

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 Conc.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

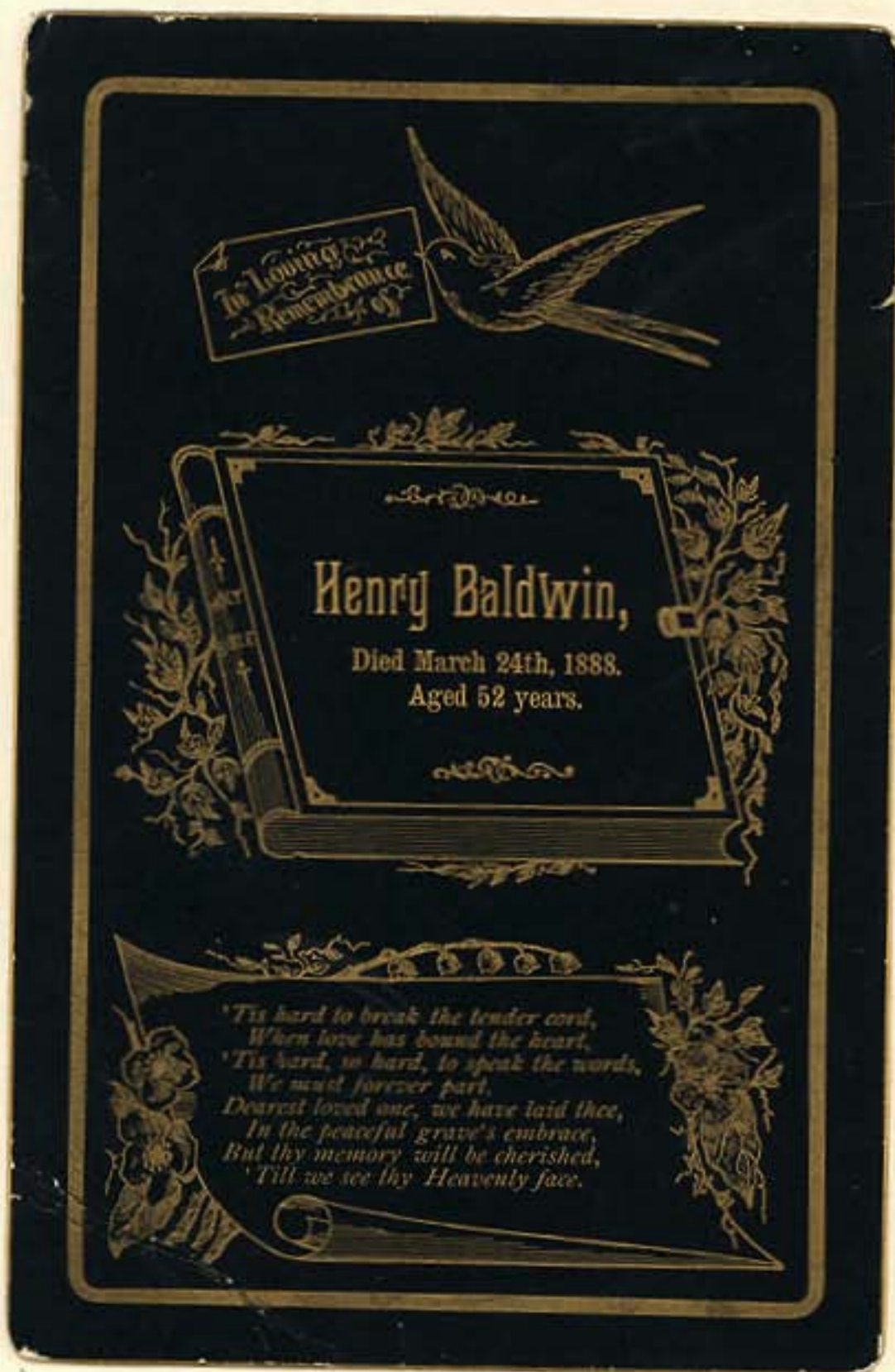
until 1882 when he disposed of the general part of the store.

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 fifty acres 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 sideline, 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.

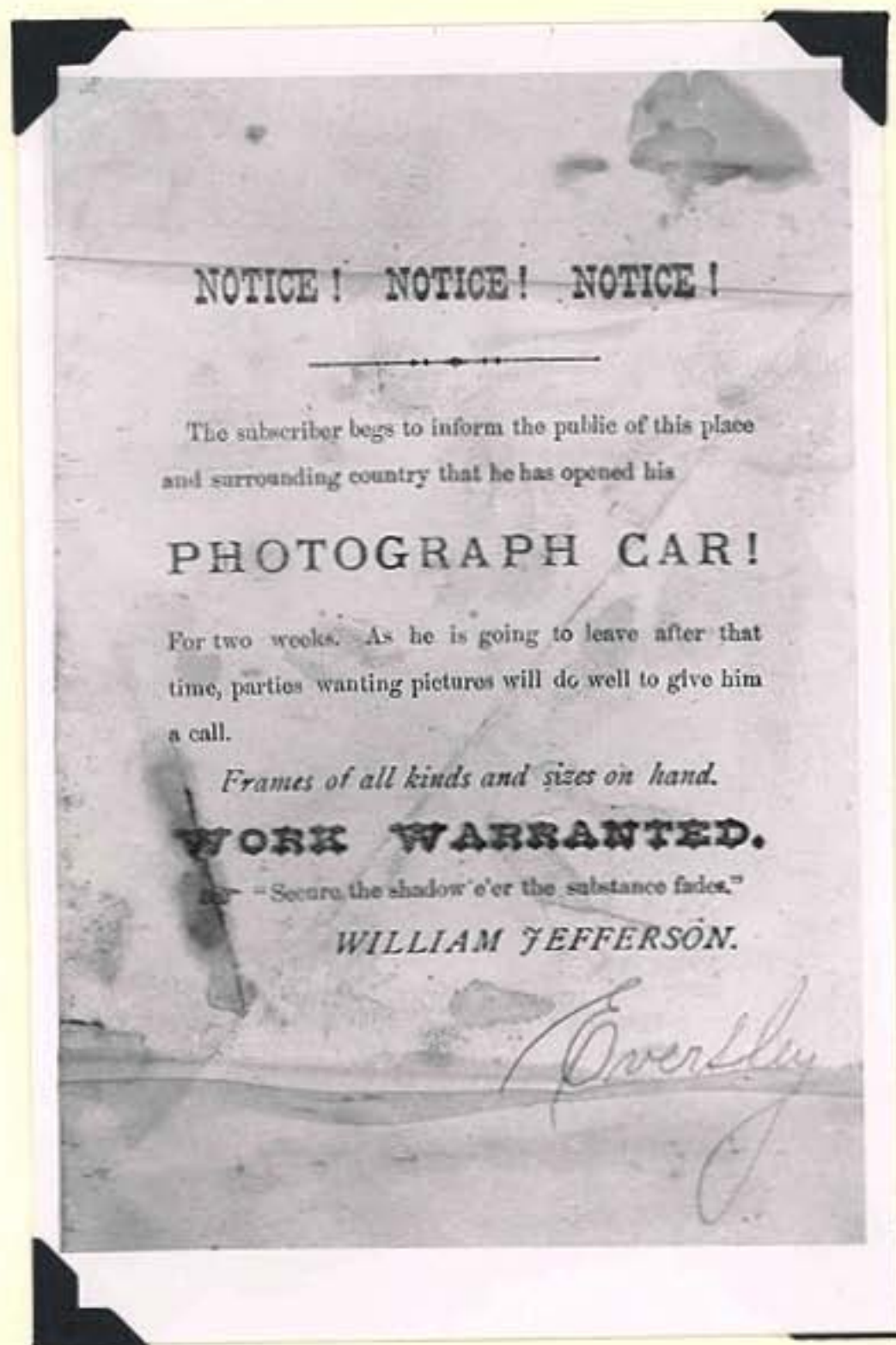
David Reesor represented the Legislative Council of Canada from 1860 till 1867, when he was called to the Senate. He was a Liberal in politics, a member of the Methodist Church, although he gave property to the Presbyterian Church at Laskay. He retired to Toronto in 1876 with his wife, Emily McDougall,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

THE FIRST LASKAY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING

A special Meeting of the Women's Institute of North York was held in Laskay Hall on July 2nd, 1908, an address was given by Miss Millar, titled As Others see us, a second address by Mrs. M. McAllen on Home Sanitation and feeding of young children. A new Branch was then organized by Miss Millar, the officers appointed were

President - Mrs. J. O'Brien
V. President - Mrs. Wm. Boys
Sec. Treas. - Mrs. Geo. Atkinson
Directors - Mrs. Norman McClure
Miss May Ross
Mrs. J. Egan
Miss L. Tawse.

The name of the Branch to be called Laskay and the next meeting to be held at the home of Mrs. J. McCallum, topic for discussion, Canning and Preserving.

Mrs. J. M. O'Brien

Membership list for the first year 1908 - 09.

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Hazel Archibald | Miss Mae Ross |
| Mrs. Robt. C. Gillies | Mrs. Albert Marshall |
| Miss Octavia McCallum | Mrs. Jos. Egan |
| Mrs. Norman McClure | Miss Lizzie Lawson |
| Mrs. George Atkinson | Miss Winnie Boys |
| Mrs. Wm. Boys | Mrs. Lewis Gilham |
| Miss Jennie Orr | Miss Margaret McCallum |
| Miss Katie Ross | Mrs. Alex. McMurchy. |
| Mrs. John McCallum | |
| Mrs. Thos. Smeltzer | |
| Mrs. John Lawson | |
| Miss Kate McCallum | |
| Mrs. Jos. O'Brien | |
| Miss Annie Glass | |
| Mrs. John Gillies | |
| Miss Lizzie Tawse | |
| Mrs. Jas. Ross | |

Reproduced from the Atlas of York County 1878

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|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p>Wm. Pinkerton Isaac Clayton</p> | <p>Wm. Pinkerton Watson Est.</p> | <p>Isaac Fairborn T.R. Shaw</p> | <p>Zeph. Wisner Wm. Johnson</p> | <p>Jos. Larkin Jos. Larkin</p> | <p>POTTAGEVILLE Jos. Woodrow</p> | <p>Walter Rogers Reubea Powell</p> | <p>C. Humbleton Jno. Spink</p> | <p>Wm. Watson S. Bingley</p> | <p>Benj. Bingley Jno. Elliott</p> |
| <p>The Ryegate Wm. Marks</p> | <p>Jas. G. Edwards Wellington Hunter</p> | <p>Hugh Norman Est. Jas. Hunter</p> | <p>Jos. Johnson Richd. Perry</p> | <p>Jos. Woodrow M^r. Dove</p> | <p>Jos. Clark's Est. Robt. Mills</p> | <p>Moses Cherry Douglas McGill</p> | <p>Wm. Ben Terry Jno. Lewis</p> | <p>Immo Gordon Jos. Baker</p> | <p>Benj. Bingley Robt. Boiles</p> |
| <p>Robt. Hunter Jas. Hunter</p> | <p>Wm. M. Devitt Wm. Proctor</p> | <p>Wm. Proctor Wm. Proctor</p> | <p>Richd. Perry Richd. Perry</p> | <p>M^r. Dove M^r. Dove</p> | <p>Edw. Watson Jno. Johnson</p> | <p>Wm. Cooper Jno. Johnson</p> | <p>Jonathan Terry Jonathan Terry</p> | <p>Benj. Bingley Benj. Bingley</p> | <p>Benj. Bingley Benj. Bingley</p> |
| <p>Stewart Jas. Hunter</p> | <p>Hugh M. Laughlin Donal. Graham</p> | <p>Jno. Perry Donal. M. Callum</p> | <p>Alex. Fraser Wm. Proctor</p> | <p>H. B. Travis Chas. Teach</p> | <p>Wm. Boldenby Mortimer</p> | <p>Wm. Webb Non Res.</p> | <p>Wm. H. Conover Wm. Jew</p> | <p>Donal. Terry A. Conover</p> | <p>Benj. Bingley Benj. Bingley</p> |
| <p>Jas. Stewart Somerville</p> | <p>LINTON Jno. Boddy</p> | <p>Jno. Perry M^r. Murphy</p> | <p>J.S. Proctor W.H. Proctor</p> | <p>Edw. Watson J.S. Proctor</p> | <p>Thompson Smith Thompson Smith</p> | <p>Thompson Smith Thompson Smith</p> | <p>Jno. Dunning Walsh & Lovey's Est.</p> | <p>Jno. Dunning Jno. Dunning</p> | <p>Jno. Dunning Jno. Dunning</p> |
| <p>Alex. Gough Wm. Simpson</p> | <p>Jas. Somerville Wm. Perry</p> | <p>Hugh Riddle Wm. Perry</p> | <p>Genl. Robt. Page Wm. Proctor</p> | <p>Non Res. Wm. H. Proctor</p> | <p>Non Res. Thompson Smith</p> | <p>Non Res. Jas. Wood</p> | <p>In Chancery Walsh & Lovey's Est.</p> | <p>In Chancery Walsh & Lovey's Est.</p> | <p>In Chancery Walsh & Lovey's Est.</p> |
| <p>Jno. O'Reilly Jas. Stewart</p> | <p>Jas. Somerville Pat. M. Cutcheon</p> | <p>Pat. M. Cutcheon Jas. Somerville</p> | <p>Non Res. J.S. Wallace</p> | <p>Non Res. J.S. Wallace</p> | <p>Non Res. R. & W. Henry</p> | <p>Non Res. R. & W. Henry</p> | <p>Geo. Gillham Pat. M. Cutbe</p> | <p>Pat. M. Cutbe Pat. M. Cutbe</p> | <p>Pat. M. Cutbe Pat. M. Cutbe</p> |
| <p>Jas. Stewart Wm. Proctor</p> | <p>Jas. Stewart Dug. M. Murphy</p> | <p>Dug. M. Murphy J.M. Engert</p> | <p>M^r. M. Vaughan Archd. Kelly</p> | <p>Archd. Kelly D. N. Millan</p> | <p>Jno. B. Lloyd Dug. M. Callum</p> | <p>Archd. Gillis Jno. Atkins</p> | <p>Ben. Lloyd Step. Findenash</p> | <p>Pat. Connor Pat. Connor</p> | <p>Pat. Connor Pat. Connor</p> |
| <p>Jas. M. Fadden Jas. Fry</p> | <p>Emmanuel Wood Jas. Mee</p> | <p>Jos. Page Jas. Mee</p> | <p>Jos. Malloy Jas. A. Brock</p> | <p>D. N. Millan Dug. M. Murphy</p> | <p>Dug. M. Callum Dug. M. Callum</p> | <p>Jos. Atkins Jno. Blackett</p> | <p>Step. Findenash Step. Findenash</p> | <p>Pat. Connor Pat. Connor</p> | <p>Pat. Connor Pat. Connor</p> |
| <p>Jas. M. Fadden Jas. Fry</p> | <p>Wm. Breder Wm. Robinson</p> | <p>Chas. Humbly Jas. Robinson</p> | <p>Wm. Bailey Jas. Swift</p> | <p>Jas. Swift Jas. Mitchell</p> | <p>Jos. Love Jas. Mitchell</p> | <p>The Porter Jas. Dickenson</p> | <p>Jos. Atkins Archd. M. Murphy</p> | <p>Archd. M. Murphy Archd. M. Murphy</p> | <p>Archd. M. Murphy Archd. M. Murphy</p> |
| <p>Jas. M. Fadden Jas. Fry</p> | <p>Jas. Archibald Jas. Pringle</p> | <p>Jas. Archibald Geo. Pringle</p> | <p>And^r. M. Clure And^r. M. Clure</p> | <p>And^r. M. Clure And^r. M. Clure</p> | <p>The Lawson Archd. M. Callum</p> | <p>Jas. M. Callum Wm. Wells</p> | <p>Archd. M. Callum Oliver Sturdy</p> | <p>Oliver Sturdy Oliver Sturdy</p> | <p>Oliver Sturdy Oliver Sturdy</p> |
| <p>Jas. M. Fadden Jas. Fry</p> | <p>Jas. Bowman G. Hill</p> | <p>Jas. Bowman Lous. Smelter</p> | <p>Dug. M. Murphy Dug. M. Murphy</p> | <p>Dug. M. Murphy Dug. M. Murphy</p> | <p>Jas. Marsh Jas. Marsh</p> | <p>Archd. Gillis Pet. M. Callum</p> | <p>Michael Carr Michael Carr</p> | <p>Michael Carr Michael Carr</p> | <p>Michael Carr Michael Carr</p> |
| <p>Jas. M. Fadden Jas. Fry</p> | <p>Jas. Pringle Geo. Pringle</p> | <p>Jas. Pringle Geo. Pringle</p> | <p>And^r. M. Clure And^r. M. Clure</p> | <p>And^r. M. Clure And^r. M. Clure</p> | <p>The Lawson Archd. M. Callum</p> | <p>Jas. M. Callum Wm. Wells</p> | <p>Archd. M. Callum Oliver Sturdy</p> | <p>Oliver Sturdy Oliver Sturdy</p> | <p>Oliver Sturdy Oliver Sturdy</p> |
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| <p>Jas. M. Fadden Jas. Fry</p> | <p>Jas. Pringle Geo. Pringle</p> | <p>Jas. Pringle Geo. Pringle</p> | <p>And^r. M. Clure And^r. M. Clure</p> | <p>And^r. M. Clure And^r. M. Clure</p> | <p>The Lawson Archd. M. Callum</p> | <p>Jas. M. Callum Wm. Wells</p> | <p>Archd. M. Callum Oliver Sturdy</p> | <p>Oliver Sturdy Oliver Sturdy</p> | <p>Oliver Sturdy Oliver Sturdy</p> |

Judson Book

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 bach of lot ⁶⁵ 55, now owned by Col. Dean.

