

## THE TORONTO CARRYING PLACE AND PURCHASE

The Huron Indians used trails along both the Rouge and Humber Rivers in their trading trips, and war expeditions, and the first settlers followed the same routes.

In the early 1600's Samuel de Champlain, a Frenchman, sent a young lad named Etienne Brule, to live in the country of the Huron savages and make himself acquainted with their habits and customs. With no companions but primitive aborigines and 800 miles from any white friends he learned Indian habits and customs too well. He betrayed his country France and returned to the Huron Indians. He died by treachery.

Among white men Etienne Brule is undoubtedly the first, as a boy of eighteen he reached the Huron country five years before Champlain, and first travelled the Humber trail in 1615, as recorded in J.H. Cranston's Book "Etienne Brule" - Immortal Scoundrel". "Brule" and his twelve Huron companions travelled down the present Lake Couchiching, through Lake Simcoe and up the Holland River until they could go no further. Shouldering their canoes they completed the long twenty-mile portage to the mouth of the present Humber river, which is today Lake Ontario. This has since been called the "Carrying Place."

La Salle crossed the carrying place in 1680 and said "All baggage must be carried over the crest of high mountains". The canoes used by La Salle were 20 feet long, 3 feet wide and each carried about 12 hundred weight of merchandise.

Why the trail ran from the mouth of the Humber and not from some point nearer to its source was the fact that all rivers flowing into Lake Ontario were blocked by beaver dams and fallen timbers which the aborigines were unable to remove. The Holland river which was a dead water could not be dammed by beavers and was too wide to be obstructed by fallen timbers.

This trail according to the Indian Pioneer's map went up the West of Laskay and there was a tenting camp at Hackett's Lake, which is now at Lot 13, and Lot 14, on concession 6, King Township, about 2 miles north of Laskay.

Now a new highway named "400" between the mouth of the Humber River and the West branch of the Holland River and beyond, follows closely the course of the Toronto Carrying Place; the main route between Lake Ontario, the Huron Country and the Georgian Bay in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This new highway is one-half mile east of Laskay and crosses the Humber River directly east of Laskay.

Between 1720 and 1759 Lake Ontario was controlled by French Posts at Niagara, Toronto and the Bay of Quinte; the English were disputing their sway and secured a fair share of the trade.

In 1785 the Humber Holland Trail was surveyed and in September 1787, the preliminary negotiations with the Indians took place on the Bay of Quinte. The Township of King is part of the Toronto Purchase arranged by Sir John Johnson, as

THE TORONTO CARRYING PLACE AND PURCHASE Cont'd.

Superintendent of Indian Affairs and comprised about one-third of York County. The price in trade goods was paid to the Indians and Nathaniel Lines invoice of the goods reads as follows: "Memorandum of bales and boxes brought from Cataraque by Mr. Lines to Toronto and delivered to Colonel Butler:--6 bales Strouds 5 pieces each 30 pieces; 4 Bales Moltons each 10 pieces 40 pieces; 4 kegs hoes 49 each, 196; 8 half barrels powder; 5 boxes guns; 3 cases shott; 24 Brass Kettles; 10 kēgs of ball; 200 lbs. Tobacco 47 carrots; 1 Cask containing 3 Gro. Knives; 10 Doz. looking glasses; 4 trunks of linen, 1 Hogshead containing 18 pieces of gartering; 24 laced hats; 30 pieces Ribbon; 3 Gro. Fish Hooks; 2000 gun flints; 1 Box 60 hats; 1 bale flowered flannel 10 pieces; 5 bales 3 point blankets 16 pair each; 1 bale Broad cloth 4 pieces; 5 pieces embossed serge; 1 case Barley Corn beads; 96 gallons of rum".

The total number of Indians who had an interest in this transation was, men, women, and children, 1,107 persons.

The exploratory trip which Simcoe made in the Autumn of 1793 over the whole communication between the Lakes is the last glimpse of the Humber <sup>H</sup> Holland portage. The early surveyors were careful to note it's existence when their lines crossed the old path, but as York county beacme farm land all traces vanished except at the Northern and Southern extremities. As soon as Yonge Street was opened the Humber Holland route was abandonēd.

King Township data taken from Historical Atlas of York County, 1878.

From one of the oldest records in the county, the minute book of King Township, commenced 6th of March, 1809. -- Inhabitants names 33.

James Rogers	William Hughes
John Doan	Joseph Cody
Enos Dennis	William Haines
Amos Hughes	Jacob Hollinshead
Isaac Rogers	William Tyler
William Doan	William Kennedy
Joseph Doan	Henry Harman
Mahlon Doan	Isaac Davis
Ebenezer Doan	Caleb McWilliams
Rufus Rogers	John Devine
Levi Dennis	David Love
Nathaniel Gamble, Jr.	James Love
Isaac Phillips	John Hunter
Isaac Hollinshead	Michael St. John
Thomas Taylor	Henry Sagle
John Nicol	Benjamin Kester
Benjamin Pearson	

March 28th, 1809

Total number of inhabitants -- 160

Heads of Families -- -- -- 33

May 13th, 1820 - King Township increase in inhabitants -- 278

1825	"	"	"	450
1830	"	"	"	766
1842	"	"	"	2,625
1850	"	"	"	5,574
1871	"	"	"	7,482
1881	"	"	"	6,664
1957	"	"	"	9,673

PIONEER'S REQUIREMENTS.

The Surveyor General issued from his office the 15th of July, 1794 notice -- "that all persons who have obtained assignments for land including Yonge Street leading from York to Lake Simcoe unless a dwelling house shall be built on every lot under certificate of location, and the same occupied within one year, such lots will be forfeited on the roads".

These conditions were required from settlers --

"They must within the term of two years, clear, fit for cultivation, and fence, ten acres of the lot obtained; build a house 16 X 20 feet of logs or frame, with a single roof; also cut down all the timber in front of, and the whole width of the lot, (20 chains, 135 feet wide), 35 feet of which must be cleared smooth and left for half of the public road."

In 1796 Yonge Street north to Lake Simcoe was cleared and levelled so that it was possible to travel the route with a vehicle.

## PIONEER DAYS

In 1800 when the township was first surveyed King township had 30 settlers. BY 1830 King township had 766 population.

The erection of a saw mill was always the first marked event in the formation of a settlement in the bush; as the settlement increased grist or flour mills were erected. In some cases there were settlers on land before there were deeds granted, and some were squatters occupying a favorable location in the hope that they would not be disturbed.

A growing population requires the necessities of life at hand, thus stores were opened, taverns licensed and in a few years a thriving village, particularly where there is a river or stream and a good water power.

The first farming in York County was done by methods most primitive when compared with those of today. Loyalists recalled that a forked trunk of a tree was at first hauled over the ground by oxen, and that the ground so scraped, was then sown among the stumps by hand. Some pioneer farmers had the old Bull plough, with only one handle and a wooden mould-board. Heavy iron tools were used until later replaced by steel.

In harvesting the flail was early used to beat the grain out of sheaves, or horses treaded it on barn floor. In 1816 the "summerless year", almost all the grain was frozen off.

There were "bees" for all manner of activities, both of men and women. Primitive log houses and barns were erected in raising bees. The same in felling trees, making hog-heaps and burning piles and stumps; Women had bees for quilting, preserving, etc. and men joined women in husking corn, paring apples, and others, which were more frolics than work. Cattle and pigs were slaughtered at home and provided the settler with barrels of salt meat for winter or export.

Rough hewn furniture did not give way to finer until there was time and money to get it. Much hard labour was expended upon making potash and soap from hardwood ashes; making maple sugar, lime, shingles, boards and numerous other necessities. Women often rose as four in morning to spin flax and resumed that industry in evening after regular work. From flax was made ropes, harness and much of the first clothing for both winter and summer. Leather was tanned, and boots and harness made. To save shoe leather, adults and children went barefoot in homes at all seasons and outside during summer months.

If sickness came the doctoring was rough and ready, but none the less effective in most cases. What syrup and concoctions those grandmothers used to make from herbs and barks that grew in the woods about them. For colds they used

PIONEERS DAYS Cont'd.

boneset, coltsfoot and hoarhound. If they had cramps, colic or fits a little wild turnip would be grated and taken. If they took too much the cure would seem worse than the disease. For sore mouth there was gold thread, saffron for measles, sarsaparilla and burdock for the blood, onions for the croup. All kinds of bark, black cherry, prickly ash, pine, balsam and tamarac, were made into remedies for various maladies and preserved in plenty of whiskey.

Comparison of Prices.

<u>1853-58</u>		<u>1870</u>	<u>1949</u>
18 lb. - \$2.40	sugar	10 lbs. \$1.00	.9¢ lb.
1 lb. tea .96¢		.80¢	\$1.10 & up.
barrel \$5.00	flour		\$1.75 - 24 lb. bag
butter 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ lb.			.73¢ per lb.
Eggs 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. -.31¢			.40¢ per doz.
raisins .13¢ per lb.			.21¢
currants - .9¢ per lb.			.23¢ per lb.
Print . 18¢ per yard			.39¢, 45¢, 69¢ per yard.

The first list of prices was taken from a page in the ledger book of

Joseph Baldwin, dated 1840 to 1864.

## FENCES

The story of Fences goes back through the dim ages to the very beginning of man. Always there have been fences or dividing walls or stockades or bulwarks or hedges of one separating kind or another. Amongst the few municipal officers which the Government of Upper Canada permitted were the fence viewers. The word "fence" derives from the Latin "fender", to ward off, implying a confining or enclosing against human or animal intrusion.

"Good Fences make good neighbours" - Robt. Frost "Love your neighbours, yet not pull down your hedge", Geo. Herbert. In Canada rural fences have grown up with the country. Whilst materials used and construction methods varied, one might even trace it back to the lower animals for what is a beaver dam but a water fence?

Deer pounds and buffalo pounds were a form of fencing originated and used by the Indians long before the advent of the white man to North America. Undoubtedly one of the first of our North American fences was the palisade surrounding an Indian Village. A fence of posts or thick pieces of bark standing eight to nine feet high built solidly side by side was supported by heavy crosslogs and an overlapping indirect entrance. In case of enemy attack this entrance could easily be blocked by heavy logs.

Abraham Lincoln in his day was affectionately known as the "rail splitter" because of his prowess at this very tricky job. Even in those days snake rail fences meandered up hill and down dale. Because of sharp angles, and interlocking joints, they were strong and solid, but they had two drawbacks, they sheltered weeds in their corners and they took up a lot of room, but served as eating and resting places for harvesters in hot weather.

St raight rail fences built much the same way but lacking the two bad features of the snake rail fence. They succeeded the snake fence, which in turn, succeeded the stump fence, which comprised simply large tree stumps piled in a row. Stumping bees were organized in the long ago pioneer days, when neighbours assembled including their families, and their team of oxen and oversized building hampers of food, consisting of cooked hams, chickens, home-made pork sausage, doughnuts, pies, cake, buttermilk and raspberry vinegar. Mostly the oxen were called Buck and Bright. The soil would be loosened about the stumps and all except the tap roots cut, then with a "good all-together" steady pull by the oxen, out came another section of fencing. After a tremendous supper the local fiddler cleared a space and 'called-off' for the dancing that usually followed, accompanied by lusty singing and genuine olden time frolics.

## FENCES

3

A foundry at Bolton, Ontario, made iron fences of beauty and dignity. Ornamental fencing is an important architectural feature in enclosing parks, cemeteries, reservoirs and public works of all kinds. The cost of brick fencing in Canada is now so high that it is seldom used. A hundred years ago the farmers often made their own bricks on their own farms and then built good solid brick houses, many of which are standing today.

This, then, in brief is the story of "Fences".

Material taken from the book "Fences" written by Harry Symonds, and formerly originated through the efforts of his father-in-law, the late William Perkins Bull, K.C., B.A., L.L.D. of Peel County, Ontario.

## PIONEERS AND EARLY SETTLERS

### 1800 (Eighteen Hundred.)

In 1800 the first survey of the Township of King showed the presence of twenty residents. At this time, Indian trails, and rivers were used for travel.

### Development

The development of Laskay was divided into two parts. The east and west.

### East

In 1832 Joseph Baldwin, who had immigrated to this country two years before, from Yorkshire England, settled on the Lot 3, Concession five, of King Township, on the East branch of the Humber River. This property stretched from the top of Laskay Hill to the Church Road, on the East of the sixth concession.

During the same year, Joseph Baldwin married Elizabeth Simpson. Her people were Quakers and had come to this country about the same time as he. Her native home was Kirby Moorside, Yorkshire England.

Mr Baldwin had the front of his farm sub-divided into village lots, but did not register his plan. On these lots were erected a (Wollen) Woollen Mill, General Store, Post Office, Shoe Shop, Photograph Gallery, Tavern, Cooper Shop, Church and parsonage.

The mill dam was built north-east of Shields residence. A sluice was dug to take water to the mill, which was a Grist Mill and situated a little west-down the hill from Shields.

Mr Layman was the miller. Later the Stevenson Brothers took it over.

The Cooper shop was between Shiel'd farm buildings and house. Mr Warren was the cooper.

The General Store was built in 1845, at the intersection of the Mill Road and Concession six. This is its present location-our sole link with the industries of the past.



The mill dam built East of the farm buildings on the Baldwin Farm, now known as Charles Shields.

1849

In 1849, Laskay was such a busy place there was a demand for a Post Office. William Munsil, who kept the General Store, was in 1849 appointed as the first Postmaster.

In those days the mail from Toronto was by stage coach to Richmond Hill, then it was transferred to a carrier, who took the following route;

North on Yonge Street-to what is now called Elgin Mills;

West to Honey Pot - on to Hope;

Then to McVicar's tavern on Lot 3 - Con.5 - then North-West to the Mill Road and west on the Mill Road to Cong.6 and the Post Office at Laskay.

Mr. Bowman followed Wm. Munsill as Postmaster and in 1857 Henry Baldwin was appointed. Since then, the list of Postmasters is as follows;

Henry Baldwin 1857-62

George S. Baldwin 1863-69

Henry Baldwin 1870-88

Benjamin Rollins 1889-98

George Teasedale 1898-1921

William Gray 1922-1923

D. McCallum 1924

John Glendining 1925

Wilbert McCallum 1926

The Post Office was closed in March 1926. W. McCallum was the last Post Master and he was a great-grandson of Donald McCallum, (Chief McCallum, who was the first postmaster of King Postoffice, when it was opened on Lot 8, concession 6, King twp., that is, just north of the Monkman farm).

Joseph Baldwin subdivided the front of his farm into village lots, but did not register the plan. On this subdivision were erected a woollen mill, general store and Post Office, shoe shop, photograph gallery, tavern and cooper shop. He donated land for a church, ~~parsonage~~ and graveyard to the Primitive Methodist Congregation.

He was married the year of his arrival to Elizabeth Simpson, a member of a Quaker family residing about three miles south of Newmarket. There not being at that time any authorized minister living within eighteen miles of their residence, the marriage contract was drawn up by a Justice of the Peace and witnessed by a number of friends and relatives. Four children blessed the marriage,

In 1844 he was selected to represent the Township in the District Council, which he fulfilled satisfactorily until 1851, when he was compelled to retire from the pressure of his own increasing business.

After the death of his first wife, he married Mrs. Bailey and they had six children. Mrs. Bailey was the great grandmother of Scott Smeltzer, who is now a tenant on the original farm.

He retired to the Village in 1880 and died in 1882. Mr. Baldwin was buried in the graveyard of the Methodist Church, the property he had previously presented for this purpose. The Baldwin family plot was later moved to Aurora Cemetery.

The Baldwin family was engaged in the business too. At the age of twenty, in 1856, Henry was established by his father in a General store in Laskay. He was subsequently appointed to the position of Postmaster of Laskay. He held this office for over twenty years. He added an additional business and purchased a carding and cloth finishing mill near the store. He later enlarged it to treble its original size and capacity. He also enlarged his store to suit the increased trade.

In 1862, health failing due to strain of business, he took an ocean voyage, sailing from New York to Victoria, British Columbia. He returned to Laskay in 1869 and friends and relatives prevailed upon him to return to his old business. He conducted the store and woollen mills

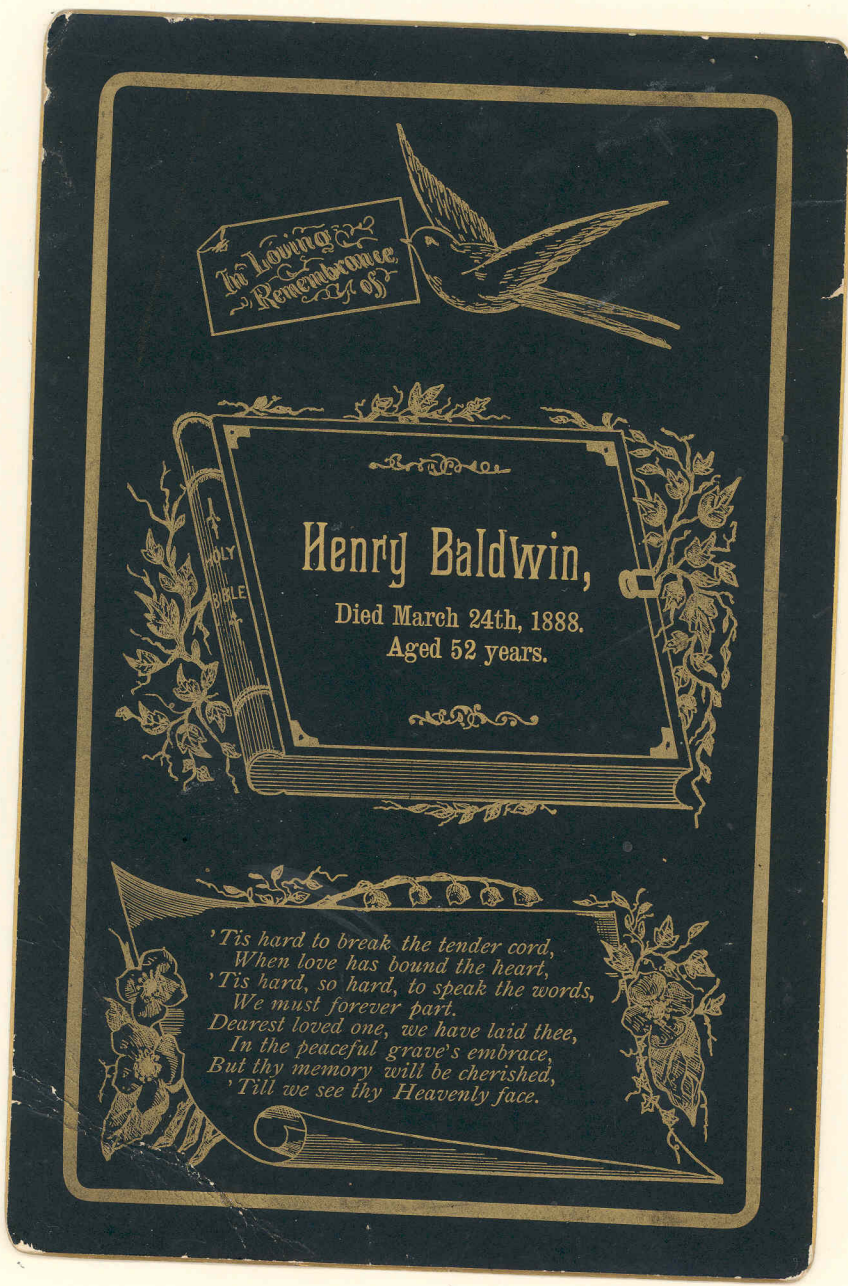
until 1882 when he disposed of the general part of the store.

George was Postmaster for seven years.

Henry Baldwin's wife and sister, Mrs. Lewis, operated a dressmaking and millinery business in the four rooms adjacent to the store.

In 1897 the carding mill was burned down and the pioneer's visions of the village expansion faded as the wool business died. When the woollen mill was built, there was enough power to run it day and night. By 1897 the Humber River could not supply enough water due to the bush being cleared away.

Descendants and relatives live in Aurora and the surrounding district. They have carried on the Baldwin tradition and chosen careers in business, education and the medical professions.



Henry Baldwin  
Born 1835  
Died 1888

First Storekeeper  
and Postmaster  
of Laskay  
1856 - 1857

## WEST SIDE OF LASKAY

1856

The second development commenced in 1856, when David Reesor, afterward Senator Reesor of Markham, subdivided the west fiftyacres of lot 4, Concession 6. The survey was made by George McPhillips' and registered in 1856.

On this property was erected a sawmill, plaster mill, turning lathe mill for making chairs and beds, a tailor shop, shoe shop, butcher shop and slaughter shop.

Senator Reesor presented sites for a church, manse and small graveyard to the Prebysterian Church of Canada. (The history of this church is found on another page).

Shortly after Laskay was laid out with the intention of having it incorporated as a village, however, the incorporation was never carried through. A sale of lots was held at Richmond Hill and #1 lot was sold for One Hundred Dollars.

SENATOR DAVID REESOR.

David Reesor was born in 1823 on the family homestead in Markham Township, York County; a descendant of a German family, who first came to Pennsylvania and later to Markham in 1801.

David's early education was from the common schools, then three years private training under a competent instructor. He farmed, was a merchant and manufacturer. In 1856 he published the first copy of the "Markham Economist", selling out in 1868. Real estate must have been another side-line, as he owned the registered subdivision, about forty acres on the west side of Laskay, King Township in the 1850's.

When York and Peel counties were united in 1850, he became a member of County Council, and later Warden in 1860. He was known as a Magistrate, Notary Public and connected with the militia, being Lieut.-Col. of reserve from 1866.

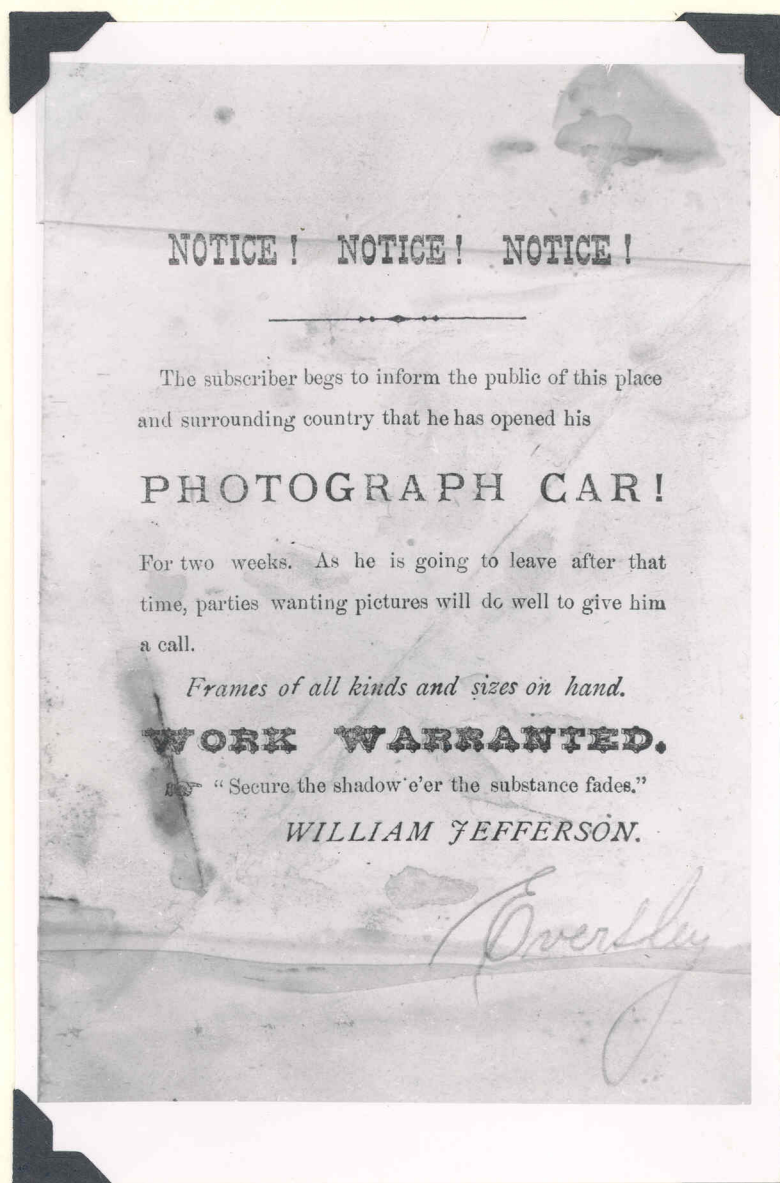
David Reesor represented the Legislative Council of Canada from 1860 till 1867, when he was called to the Senate. He was a Liberal in politics, a member of the Methodist Church, although he gave property to the Presbyterian Church at Laskay. He retired to Toronto in 1876 with his wife, Emily McDougall, whom he married in 1848.

The Senator was a great supporter of Local improvements and was a highly esteemed man both in public and private life.

THESE TWO PICTURES AND THE ONE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE ARE REPRINTS (1958)  
TAKEN OFF PHOTOGRAPHS MADE NEARLY 100 YEARS AGO. THESE PICTURES WERE LOANED TO  
US BY DESCENDANTS OF THE ORIGINAL BALDWINS.



THE HENRY BALDWIN'S HOME, NOW OWNED BY THOS. AND AGNES WALKER.  
IN THE BACKGROUND, THE FLOUR AND GRIST MILL.



THE PRINTED CARD IS A COPY OF THE ADVERTISMENT ON THE BACK OF ONE PICTURE.

## Naming of LASKAY

There are various stories as to the naming of Laskay.

Laskay was given this official name by Joseph Baldwin, who called it after his native "Loskey" in Yorkshire England.

But Laskay is sometimes called Bulltown, locally.

One story has it, that years ago, a British Army pensioner , by the name of Cook, lived here. He tried many ways to make a living; finally bought a bull, killed, dressed, and peddled the meat. "Bullmeat became the talk of the township, and Laskay was nicknamed "Bulltown."

Another version of the origin of "Bulltown" claims that at the Annual Fall Fair, a bull on exhibition, broke loose and charged the crowd. The resulting consternation, and panic caused our village to bear this uncomplimentary nickname for over half a century.





Photograph of map owned by Mr. W. Williams showing plan of town and park lots, and showing locations of grist and saw mills, also showing locations of springs located at foot of Spring St. and on land back of lot 55, now owned by Col. Dean.

PLAN  
OF  
TOWN AND PARK LOTS  
IN THE VILLAGE  
OF  
LASKAY

IN THE  
Sixth concession of  
FOR  
Gavin Reser  
Surveyed May 1856



Scale: Two chains to an Inch

## HISTORY AND SITUATION OF ORIGINAL BUILDINGS

In the early days there was a tavern at the corner of the sixth and King sideroad, where later Joe O'Brien had a blacksmith shop. Dr. Taylor now has his home on this lot.

Mrs. William Boys kitchen was formerly a school, the first school in this district. You can still see some of the names carved above the door. The teacher was <sup>Mr.</sup> Mrs. Crown.

North of Mrs. W. Boys was a store, the properitor being Ben Rolling, father of the late Walter Rolling, who was school teacher at Kinghorn for forty years.

North of this store was a shoe shop which was later moved to become the woodshed of Mrs. Wm. Boys house.

The tailor shop was on Mr. Williams property at the top of the hill, and was owned by Peter Matheson.

The butcher shop and slaughter house were down Spring Street.

The sawmill, turning lathe and plaster mill were back of W. Williams by the Humber River.

In 1890 there was a flood and all the dams were washed out. Mr. W. Williams helped to rebuild the woollen and sawmill dams. In 1897 the woollen mill was burned down and never rebuilt.

Mr. Andrew McClure, formerly of King Creek and now of King City, well remembers the flood of June 5th, 1891, when the Laskay dam went out and a man was sent on horseback to warn King Creek to lower the dam there, King Creek having two gates and Laskay one gate. It usually took nearly seven hours for the water to go it's course from Laskay to King Creek.

Mr. McClure, having been out West in the late 1890's related to his mother on return that he had talked to a man out West called Nealon, who said his grandfather, Nealon, had built the woollen mill at Laskay.

## EARLY INDUSTRIES OF LASKAY

Before Joseph Baldwin came to Laskay in 1832, work had been commenced on a saw-mill and dam, on the north branch of the Humber, but he completed it, and in the year 1849, built a flour and grist mill.

### East Side of Sixth

Woollen Mill

Shoe Shop

Photograph Gallery

Tavern

Cooper Shop

### West Side-Development started in 1856

Senator Reesor had the west side of the sixth divided, and on this site were

Sawmill

Plaster mill

Turning Lathe Mill(for making chairs and beds.)

Tailor Shop

Shoe Shop

Butcher Shop and slaughter house.



Picture of flour mill, built in 1849, situated on Baldwin farm on South side of lane, looking East.



THE OLD BALDWIN HOMESTEAD  
ON THE FARM



MOVING DAY - FEB. 19 - 1960.



LOADING



TAKING OFF



GOOD-BYE LASKAY

MRS. JOSEPH BALDWIN

The second Mrs. Jos. Baldwin, was a Mrs. Mary Ann Bailey who came from England shortly after 1840.

Mrs. Mary Anne Bailey's oldest daughter, was Ellen Ann Bailey, later married to Joseph Smeltzer, and great-grandmother to Scott and Pearson Smeltzer of Laskay.

When Jos. Baldwin's son, Henry operated Laskay store, his half sister, a daughter of Mrs. Bailey had a millinery shop at back of store.

Henry Baldwin married Betsey Lewis of Markham and his half-sister, Miss Bailey married Betsey Lewis' brother.

Mrs. Henry Baldwin (Lewis) died at the birth of twin sons; George and Lewis were raised at Aurera by an Uncle George Baldwin. Henry Baldwin died shortly after his wife.

This information and picture were given by Will C. Lewis, of Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1963 to Mrs. Pearson Smeltzer. Mr. Lewis' Mother was the Miss Bailey in the millinery shop at Laskay Store and was a sister to Mrs. Joseph Smeltzer.

A reprint of photo sent  
by Mr. Lewis of his  
Grandmother.



## GROCER RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS

Frank Teasdale gave his formula for Happiness this week. "I'd do it all again. I'd do exactly the same thing."

The tall, friendly merchant of Wellington Street East has sold his grocery business after nearly 40 years. He and Mrs. Teasdale recently bought a home on the second of King, The Walt Robinson farm just west of Aurora, and after his first day of retired freedom this week, said "there's nothing like it, particularly living in the country."

Frank Teasdale bought his store on April 13, 1920. It had been run for some years by W. N. Scanlon, brother of the founder of the Scanlon Bakery, who sold it to Archie Murray, former reeve of Aurora and father of the present mayor, James Murray, and who in turn sold it to Wm. McBride. When the Teasdales bought the store, Wellington Street was one long mud hole. "the wagons used to be down to the axles," said Mr. Teasdale, "the road was all in muddy ruts from the traffic drawing implements from the Fleury implement works to shipment at the railway station. There also was a lot of wagon traffic to and from Baldwin's mill.

Looking around the modern store, the retired merchant recalled, "we hardly ever use a scoop now. Everything is in a package. A few years ago we used to have beans by the bag, sugar by the barrel, and flour in the 98-lb. bag, and lard in the 56 pound box. The raisins, tapioca, everything was in bulk, and we used to have barrels of rolled oats and spices."

Frank Teasdale grew up in the grocery business. His father, George, had a general store at Laskay for 38 years and Frank this week remembered getting up at midnight and driving a team to the St. Lawrence market in Toronto to sell butter and eggs. It took all night to drive the 25 miles.

As a young man he came to Aurora and worked in James Whimster's store at the corner of Yonge and Wellington. In 1916, he joined the mounted section of the Canadian engineers and had three years of service.

It was at Whimster's that he met his future wife, then Miss Elsie Wilkinson, who also worked there. They were married in 1919. They have a son, Barton, a chemical engineer with Canada Packers in Toronto and a daughter, Emily, Mrs. Stewart Rankin in Toronto and five grandchildren.

Mr. Teasdale is a director of the Aurora Agricultural Society, a charter member of the Lions Club, past master of the Rising Sun Lodge, A.F. and A.M. and served on the board of stewards of the United Church. He hopes now to have a little more time for his many hobbies and for just plain relaxing.

PICTURES OF LASKAY



Picture of dam taken from bridge facing toward the East. Taken approx. 1910 - Mary Teasdale is standing on dam.



Picture of Laskay - looking North from Laskay Hill. Taken approx. 1910.



Picture of Laskay taken from south-west - taken approx. 1910.

Laskay Bridges

John Watson of Laskay built  
the second bridge.

Built in 1905, torn down  
1958.



Harry Aberling, contractor of Scarborough, Ontario built the third bridge.  
Albert Ezard a Laskay born resident worked on this new bridge, which was finished  
in 1959.

Wm. Ham and Pearson Smeltzer were night firemen to keep steam up to keep the  
concrete from freezing.

LASKAY UNION BRASS BAND

Some years before the first great war, about 1905 to 1910, Laskay had a brass band. This band was led by Abraham Carley and often played at fall fairs.



LASKAY UNION  
BAND

Back Row ( left to right)

Ed. Brown, <sup>LEWIS SCOTT</sup>~~Earl Patton~~, Charles Ross, Dunc. Sinclair, Dan Rawlings, Elmer Carley, Bob Farren, Herb. Ross.

Front Row (left to right)

John Carley, R. Sinclair - D. McDonald - Billy Spragge - Ab. Carley (leader)  
M. McCallum - ~~Earle Patton~~ - Dunc. McDonald -  
Wm. Ham - absent when picture taken.

Mr. Carley taught school in Kinghorn, Hope, Vellore, and Laskay (STRANGE) which was his last school. He died at Laskay in 1913. He always had a band



Laskay Hunt Club  
"South Magnetawan"

Fall of 1912

8 deer, 1 fox, 1 mink & partridges.

Members

Duncan McMurchy, Archie Gillies, a visitor, Wm. Gould, Bobby Melson, D. G. Paton & Frank Smeltzer.

## FALL FAIRS OF THE PAST

King township agricultural society dates back beyond 1862. In an old flour mill in Kettleby (burnt in 1950), (built 1840-burnt March 22-1950) there is a bill posted on a side wall, which shows that in 1862, the annual exhibition of that year was held in the Village of Laskay.

It is interesting to see what was included in the shows of that period. This bill lists exhibits of "horses, cattle, swing, roots, dairy produce, carriages and implements, leather and leather goods, ladies' crochet and other work".

Fall fairs were more important then as every village had its industry. Goods of local manufacture and handicrafts were exhibited and sales were made.

Some of the old timers say they can remember of seeing or being told that the horse races were run off on the stretch of ground on the sixth between Mill Street and Spring Street.

In those early days the exhibitions were held in different parts of the township alternately but as Schomberg had good grounds and a race track it became the place of the annual fair.