



The pleasant hills of Kettleby
Aglow in sunset light
And verdant valleys, harvest clad
Speak forth in glad delight
The praise of Him whose wise design
And mighty works are seen
And who in life has spread abroad
The rippling rills between

Such were the thoughts that filled our minds
When we had gladly found
The goal we sought which seemed indeed
To us like holy ground
For though as strangers many met
Like as a holy pall
The love and peace of God there spread
A mantle over all

E. Robson

VILLAGE OF KETTLEBY

A patent was granted for the whole of Lot 28 on the 4th concession of King Township, County of York, by the Crown on May 20th, 1801, to Dorothy Burger. She was the daughter of Lewis Mabe, a resident of the Township of Bertie, in the County of Lincoln, District of Niagara, Province of Upper Canada, and a United Empire Loyalist.

Two years later John Bogart, an enterprising and capable pioneer, rode horseback to Upper Canada from Muncy, Pa., looking for mill sites and homesteads. On June 12th, 1803, he obtained this 200 acres for the sum of \$90.00. Through this property ran a wide ravine and down the centre coursed a beautiful stream which would afford the power for the mills to be later established.

John Bogart held this property from 1803 to 1825 when he sold 100 acres to Jacob Tool, who built the first sawmill. Later, on June 27th, 1854, Jacob Tool sold the east half of this property to Hannah Bogart.

Two miles to the west of this property was the famous Humber and Holland River portage over which passed many of the explorers, traders and missionaries of the earlier days of Canada, such as Bruel, LaSalle, Duluth, Frobisher, Father Brehuef and other Jesuit missionaries.

The real development of the village began on September 13th, 1842, when 46 acres of the valley was sold by Mr. Tool to Septimus Tyrwhitt for the sum of \$1,600. This was for a flour mill site. In the village, surrounded by high hills covered with trees of pine and hardwood, were two mill ponds. When the first trees were chopped down in the ravine where the dams were to be built, the timber was burned in large winrows on the flats which soon were to be covered by the waters from the mill ponds.

The work of building the dams and erecting the mill required many men and scores of teams of oxen. When the day came for raising the mill, men from far and near came to help in this big undertaking. Huge iron kettles were brought to the site in which to prepare food for the hungry workmen. It has been said this is how the village got its name - "Kettle Bee". Another legend is that it was named "Kettleby Mills" by Mrs. Chas. Eaton, wife of Septimus Tyrwhitt's partner, after a village in England - the "Mills" part being dropped in later years.

Kettleby - Cont'd.

As well as building a flour mill, Septimus Tyrwhitt and his partner, Charles S. Eaton, built a woollen mill - an oatmeal mill - a cooperage and a distillery. When the mills were at the height of their working capacity, twenty coopers were employed making barrels for the exporting of flour. Tons of bran were allowed to flow down the mill stream as there was no sale for it. Mill offal and other grains were used in the distilling of liquor and hundreds of pigs were kept to consume the waste.

Many settlers were coming in and the surrounding land was gradually being cleared and farms established. Mills, shops, stores, hotels and houses sprang up rapidly and the village became the centre of a growing and prosperous community. It could boast a long list of tradesmen - hotel keepers, blacksmiths, shoemakers, tailors, coopers, potash boilers, painters, piano salesmen, harness makers, carriage makers, whiskey distillers, masons, carpenters, well diggers, school teachers, medical practitioners, dressmakers, weavers, etc. Finally, the clearing of the land exhausted the timber supply, the potash and flour export trades diminished; the factories put the small local mechanics out of business, and when the railroads were built the routes of travel changed, and so the population of the village began to shrink.

Now, we come to Kettleby as it is to-day, by-passed by highways, but with many of its old landmarks still standing to remind us of the greatness of the village over one hundred years ago, and of the great and courageous pioneer spirit of our forefathers.

THE BIOGRAPHY OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD TYRWHITT

The Tyrwhitts have a long and worthy history in England and Wales. The family has produced admirals for the navy, chaplains for the army on foreign service, men for the church, the bench and bar, and many other high offices in the state. The Tyrwhitts first became identified with this part of Upper Canada when Septimus Tyrwhitt, accompanied by his business associate, Charles Eaton, came to Upper Canada from England in 1836. They located a power site on a branch of the Holland River on the 4th concession of the Township of King, at Kettleby, in 1840, which had been indicated in the earliest surveyors' reports and here they established a big water-driven flour mill, woollen mill, oatmeal mill and distillery. One of the first fine houses in the township was erected on a beautiful commanding site overlooking the mills and the village. This house was built of mud brick with verandas on all sides, french door opened on three sides giving a beautiful view of the countryside. There were servants' quarters, stables, coach house and other buildings. (on the same site, and on part of the same foundation, now stands "Brunswick Hall" built in 1875 by Jacob Walton)



Rev. Richard Edward Tyrwhitt
who donated funds in 1842 for
the establishment of an
Episcopal Church

In a deed registered in 1843 Septimus Tyrwhitt and his wife, Marie Louise Tyrwhitt, and Charles Eaton and his wife, Jane Eaton, obligated themselves to the Rev. Richard Edmund Tyrwhitt, M.A., one of the Chaplains of the Presidency of Bombay in India, through a trustee "to assure the erection of a Protestant "Episcopale" Church at Kettleby or as near as may be thereto". This shows that the founding of religion and the establishment of a Church of England in a remote part of the Empire, was part of the undertaking and an unusual motive of religious principle of this distinguished family.

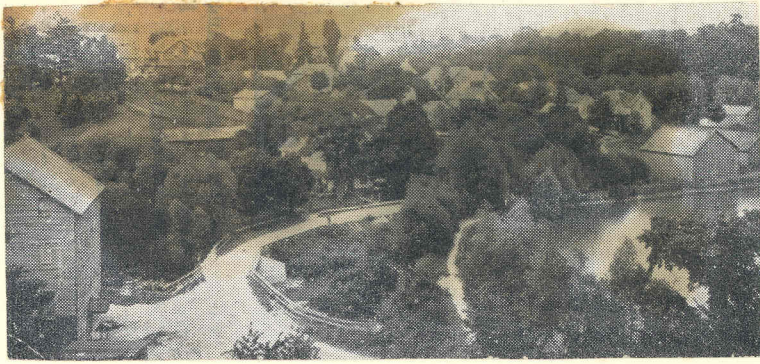
To carry out his trust Septimus Tyrwhitt deeded the 50 acres east part of lot 28, Concession 5, and it was always known as "The Glebe". (This is the property running from the 5th concession to Highway 400 on the south side)

THE BIOGRAPHY OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD TYRWHITT - Cont'd.

Septimus Tyrwhitt had no children but he adopted a nephew and a niece when they became orphans. The nephew, Richard Tyrwhitt, had been sent to France to be educated, which served a useful purpose later in life, when he became a member of Parliament for the riding of South Simcoe and was for many years at Ottawa in the House of Commons. Septimus Tyrwhitt retained a strong affection for the scenes of his first business activities in Kettleby, and to the end of his days paid visits to the village.

Few families go farther back in history. From Burkes Peerage the story of the origin of the name and family crest is recorded. To quote: "Sir Hercules was knighted by William I and settled in Northumberland in 1067. He is said thus to have acquired the surname "Tyrwhitt". Severely wounded in defending a bridge, single handed against numerous assailants, at the moment he had succeeded in forcing them to retire, he fell exhausted among the flags and rushes of a swamp, while the attention of his party, who in the interim had rallied, was fortunately directed to the spot where he lay by a flock of lapwings or tyrwhitts screaming and hovering above, as is customary with these birds when disturbed in the vicinity of their nests".

The crest is a tyrwhitt with outspread wings and thus the family coat of arms was adopted as the regimental badge of the 36th Peel Regiment of which Lieutenant Colonel Richard Tyrwhitt was the commanding officer.



WE CAME TO KETTLEBY

Whoever comes to Kettleby, is one who's lost his way,
Forgot to read his road map, or let his fancy stray,
And followed as it led him past a deserted mill,
Whose pond is full of grasses, whose wooden wheel
is still,
Where clinging to the hillside a few old houses
stand,
Looking down into a valley that cuts across the land.

They are gossiping together, and their canny country
lore,
Echoes decades of the talking and the shopping at the
store;
As if figures - fretwork figures - were set against
a screen,
And the houses were still climbing to see what might
be seen,
Across that lustrous valley brimfull of summer light,
And we looked too, and waited, and fell in love at
sight
The day we came to Kettleby, the day we lost our way,
Forgot to read our road map and let our fancy stray!

This poem was written by the late Mrs. John Garvin of
Toronto (Katherine Hale) noted lecturer and writer.



KETTLEBY AS OF 1930



When Kettleby's Main Street was muddy



LAKE SHORE
KETTLEBY



SHADOW LAKE
KETTLEBY





Mr. R. Hughey's black-
smith shop

Levi Watson, E. Williams,
Mina Jarvis Legge,
Viola Hughey Sibley and
Rankin Hughey



Mr. and Mrs. R. Hughey