveyors of Toronto.

In 1854 he obtained his diploma as a Provincial Land Surveyor and began the practice of his profession in Prince Albert, for almost 30 years, before moving to Port Perry in 1882, where he spent the remainder of his life.

He occupied the position of County Surveyor for a number of years, and acted as engineer for about 10 township municipalities. He was entrusted with considerable surveying work by the railways. He became so predominate in his profession that his word was readily accepted as being equal to his bond. His services were in demand in all parts of the Province and his popularity as a professional man was ever on the increase.

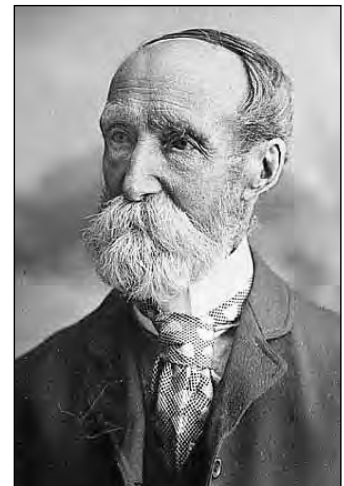
Of his more important local projects, Mr. Yarnold was awarded the contract for constructing 600 feet of permanent roadway at the east end of the Scugog Bridge. In 1882, he was hired to prepare a survey map for the embankment across a section of the Scugog which would later become the Cartwright causeway.

Mr. Yarnold and his wife were greatly beloved citizens. He was a character of rare excellence and was described as being short of stature, slightly built, with pale, calm and highly intellectual countenance, and mild and investigating eyes.

The Yarnold's home was located at the corner of Queen and Cochrane St., one of the beautiful spots in town. He named Ella St. after his daughter.

The death of Mr. Yarnold in December 16, 1916, came after falling sick with pneumonia. He was 85 years old at the time of his death and was mourned by his wife Sophronie Celia Yarnold and daughter Ella Maud and the residents of the town he had resided in for more than 60 years.

Celia S. (Haight) Yarnold died at Port Perry on Thursday, February 27, 1919 in her 91st year. She was buried beside her husband in Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert, Ontario.



William E. Yarnold

# The Prince Albert Infantry

In April 1863 the Reach/Prince Albert Volunteer Infantry Company was formed at a meeting held at McClue's Hotel, Manchester.



Capt. Thomas C. Forman

The Irish Republican Brotherhood began in Ireland in 1858 with the purpose of separating Ireland from Britain. The movement quickly grew in the British colonies and became known as the Fenians, named after legendary ancient Irish warriors. They gained a huge following in the United States.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in the United States in 1861, there was an immediate concern that the US might expand the war and take control of the British territories in Canada. With memories of past conflicts such as the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, a wave of patriotism spread across the Canadian provinces. John A. Macdonald who was the attorney general of Canada West, created a Ministry of Militia Affairs.

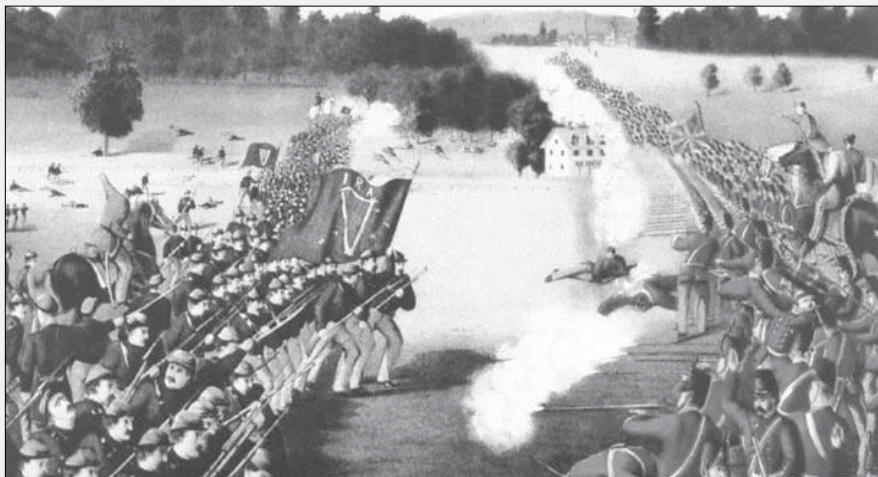
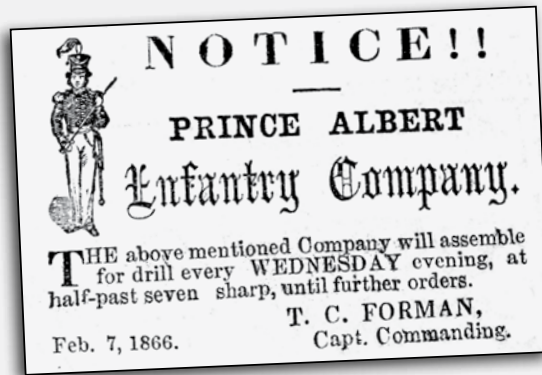
As early as 1857, a Volunteer militia was established in Prince Albert. This was the 5th Battalion of Ontario County and was under the leadership of Lieutenant-Colonel P.A. Hurd.

In 1863, as Volunteer enthusiasm rose to new heights, the county militia was reorganized again and the Volunteer Militia Company of Infantry of Prince Albert

was established with Captain T.C Forman, Lieutenant John Billings and Ensign Richard Herbert Tomlinson.

At the end of the American Civil War, the Fenians in the U.S. were joined by many unemployed former soldiers looking for a cause. In March 1866, news spread of a pending attack on Canada. On May 30 a large Fenian force gathered at Buffalo in preparation for such an attack. They crossed the border, capturing Fort Erie on June 1 and advanced to Ridgeway.

Along with other local militia groups, the Prince Albert Company was alerted and dispatched to Oshawa. Captain T.C. Forman reported back to the *Ontario Observer*, "...after leaving Prince Albert, we made good time to Raglan where we stopped a few minutes and then proceeded to Oshawa. We repaired to our billets and partook of excellent dinners. We were treated with kindness by the people of Oshawa."



The charge of the Fenians (left) under Colonel John O'Neill at the Battle of Ridgeway, near Niagara, Canada West, on June 2, 1866. (Picture courtesy the library and archives Canada).

In Oshawa they were joined by the Rifle Companies from Oshawa, Whitby, Brooklin and Columbus, and infantry companies from Whitby and Uxbridge.

The following day, they boarded trains to Toronto. The Uxbridge and Prince Albert Companies remained in Toronto while the others went on to the battle front in the Niagara peninsula.

At 11:00 in the evening of June 3, the Prince Albert Company was sent to the Great Western railway station to receive the wounded and dead from the battlefield and later to guard the captured Fenian prisoners at Toronto's Don Jail.

Meanwhile in Prince Albert a committee was organized *"to look after the wants and needs of the families of our Volunteers who have gone to the front.... They will use every means in their power to mitigate the loss sustained by the families of our noble volunteers who have so manfully clutched their weapons and gone forward in our country's need to the defence of our families, our homes and our affairs....Parties wishing to forward any article to our Volunteers may leave it in the hands of G. Currie, ... who will see to its being forwarded in a proper manner."*

After two weeks in Toronto the boys of the Prince Albert Infantry Co. returned home to receive the accolades of the local citizens. They were celebrated at a supper in the Prince Albert Town Hall with more than 200 present. Later each participant received a medal from the government.

After their return, grain merchant, and militia Captain T.C. Forman put a tender out to build a large shed on his property specifically for the volunteers to practice their military drills. The drill shed ended up being 112'x70' with 14 ft. posts, a little larger than originally planned. This was the first drill shed in Ontario County.

In September 1866, the Militia was again reorganized and the 34th Ontario Battalion of Infantry came into being with 450 men organized in nine companies under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Silas B. Fairbanks of Oshawa. Captain T.C. Forman was appointed as the Paymaster. The Number 5 Company of Prince Albert was commanded by Captain John Billings.

In early September, The Prince Albert Company marched to Whitby where they joined the rest of the Battalion and sailed by steamer to Port Dalhousie and marched to Thorold to take part in the first annual 12-day training camp. Later, due to budget restrictions, this became a semi-annual event in Whitby.

In 1872 the Number 5 Company of Prince Albert became a victim of the Railway. Following the lead of the various businesses, the Prince Albert #5 Company was officially moved to Port Perry.

In 1878, the 12-day training camp took place in Port Perry. Seven years later, the Port Perry Company was moved to Uxbridge, bringing an end to a 22-year old military tradition in Reach Township that had begun in Prince Albert.

*By Paul Arculus*



1866 Fenian medal



This "Drill Shed" from near Ottawa, would be similar to the one built in Prince Albert.

## TENDERS WANTED!

TENDERS WANTED FOR THE  
ERUCTION of a

## Drill Shed

IN THE VILLAGE OF

## PRINCE ALBERT!

Size 108x60 feet, according to the plans  
and specifications to be seen at the office of  
the ONTARIO OBSERVER.

T. C. FORMAN, Sec'y,

D. S. C.

Prince Albert, Aug. 29, 1866.

34-1f



# Scandal in Prince Albert

## Mother and daughter charged with murder of infant

On March 6, 1881, Dr. John E. Ware, the resident physician of Prince Albert, received a message from Mrs. Mindwell "Mini" Eddy, the widow of Rice Honeywell Eddy, asking him to visit her home, also in Prince Albert, but to enter by the back door.

Dr. Ware arrived at eleven o'clock that morning to find Mrs. Eddy's daughter Mary in the final stages of labour. Dr. Ware delivered a healthy baby. The doctor knew that Mary, then 20 years old, was not married and he was unable to obtain any information about the father. From this Dr. Ware realized Mrs. Eddy's request for discreetness and left, again by the back entrance.

The following Monday, the doctor returned to check up on the child and reported that the child was extremely healthy and appropriately clothed. The following Saturday Dr. Ware went to check up yet again on the newborn. Upon arrival at the house he was told that the baby had died that morning. Dr. Ware examined the corpse of the infant and reported that he... "saw no marks of violence upon it, but the child looked quite gaunt."

Dr. Ware summoned the coroner, Dr. Richard Jones in Port Perry, to carry out an inquest. That evening, Dr. Jones called on the two Justices of the Peace, John Nott and Reuben Crandell and three others in order to form a jury. Mrs. Eddy refused to allow the jury to enter her house. After angry exchanges, the jury left and promised to return the next day.

On Monday morning, after much argument and delay, the jury was admitted into the house. The constable explained that they had to see the body of the dead child in order to determine the cause of

death. Mrs. Eddy and Mary both said that they had not seen the child's body after the doctor had left on Saturday and knew nothing about the baby's whereabouts.

Dr. Jones then contacted the Provincial Attorney-General. By now the news of the affair had become a front-page item in the Toronto newspapers.

The *Toronto Globe* reported, "On Thursday, the 17th, Government detective John W. Murray travelled to Prince Albert. In company with local constables, he made a diligent search throughout the house, even to digging up the clay in the cellar, but found no trace of the child. Detective Murray then arrested Mrs. Eddy and her daughter on a charge of murder."

Mrs. Eddy and her daughter appeared before John Nott, Justice of the Peace. The murder charges were dropped because of lack of evidence. Nott



Dr. Richard Jones

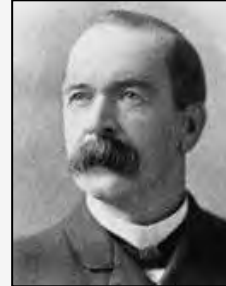
stated however that both were guilty of concealing the facts. Justice Nott gave the Eddys a severe lecture and then released them.

Two weeks later a letter to the editor signed by Mr. J. A. McDonald, denied any knowledge of wrong doing but acknowledged that he had been a lodger in the Eddy house for the past year. The contents aroused suspicions that he could have been the father.

Mindwell moved to the USA after the death of her husband in 1877, taking with her daughter Mary. Mary Eddy never married but remained at home to care for her mother who died in Philadelphia, USA on March 4, 1895 at the age of 76.

Mary Eddy was working as a dressmaker when she became ill. She was only 47 years old when she died on December 13, 1908. Both Mindwell and Mary were returned to Prince Albert and buried in the family plot.

The fate of the Eddy infant remains a mystery to this day.



John W. Murray  
Government Detective



The Eddy headstone at Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert, Ontario.

By Paul Arculus



**Prince Albert**  
**HISTORIC**  
**HOMES**

A sampling of Prince Albert significant  
residential homes which have  
stood the test of time.





Rowan Tree Hall, the home of Abner Hurd, in Prince Albert was built about 1845.

## Abner Hurd Residence

1618 King Street, Prince Albert  
H 50025 Block A Part of Lots 1 and 2

Rowan Tree Hall is one of the oldest buildings remaining in this community. It was built in 1845 by Abner Hurd and under his ownership it became known as Rowan Tree Hall.

After arriving, Abner Hurd purchased a 200 acre parcel on the east side of Simcoe Street (Old Simcoe Rd.) and a hundred acres to the west. Hurd was followed a few months later by Reuben Dayton. The Hurds and the Daytons were followed by several families, including William Boynton who settled immediately to the south of Hurd.

By 1830, the community around the intersection of Simcoe Street and the 5th Concession had become known as Dayton's Corners. The first buildings in the community were simple log cabins, built, in most cases as temporary structures until more adequate homes could be built.

As the community grew, Boynton and Hurd recognized the need for hotels. Upon arrival, Hurd had built a log cabin west of the four corners. He later built this handsome building as his home and as a hotel, retaining his eastern acreage, selling his cabin and acreage in the western section of the community to T. C. Forman. Boynton built his hotel and residence on the east side of Simcoe Street, a few hundred yards south of the community.

Hurd's home had two full-height storeys and a curved-roofed verandah across the entire front of the building. The verandah was supported not by pillars but by trellises and had fancy gingerbread style railings on either side of the entrance. The upper windows were rectangular eight-over-eight paned whereas the ground floor at the front had full length provincial windows which opened as doors on hot summer days. The main door had sidelights. The roof was low pitched and hipped and had chimneys at the east and west ends. At the time, this frame building was the largest and most substantial in the community.

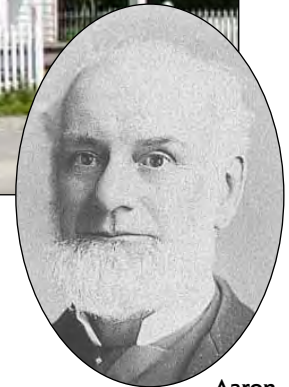
Later in life Abner Hurd signed the property over to his son Prosper. Prosper Hurd sold the house to James Holden in 1865. James Holden was the founder of the community's first newspaper, The Ontario Observer in Prince Albert in 1857.

Other owners include - Hugh and Sarah Carmichael; Eugene R. Eddy., George and Charlotte Patterson; Edward and Eva Williams, and Suzanne Doupe.





Aaron Ross built this house during the 1850s at the corner of King and Jeffrey Street.



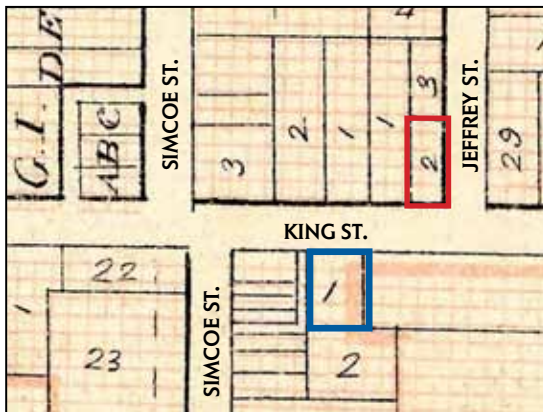
Aaron Ross

## The Aaron Ross Home

Plan H-50025 Block D Lot 2, Part Lot 1  
1629 King St., Prince Albert

Although extensions have been added to this home, it still retains its original, basic and simple architectural form. The building is a simple rectangular frame structure built from timbers in this region. The original section at the front was built by Aaron Ross shortly after he arrived here in the 1850s, and here he opened a boot and shoe making business.

The building was typical of the many business establishments of the period. The front room of the home was set up as a shop, while Ross and his wife Lucinda (Fitchett) lived in the rear section of the original house, now the middle portion.



Map shows the location of Abner Hurd residence, (blue on opposite page), and home and business of Aaron Ross (red block) on King Street, Prince Albert.

As his business expanded he built a workshop at the rear of the house. His business was so successful that he was able to purchase another lot and build a most impressive home while turning the whole of this house into a store and workshop. His achievement enabled him to go into partnership with George Currie and establish a flourishing general store and grain business in this store.

In 1870, Ross sold the building to Abraham Bongard a noted cattle merchant. The Bongards returned it to a conventional home and lived here until they sold it to Lucy Alvord in 1881.

The home then had numerous owners including John Sollitt and his wife Isabella; Maria Wicks; Harriet Jeffrey; Reuben and Rebecca Bond, and Anthony Poole.



This substantial two-storey home was built by Aaron Ross during the 1850s.

## James McBrien Residence

14310 Old Simcoe Road  
 Plan H-50025 Lot 44 Con. 5, Part Lot 16, 17

One of the most unique houses in this community is the house which came to be known as the McBrien House or "The Orchards." Today it is known as "Heartland." The house sits on a two acre lot, with an adjoining 18 acre parcel.

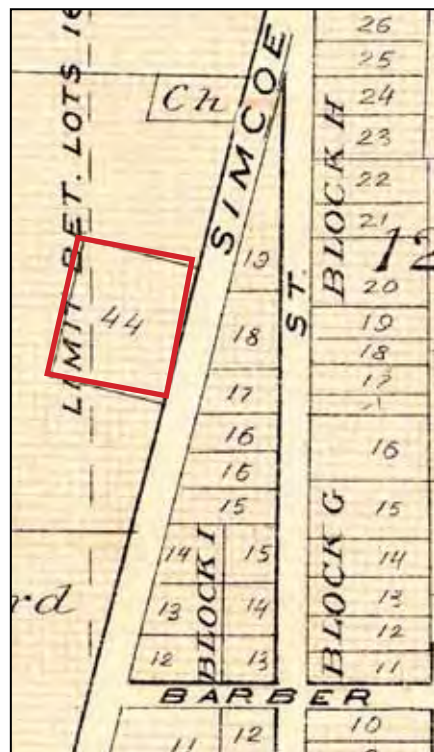
This substantial clapboard covered home was built in the mid 1850s by Aaron Ross and his wife Lucinda (Fitchett). Ross started his local business career as a maker of boots and shoes but later expanded his business interests and became a prominent and wealthy grain merchant. He also gained prominence as an executive in the Dominion Bank, the Midland Railway and the Toronto Board of Trade. When Ross joined the business migration to Port Perry prior to the arrival of the railroad in 1871, he sold this house to James McBrien.

Although built by Aaron Ross, the home became known more for the McBrien family, who occupied it more than 65 years.

The original section of the house was built on a conventional plan in the Georgian style, with a central staircase and hallway, the front exterior has many distinguishing features.

On the ground level there are French doors on either side of the main entrance while the remainder of the windows at the ground level are casement windows.

The upstairs rooms have conventional double hung windows. The unusual verandah has a roof of curved pine boards, and is embellished with delicate trellis work, also in white pine.







James  
McBrien

Ceilings on the main floor are 10 feet high, and it features 15" pine baseboards, wainscotting, plank floors. At the rear in a newer addition, there is a great room, with solarium and breakfast nook and kitchen. The home has three bedrooms, of which two are on the second level.

James McBrien, Sr., although of English and Scottish descent, was born in Ireland and made his way to Raglan, south of Prince Albert in the 1830s and then to Prince Albert thirty years later. James became a teacher and rose through the ranks to become a public school inspector for the province of Ontario in 1871.

As an inspector, McBrien was responsible for all the schools in the northern half of Ontario County.

James and his wife Julia Frances had nine children, all of whom attended Port Perry High School. James died in 1909. Julia lived in the house until her death in 1938.

Their most distinguished son was James Howden McBrien, later to become Major General Sir James McBrien. He was born in this house in 1878. Upon graduation from Port Perry High School in 1896, he obtained his first job as a bank clerk at the Western Bank in Port Perry. This is now the easternmost section of Brock's store on Queen Street.

The young McBrien had an illustrious career. His accomplishments include: becoming an officer in the Royal Canadian Dragoons, serving as a Major during World War I, where he received numerous awards including the Distinguished

Service Order; he was promoted to General, then Brigadier in the Canadian Regiment; became head of the R.C.M.P.; was knighted by King George V.

When he died on March 10, 1938, to honour him, an immense and majestic funeral took place in Toronto. His flag-draped coffin, mounted on a horse drawn gun carriage made its way to St Paul's Church on Bloor Street and then to Union Station where, in the great hall of the building, a farewell ceremony took place before his remains were transported to Ottawa for a military burial.

Owners of this beautiful, historic home as of 2004 was Delores Victor. The house was offered for sale in September than year for \$679,000. Pictures shown here were taken 2005.



Major General  
James McBrien



Sitting room with original fireplace.



Looking towards the front entrance of the James McBrien home, Prince Albert.



Breakfast nook in the newer section of the house looks over the gardens.





Joshua Wright

## Joshua Wright Residence

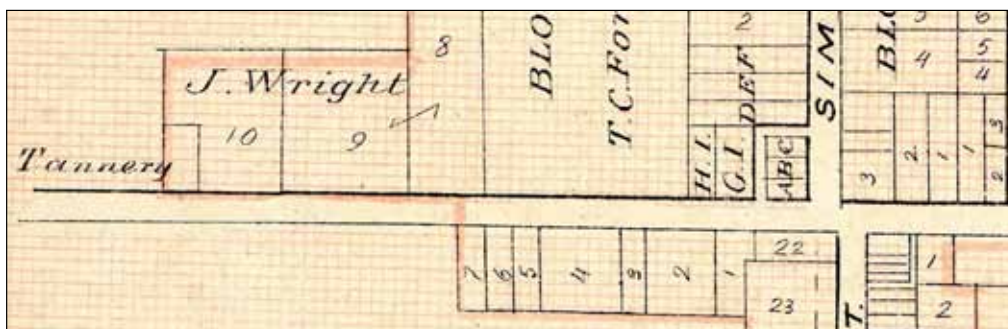
1555 King St. West, Prince Albert  
 Plan H-50025, Block C, Pt. Lot 8

This large Reach Township property, located just west of Prince Albert was owned Joshua and Margaret Wright. The Wrights constructed this sturdily built two-storey frame home with a unique and unadorned tower over the front entrance. The Wright home is the largest surviving wooden home in the community from that period and is the only wooden home with a three-storey front tower. The Wright's extensive property was surrounded by large trees and the whole property was enclosed by a decorative wood fence which protected the expansive lawns, gardens and orchards.

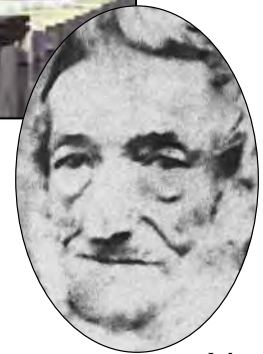
Joshua Wright was one of the area's most active and influential political leaders for more than 30 years, being elected councillor and reeve in both the township of Reach and in Port Perry. He served in the Reach Volunteer Infantry Company as a Captain during the 1860s and was a director of the Prince Albert Public Hall Joint Stock Company.

He began his business career in Prince Albert as a successful maker of boots and shoes gradually expanding and establishing his own tannery on property to the west of his home. He was the first in the village to install a steam powered engine into his tannery business. With the shift in trade, he moved his Boot and Shoe Store to Port Perry in 1873.

Mr. Wright passed away in February 1898, and in April the following year the house he had called home for almost a quarter of a century was sold.



*This village plan, dated 1877, shows the location of Joshua Wright's tannery and residence, just west the four corners at Simcoe and King Street, Prince Albert.*



John Carswell

## John Carswell Residence

Lot No. 17, Concession 5,  
14027 Old Simcoe, Prince Albert, Ontario

John Carswell was the first person to build on this property. John Carswell was born in London, England in 1790. His wife Sarah Piper was eight years younger.

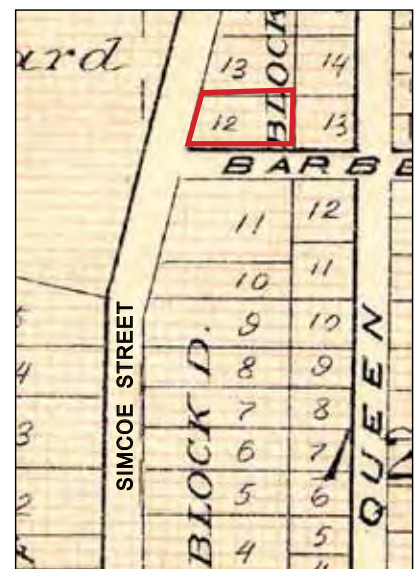
John and Sarah had married in London and emigrated to Canada in 1834 during the massive migration from the British Isles in the 1830s. In Toronto, Carswell perfected his skills as a watchmaker, working for a number of jewellers and watchmakers. With their young family, the Carswells made their way to Prince Albert, finally settling here in 1847. Initially the Carswells lived on King Street beside Aaron Ross and across the road from Abner Hurd's hotel, Rowan Tree Hall.

He purchased this Old Simcoe Road (then Simcoe Street) property in 1857 and built this new home for his retirement. Sarah died in 1878. The Carswell's daughter Lydia married J.C. Campbell and took over the ownership of the property as her father's health declined. He died in November 1880.

The Campbells continued to live here for over thirty years. Lydia died in 1915 at the age of 77 and the property passed to their daughter Bertha Rose Greaves in 1918. Mrs Greaves continued to live here until 1946. In the next few years the home changed hands several times until Leo and Doris Taylor bought it in 1959. The Taylors sold it to Frank Harris and his wife June in 1967.

In 1981 this cosy home was bought by Jim Wills. Over the next few years Jim undertook an extensive restoration of the home returning it to its original splendour as a proud craftsman's family home.

The style of the home is simple and unadorned yet elegant in its simplicity. This style of architecture has been occasionally referred to as "Town Cottage." The low-pitched cottage roof with shallow eaves presents no opportunity for the return eaves so common in gabled homes of the period. The only occasion for ornamentation occurs in the front entranceway and the small gothic windowed gable above. Even here, the ornamentation was frugal and appropriate for John and Sarah Carswell and their family. The careful restoration of the home, through maintaining the original features, including the kitchen wing at the rear, has preserved for us a reflection of the simple yet comfortable life of the 1850s.



John Carswell's home at corner of Simcoe St., and Barber St., outlined in red,





# Robert Boynton Residence

Lot No. 17, Concession 4, Reach Township  
(Old Simcoe Rd., south of the Village of Prince Albert)

This attractive large home was located just south of the village of Prince Albert, on the east side of Old Simcoe Rd. It was originally part of a 100 acre parcel of land.

The property was purchased by William Boynton in 1842, one of the earliest settlers in this area of Reach Township. William sold off a number small lots from the farm until he ended up with about 94 acres. This was either sold, or transferred to his youngest son, Robert, about 1860.

Exactly when the two-storey home was constructed is difficult to determine, but it is identified on the 1877 map of Reach Township (see below). Built on a stone foundation, it was a large wood frame structure, ideal for a large family.

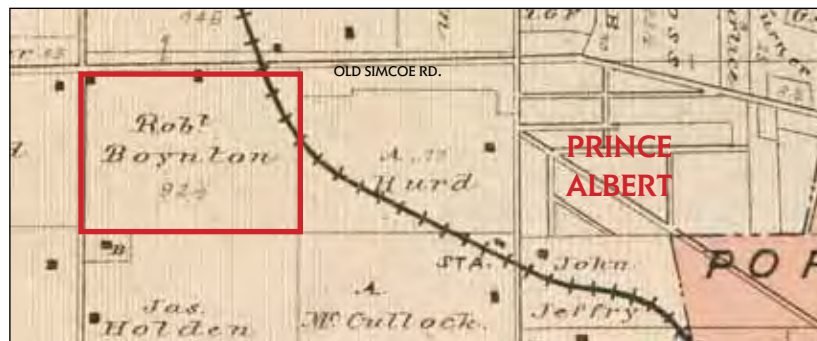
Robert and his wife Margaret raised nine children in the family home, the last child born less than a year before he died in March 1881, leaving her with nine children to raise.

Margaret continued to live in the family home with her daughter Mrs. Albert Shunk, until she passed away in March 1929.

Following her death, the property changed hands

many times. Some of the later owners of the property include – Albert Shunk, Harry Samuel Oyler, Isador Stein and Bastion Benchop.

In its later years, the house was used as the home for a farm hand, and also rented out to various other tenants. More than 100 years after this stately home was built, due to lack of maintenance, it deteriorated to a point that it was torn down in the early 1990s.



*This section of an 1877 map of Reach Township, shows the Boynton property, outlined in red, just south of Prince Albert. The small black dot on Simcoe St. (now Old Simcoe Rd.) shows the location of the Boynton family residence.*





## William Hayes Residence

14576 Old Simcoe Road., Prince Albert, Ontario  
Concession 5, Part Lot 17

This house, like so many rural properties during this period, was part of a much larger 200 acre parcel prior to the house being erected. William Henry Hayes purchased the land in November 1874 from John Jurry, but before him owners of this parcel and other parts of the larger property included the some of the areas early pioneers and leading businessmen. Among these were Thomas Courtice, Thomas C. Forman and Abram Farewell.

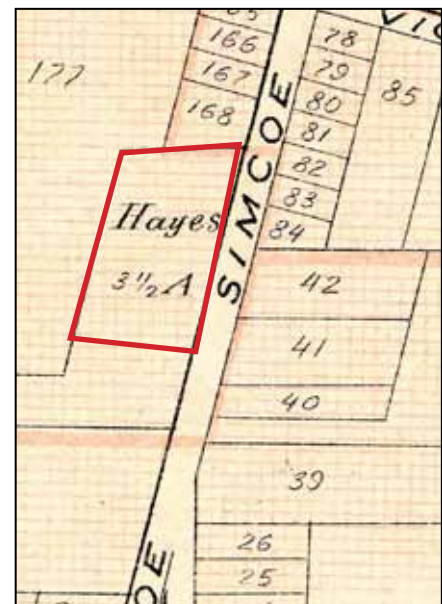
In September 1875, Mr. Hayes home, just south of the Victoria Hotel on Simcoe St. was destroyed by fire. He rebuilt on the same site, but three years later his new house received the same fater. Undeterred, in 1879 he purchased a 3.5 acres property just north of the village where he began erecting a magnificent new home. By the fall of 1879 the *Ontario Observer* newspaper wrote that he was among a number of area residents rushing to finish the exterior of the their homes prior to the winter.

Mr. Hayes built a home that was in keeping with the homes of the more wealthy and successful. An article appeared in the local newspaper in May 1882 referred to the home as "*Mr. Hayes' fine mansion to the north of Prince Albert.*"

The two-storey, yellow brick home featured arched windows, a tower with a third-storey room, and large verandah with decorative Victorian gingerbread trim.

Mr. Hayes passed away in December 1898, but his wife stayed for another year before selling the property to John Proutt. Since then there have been numerous owners, including Thomas and Mary Smith, Amos and Mabel Lapp; Melvin Hayne; Mabel and Neil Reamsbottom; Jerry and Pam Fis; and Robert and Janice Glanville.

This house is located on the west side of Old Simcoe Road., a block and a half south of Hwy. 7A.





The farm residence of the Jones family. Picture taken about 1880 with two men, one possibly is Mungo Weir. (colorized photo)

## Mungo Weir Residence

13650 Old Simcoe Road., Prince Albert, Ontario  
Concession 4, Part Lot 16

Portions of this large parcel of land on the west side of Old Simcoe Rd., south of Prince Albert, was owned or mortgaged by a large number of Prince Albert area residents and merchants starting in the 1840s. Some of those who owned pieces of the land included well known names like Abner Hurd, William Boynton, Thomas C. Forman, Dr. Jonathan Foote and Mungo Weir

The attractive home built on northern part of this property, was built in 1876 by Mungo Weir and his wife Jane. An article in the North Ontario Observer, dated July 20, 1876 reported, "Mr. Mungo Weir is erecting a splendid residence on the farm which he lately purchase south of Prince Albert."

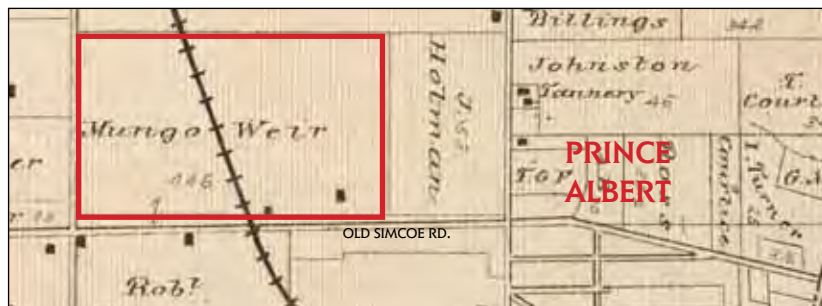
Mr. Weir was in the news again in November 1877, with another article mentioning that "one of the best barns anywhere to be found" is on the property of Mungo Weir, south of Prince Albert.

Within just a few years after purchasing the property the farm was considered to be one of the most handsome homesteads in the county, an ornament to the village and a credit to Mr. Weir and his wife Jane.

Mr. Weir farmed the land until November 1894, when he sold the property and moved to the northern boundary of Prince Albert, purchasing the stately brick home of William Hayes (see previous page). He and his wife lived there until his death in May 1907.

Mungo Weir was one of the leading directors of the Ontario Pine Grove Cemetery Company, and contributed much to the success of that corporation. He was a regular attendant of the Presbyterian Church in Prince Albert, and it was Mungo who was hired to tear down the old Presbyterian church in 1893.

This farm and the attractive home was purchased by the Jones family about 1974 and has remained the family since that time.



This section of an 1877 map of Reach Twp., outlines the 145 acre farm of Mungo Weir, on Old Simcoe Rd. just south of the present Prince Albert Public School.





## Matthew G. Robson Residence

14511 Old Simcoe Road., Prince Albert, Ontario  
Part Lot 17, Conc. 5, Reach Township

In 1868, William Holtby sold this land to Rev. George Jamieson a Presbyterian Minister in Prince Albert. The land was part of a large parcel, from which three lots were severed along Old Simcoe Rd., during the early 1870s.

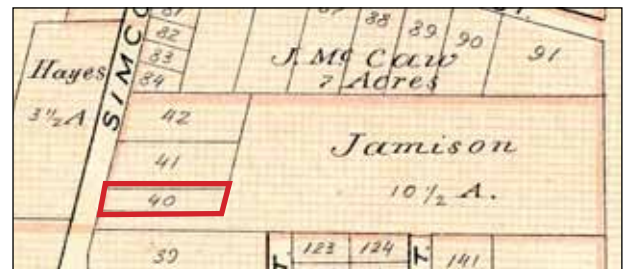
In September 1873 Matthew G. Robson purchased Lot 40 and it believe it was he who constructed the home. After the three lots were severed, 10.5 acres were retained by Mr. Jamieson. The Ontario County Atlas map below, shows him as owner at least into 1877, when it was published.

Mr. Robson came in the 1850s of Prince Albert and was appointed Postmaster, which position he retained during the larger portion of the time of the prosperity of that village. He also carried on an extensive money loaning business. Beginning in 1857, operating under the name Robson & Co. he opened a dry goods store called Prince Albert House. While living in Prince Albert he was appointed Justice of the Peace of which office he exercised for a number of years.

A report in the local newspaper in April 1876 reported the Mr. Robson was constructing and addition to his residence.

The property passed through various owners until 1972 when it was purchased by a development group called Ribcor Holdings. Inc. In July 1976, Ribcor sold Lot 40 to Wendy M. Tran. She and her husband Don, were owners of the Prince Albert Store.

The Trans sold the historic Prince Albert home to Lawrence and Bonnie Postill in 1979. Among the others who have owned the house are, Wilma Brown, Brett Puckrin and the most recent owner, 2021, Patricia Leroux.



This section of an 1877 map shows George Jamieson's three lots severed, with Lot 40, being purchased by Mr. M.G. Robson.





## Samuel P. Barber Residence

14207 Old Simcoe Road., Prince Albert, Ontario  
Part Lot 16, Conc. 5, Reach Township



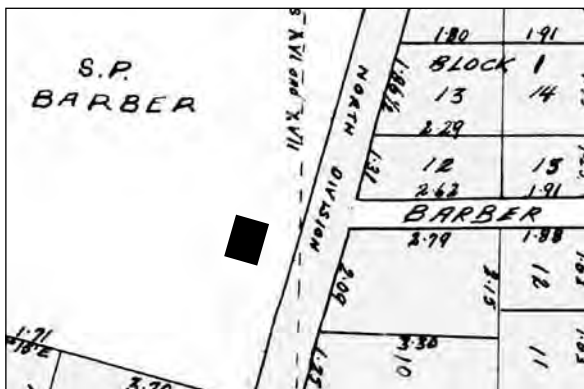
Samuel P. Barber

Abner Hurd, was the first registered owner of this large, 200 acre property in 1840. It was located along the west side of Old Simcoe Rd., in the northern section of Prince Albert.

Mr. Hurd began to sell off portions of the property throughout the late 1840s and 1850s, and it appears that Samuel P. Barber eventually took over ownership of the large 30 acre portion of the land about 1860.

Exactly when this house was constructed can not be confirmed, there is a hint that was built during the first couple of years of 1860. The street directly across the road from his new home was named "Barber St."

The hint referred to above, comes from Elijah Cash who advertised he was opening a fanning mill in Prince Albert. His ad identified the location of his new shop as being on the corner of Simcoe and Barber Streets, opposite the residence of Samuel P. Barber.



This section of an 1861 map of Prince Albert shows part of the 30 acre parcel of land owned by Samuel P. Barber, and the approximate location of his residence.

The date given in Mr. Cash's advertisement was February 1863, leading to the speculation the house was built a short time before that date. Five years later, Mr. Barber advertised his his "little 31 acre farm in the Village of Port Perry for sale".

He described the property as having a good frame house with stone cellar, a good barn, driving barn, two good wells and a capital orchard.

By 1871, Samuel Barber had left the village of Prince Albert and was living with his family in Caradoc, Ontario. Ten acres of Mr. Barber's former property was purchased Abram Bongard, a local drover and meat merchant. The family lived there until 1912, two years after the death of Abram, when his wife Mary sold the property.



Dugald McBride was principal of Port Perry High School for 40 years.



Dugald McBride

## Dugald McBride Residence

14844 Old Simcoe Rd., Prince Albert  
Plan H 50021 Lot 117, 118

Port Perry High School opened its doors as Port Perry Grammar School in September 1868. Its founding principal was James R. Youmans. In December 1871, he left and was replaced by Dugald McBride. The first home owned by McBride and his wife Nancy (Horton) was at 4 Ella Street. In February 1876, they sold their Ella Street home, bought this vacant lot and had a new home built here.

The home has, throughout its life, maintained its original structure and appearance. At the time of its construction it was an imposing full two-storey house, with a three bay design having a traditional center doorway and transom. The McBrides had two children, both born before they moved into the house but their son Samuel died at age fourteen shortly after they moved into this comfortable home. Their daughter Sarah Mabel went on to become a teacher at Oshawa Collegiate. McBride retired from his role as principal in June 1910, completing a forty-four year teaching career, thirty-seven at Port Perry High School.

The McBrides sold this home in 1892 to John and Amelia McMechan. The McMechans, in turn, sold to Elizabeth Christie in 1907. It remained in the Christie estate until 1944 when it was sold to George M. Heayn. Two years later it was sold to Walter and Elizabeth Stubbing and then to William S. Graham in 1948. It remained in the hands of members of the Graham family until John and Joanne Howsam bought it in 1983. The Howsams sold to Blair and Peggy Sprague in 1988, and the Spragues sold to Peter and Nadine Kirk in 1992.

The Kirks recently extensively renovated and restored the home to its original dignity.



Dugald McBride's residence is outlined in red on this 1877 Ont. County map.



# County of Ontario Gazetteer & **DIRECTORIES**

Listings for the Township of Reach and Prince Albert extract from copies of Gazetteer & Directories of the Home District and County of Ontario from 1837 until 1884.

## Reach Twp. Directory 1837

From the City of Toronto and the Home District  
COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY & REGISTER

	Con.	No.		Con.	No.		Con.	No.
Allen James	9	12	Hoover, Daniel	10	8	Shaw, Hosea	6	6
Asliden John	9	5	Houghton, Stephen	6	17	Shaw, Herod	6	6
Atwell William	9	11	Huntington, Wm.	1	2	Sheldon, Henry	2	2
Barrett Samuel J.	5	0	Hurd, Philander	5	17	Sherman, Horace	1	10
Bates John C.	4	18	Huributt, Wm.	1	11	Sickell, Wm.	1	17
Bell William	3	17	Jenson, John	10	10	Silver, James	2	13
Black Charles	14	24	Johnson, Wm	2	16	Silver, Daniel Sr.	2	13
Box Aaron	4	10	John, David D	3	16	Silver, Daniel. Jr.	1	10
Brown Alexander	1	5	Latin, Nathan	1	17	Stillwell, John		
Brown John	1	4	Luke, William	2	17	Steven, Chas	5	10
Buck Hiram	3	17	Mark, Nicholas	8	20	Stoken, Robert	1	11
Christie Donald	4	12	Martin, Ebenezer	1	13	Stoutenburgh, Luke	8	2
Christie Peter	5	11	Merrick, George	14	5	Swinson, Geo.	1	4
Clark William	6	16	Mitchell, David	1	3	Swinson, John	1	5
Clark William L.	1	11	Moon, James	10	2	Swinson, Chas.	4	4
Collar John	6		Morrow, John	7	8	Swinson, Joseph	1	3
Conklin Abraham			McDermid, Arch'd	5	11	Thirston, Frederick	2	17
Craddock Isaac	11	11	McFarlane, John	14	20	Thomas, Wm.	2	15
Crandell Reuben	6	17	McKerchen, John	4	12	Thomas, H.G.	2	15
Daton Gideon	5	14	McKilravy, Alex	14	22	Thulby, Thos.	8	2
Daton Alonzo F.	1	18	Osser, John	8	18	Tripp, Charles	1	16
Damon Thomas	3	16	Osser, Jeremiah	8	19	Tripp, John	1	16
Daton Daniel	4	16	Osser, Solomon	8	19	Tripp, Lydia	2	17
Dillon Peter	4	75	Page, Catherine	7	7	Vicker, John	10	10
Dobble Mary	14	3	Page, Nathan	2	16	Wait, Benjamin	4	14
Doxsee Arch.	2	6	Page, Silas			Walker, Henry	2	10
Dunham Moses	1	13	Perkins, John			Warner, John	12	23
Dwyer Robert, jun	4	13	Phelan, Wm.	1	1	Wells, Robert	9	11
Ensign John G.	7	7	Pickell, Thomas	7	23	White, David	6	17
Gilderoy Wm.	1	12	Pickell, Jake	8	24	Wilkinson, George	4	10
Gordon, Samuel	3	15	Plues, John	3	12	Willby, Abel	3	9
Graham, Thos.	3	14	Savage, H.N.	4	16	Williams, James	5	14
Hadley, Wm.	7	18	Scobell, Stephen	7	23	Williams, Hannah	6	19
Hawley, Wm.	1	8	Scryer, Orange	6	22	Wood, Stephen	8	7

**POPULATION - Males above 16 - 144; Males under 16 - 144;  
Females above 16 - 110; Females under 16 - 131.  
Total Population: 529.**



# Prince Albert 1851

## PRINCE ALBERT, C.W.

A village situated in the Township of Reach, Count of York, C.W. – distance from Toronto, 46 miles – usual stage fare, 8s. 9d  
Population about 200.

Baker, Dr., physician and surgeon  
Boynton, William, inkeeper  
Brown, William, blacksmith  
Campbell, A., blacksmith  
Corey, Thomas, inkeeper  
Corson, Mr., schoomaster  
Currie, George, & Co.,  
general store  
Daton, John, blacksmith

Fuller, S. & Brother, general store  
Hurd, P.A., general store  
Hill, Samuel, steam saw mill  
Holman, James, waggonmaker  
Jurry, John, waggonmaker  
Lang, Andrew, & Co.,  
general store  
McCorquodale, Duncan,  
innkeeper

McMahon, Dr., physician and  
surgeon  
Packstone & Co., steam saw mill  
Saunders, James, waggonmaker  
Sutton, Rev. W., Episcopal  
Methodist  
Tanner, Stephen, tanner  
Wright, Joshua, tanner

# Prince Albert 1857/58

## PRINCE ALBERT, C.W.

A village in the Township of Reach and County of Ontario. Distance from Toronto 48 miles, and from Whitby 17 miles, stage fare 75¢. Mail daily. Population about 600.

Archer, John, cooper.  
Barker, William, saddler.  
Beason, Samuel, mason.  
Bible Society, A. Hurd, president;  
John F. Taylor,  
Boynton, William, hotelkeeper  
Brown, J. D., painter.  
Campbell, Archibald, blacksmith.  
Carswell, John, watchmaker.  
Clark, L. C., carriagemaker.  
Cleverdon, Thomas, plasterer.  
Currie, George, & Co.,  
general store.  
Daniel, John, shoemaker.  
Dayton, Daniel, carpenter.  
Dell, H.O., advocate.  
Demorest, Rev. Thomas,  
Wesleyan church.  
Eastwood, William, M.D.  
Eck, Daniel T., tanner.  
Eck & Manuel, harnessmakers.  
Eddy, R.E., general store.  
Foreman, Robert, tailor.  
Foreman, Thomas C.,  
general store.

Canton, Stephen, teacher.  
Graham, Henry, shoe shop.  
Green, Thomas, butcher.  
Haight, M.H., botanic physician.  
Heal, John, tailor.  
Heard, John, blacksmith.  
Hiscock, Charles, baker and  
confectioner.  
Hugh., Rev. J., Bible Christian.  
Hurd, Abner, postmaster and  
president Bible Society.  
Hurd, P., carpenter.  
Hurd, Prosper A., advocate.  
Jameson, William, shoemaker.  
Jurey, John, waggonmaker.  
Mains, Richard, cabinetmaker.  
Marr, John, blacksmith.  
Martin, John, blacksmith.  
Mason & Curtis, carriage, trunk,  
harness, saddle maker.  
McCaw, Hugh H., tinsmith.  
McCaw, James, shoemaker.  
McConnel, James, tailor.  
McCoy, Henry, shoemaker.  
McCoy, John, innkeeper.

McDonald, John, millwright.  
McGill, Donald, tailor.  
McKinlay, Robert, waggonmaker.  
McTaggart, Robert, millwright.  
Monteath, Rev. Robert,  
United Presbyterian.  
Moore, Joseph B., carpenter.  
Park, Henry, carpenter.  
Price, George, blacksmith.  
Rae John, dentist.  
Randall, John, carpenter.  
Rolph, John, shoemaker.  
Ross, Aaron, shoe shop.  
Saunders, James, waggonmaker.  
Savage, Rev. John W., Wesleyan.  
Scarth, Thomas, shoemaker.  
Shaw, Fletcher, painter.  
Sims, Robert, painter.  
Smith, Andrew, carpenter.  
Sutton & Tomlinson, druggists.  
Taylor, John F., secretary of Bible Society.  
Unyer, Leonard, grocer.  
Ware, James E., M.D.  
Wright, Joshua, tanner  
Yarnold, William C. land surveyor.

# Prince Albert 1866

## PRINCE ALBERT:

A large and important village in the Township of Reach and North Riding of the County of Ontario. This village, together with Port Perry, Borelia and Manchester, being from 17 to 20 miles distant from Oshawa and Whitby, are sufficiently remote to command a very tolerable amount of trade of their own.

Prince Albert is pleasantly situated and is already quite a flourishing village. It was settled about the year 1843. The first church erected in the village was that of the Wesleyan Methodists, which was destroyed by fire in 1865. The Society is about building another, having already secured the ground, the building to cost about \$3000, the material of brick, and size 40+55 feet.

There is a Presbyterian Free Church, of frame, which cost about \$2000, and a Bible Christian Church, also built of wood, Rev. Mr. Williams, pastor. The members of the Church of England hold services in the Town Hall, the Rev. John Pentland, B.A., being the pastor.

## PRINCE ALBERT

There is also a Common School, built of wood, having an average attendance of 100 pupils. Mr. R. V. Langdon, Principal and Miss M. J. Bates, assistant.

The Town Hall, which is a neat building of frame, painted white, cost with the ground about \$1400 ; James Baird, Esq., is the president, Thos. Courtice, Esq., vice-president, John H. Brown, Esq., secretary, and Thos. C. Forman, Esq., treasurer.

Prince Albert boasts of an Infantry Company, which was established in 1863. Captain T. C. Forman, Lieutenant John Billings and Ensign George Richardson. The company meet every Saturday night, George White being the instructor.

The Whitby and Georgian Bay Telegraph Company have communication here, Mr. Thomas Courtice, being the operator.

The Councilmen of the Township of Reach hold their meetings here, and consist of the following gentlemen: 1st Ward, Albert Spring, Deputy Reeve of Epsom; 2nd Ward, J. B. Campbell of Ashburn; 3rd Ward, James Graham of Saintfield; 4th Ward, Charles Marsh, Reeve of Borelia; and 5th Ward, Joshua Wright, Prince Albert.

The village contains two good hotels, the Anglo American and the Victoria Hotel, both well conducted. There are several large and well furnished stores, a large tannery by Mr. J. Wright, who also does a large business in the sale of boots and shoes; several carriage and wagon shops, blacksmiths and carpenter shops; a first class jeweller; two saddle and harness shops, one of which, conducted by Mr. Thomas Courtice, is justly celebrated for the excellent work which it turns out; a drug store; a cabinet shop, and several merchant tailoring establishments. There are daily stages to Whitby, Oshawa, and Beaverton. Population, about 550.

Adams, David J. money broker, land and  
general agent, Simcoe St.  
ANGLO-AMERICAN HOTEL, J. Moggridge, prop  
corner of King and Simcoe St.  
Archer, John  
Askins, Richard  
BAIN, JAMES & CO. manufacturers of boots  
and Shoes, Simcoe St. a  
Barber, S. P. retired, Simcoe St.  
Bates, George  
Bates, Miss M. J. teacher, public school  
BILLINGS, JOHN, barrister, attorney, solicitor  
in chancery, &c., Simcoe St.  
Bongard, Jacob & Abram, butchers, King St.  
Bradley, B. F. photographer, King St.  
BRATHWAITE, F. II., M. D., physician and  
surgeon, King St.  
Brock, William, clerk, Currie & Ross  
Brown, John H. (late Currie & Brown) retired,  
Simcoe St.  
Brown, Peter, blacksmith, John Heard  
Bullen, Jonathan, tailor, Simcoe St.  
Cameron, Mrs. dress maker and milliner,  
Simcoe St.  
Cameron, Ewen.  
Campbell, Archibald  
Canada Permanent Building and Savomgs  
Society, D. J. Adams agent.  
CASH, ELIJAH, pump and fanning mill maker,  
Simcoe St.  
CLARK, LYMAN C. carriage maker and painter,  
Simcoe St.  
COCHRANE & MACPHERSON, (S. H. Cochrane  
& J. A. Macpherson), barristers and attorneys,  
Simcoe St.  
COURTICE, THOMAS, saddle & harness maker.  
COWAN, J. & W. general merchants,  
Simcoe corner King St.  
Crandell, Caleb, farmer  
Crandell, Clark, farmer  
Currie, George, sawmiller, lot C con. 4, Reach  
Currie, John  
Currie, Luther, clerk, Currie & Ross  
Currie, Mark, (late Currie & Brown) retired,  
Simcoe St.  
CURRIE & ROSS, (Geo. Currie & Aaron Ross)  
general merchants and grain dealers, corner  
Simcoe and King St.  
Davis, N. H.,  
Daniels, Thomas, harness maker  
Daynes, George  
DECKER, WILLIAM, watch maker and jeweller,  
Simcoe St.

Dillon, Michael.  
Eddy, R. H.  
EMANEY, JAMES, blacksmith and waggon maker,  
Simcoe St.  
FORMAN, THOMAS C. general merchant and  
grain dealer, Simcoe corner King St.  
Forman, C. tailor, with Thos. Forman  
Fraser, Miss, teacher of music, King St.  
Graham, Henry  
Heal, John, tailor, Simcoe  
Heard, John, general blacksmith, Simcoe St.  
Hickey, Martin  
Hiscocks, Charles, baker & confectioner,  
Simcoe St.  
Hollman, Jas.  
Home & Colonial In. Co., D. J. Adams Agent HURD, ABNER, J.  
P., King St.  
Hurd, Abner, Jr., student Cochrane & Macpherson  
Jamieson, Wm.  
Johnson, Thos.  
Jolly, David, cabinet maker & furniture dealer,  
Simcoe St.  
JONES, GEO. W. M.D., physician & surgeon,  
Simcoe St.  
Jones, Wm. clerk Currie & Ross  
Jury, John, carpenter, Simcoe St.  
Langdon, Rev. John, Bible Christian, Queen St.  
Langdon, R.V., school teacher public school  
Little, John  
Liverpool & London, & Globe, M. G. Robson, agent  
MACPHERSON, JAMES A. barrister &  
attorney-at-law, Simcoe St.  
McCaw, A. E., stoves and tin-ware, Simcoe St.  
McCaw, C. harness maker, Queen St.  
McCaw & Daynes, boot & shoe makers,  
Simcoe St.  
McConnell, James, merchant tailor and general  
dealer, Simcoe St.  
McGILL, D., merchant tailor, Simcoe St.  
McKinley, Robert, waggon maker, Simcoe St.  
MONTEITH, REV. ROBERT  
Nevin Agnew  
ONTARIO OBSERVER, published every Thursday, Parson's &  
Robinson eds. & pros. Simcoe St.  
Palmer, William, boarding house, King St.  
Parkes, H.  
PARSONS & ROBINSON, eds. & pros. " Ontario Observer."  
Patterson, Thos.  
PENTLAND, REV. J., B.A. Church of England,  
Simcoe St.  
Pentland, the Misses, Select School, Simcoe St.  
Pinch, John  
Powell, Mrs. dress maker and milliner, Simcoe St.

Powers, Bartlett, blacksmith, Geo White  
 Queen Insurance Co. D. J. Adams agent  
 Raynes, George  
 Reed, John  
 ROBINSON, GEORGE, merchant tailor. T. Forman  
 Robinson, William  
 ROBSON, MATTHEW G. postmaster, money  
 broker and ins. agent, King St.  
 Rolph & Richardson, saddles and harness makers  
 Ross, Aaron  
 Saunders, Daniel, woodworker for L. C. Clark Saunders, James,  
 waggon maker, Simcoe St.  
 SCOTT, WM. prop Victoria hotel  
 Scottish Provincial Insurance Co.  
 D. J. Adams, agent  
 Sinclair, Archibald, groceries and liquors,  
 Simcoe St.  
 Smith, Andrew  
 Smith, Ed.  
 Smith, Francis  
 Snell, Robert  
 Stevenson, Neil, carriage, waggon and sleigh  
 manufacturer, Simcoe St.  
 Stobbs, Rev. Thos. Wes. Meth.  
 STRACHAN, DAVID, manager, J. Bain & Co  
 Taylor, Robert  
 Tewkesbury, Wm.

Thomas, Samuel M. saddler, Queen  
 Tomlinson, Henry, teamster, Simcoe St.  
 Tomlinson, Wm. patent medicines  
 King St.  
 Turner, Isaac  
 VICTORIA HOTEL, William Scott, prop.  
 Simcoe St.  
 Walks, Peter  
 Walsh, Richard  
 Ware, J. E. M.D. physician and surgeon, King St.  
 Whitby and Georgian Bay Tele-graph Co.,  
 Thos. Courtice, op Simcoe St.  
 WHITE, GEORGE, blacksmith, carriage and  
 waggon maker. Simcoe St.  
 Widden, J., carpenter and builder, Queen St.  
 Wilcox, W. M., bailiff, 3rd division court  
 Williams, Rev. John, Bible Christian, Simcoe St.  
 Wilson, Joseph  
  
 Wilson, Richard, druggist and  
 apothecary, books & stationery, Simcoe St.  
 Windsor, Noah, carpenter, Simcoe  
 WRIGHT, JOSHUA, boot and shoe manufacturer,  
 and tanner and currier, Simcoe St.  
 Yarnold, W. E. architect and civil engineer,  
 Simcoe St.

## Prince Albert 1869

### PRINCE ALBERT:

A village in the township of Reach, about 17 miles north-east from Whitby, was first settled by Mr. A. Hurd, senior, in 1833. The first store was opened by Messers. P. Hurd & Co., in 1833. The Post office was established in 1836, Mr. J. Leach being the first postmaster.

At present it contains one military and two civil organizations, viz: one volunteer Infantry Company, No. 5, Ontario Battalion, Captain John Billings. A Masonic lodge, No. 183, one orange lodge, No. 560.

The churches are the Wesleyan Methodist, built of brick, in 1866, at the cost of about \$3500. The Bible Christian, built of wood, in 1862, at the cost of about \$1000. The united Presbyterian, built of wood, in 1859, at the cost of about \$1500. The English have no building of their own, but they hold service every alternate Sabbath morning in the Presbyterian Church.

The other buildings of note are the Prince Albert Public Hall, built of wood by a joint stock company in 1863, at the cost of about \$1500. A company drill shed, built of wood in 1866, at the cost of about \$850. It is located on the North Ontario Agricultural Society's ground, which have lately been enclosed at an additional cost of some \$400.

A school house, several general stores, two hotels, and a number of mechanical representatives. There is also located here Tomlinson's patent medicine factory, for the manufacture of his celebrated medicine.

Connected with Whitby, Oshawa, and all places north by daily stage. Post and money order office. Daily mail. Population about 800.

Adam, David J., Insurance agent.  
 BAIRD, JAMES, (Baird & Parsons)  
 Baldwin, W.A., M.D., physician.  
 Balfour, Robert, shoemaker.  
 Banbury, Samuel, farmer.  
 Barber, S. P., farmer.  
 Bates, George, shoemaker.  
 Beatty, Mrs. M., widow.  
 Beatty, Wm., harnessmaker.  
 Beatty, Daniel, wagonmaker.  
 Bell, Mrs. Henry.  
 Billing, John, barrister.  
 Bond, William shoemaker,  
 Bongard, A., butcher.  
 Bongard, Jacob, butcher.  
 BRATHWAITE, F.H., M.D., C.M.,  
 Physician.  
 Bullen, J., tailor.  
 Campbell, Mrs. M.  
 Campbell, A., Insurance agent.

Campbell, Mrs. K, widow.  
 Cantlon, Rev. D., Bible Christian.  
 Carswell, John, gentleman.  
 Cash, K, merchant.  
 Courtiee, Thomas, harnessmaker.  
 Cox, James, shoemaker.  
 Crozer, Thomas labourer.  
 CURRIE & ROSS, dealer in dry  
 goods groceries.  
 CURRIE, GEORGE, (Currie &  
 Ross).  
 Currie, Mark, gentleman.  
 Currie, James, printer.  
 Curtis, Asa, gentleman.  
 Dailey, D.V., dentist.  
 Dawson & Co. druggists.  
 Daynes & Snell, shoemakers.  
 Decker, Mrs. Wm., jeweller.  
 Dillon, M., shoemaker.  
 Eddy, Rice, farmer.

Emaney, James, Ontario carriage  
 factory.  
 Figgett, T., labourer.  
 Forman, Thomas C., merchant  
 Graham Henry, shoemaker.  
 Harper, William, gentleman.  
 Haskin, J., gentleman.  
 Haskin, Richard, shoemaker.  
 Heal, John, tailor.  
 Heard, John, blacksmith.  
 Hickey, Martin, farmer.  
 Hiscocks, Charles, baker.  
 Holman, James, farmer.  
 Houck, N., farmer.  
 Houck, S., farmer.  
 Hurd, Abner, senior, gentleman,  
 Hurd, Abner, junior, lawyer.  
 Irwin, Richard, labourer.  
 Johnson, James, gentleman.  
 Jury, John, carpenter.



## PRINCE ALBERT

Kirkpatrick, Thomas, blacksmith.  
Langden, R.V., teacher.  
Marrs, Mrs.  
Marsh, W.H., painter.  
May, Joseph, welldigger.  
Moggridge, John, hotelkeeper.  
McCaw, H.H. tinsmith.  
McConnell, James, tailor.  
McGill, Donald, tailor.  
McKinley, Robert, wagonmaker.  
ONTARIO OBSERVER, Baird & Parson,  
every Thursday  
Palmer, William, labourer.  
Park, W. H., cabinetmaker.  
Parrish, William, farmer  
PARSONS, H., (Baird & Parsons.)  
Patterson, Thomas, shoemaker.  
Pearce, James, farmer.  
Pearce, John, farmer.  
Reed, Rev. J., Wesleyan Methodist.

Reynolds, William labourer.  
Robinson, Robert, labourer.  
Robson, M.G., gentleman.  
Rolph, John, harnessmaker.  
Rose J. W., gentleman.  
ROSS, AARON, (Currie & Ross).  
Saunders, David, wagonmaker.  
Saunders, James, wagonmaker.  
SCOTT, WILLIAM, Victoria hotel,  
Sharp, J., carpenter  
Sinclair, Archibald, merchant.  
Smith, Andrew, carpenter.  
Smith, Edward, labourer.  
Smith, J., labourer.  
Snell, Robert, shoemaker.  
Stevenson, Neil, wagonmaker.  
TOMLINSON, W.A., chemist and drug-  
gist.  
Tomlinson, A.M., travelling agent.  
Tomlinson, Thomas, currier.

Tewksbury, William, carpenter.  
Thomas, S.M., harnessmaker.  
Thompson, S., shoemaker.  
Tucker, Thomas, labourer.  
Unger, L., gentleman.  
VanSinkler, Henry, farmer.  
Walsh, Richard, veterinary surgeon.  
WARE, J.E., M.D., coroner, physician.  
White, John, gardener.  
Widden John, carpenter.  
Widden, Richard, labourer.  
Wightmam W.M. & Co., merchants.  
Wilcox, W.M., bailiff.  
Wood, Robert, carpenter.  
Wright, Joshua, shoemaker and tanner.  
Yarnold, Benjamin, gentleman.  
Yarnold, Wm. E., surveyor.  
Youman's, J.R., teacher.  
Zwickey, J., harnessmaker.

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# Prince Albert 1871

### PRINCE ALBERT:

A beautifully situated and thriving village in the Township of Reach, County of Ontario. Montreal Telegraph Co. has an office here. Distance from Whitby, the county town, and a station of the Grand Trunk Railway, 47 miles. Mail daily. Population about 600.

Adams David J., insurance agent  
Alderman Rev. Thomas H.,  
Apostles Church  
ANGLO AMERICAN HOTEL,  
Mrs. Moggridge, proprietress  
BAIRD JAMES, of Baird &  
Parsons  
BAIRD & PARSONS, publishers  
of the Ontario Observer  
Baldwin William A., M.D.  
Banbury Samuel, farmer  
Bates George, shoemaker  
Beatie David, carriagemaker  
Beatie William, saddler  
Balfour Robert, shoemaker  
Bell Mrs. Mary, widow Henry  
Billings John, barrister  
Bond William, shoemaker  
Bongard Abraham, butcher  
Bongard Jacob, butcher  
Braithwaite Francis H., M.D.,  
Bullen Mrs. Elizabeth, widow  
Cameron Ewan, clerk  
Campbell Augustus S.  
Campbell Mrs. Mary, widow  
of Archibald  
Cantlin Rev. David,  
Bible Christian  
Carswell John  
Carter William, clerk  
Cantlin Miss Mary, school teacher  
Cook Robert, clerk  
Courtice Thomas, harnessmaker  
Covey Mrs., widow  
Crozier William, laborer  
Currie George, J.P., treasurer  
Currie Mark Currie George,  
Daynes George, shoemaker

Dillon Michael, shoemaker  
Diesfield John, watchmaker  
Eddy Rice H., constable  
EMANY JAMES, proprietor  
Ontario Carriage Works  
Foreman Charles, tailor  
Foreman Thomas C., merchant  
Harrington John, laborer  
Jayne George, laborer  
Haywood Misr, dressmaker  
Hoskin Richard, shoemaker  
Hiscocks Charles, baker  
Holman James, councillor  
Houck Nicholas, farmer  
Houck Sidney, farmer  
Heard John, blacksmith  
Heard Prosper, barrister, office  
at Port Perry  
Hurd Abner, Jr., law student  
Hurd Abner, sen., J.P.  
Jamieson Rev. George,  
Presbyterian  
Johnston James  
Jones George W., M.D.  
Jury John, carpenter  
Langdon Rev. John,  
Bible Christian  
Luke William  
Ley Mrs. Jane, wid  
Marsh William, painter  
McConnel James, merchant  
McCaw Hugh H., postmaster,  
tinsmith  
McDonald John, millwright  
McGill Donald, tailor  
McKinley Robert, waggonmaker  
Moggridge Mrs. J., proprietress  
Anglo American hotel

MONTREAL TELEGRAPH CO.,  
John Rolph, operator  
Marrs Mrs. Sarah, wid John  
Nichols Gideon  
ONTARIO CARRIAGE WORKS,  
Jas Emaney, proprietor  
ONTARIO OBSERVER, weekly,  
annual subscription, Baird &  
Parsons, proprietors & printers  
Palmer Miss Emma, school  
teacher  
Palmer William, boarding house  
Park William H., cabinetmaker  
Parrish William, farmer  
Parsons Henry, of Baird &  
Parsons  
Patterson Thomas, shoemaker  
Pearce James, farmer  
Powers John, carpenter  
Reid Rev. Henry, Wesleyan  
Robinson Robert, laborer  
Robson Matthew G.  
ROLPH JOHN, operator Montreal Tele-  
graph Co., harnessmaker  
Ross Aaron  
Sanders James, waggonmaker  
Scott William, proprietor Victoria  
Hotel  
Sharp Israel carpenter  
Sinclair Archibald, storekeeper  
Slater Joseph, school teacher  
Smith Andrew, carpenter  
Smith Frank, sexton  
Stephenson Neil, waggonmaker  
Taylor Richard, carpenter  
Tewkesbury Mrs. Mary  
Thomas Samuel, saddler  
Thompson Scarth, shoemaker

Tomlinson Thomas, tanner  
 Tomlinson William A., druggist  
 Trenbeth William, tailor  
 Tucker Thomas, laborer  
 Turner Isaac, stone mason  
 Victoria hotel, William Scott, prop.  
 Vyvvan William, tailor

Wakeford William, laborer  
 Ware John E., M.D.  
 Walshe Richard, farrier  
 White William, gardener  
 Widden John, carpenter  
 WIGHTMAN WILLIAM.,  
 storekeeper

Wilcox William, druggist,  
 Division court  
 Wood Robert, carpenter  
 Wright Joshua, shoemaker  
 Yarnold Benjamin  
 Yarnold William E., surveyor

## Prince Albert 1876

### PRINCE ALBERT:

A village in the Township of Reach about 15 miles north of Whitby. Was first settled by Mr. A. Hurd senior in 1824. The first store was opened by Messrs Hurd & Co., in 1833. The post office was first established in 1836, Mr. Leach being the first postmaster. Mr. John McPherson is the present postmaster. The civil organizations are one Masonic Lodge, No. 183, one Orange Lodge, No. 569. The churches are: one Canada Methodist; one Bible Christian; one United Presbyterian. The other buildings are a Town hall built of wood by a joint stock company in 1863 at a cost of about \$1,500; a Drill Shed built of wood in 1866, at a cost of about \$850, located on the Agricultural Show Ground; a School House, several stores, one Hotel and the usual number of Mechanics. A patent medicine factory is also establish here, Mr. A. Tomlinson being proprietor. The Port Whitby & Port Perry Railway has a station here at which all passenger trains stop. Population about 600.

Badgerow, William  
 Bond, R.  
 Bongard, C  
 Befrin  
 Bullen, Mrs.  
 Bongard, Abraham  
 Beatty, Mary  
 Bullen, M.  
 Bongard, Jacob  
 Bates, George  
 Bell, Mary  
 Baird, James  
 Cook, John  
 Courtice, Charles  
 Courtice, Thomas  
 Cash, D.  
 Carswell, John  
 Campbell, A.  
 Crosure, Thomas  
 Currie, George  
 Cambpell, Mrs.  
 Cleghorn, A.  
 Curtice, B.  
 Dillon M.  
 Dewey, Samuel,

Eddy, R.A.  
 Forman, Thomas C.  
 Foster, Robert  
 Goodfellow, George  
 Graham, Frederick  
 Hays, George  
 Holman, G.  
 Hiscox, Charles  
 Hickie, Martin  
 Hays, W.H.  
 Heard, John  
 Heard, Abner  
 Hanley, G.  
 Jugoe, R.  
 Hurd, Philander  
 Harnden, John  
 Jerry, John  
 Johnston, T.W.  
 Jewett, James  
 Jemison, William  
 Johnston, James  
 Jacobs, Mrs.  
 Kester, P.  
 Leatch, W.H.  
 Langdon, R.V

Marrs, H.  
 McGill, D.  
 McDonald, James  
 Marsh, Henry  
 McKinley, Rev. Robert  
 McDermid, John  
 Martin, Mrs.  
 McPherson, John  
 McGuire  
 McConnell, James  
 May, Joseph  
 McCaw  
 Magor, E.  
 Patterson, Thomas  
 Philp, Rev. C. Samuel  
 Park, William  
 Parsons, Henry  
 Pringle, Catherine  
 Roach, Thomas  
 Rook, John  
 Roberts, Jeremiah  
 Robson, M.G.  
 Robson, G. L.  
 Ross, Aaron  
 Rogers, James

Runnells, Richard  
 Rolph, John  
 Smith, Francis  
 Steel, George  
 Smith, Andrew  
 Shanard, C.  
 Stephens, E.  
 Saunders, James  
 Turner, Issac  
 Tewksbury, William  
 Taylor, Richard  
 Thompson, S.  
 Thomas, S.M.  
 Tomlinson, W.A.  
 Widdifield, John  
 Walker, John  
 Welsh, Richard  
 Ware, John E., M.D.  
 Wakeford  
 Wright  
 Wyghtman, Mr.M.,  
 Yarnold, Benjamin  
 Yarnold, W.E.

## Prince Albert 1884

### PRINCE ALBERT:

A village on the Whitby branch, Midland Div G.T.R. railway, in Reach Township, Ontario County, 18 miles north of Whitby, the county seat, and 2 miles north of Port Perry, the nearest bank location. Settled in 1820. It contains Presbyterian, Methodist and Bible Christian churches and a public school. It ships grain, live stock and produce. Stages daily to Port Perry, fare 10 cents, Manchester, Utica, Epsom and Uxbridge. Mail daily. Philander Hurd, postmaster. Population, 500.

Balfour, R., boots and shoes.  
 Bell, John, painter.  
 Bongard, A., live stock and butcher.  
 Bruce, George, insurance agent.  
 Crosier, Rev — (Presbyterian).  
 Cruse, John, Carriage and Waggonraker.  
 Heard, John, blacksmith.  
 Hill, Rev Lewis W., (Methodist).  
 Hiscox, Mrs Lydia, grocer and baker.

Hugoe, Richard, tailor.  
 Hurd, Philander, contractor.  
 Jury, John, musical instruments and builder.  
 Kenner, Rev. W. (Bible Christian).  
 McDonald, John, millwright.  
 McKuilay, Robert, waggonmaker.  
 Madden, Rev. David B. (Methodist).  
 Park, Wm. H., Hotel.

Pearce, T. S., insurance agent.  
 Sharrard, C., Spence W, mason and contractor.  
 Suttleff, John, general store  
 Tukesbury, W., carpenter.  
 Walsh, Richard, veterinary surgeon.  
 Ware, J E., physician.  
 Widden, John, builder.  
 Wright, Joshua, boots, shoes and tanner,

# Cedar Creek?

This small settlement south of Prince Albert is virtually unknown, but has a long history in Reach Township

The mere mention of “Cedar Creek”, almost always will be met with a blank stare and the question, “what, or where, is Cedar Creek?”

It’s rather difficult to describe Cedar Creek since the settlement was never identified on a map. There has never been a “Welcome to Cedar Creek” sign at its entrance, and to the best of our knowledge, the small hamlet at no time had a post office, general store, church or any kind of commercial activity.

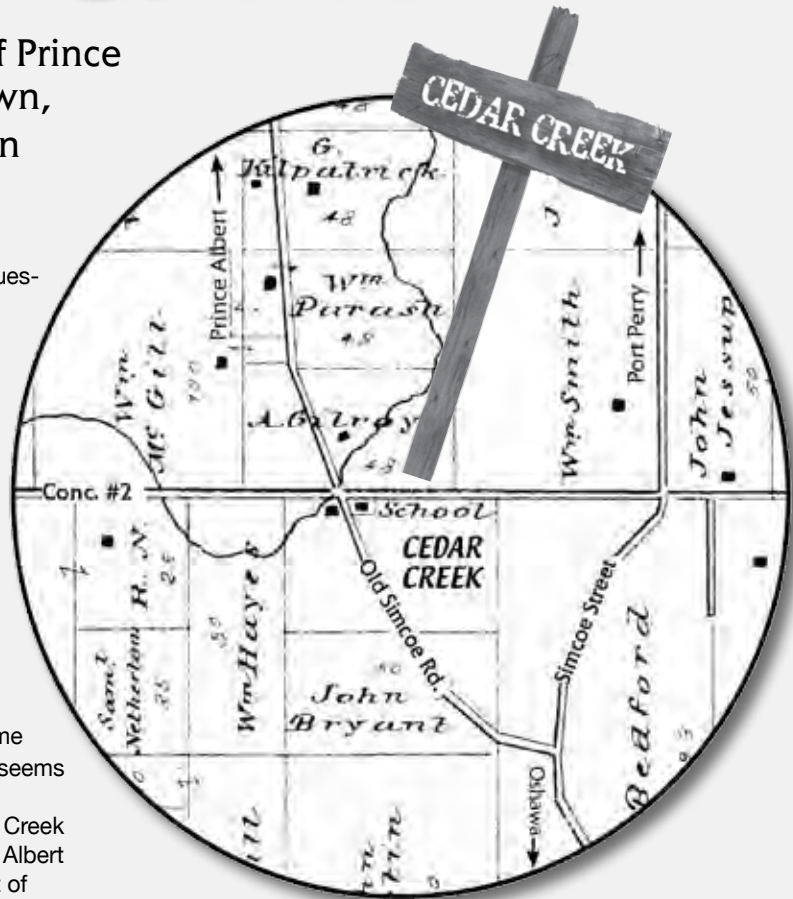
The name Cedar Creek can plausibly be attributed to a small creek which flows through the valley, then north from the settlement through a thick growth of cedars, into the swampy land at the south end of Lake Scugog.

Today, more than 175 years after it was first identified, Cedar Creek still exists, at least in name, if not on a map. Currently the area is home to 20 or more property owners, but it’s identity seems to have been lost.

The cluster of homes which make up Cedar Creek can be found about three miles south of Prince Albert on Old Simcoe Road. This road was carved out of the bush in the early 1840s, from Oshawa to Prince Albert.

Anyone travelling north along this route about a half a century ago, would have passed through Cedar Creek on their way to Prince Albert and Port Perry.

Today the road through Cedar Creek is called Old Simcoe Road, beginning where it veers west off of

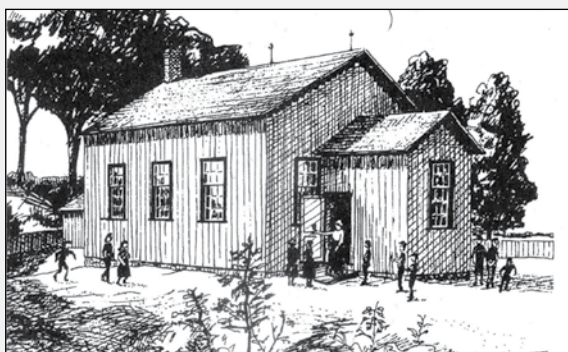


Simcoe Street, just north of “The Ridges”.

Cedar Creek was first identified as a settlement in 1841 when a school house was opened for the children in that sector of Reach Township. The school was located on the south side of the creek, on the east side of “old” Simcoe Street, where the road intersects with the 2nd concession of Reach Township.

Thirty years after the school was opened, in June 1871, a local newspaper, *The Ontario Observer*, published a story about the first anniversary of the Cedar Creek Union Sunday School on the abutting property. More than 100 children participated in the celebration, and the Reach Brass Band performed. Sunday School services would have been held in the school house, as was common practice at that time.

Bob Greenwood grew up in Cedar Creek, and attended the one-room school as a youngster until it was



An example of what small rural schools looked like during the 1800s. The Cedar Creek school was opened in 1841. It had about 30 students attending at the time it closed in 1859.

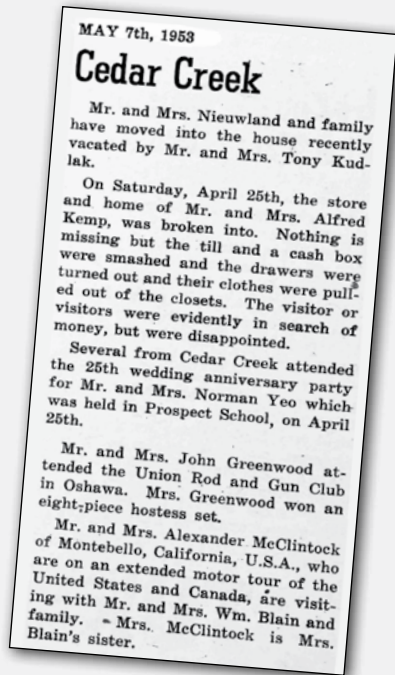
Above: A circular map showing a section of Reach Township in 1877. The inner red circle identifies the settlement of Cedar Creek, which is located about three miles south of Prince Albert on Old Simcoe Road.



closed, about 1859. After its closure, students from Cedar Creek continued their education three miles north of the hamlet, at the Prince Albert Public School.

Although there is very little information about the history of Cedar Creek, it is apparent it was an active small community during the late 1800s.

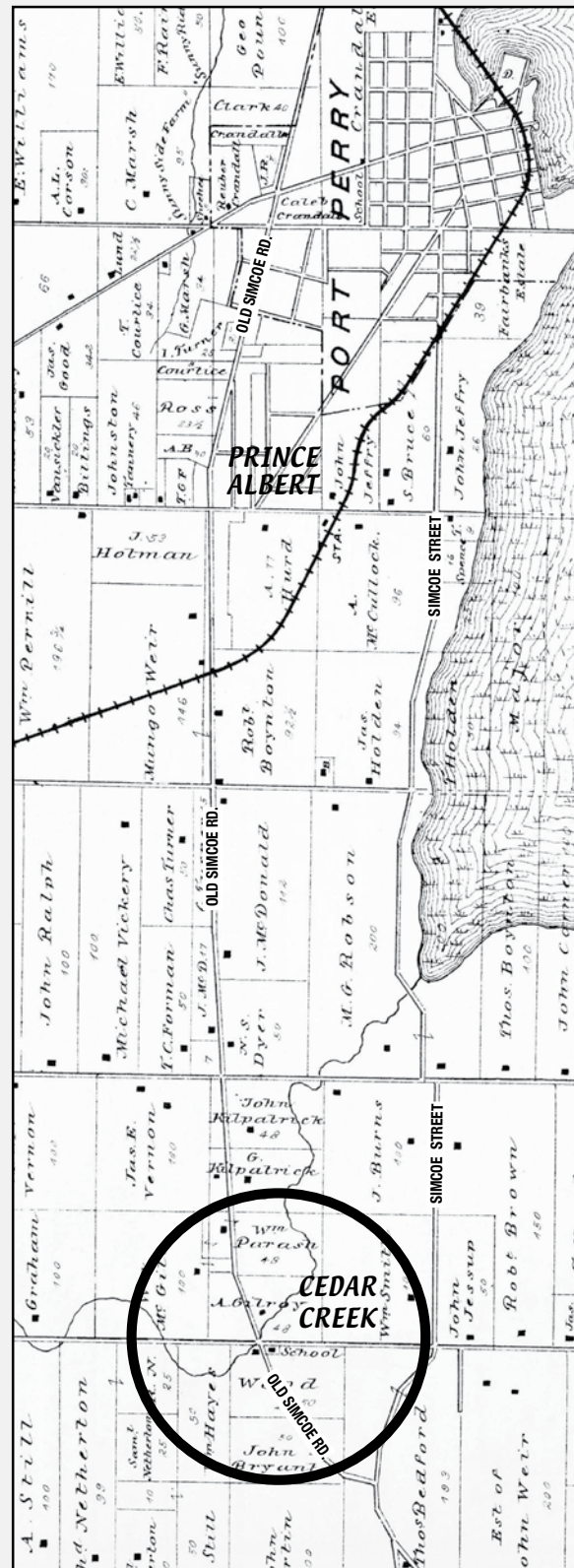
It came into more prominence in the early 1950s, when the *Port Perry Star*, began publishing a news column from Cedar Creek, in which a local correspondent wrote about events and activities taking place within the community. The column was a weekly feature in the newspaper written by George Kilpartick until the 1990s.



The Cedar Creek store and garage was located at the corner of Simcoe Street and Old Simcoe Road. It was built by Alfred Kemp about 1950, and served the people of this southern section of Reach Township for many years. Later the store and garage were operated by Frank Ouimet and his family.

Pictured above are Carol Ouimet with Dave Wilson about 1959, on the south side of the store.

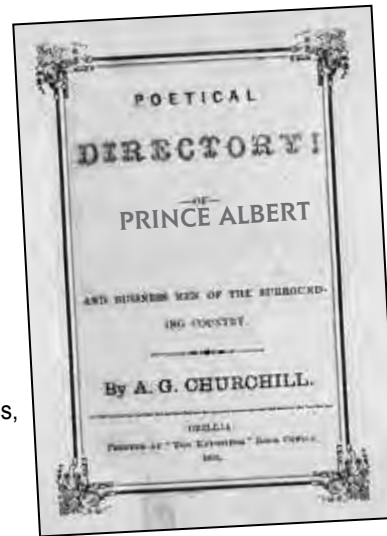
Photo courtesy Lucy Wilson.



This section of Reach Township map from 1877 shows the proximity of Cedar Creek to Prince Albert and Port Perry. It would have been along the main route from the southern ports of Oshawa and Whitby in the mid-1800s.

# Poetical Directory

The poems reprinted below are the work of A.G. Churchill, who travelled extensively and wrote pamphlets with similar poems for a number of communities across the province. The descriptive poems provide here provide an interesting insight into the businesses, shop owners and products available in the village of Prince Albert in 1858.



## PRINCE ALBERT

Let the Queen and Powers above,  
 Bless the namesake of tier love,  
 In holy bonds select her own,  
 Flesh of her flesh, bone of her bone.  
 Let her that wears Great Britain's Crown,  
 Bless the new and growing Town,  
 Where three nimble stages hail  
 With passengers and daily mail;

Two Churches where the Clergy bless,  
 Village Schools and Printing Press,  
 Buildings in Commercial form,  
 And Dwellings for the Village swarm,  
 Shops and Hotels bright way  
 In ornamental paintings gay.

## WILLIAM BOYNTON, JR.,

*Proprietor of the Victoria Hotel.*  
 Victoria Hotel, Simcoe Street,  
 Where three daily Stages meet:  
 Well spread Tables, dazzling Bar,  
 Rooms and lodgings fully par,  
 The traveling public's, general train,  
 Call and call, and call again.

## ANGLO-AMERICAN HOTEL

*By James Calhoun*  
 corner of King and Simcoe Streets,  
 James Calhoun is tending Bar,  
 Deals Liquors and the good Cigar;  
 His rosy Maids rich Tables spread,  
 His Steward carves and lights to bed;  
 His Ostlers ready at your call,  
 To wait upon you one and all,  
 Every rival guest will find,  
 A boat and hostess very kind.

## G. & M. CURRIE'S

*General Store*  
 Read wholesale bill, then please to  
 call,  
 At Currie's Store you find them all,  
 Dry Goods, Hardware, Crockeries too,  
 Provisions, Groceries, Boot and Shoe;  
 Sell all classes every day,  
 Produce and Cash received in pay.  
 William Norton's salesman there,  
 Gives honest weight & measures fair;  
 Gentlemen and Ladies trim,  
 All delight to trade with him.

## COURTICE & ROLPH

Keep Mounted Harness and the Plain,  
 Hook and Buckle, Strap and Chain,  
 Trunk and Satchel, fancy fine,  
 And all that's in the Harness line,  
 Keep Telegraph, the tidings herald,  
 To waft the news and light the world.  
 Three of their workmen all expert,  
 Signed our Poem in cent.  
 James McWalter will get rich,  
 Makes fine Harness fancy stitch.  
 To draw the Buggies and the chaps,  
 And lots of ladies, too, perhaps.  
 Squire John Loomis, Squire John  
 King,  
 Make the Harness that will bring  
 The belles and beauties one and all  
 That trip politely at the ball;  
 The lady's fortunate indeed,  
 That joins in hyman's holy creed;  
 Help each young Squire dear Lord to  
 find,  
 A fair young creature to his mind.

## N. H. DAVIS' Store

*corner of King and Simcoe Streets.*  
 Call at N. H. Davis' Store,  
 Save percentage just one score,  
 Keeps Clothing ready-made in skill,  
 And other goods our wholesale bill;  
 Keeps sundry legions, people seek,  
 Has fresh arrivals every week.

## EMANEY & WHITE, Blacksmith,

*Simcoe Street*  
 The Blacksmiths King of trades we find,  
 Makes Tools for workmen every kind,  
 Farming all the whole aray,  
 The Cart, the Wagon and "the Sleigh.  
 The firm above will make and mend,  
 And do your Shoeing if you send.  
 In Crimea War they served their tour,"  
 Where bullets hum like thunder shower.

## T. C. FORMAN, Importer

He keeps our Wholesale Bill or more,  
 Domestic, and from Foreign shore ,  
 A very rich assortment there,  
 Dry Goods, Groceries and Hardware,  
 Provisions, Crockeries, total mass,  
 Sundry legions, Nails and Glass.  
 Pays Cash for Butter, Pork and Peas,  
 Oats and Barley, Lard and Cheese.

## THOMAS BROWN

Stove, Tin and Sheet Iron.  
 Cooking, Parlor, Box Stove, lots,  
 Stove Pipes, Tea Kettles and Tea Pots,  
 Good Roof Sheeting, Water Proof,  
 Eve Trough Conductor from the Roof,  
 Boilers, Steamers, Dippers, Pails,  
 Lanterns, Dust Pans, Horns and  
 Scales,  
 Grater, Server, Trunk and Can,  
 Cake Cutter, Measure, Tumbler, Pan.

**G.H. FORD, Jeweler**

Clocks and Watches in refine,  
 Pearl and Amber Bracelets shine,  
 Gold Beads and Jewels for your dear,  
 In long rich show case will appear,  
 Combs, Penknives, Scissors, Safety  
 Chain,  
 Breast Pins for all the Lady train.  
 Next to Tomlinson's does keep,  
 Invites the Public and Sells Cheap.

**PHILANDER HURD, Builder**

Contractor, Builder, Architect,  
 Any structure can erect,  
 Cottage, Gothic, Square Roof tall,  
 Veranda, Rake and Cornice all;  
 He can build a city fine,  
 With Timber, Nails and Pannel Pine

**HOLDEN & OLIVER, Publishers  
& Printers of the "Ontario Observer."**

News and business, wedding cheer,  
 Two-and-fifty times a year;  
 Parlour pastime, and the bower,  
 News sheet grand of talent power,  
 Policy of foreign Kings,  
 Battle fields and valiant things ;  
 The tidings current will arrange,  
 From foreign press and home  
 exchange.

Three young men that help them print  
 Give to the world a gentle hint,  
 In the Typographic Banks,  
 Print Paper, Pamphlet, Cards and  
 Blanks.

**William Robinson** appears  
 In full grown scope of riper years,  
 Press, Ink and Paper, Type and Pen,  
 His tools select, select of men.

**Henry Kennedy** indeed,  
 Sets type, and prints for men to read,  
 Weddings, business, acts of Court,  
 In Phonography does report.

**Henry Parsons** young and fine,  
 Can print the Lady's Valentine,  
 The fair unknown's on fortune's side,  
 That Parsons chooses for a bride.

**DAVID JOLLY, Cabinet Maker**  
*corner of Simcoe and King Streets.*  
 Coffins ordered for the Tomb,  
 Desks and Bureaus for your room,  
 IStands and Tables for the same,  
 Looking Giness and Portrait Frame,  
 Bedstead, Chairs, and Sofa seat.  
 Comer of King and Simcoe Street.

**MASON & CLARK**

*Carriage Makers*  
 Make the total carriage rig,  
 Coach and Slinky, Buggy, Gig,  
 Dandy Cutter and the Sleigh,  
 In ornamental paintings gay,  
 For the traveling public all  
 To ride to wedding, church, or ball.

**JOHN POWERS**

*Carpenter & Joiner*  
 John Powers in honor to the Crown,  
 Will help to build Prince Albert Town,  
 In architect all different ways,  
 To suit yourself and public gaze,  
 Stores and Hotels, dwellings all,  
 Cathedral, Chapel, Church and Hall.

**M. G. ROBSON**

Postmaster, Life, Fire, Marble Agent.  
 Postmaster daily handles mail,  
 Attorney acts in Marble sale,  
 Agent general to insure,  
 Life and buildings all secure.  
 Our little Book of title claim,  
 Sent by the mail to friends in tame;  
 Ye reading millions over sea,  
 He is a man of high degree.

**AARON ROSS**

*Boot Store*  
 Boot emporium grand supply,  
 In Ross' Store are hanging high ;  
 Thirteen workmen on the seat,  
 Measure, make, for people' feet.  
 In Boots and Shoes he nothing lacks,  
 Gums, Gaiters, Slippers, Shoe packs.

**R. H. TOMLINSON'S**

*Drug Store*  
 Where shelves are lined with Crystal  
 Jars,  
 Like heaven hung with shining stars;  
 There Drugs and Medicines abound,  
 Three mighty kingdoms in compound;  
 Essential Oils and Sweet Perfumes  
 For scenting Balm, Box, and your  
 Rooms,  
 All kinds for healing clear and pure,  
 Prevent, restore, and also cure.

**E. WARE, M.D.**

*Physician and Surgeon.*  
 Read natures laws and total plan,  
 Great depth of medicine and man,  
 In rules of modern authors taught,  
 And scope that ages have forgot;  
 His ride and practice does bespeak,  
 A man that foreign patients seek.

**JOSHUA WRIGHT**

*Tanner*  
 Joshua Wright a useful man,  
 Buys Hides and Skins of men to Tan,  
 To furnish shops of Boots and Shoe,  
 Saddlery and Harness too;  
 Good while Saddles have a seat,  
 Good while Childrens' born with feet.

*Thanks to Paul Arculus for  
 providing this Poetical Directory.*

**BOOTS AND SHOES!**

THE SUBSCRIBER BEGS TO ANNOUNCE TO THE PUBLIC GENERALLY  
 that he has at present one of the largest and best-assorted stocks of Boots and Shoes  
 ever offered in this Township. They are principally of my own manufacture, comprising all the  
 varieties, both fancy and substantial, for Gents, Ladies and Children, and are

**Of Superior Style and Workmanship,**

AND SUITED TO THE SPRING AND SUMMER TRADE.

As I have been engaged in, and given up my whole attention to, the manufacture of boots  
 and shoes for the last twelve years, I feel confident that I can suit my numerous friends, both for  
 neatness and durability. In connection with my long experience, I have facilities for manufacturing  
 which are not surpassed by any other establishment in the County. I am prepared to offer, at

**WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,**

At less prices than those of equal quality can be procured in the County. I have, also,  
**A LARGE STOCK OF LEATHER**  
 OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, AND

**SHOE-FINDINGS!**

Of every kind, kept constantly on hand.

I hope you will give me an opportunity to show you my stock, feeling assured that I can meet  
 your wants, both as to quality and price.

AARON ROSS.

Prince Albert, March 9, 1859.



# In Closing

Researching and writing about the history of Prince Albert, from its earliest days as an outpost at the crossroads of Simcoe St. (Old Simcoe Rd.) and King Street, through to its heydays during from 1850 to 1875, has been a challenge.

Thankfully there were others who laid the groundwork for the history of the community, but there was a lack of the well-documented details on specific community facilities. One of the most difficult facts to accurately unravel was the verified locations of many of the businesses. This mainly because they did not have street numbers, and also often moved their location of business.

Another as of yet unsolved mysteries is the "Victoria Block." Although we have a good idea it is located in "Block C" of the 1861 Village Plan, no reference has been found to confirm this opinion.

For readers interested in history and research, included below are some of the store owners, with the limited information which was used to help identify their believed locations. Hopefully sometime in the future, some enthusiastic young historian will be able to fill in the blanks, and identify more accurately, additional information about Prince Albert.

## ADAMS, D. J.

Office over T.C. Forman's store - Oct. 25, 1866

## BULLEN, JONATHAN

- J. Bullen - Tailor Fashions, 1869 - Opposite Scott's Hotel.
- One door south of the Red White & Blue 1867 - (Block A - Lot 2 No. 2 - East of Simcoe St.)
- 1869 - (Block A - Lot 2 No. 3 - East of Simcoe St.)

## BROWN, T.

- T. Brown, Stoves - October 1861. Shop adjoining the Post Office.

## COURTICE, THOMAS

- T. Courtice - Saddlery, 1871 - Simcoe St., Prince Albert

## CURRIE, GEORGE

- George Currie - Currie & Ross - Lot No. 22 Northwest corner of Simcoe & King St.

## DAVIS, NICHOLAS H.

- N.H. Davis - Dry Goods Groceries - corner King & Simcoe, opposite G.& M. Currie's - June 1859
- N.H. Davis Dry Goods, Clothing - corner of King & Simcoe - Victoria Block, 1861

## DECKER, WILLIAM

- Wm. Decker, Watchmaker, 1865 - Victoria Block, nearly under the "Observer" office.
- Wm. Decker - Jeweller, Dec. 1862 - Victoria Block, opposite A. Ross' Shop
- Wm. Decker - Has removed to the premises lately occupied by D. Jolly in the Victoria Block, two doors west of Town Hall.
- Wm. A. Decker - Medical Hall - 1868 - Adjoining the store of T.C. Forman.

## EMANEY & WHITE

Emaney & White Blacksmith - 1858 - Simcoe Street

## FORMAN, THOS. C.

- New premises on King St., two doors west of George & Mark Currie's store - June 8, 1859

## HURD, PHILANDER A.

- P.A. Hurd Attorney - 1862 - Victoria Block, two doors south of N.H. Davis' Dry Goods and over T.C. Forman's Furniture Warerooms, adjoining the Observer Office.

## HOLDEN, JAMES

- James Holden - Opposite the Town Hall, three doors north of Moggridge's Hotel - Dec. 1864.
- Cochrane & MacPherson Attorneys, 1856 - Opposite Town Hall and over James Holden office.

## JOHNSON, J. P.

Jewellery, Clocks - 1862. Next door to N.H. Davis under the Observer Office.

## JURY, JOHN

- John Jury - Three doors east of Moggridge's Tavern (Anglo-American Hotel) Lot owned by T.C. Forman.

## ONTARIO OBSERVER

- Ontario Observer - Parsons & Robinson - Victoria Block, Prince Albert

## PARK, WILLIAM H.

• Ontario Cabinet & Chair - 1862 - Opposite Scott's Hotel (Victoria Hotel). 1861 - (Block A - Lot 2 No. 1 East of Simcoe St.) It appears W.H. Park's store was known as the Red White & Blue.

## POST OFFICE

- T. Brown, Stoves - October 1861 - Shop adjoining the Post Office
- H. Carmichael property, west of Post Office occupied by W.M. Wilcox - April 16, 1868.

## ROSS, AARON

- Boots & Shoes - opposite T.C. Forman's, Dec. 12, 1857.

## WILLIAM M. TOMLINSON

- Medical Hall, W.M. Tomlinson - 1870 - Forman's Block, Prince Albert

## WILCOX, WILLIAM M.

- The Union - Dec. 30, 1869 - Opposite Scott's Hotel, Prince Albert - also -
- H. Carmichael property, west of Post Office occupied by W.M. Wilcox - April 16, 1868.

## WRIGHT, JOSHUA

- Boots & Shoes - Joshua Wright, Jly. 1869 - Opposite Scott's Hotel



# PRINCE ALBERT

## THE UNTOLD STORY



**J. PETER HVIDSTEN**