

THE ORIGIN OF THE NAMES OF THE POST OFFICES IN SIMCOE COUNTY.

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The sources of the names of places are almost unlimited. Some are named after their founder or after some place or circumstance germane to him or his associates. Thus, England is the land of the Angles; Nova Scotia is a new Scotland to home-seekers from across the ocean; St. Lawrence commemorates the day of the river's discovery; London, Thames, Stratford, Avon, were named in loving memory of the Home-land. Others are named after some physical feature, as Montreal, the royal mountain; or some incident in their history may have suggested a name that appealed to all and became at once and forever adopted, as Pennsylvania. In Canada many places are named after the original inhabitants, or have retained the name they gave it; as Huron, Penetanguishene.

So, to compare smaller things with greater, we find that all these cases, as well as others of a more official character, have operated in giving names to the one hundred and seventy-three or four mail-distributing centres of the County of Simcoe, the largest county in the Province of Ontario. Many of them are named after the first settlers of the immediate locality, as Fennells, Guthrie, and it is thus that the memory of those who were first to brave the hardships of life in the wilderness is perpetuated; some from the towns or boroughs these settlers had left beyond the seas, as Hampshire Mills, Dalston; others from local peculiarities or incidents, as Glen Huron, Anten Mills; while

not a few were officially named after distinguished men or noted places, as Gowan, Angus; others again from Indian words, as Nottawa, Washago.

The purpose of this paper is to trace the name of each individual place to its original source in such a way as to present as far as possible a view, disconnected though it may be, of the history of the early life of the county. This is no easy task. Though not more than sixty or seventy years have elapsed since the first settlers ventured into the unbroken forests of the county, yet that generation of bold and hardy pioneers who led the van in making this country what it is has passed away and their descendants have in many cases forgotten or neglected to cherish the recollection of the early backwood life of their ancestors, and not unfrequently the first families have become extinct, or their offspring have moved to parts unknown, so that the origin of the names is in some cases clouded in some uncertainty.

One noticeable feature is, that where the original names remain, they are a pretty safe indication of the nationality of the pioneers. Where the names are of Scottish origin, it goes without saying that the locality was first settled by immigrants from Scotland. The same is true of the English, Irish and French names.

It is impossible to return thanks to all who have assisted in this work, either by correspondence or the loan of volumes, but it would be most ungrateful not to mention Simcoe's Grand Old Man, Senator J. R. Gowan, Barrie; H. Robertson, K.C., and F. T. Hodgson, Collingwood; George Hale, Orillia; Rev. Canon Craig of Petrolia, a former resident of the county; A. C. Osborne, of Penetang, and H. F. Gardiner, Principal of the Institute for the Blind, Brantford, and author of "Nothing but Names."

ACHILL.—This name was given by the Irish settlers in the vicinity who came from Achill, or Eagle Island, in Connaught, on the west coast of Ireland. The island is small, containing about 2,300 acres, and rises to a height of 1,530 feet above the sea.

ALLANDALE.—Upon the completion of the Huron, Ontario and Simcoe Railway—later the Northern Railway, now the Northern Division of the Grand Trunk Railway—to this point in 1854, it was named Barrie Station, a name it retained until the spur was built to the county town. In 1858 the post office was established. The present name was given in honor of Hon. G. W. Allan, who owned land in the vicinity and who was an intimate friend of those engaged in the

promotion and construction of the railway. Mr. Allan was a lawyer. He was born in Toronto in 1822, and was Mayor of his native city in 1865. In 1858 he was elected a member of the Legislature for the York Division, and in 1867, at Confederation, was called to the Senate, where he was Speaker from 1888 to 1891. He gave the Allan Gardens to Toronto.

ALLENWOOD.—The name of this post office, which is one of the pioneer offices of the northern section of the County of Simcoe, was arrived at by combining the surnames of the first and second settlers in the vicinity, William Wood and Thomas Allen. The object was obviously to honor the two pioneers.

ALLISTON.—An early settler and mill owner, William Fletcher, named this place after his native town in Yorkshire, England. The post office is one of the oldest in the south-west part of the county, having been established in 1857. The local poet, Colgan, in an epic thus expresses his admiration of the town:

Hail! Alliston, centre of commerce and trade,
Young men of Tecumseh, here fortunes are made.

ANGUS.—This is one of the early post offices of the northern section of the county and owes its existence to the extension of the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway (named after the three lakes on which were its chief objective points) into what was then the wilds of the North. It was established in 1856, the name being given in honor of the late Angus Morrison, who was member of the Parliament of Upper and Lower Canada from 1854 to 1863. Mr. Morrison was born in Edinburgh in 1822, and came to Canada in 1834, settling in Toronto. In 1846 he was called to the bar and was first elected to Parliament in 1854 as a Liberal, defeating the Conservative candidate, James Sanson, of Orillia, by 44 votes. In 1857 he was again elected as a Liberal, this time by acclamation, but before the next general election, which occurred in 1861, he had gone over to the Conservative ranks, largely owing, it is said, to the persuasive influence of the late Sir John A. Macdonald. His change of politics, however, did not keep him out of Parliament, as he was again elected, this time defeating two opponents, the late Thomas D. McConkey, afterwards a member of the Legislature and yet later Sheriff of the County, and Mr. D'Arcy Boulton, a barrister of Toronto. In 1863 he was defeated, Mr. McConkey being elected. At the general election following Confedera-

tion, Mr. Morrison again sought re-election. Those were the days of dual representation and Mr. Morrison was one of those who endeavored to capture two seats, North Simcoe for the newly-formed Legislative Assembly, and Niagara for the newly-formed House of Commons. In North Simcoe he went down before William Lount, afterwards member of the House of Commons for one of the Toronto Divisions, and later Judge, but in Niagara he was successful. After the change in his political views, Mr. Morrison was a faithful follower of Sir John A. Macdonald, though he styled himself a "Baldwin Reformer." He was President of the Dominion Express Co., a director of the Northern Railway, and Mayor of Toronto in 1876-7-8. He died in Toronto.

ANTEN MILLS.—The origin of this name is unique. Anderson and Tennant were mill owners at Hendrie, as the village was called before an office was established. To arrive at a name for the post office, and to do honor to both members of the firm, the first syllable of each man's name was taken, thus, "an" and "ten"—Anten. This may not be the only word of its kind in Canadian geography, but it is one of a very few. The village was originally named after Mr. Hendrie, a contractor who built a section of the railway which passes through the place.

APTO.—It was in 1857 that this office was established, but the village came into existence the year before, being founded by a pensioned soldier named Dennis Gallagher, who had served with Wellington during the Peninsular War. He named it after a town in Spain. For some time after its opening the post office was kept by Charles Stewart, about a mile from the village, but in 1859 it was moved to the then centre of civilization and Mr. Gallagher became postmaster. The name is probably from the Latin meaning, "I fit."

ARDTREA.—W. W. Blair, an early postmaster, named this office after his native town in Tyrone, Ireland. The derivation of the name is "ard," high or height, and "trea," after St. Trea, a virgin saint who is said to have flourished in the fifth century,—"Trea's height." In Irish the "d" is omitted. Some credit the name as an honor to the late Sheriff Thomas D. McConkey, who also came from Ardtrea, in Tyrone, but the first origin given has a greater semblance of being the correct one, the authority for it being the present postmaster. The office was established in 1864.

ARLINGTON.—Since its establishment in 1853 this has been a sort of a perambulatory office, being first on one corner and then on another. It was named by a Mr. Kidd, who kept store at the place for some years. After he retired from business the office was moved to a neighboring corner locally known as Sisterville, the old name, however, being retained. Lately it has taken another move and is now situated a short distance from Sisterville. The office was named after Lord Arlington, a leading Minister of the Crown, and a member of the "Cabal" during the reign of Charles II., 1660-1685.

ATHLONE.—Named by Irish settlers from Athlone, West Meath, Ireland, and established in 1853. The name is derived from the Irish ford across the River Shannon, "ath," a ford, and "Luan," a man's name—"Luan's ford." The original town is at present chiefly noted for its horse fair, but its past history is worthy of notice, as it and its castle, the latter founded in the reign of King John, figured in the war between William III., King of England, and his father-in-law, the deposed James II. After the battle of the Boyne, William returned to England, leaving his military affairs in Ireland in charge of a Dutch general named Genkill. In June, 1691, General Genkill besieged Athlone, which was thought to be impregnable, yet he carried it in face of James' General St. Ruth, who felt so confident of his position of safety that he said, "His (Genkill's) master should have hanged him for attempting to take Athlone and my master can do the same if I lose it." After his services at Athlone, General Genkill won the battle of Aughrim and was rewarded with the title of Earl of Athlone and Aughrim.

AVENING.—This office was named about 1860 after a town in Gloucestershire, England, the native place of F. C. Thornbury, an early settler who built a sawmill and flour mill here. The post office, however, was not established until February 1st, 1864, a son of the founder of the village being largely instrumental in securing it.

BALLYCROY.—This is plainly of Irish origin, the name being given to the post office when established, in 1859, by natives of a village of the same name in the county of Mayo, Ireland. In the Irish language the word signifies "The town of the Cross." "Bally," a corruption of the Celtic word "baile," a town, and "croy," or "crois," pronounced "krus," a cross. The original town may have had some specific reason to be designated "the town of the cross," but that does

not appear to have been the case so far as the office under consideration is concerned. It was simply love for the old home.

BANDA.—The story of the selection of this name as given by an old settler is, that John Clemenger, the first postmaster, in seeking for a name, visited the schoolhouse of the section to inspect the maps therein. In looking them over he came across the Banda Islands, a small group of the East Indies, in the Pacific Ocean, and remarked, "there is the name, Banda it shall be." There is also a sea of the same name near the Islands. The office was established in the early sixties and since has been, to a certain extent, a wanderer. It was now in Mulmur, now in Nottawasaga, again in the former township, but to-day it is credited in the official guide as being again in Nottawasaga, hence in this county.

BARCLAY.—Named after George Barclay, the present postmaster. (*See Innisfil*).

BARRIE.—A Muskoka rhymester, who evidently knew of the troubles of the early travellers through the northern part of the Province, forewarned them of a place to rest thus:

"To the west of Lake Simcoe, a good place to tarry,
On Kempenfelt Bay, is the nice town of Barrie."

But Barrie was not there until about 1830-31, and the post office did not come into existence until October 6th, 1835. The first settlement was a short distance east of the county town along the shore of the bay, known as early as 1797 as Kempenfelt, a name for which Governor Simcoe is responsible, he having given it in honor of Admiral Kempenfelt, who perished on board the English gunboat, *Royal George*, when it sank at Portsmouth Harbor, in the south of England. Upon visiting the settlement in 1797, Governor Simcoe determined to discard the military route between Lake Simcoe and the Georgian Bay via the Coldwater trail and have a new road cut from Kempenfelt, as the settlement was called, across to Penetanguishene. Upon the Governor announcing his decision the place was given some semblance of importance, and shortly a number of settlers came in, among others one Mann, a tavernkeeper, whose name soon overshadowed that of the Admiral, and after whom the village became known as Mann's Point. The Government about this time threw all its influence into making the southern terminus of the new route between the lakes the popular point

of settlement and trans-shipment, and went so far in its efforts in this direction as to issue in 1813 a fiat, "this is a town." The place, however, did not grow very rapidly until after the war of 1812-14, when many half-pay English officers were located by the Government in the vicinity. Among others who came was a Captain Oliver, R.N., who purchased a portion of the Government reserve at the western side of the supposed town. Later, seeing the dissatisfaction in regard to the situation at Kempenfelt, Captain Oliver resold his land to the Government and purchased a greater part of the reserve at the head of the bay and had it surveyed into town lots. For the new town, which was then simply imaginary, Captain Oliver looked about for a name and adopted Barry. This was after a Captain Barry, who was in command of the 15th Regiment of York, while engaged in transporting stores to Penetanguishene, and is not, as generally supposed, after Captain Robert Barrie, who was prominent in the War of 1812-14, and who had command of the British squadron at Kingston at that time. Some good Scot evidently took a hand in the matter later, thus the ending "ie" now in use.

BATTEAU.—The time of the first application of this name to the post office, or rather to the village, will probably never be definitely known. In its plural form, "Batteaux," it was in use upon the arrival of the oldest inhabitant of the present day. Officially the post office should be spelled in the singular, the change having been effected by the family of William Bouchier, one of the earliest settlers, and at one time owner of a large part of the surrounding land. What appears to be the most reasonable history of the origin of the name, beyond the fact that it is the French word meaning "boat," is that in early days, when the creek which flows through the village was of greater volume than at present, its outlet at Nottawasaga Bay was a good anchorage for the batteaux of the Indians, but more particularly for those of the soldiers who passed to and fro between Fort Nottawasaga and Michillimackinac before and during the War of 1812. It might be noticed that the outlet of the creek is about half way between the Fort and the Hen-and-Chickens Islands, another point where protection could be procured against the storms of the bay, hence it was in all probability used as a place of safety.

BAXTER.—The location of this post office was first known by the settlers as Cob Coy, from the following circumstances: Before the day of barns the settlers erected a kind of building on posts with a roof, but

no siding, which was called a cab-ree-ho, no doubt a corruption of the French *cabaret haut*, "a high cabin." Two visitors came to the settlement, one of whom remarked to the other that he had not previously been in a place where there were so many "cob coys," misunderstanding the right name. The newly-coined expression was thought to be a joke, and was repeated so often that it became the name of the settlement. When the time came for selecting a name to be officially recognized, the majority of the people in the vicinity objected to Cob Coy and agreed upon Essa Centre, on account of the office being located near the centre of the Township of Essa. This name "Essa" is generally credited to have been that of a favorite squaw of Tecumseh, and means "shame on you." Gardiner says that since writing "Nothing but Names" he has obtained evidence that convinces him that it was the name of a city in Syria, not now on the map, but mentioned by Josephus in "Antiquities of the Jews," Book xiii., Chap. 15, Paragraph 3. Owing to the frequency with which the office was confused with Essex Centre, a new name was sought, and Baxter was selected by the postmaster, Jeremiah Baxter Coulson, after his mother's maiden name.

BEETON.—As this office came into existence upon the completion of the Hamilton and North-Western Railway, in 1878, to what was then known as Clarksville, its name is comparatively modern. For many years the post office was three miles from its present location and was called Tecumseth, taken from the township of that name, the origin of which is generally supposed to be from Tecumseth or Tecumtha, the Shawnee chief, who was born in Ohio in 1769, and who allied himself with the British and was killed at the Battle of Moraviantown in 1814. In the Indian language the word signifies "a tiger crouching for its prey"; others say it means "crossing over." Gardiner, in "Nothing but Names," says, "Two vessels built at Chippewa, and called the *Nawash* and *Tecumseth*, were brought to Penetanguishene in 1819 and sunk in the harbor there. Occurring just when it did, this incident may have had something to do with the selection of the township name, for there is no probability that Chief Tecumseth ever visited Simcoe County." Although the post office was moved in 1860 to the village of Clarksville, called after Robert Clark, an early settler, the old name of Tecumseth was retained, and it was not until 1878 when, through Mr. D. A. Jones, who conducted a large apiary there, that a change was effected and the present name adopted. The reason of the name is obvious.

BELL EWART.—There are many theories as to the origin of this name, but investigation has made it clear that it was given by one James Bell Ewart, a bank agent who lived in Dundas, but who owned considerable land in this vicinity. The name is commonly spelled "Belle," note the last "e," but sometimes it receives another twist, making it one word, "Bellewart." Both of these are incorrect, as has been proven by a deed held by Mr. H. Robertson, K.C., Collingwood, by which "James Bell Ewart," of the village of "Bell Ewart," transfers two lots in the village of "Bell Ewart" to one Isabella Johnson. Here it might not be out of place to state that one of the theories regarding the name is that Mr. Ewart named the place in honor of Mrs. Johnson and himself, but this is disposed of by the foregoing and also by the fact that Mrs. Johnson's name is perpetuated by one of the streets of the village. The post office came into existence about 1853 with the extension of the railway to Lake Simcoe at that point. For some years it was an important trans-shipping point and bore in railway circles the euphonious title of "The Port of Bell Ewart." Steamers plied between this point and Barrie, Shingle Bay, Orillia and other small places around Lake Simcoe, and did an extensive business while the settlers were going in to take up the country north of the lake. Large sawmills were operated at the village; there were several goodly-sized stores, besides other places of business, and it had every prospect of becoming "a port," but the extension of the railway to Allandale, and later to Barrie and Collingwood, cut short its life and in a few years its greatness had fallen away until it became an almost deserted village. Of late years it has taken on a more lively appearance, especially in the summer months, when it is visited by tourists who spend the heated term on the shores of Lake Simcoe.

BOND HEAD.—One of the early governors of Canada, Sir Francis Bond Head, is recalled by the name of this office. It was established in 1837 and named by Joel Flesher Robinson in honor of the Governor. Mr. Robinson was the first postmaster and for some years clerk of the Division Court, being superseded by Thomas D. McConkey, who was appointed by His Honor Judge Gowan. He was, to quote his son, "a Tory of the Tories," which accounts in a measure for the admiration which led him to perpetuate the name of Sir Francis Bond Head, whose friendship for the Family Compact is so well known to readers of Canadian history. Sir Francis was appointed by the Imperial Government in 1836 to succeed Sir John Colborne. Upon his arrival the country was on the verge of rebellion, and his action,

instead of assisting to quiet the people, had a directly opposite effect. He opened the two years in which he occupied the gubernatorial chair by appointing three prominent Reformers to the Executive, but at the same time telling them that they were in no way responsible to the people, but to him only, and that he would not accept their advice except when he should chance to feel that he needed it. The appointees resigned and the Governor at once fell in with the Family Compact, contrary to the desires and instructions of the Colonial Office, which was bent on limiting the tyranny of the Compact and securing for the people some rights. A new Council was formed exclusively Tory and the Assembly passed a vote of censure on the Governor and for the first time in the history of Upper Canada refused to vote supplies. An election followed the dissolution of the House, Sir Francis taking the stump and haranguing as a violent partisan. The supporters of the Compact were returned with a majority and soon the country was in open rebellion. In Roberts' History of Canada, Sir Francis is styled "self-confident and blundering," and in the Life of Sir John A. Macdonald by Mr. Mercer Adam he is described as a "political adventurer," "an autocrat," and a "blockhead." The latter says the qualifications which appear to have commended him to Downing Street as fit to rule a colony were, "he had written several pamphlets, extraordinary for their style, and instinct with fine frenzy," and "twice had he dashed across the South American pampas, from Buenos Ayres to the Andes, on the back of a mustang." Sanderson, in his "British Empire in the Nineteenth Century," says, "Sir Francis was admired for his reliance on the spirit of loyalty in the Province." Having persisted in supporting the Compact in its suppression of the liberties of the people until arms were resorted to and blood shed, Sir Francis Bond Head laid down the mantle which had evidently never fitted him and returned to England, taking his departure without the beating of drums or the splendor of an Alexander with which he had been received only two years before. He was succeeded by Sir George Arthur, who also fell in with the Family Compact and who hanged Lount and Matthews, to the horror of not only all opposed to those in power but of many Tories.

BRADFORD.—This recalls one of the large manufacturing towns of Yorkshire, England, and it was from it the name was taken, by Joel Flesher Robinson, one of the earliest settlers and a storekeeper who came from the English city or its vicinity. The name was given early in the thirties, hence it is found on some of the early maps, yet it was not

until 1853 that it became officially recognized by the Post Office Department. There is in Wiltshire, England, another city named Bradford, of considerable importance as a manufacturing centre, which some have thought to be the original of the Simcoe town, but in doing so they are mistaken.

BRENTWOOD.—In the early days the location of the post office of to-day was known to the settlers as Wiggins' Crossing, a farmer named Wiggins owning a farm at the intersection of the concession line and the railway. More settlers coming in, a well-directed effort was made to have a post office, and "Wilmott" was selected as the name by the railway company, presumably after a local lumberman. This name was in use but a short time, when the Post Office Department discovered another place of the same name already in Canada, and raised objection to its use in this instance. Feeling that Mr. F. W. Cumberland, managing director of the Northern Railway, had been a benefactor to the settlers of the district, he was asked to allow the Government to give his name to the office. He very politely declined the proffered honor and to bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion suggested Brentwood, either taking the name from a suburb of London, England, or adopting it from that of a bondholder or an English director of the Company. Wilmott appears on some early maps. The office was commissioned in the early sixties.

BURNSIDE.—This office came into existence on August 1st, 1905. The name indicates "beside a small river," "burn" being Scotch for "small river or creek." Its name was taken from that of a farmer, John Burnside, who lives in the vicinity.

CARLYON.—North River, from the little river nearby, was proposed as the name for this office upon its establishment in April, 1895. Owing to there already being two offices bearing that name in the Dominion it was not available, and the Secretary of the Post Office Department, of which Sir Adolphe Caron was the head, gave the present name. It is doubtless a modification of "Caerleon," a place of much historic interest in Monmouthshire, Wales. The name "Caerleon" is believed to be a corruption of "Castrum Legionis," meaning "Camp of the (Roman) Legion."

CASHTOWN.—This is a modern name, and is said to have originated from the opening announcement of one Elias Leonard, a tavern-keeper of the place, that he would dispense liquors for cash only. .

CHRISTIAN ISLAND.—There are several theories as to the origin of this name. By some it is credited to the early missionaries, who, with a desire to honor the King of France, applied part of his title, "Most Christian," to what they believed was the doorway to a newly-found country, which they would devote to Roman Catholicism. Others regard it as quite a modern appellation, this view being held to be substantiated in a degree by the fact that the name does not appear on any of the early maps, namely, Sanson's, published in 1656; Galinee's, published in 1670, from information gathered twenty or twenty-five years before; the Ducreux map, drawn in 1640 and printed in Paris in 1660; La Hontan's, issued in 1687, or that of Upper Canada, made in 1793 for Governor Simcoe. This view is further supported by Parkman, who in 1867, when writing his history, "The Jesuits in North America," speaking of the island, says: "It is one of these *now* known as Faith, Hope and Charity, or Christian." Rev. Father Jones, S.J., of Loyola College, Montreal, who has made a close study of the history of the Indians of this Province, connects the name of the island with the escape in 1649 of the panic-stricken Hurons from the warlike Iroquois after the massacres of Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, St. Louis and other villages, and believes it was adapted from the "Jesuit Relations." In support of his way of thinking he says: "The twelve Huron chiefs who pleaded so eloquently with the missionaries not to abandon, but to follow them to St. Joseph's Island, as it was commonly called by the Fathers, after the patron saint chosen for the country by Father Le Caron, assured them (here he quotes from the "Jesuit Relations") "That all the unbelievers among them who had survived had resolved to embrace the Faith, and that they, the Fathers, would make of this island an island of Christians." The names Faith, Hope and Charity are undoubtedly modern, as they appear only on late maps, and are unquestionably the workings of some intuitive mind who wished to show an acquaintance with the names, at least, of the three Christian virtues. The Hurons knew the island as "Gahoendoe," as it is found on the Ducreux map; "Ohouendoe," as La Hontan makes it, or "Ahoendoë," as given in the "Jesuit Relations." This word, which is Huron, is pronounced ya-when-doe, and by some is translated to mean, "to move from one place to another because of its advantage," and by others "an island." The post office has been in existence only a few years, mail for the inhabitants being previously sent to Penetanguishene and Lafontaine in the winter, and to Collingwood during the season of navigation.

CHURCHILL.—Although this post office, established about 1860, has had but the present name, the village wherein it is situated has

been known by two others. In 1833 John Gimby, an English immigrant, settled at the corner, and thus began the village which was known for some years as Gimby's Corners. In 1842 Churchill was selected, it is said, from the fact that religious services were held at the home of one Sloan, who lived upon a hill nearby. Instead of being a place where quiet and peace reigned, the village was for a time the point of congregation of so great a number of rough characters as to earn the sobriquet of "Bully's Acre." The more refined name, however, has outlived the others.

CLOVER HILL.—So named from a beautiful field of clover on a hill a short distance from what was then, in 1850, the village. The field was then part of the farm of Mr. John Duff, and at the present is the home of Mr. James Stoddart Duff, M.P.P. for West Simcoe.

COLDWATER.—In January, 1830, the Government established this office for the convenience of the military department. The name was first intended to be Colewater, in honor of John Colborne, Governor-General, 1829-1836, but the present name, taken from the river which flows through the village, known by the Indians as "Gis-si-nan-se-bing," meaning "cold river" or "cold water," soon overshadowed the former in the minds of the settlers and it was never revived. The village was on the trail between Lake Simcoe and Gloucester Bay and was therefore in early days quite a busy place. To facilitate their military operations, and also as a convenience to the settlers, the Government built a grist-mill at this point in 1828, the first in that section of the province and probably the first north of Lake Simcoe. Upon the opening of the Penetanguishene Road and the one across the Nine Mile Portage from Barrie to the Old Fort at the head of Willow Creek, the business soon fell away from Coldwater and it became a mere rural hamlet. Within the past decade, however, it has seen a change for the better. The first postmaster was a Captain James Hamilton, of His Majesty's (George IV.) 5th Regiment of Foot, known as the Fighting Fifth.

COLGAN.—The name of a local poet, John Colgan, a native of the place or corners, is perpetuated by this office. Colgan, who wrote under the *nom de plume* of Fagan, had some reputation as a writer among the people of the southern parts of the county. No subject was too difficult for him and as a result skits appeared on various local happenings. Before his death he collected his verses and issued them

in a volume. The word "colgan" is of Irish origin and is thought to be a corruption of Cloghan (a little gap), a town in King's County, Ireland.

COLWELL.—Previous to the building of the railway from this point to Penetang, this place was known as Harrison's Crossing, after the owner of the sawmill. The name was later changed to that now in use, after William W. Colwell, who succeeded Mr. Harrison as owner of the mill and who also owned land at the place. Mr. Colwell was well known throughout the northern part of the county, as he had real estate in Collingwood, Nottawasaga and other municipalities. He lived in Toronto, where he died a few years ago.

COLLINGWOOD.—

But Nelson, Howe and Collingwood, they held dominion on the seas,
The sons of the Shamrock, the Thistle and the Rose.—Old Song.

This office is believed to have been originally named after Lord Collingwood, Lord Nelson's chief officer at the Battle of Trafalgar, October 21st, 1805. This is true in a sense, but in reality the name was taken from the neighboring township, in the County of Grey. This township, which was first named Alta, Alba or Atlas, as it appeared on a map printed in 1836, was afterwards re-named Collingwood upon the setting apart of several hundred acres for soldiers of the Peninsular War. According to tradition the Indians who inhabited the section of country in and about the present town of Collingwood before and for many years after the arrival of the white man in the early part of the seventeenth century, knew the shore of Iroquois Bay (See map of Upper Canada, made for Governor Simcoe, 1793), now Nottawasaga Bay, as "Qua-sing-wissin," the place of eating. This is said to be accounted for owing to the quantities of fish, no doubt bass, which were known by the Indians to flourish along the shore inside of the islands. Another story regarding the Indians' knowledge of the shore, which appears more authentic, and which has been verified by two of the most intelligent Indians of the Rama Band of Ojibwas, is that the Indians knew the shore as "Qua-sah-qua-ning," in English, "ice-driven shore and piled upon the shore in a heap." In the Ojibwa language the meaning is even more extensive, "qua-sah," "getting in with great difficulty through the water to the land, just getting to the shore," "qua-ning," "getting into the land over a heap from the water," doubtless alluding to the pulling of the canoe up out of the water over heaps of ice.

Over 150 years elapsed after the Huron tribes were driven out of this section by the implacable Iroquois before settlers arrived to hew homes out of the forest which covered the site of the present town of Collingwood and the surrounding country. At first they came very slowly, and it was not until the opening years of the last century that there was any great movement to the northern part of the present county of Simcoe. About the early thirties the township was surveyed and the site of Collingwood was named Hen-and-Chickens, on account of the number of small islands off the shore. The largest of the group was named White Spruce, which appears on maps as late as 1851. This name was little used and soon lost sight of. In 1904 this island was re-christened Birnie Island, after John Birnie, K.C., who secured a patent for it from the Department of Crown Lands, at Toronto. Between 1848 and 1852 a little settlement had formed on the shore, at a most exposed point, to the east of the business centre of the town of to-day, and took upon itself the name of Hurontario, from the main or Hurontario Street (Huron, name applied to Indians by the French owing to their unkempt hair and o-no-ta-ri-io, Indian meaning "handsome lake"), which extends from the Georgian Bay, in a sense part of Lake Huron, to Lake Ontario. During the next two years the proposition to build a railway from Toronto to Collingwood assumed definite form, and Mr. F. W. Cumberland, Sheriff B. W. Smith, and others interested in the construction of the Northern Railway, came north to locate a terminus for the new line. Upon reaching here in January, 1852, by way of the Scotch Corners, now Duntroon, they were met by the residents of the village of Hurontario, among others Mr. D. E. Buist, and made an inspection of the Hen-and-Chickens Harbor. Upon returning from the trip of inspection they drove across the ice on Sheephead Bay, so known in early days on account of the great quantities of sheephead variety of fish caught there, now commonly called "the Bend." While stopping at a rock which peered above the deep snow, the discussion turned to the name of the new town, for it was to be a town within a few weeks owing to its being selected as a terminus of the contemplated railway. Mr. Cumberland suggested Victoria in honor of our late lamented Queen, others advocated retaining the name Hen-and-Chickens, which met with little favor, while Mr. Buist offered the name Collingwood Harbor, which, in view of the township of that name being so close by, was thought to be fitting and was thereupon selected, Mr. Cumberland withdrawing his suggestion. The word "Harbor" was used more or less until the incorporation of the town on January 1st, 1858, when it was dropped. Turning briefly to Lord Collingwood, we find that he was born in 1750

and died in 1810. He went to sea at the early age of eleven years, served during the revolution of the American colonies, and was at the naval battles of Cape St. Vincent and Trafalgar. At the latter he assumed command upon the death of Nelson and finished the victory over the French fleet. For his services on that occasion he was rewarded with a peerage and a pension of two thousand pounds.

The post office was established in 1853, but even before that there was an irregular office kept in a store at the village of Hurontario, the mail being brought in by way of the Scotch Corners.

COOKSTOWN.—Perry's Corners, after John Perry, a settler who came in 1826, was the first name applied to this place. A few years later a tavern was opened by one Dixon, and the early name was discarded for that of the dispenser of beverages. This continued until 1847, when the present name was given by Hon. W. B. Robinson, M.P., in honor of a settler, Thomas Cooke, who was born in the County of Cavan, Ireland, and who moved to Perry's Corners in 1831. On Henry Creswicke's map of 1856 the name appears as two distinct words, thus, Cooks Town.

CONNOR.—Irish settlers from Connor, in Antrim, Ireland, named this office. In Irish this name is written Condeire, or Condaire, meaning "the oak wood in which dogs and she wolves used to dwell." The office was established February 1st, 1865.

COULSON.—The name of this office is adapted from that of James Coulson, who owned and operated mills in the village for some years.

CRAIGHURST.—This was originally known as Morrison's Corners, after a tavern-keeper, John Morrison, who conducted a hotel known as "Ordnance Arms" on the Penetanguishene Road. Upon rising to the dignity of a post office, about 1834, the name was changed to that of one of the nearby townships, namely Flos, a name which is said to have been adapted from that of one of three lap-dogs belonging to Lady Sarah Maitland, wife of Peregrine Maitland, Governor-General of Canada, 1818-1828. This office was some distance from the present village, being about a quarter of a mile from Hillsdale of to-day. Some years later another change was made, when the name now in use came into existence. This was given by Hon. James Patton, who owned a hundred acres of land, south half of Lot 40, on the south-east side of

the settlement, a part of which he laid out in village lots. The name of Mr. Patton's planned village was given in honor of Squire John Craig, the first postmaster. Hon. James Patton was born in Prescott, in 1824, and practised law in Barrie for some years. In 1852 he founded the *Barrie Herald*, and in 1855 the *Upper Canada Law Journal*. When the Legislative Council, now the Senate, was made an elective body in 1856, and Upper and Lower Canada mapped out into forty-eight electoral divisions with twelve members elected every two years, Mr. Patton was one of the six returned that year for what is now Ontario, and the first representative of the group of counties consisting of Grey, Bruce and North Simcoe, known as the Saugeen Division. In 1862 he became a member of the Cartier-Macdonald Ministry, with a seat in the Executive Council as Solicitor-General for Upper Canada, but upon seeking re-election was defeated by Hon. John McMurrich, and with the fall of the Government, a few weeks later, retired to private life. In 1860 he was Chancellor of the Toronto University, and in 1881 was appointed Collector of Customs at Toronto. Mr. Craig settled at Craighurst in 1821.

CREIGHTON.—Capt. Creighton, who lived in the neighborhood for many years, is supposed to be honored by this office being named after him. It was commissioned in 1868.

CRAIGVALE.—Since its inception in 1860 this office has been known as at present, the name being given in honor of John Craig, an early settler and saw-mill owner, who was Justice of the Peace and also Clerk of the Division Court which sat there. His son, Arthur Craig, was prominent in municipal circles for some years, being Warden of the County, and later Treasurer of the same, holding the latter office at the time of his death in June, 1905.

CREEMORE.—Upon a request of a resident of the village, Senator J. R. Gowan, Simcoe's Grand Old Man, as he is often rightly termed, selected this name. Knowing the love of the sons of Auld Scotia for their ain, he selected two words of their language, "cree mohr," meaning a "big heart." The office was established in 1854, but the village was founded some years before.

CROSSLAND.—In this office the name of the first postmaster, Henry Crossland, is placed in the official category of the Postal Department at Ottawa.

CROWN HILL.—The location is responsible for the name of this post office. It is situated on a range of hills which extend for a distance of two or three miles across the Township of Oro, and has the appearance of being on the crown or top of the same. The name was suggested by a debating society, and agreed to by those living in the neighborhood, among whom were the late Sheriff Drury, his brothers William and Thomas, and Jonathan Sissons, county jailer at Barrie.

CUNDLES.—Before the establishment of this post office the place was known as Cundle's School, one Thomas Cundle, a resident and land-owner, having largely interested himself in securing the educational institution. In 1904, when the office was commissioned, Mr. Cundle was again honored by the adoption of his name.

DALSTON.—This office took its name from Dalston, a suburb of London, England, the native town of Henry Augustus Clifford, the first postmaster. Mr. Clifford was prominent in educational matters in the county for some years, being Superintendent of Schools for Oro Township until 1846, and occupying the position of District Superintendent of Common Schools until 1849. For many years prior to the issuing of the commission, in 1885, the village was known as White's Corners, after Peter White, J.P., an early settler.

DEERHURST.—The first postmaster of this office, who was named Walker, desired to have it known as Walkerville, but objections being raised, the present name was adopted. It probably alludes to the habitation of deer in the nearby woods..

DE GRASSI POINT.—Several theories as to the origin of this name are more or less credited, but only two have any semblance of being correct. One of these is to the effect that the point was originally known as "Grassy Point," because of there being four or five acres of ground covered with grass extending to the water's edge. In support of this it is said, and history corroborates the statement, that this special feature of the place was well known, as it was the rendezvous of fur traders and voyageurs passing up and down Lake Simcoe, this being then the chief route to the almost unknown and impenetrable North-West. Proceeding from this point to the head of Kempenfelt Bay (see Barrie), the travellers went on by the Nine-mile Portage, Willow Creek and Nottawasaga River to the

Upper Lakes. The other theory credits the origin of the name, at least that now in use, to a family named De Grassi who resided in Toronto about the time of the Mackenzie Rebellion. One of the family, Alfio, was more or less identified with municipal politics, and was also active in Masonic circles. In 1865 he was District Deputy for the Toronto Masonic district, which at that time included the County of Simcoe. The De Grassi family never lived at the place that now bears their name, but members of it, particularly Alfio, visited thereabouts, for hunting and fishing. The most reasonable conclusion is that the present name is the outcome of a combination of the above circumstances.

DUNEDIN.—

Till the oak that fell last winter,
Shall uprear its shattered stem,
Wives and mothers of Dunedin,
Ye may look in vain for them.

—Lord Ayton.

In this we have the early name of Edinboro' inscribed upon the postal list of the County of Simcoe. In early days the site of the present village was known as Bowerman's Hollow or Settlement, after a family of that name, one of whom built the first grist-mill in the Township of Nottawasaga. When official recognition was taken of the settlement, Mr. John J. Carruthers, the first postmaster, suggested Dunedin, which was agreed to by the residents and accepted by the postal authorities. Mr. Carruthers adopted the name from that of a town in New Zealand which he had visited, and which in turn was, doubtless, named by sons of Auld Scotia after their capital city. Translated into English the name means "Edward's fortress," "dun," a fortified rock or hill, and "Edin," a corruption of Edward.

DUNTROON.—This name is a combination of two Gaelic words, "dun," a hill, and "troon," a promontory. The country surrounding this post office was settled in the thirties of last century by immigrants from Islay and Argyleshire. For a few years it was known simply as the "Corners," but as the settlers came in in large numbers the word "Scotch" was soon added. It was later known as McNab's Corners, after a tavern-keeper who followed the settlers. Yet later the name was changed by John Livingstone to Bomore, meaning "Big Cow," after his native village in Islay. Upon the arrival of the late Rev. John Campbell, the first Presbyterian minister stationed in the Town-

ship of Nottawasaga, the name underwent another change, this time to the present appellation, Duntroon, after his native village in Argyleshire, Scotland. The first office, Scotch Corners, was officially opened in 1836, when Mr. Angus Campbell was appointed postmaster. He was a Highland Scotchman who was well versed in Gaelic but could speak little English, and it is said any mail matter not addressed in his native language was left in a small box to be hunted out by the owners when called for, Mr. Campbell's only directions being, "Noo, just help yersel', and dinna tak' mair nor ye can read."

DUNKERRON.—This is named after a town in King's County, Ireland, and was adopted upon the suggestion of the late Col. Tyrwhitt, M.P. for South Simcoe, who is credited with selecting it to please an Irish settler, a native of the Irish town of the same name. It is more probable that it was named in honor of the Governor-General at the time the office was opened, Lord Lansdowne, Baron of Dunkerron.

EADY.—The name of this office was given in honor of Miss Edith Kent, now Mrs. John Walker, the first maiden lady of the place. She is now in her eightieth year and still resides in the village. The office was established in 1884.

EDGAR.—The name of this office is by some derived from that of an early King of England, by others it is said the name was given arbitrarily by the Government, as the people had no special choice, but the correct origin is the name of an early settler, John Edgar. It was established in 1832. Richardson's Corners, also after an early settler, was the first name of the place. The first office in the township of Oro was named Oro after the township, and was situated almost exactly in its centre. This office was later moved a mile west, retaining the old name. Yet later it was again moved, this time two miles further west, when the name was discarded, Edgar being substituted therefor.

EGBERT.—Owing to the physical conditions this place was for many years known locally as Mudtown, but upon assuming the dignity of a place in the postal list of the county a more polished name was thought to be required. At this juncture the loyalty of the settlers to an old line of English kings prevailed and the name of King Egbert was selected. Egbert was of the House of Cedric and ascended the throne of Wessex in A.D. 802, and reigned for thirty-five years.

During Egbert's time Wessex rose to power, the King bringing all the English kingdoms, together with the Welsh, both of Cornwall and what is now called Wales, more or less under subjection. He became King of all the Saxons and Jutes and Lord of the East Angles, Mercians and Northumbrians and by some historians is said to have been the first King who was able to call himself King of the English. He died in 837 A.D.

ELLIOTT'S CORNERS.—This office takes its name from the first postmaster, James Elliott.

ELMGROVE.—Like Elmvale, this place was locally known as Elm Flats for some years, owing to the land being largely timbered with elm. As in the case of the former village, the word "flats" proved objectionable to the æsthetic taste of the people, and the word "grove" was substituted.

ELMVALE.—For many years the country surrounding this place was known as the Elm Flats on account of the low-lying land, which was largely timbered with elm. The village took the same name, but the more euphonistic word "vale" took the fancy of the people and it was substituted for "Flats." An attempt was made to change the name to Saurin by a constructing engineer on the Penetang Railway, James Saurin Murray, but the villagers objected to the proposition. On Dickenson's map of the county, 1878, Saurin appears for this place, but it was never adopted for the post office.

ENNIS.—This name is taken from a town in Clare County, Ireland, and was given to this office by early settlers after their home in the Emerald Isle. In the Irish language the word "inis," or "ennis," has two meanings, "an island" and "a meadow along a river." The original town is situated upon the bank of the River Fermus.

EVERETT.—This office was named by Thomas Gordon, a storekeeper, after his father's native place in England. It was at first situated on lot 10, Con. 7, Township of Tossorontio, but upon the arrival of the railway in 1878 it was moved about two miles west to its present location.

FAIR VALLEY.—In 1879 this office was named by R. C. Hipwell, from the physical conditions surrounding. Previous to being estab-

lished a post office under the present name, the place had several appellations. Captain Elmer Steele, who settled in Medonte in 1832, and who sat for Simcoe in the old Canadian Assembly, 1841-44, named the corner a short distance from the post office of to-day Purbrook, after his native place in Gloucestershire, England. It was later known as St. George's, from the church situated there.

FENNELLS.—This office recalls an early settler, Joseph Fennell, a native of Conva, Kilkenny, Ireland, after whom it was named. Mr. Fennell was prominent in municipal affairs, being Reeve of West Gwillimbury and a member of the County Council.

FERGUSONVALE.—This settlement was first known as Cumming's Corners after John Cumming, who settled there in 1843. In 1868 it was thought desirable that a post office should be established at the corners. John W. Ferguson interested himself in circulating a petition asking the Government for the office and was rewarded by its being named after him.

FESSERTON.—Named after a friend by Baron von Hugel, who was born in Mayence, Germany, and who at one time was President of the Midland Railway. The locality was long known, before the days of the Midland Railway, as Bush's Point, after a settler of that name.

FINTONA.—This office is another of those in the southern part of the county which owe their name to the Irish settlers. It is called after a village in Tyrone, Ireland. In Irish it is called, Fionn-Tamhuach, pronounced Fintowna, meaning "a fair colored field."

FOXMEAD.—This name is the result of a combination of the names of two early settlers, John Fox and J. Mead, the object evidently being to please the most interested ones.

GIBSON.—This name is that of the first postmaster, William Gibson.

GILCHRIST.—A family of early settlers, one of whom, Henry Gilchrist, was the first postmaster, is credited with having given the name to this office. Some of his descendants live in the vicinity at the present day.

GILFORD.—This office was named in 1863 by an early settler, Thomas MacConchy, after the town of Gilford, County of Down, Ireland. Mr. MacConchy had mills and other business interests at the village he named.

GLENCAIRN.—

The bridegroom may forget the bride,
Was made his wife yestreen ;
The monarch may forget the crown
That on his head an hour has been ;
The mother may forget the child
That smiles sae sweetly on her knee ;
But I'll remember thee, Glencairn,
And a' that thou hast done for me.—Burns,

Upon reaching the site of this village, about the middle years of last century, Mr. Marshall N. Stephens found it known as “the hog’s back,” from a nearby hill thought to have a porcine resemblance, lying between two streams, the Mad River and Walker’s Creek, flowing side by side, one being twenty feet higher than the other. He disliked the appellation and re-named the locality, which is hilly, Engedi (the fountain of the kid), taking the name from the fortress in the wilderness in which David sought safety from Saul and in which he afterwards had Saul at his mercy, but permitted him to leave unharmed. In 1865, when the office was established, it was desired to have a more popular name, and Mr. Stephens suggested Marshalltown, but owing to there being already such a place in the list of Canadian post offices, the Department raised objections and it was discarded. Mr. Angus Morrison (see Angus), stepped into the breach and named the office Glencairn (glen, a space between hills, and cairn, a monumental pile of stones generally of conical shape), after James, Earl of Glencairn, a benefactor of Scotland’s bard, Burns. The Earl of Glencairn takes his title from the parish of Glencairn, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

GLEN HURON.—This is one of the early names of the northern part of the county. Its origin is obvious, being from the glen through which the Mad River rushes on its way to Nottawasaga Bay, some twenty miles further east, and an adaptation of the name of a tribe of Indians who in early days occupied the greater part of the County of Simcoe. The name is believed to have been given by Mr. Hugh M. Frame, an uncle of the late W. J. Frame, Police Magistrate of the Town of Collingwood, a graduate of a Scotch University and a lover of Indian folk lore.