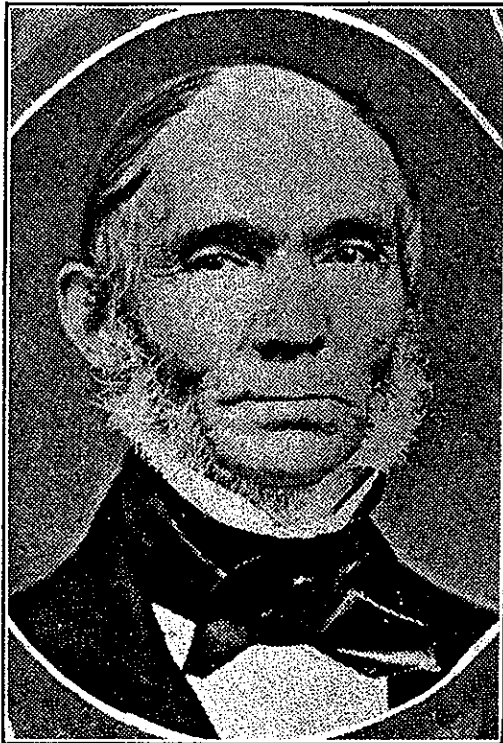


LEWIS BURWELL



In the Report of Proceedings for the year 1909 will be found a biographical sketch of Col. Mahlon Burwell by the late Archibald Blue, with portrait. He was a prominent Land Surveyor and took an active interest in public affairs. Lewis Burwell was his younger brother.

The ancestors of these two men came to Virginia from Bedford and Northampton, England, about 1650. Some of the family were Loyalists during the Revolutionary War, and one James Burwell came to Upper Canada in 1796, receiving 200 acres of land for himself and each of his children in the Talbot settlement. Adam Burwell,

probably a relation of James, came to Upper Canada from New Jersey with his wife and family after the war, and settled in the Township of Bertie. It is reported that he had large possessions in New Jersey which were confiscated. Adam died at the home of his son, Mahlon, in 1828, at the age of seventy-nine years, and was buried beside the walls of the old English Church at St. Thomas.

Adam Burwell had three sons: Mahlon, Lewis and John.

Mahlon had the following children: Leonidas, Hercules, John, Brock, Hannibal and Edward, also one daughter, Mary, who married David McCormick of Pelee Island.

Mr. M. G. Burwell of Port Burwell is a son of Leonidas.

H. M. Burwell, O.L.S., of Vancouver, is a grandson of Mahlon Burwell.

There are also two grandsons in London, A. E. Burwell and Frank Burwell.

Mahlon Burwell died on January 25th, 1846, and was buried in the cemetery belonging to the church which he endowed at Port Talbot, about ten miles west of St. Thomas.

Lewis Burwell was born in February, 1794. He probably received his primary education in the schools of the district, and took up the study of Land Surveying with his brother, Mahlon. He qualified as a Deputy Surveyor on October 24th, 1818. He probably remained with his brother for a year or two, but began to practice at Brantford in 1820, his first work, according to his field notes, being surveys in the Townships of Burford, Dumfries, Oxford and N. Southwold.

The following is taken from the "History of the County of Brant," by F. Douglass Reville:—"It is popularly supposed that Lewis Burwell prepared the first survey of Brantford, but as a matter of fact there was a plan drawn up in 1824, and Burwell in a preliminary sketch dated October 22nd, 1829, then refers to it:

"First sketch of the Town of Brantford made for the purpose of obtaining the survey of the Great Grand River lands made up from observations taken at certain points and partly made from the plans made by Joseph Read in 1824."

Joseph Read was not a Deputy Provincial Land Surveyor, but was an assistant to Lewis Burwell. S. G. Read, of Brantford, is a brother. The plan referred to above was actually made by Samuel Read, father of Joseph, and S. G., who was a grammar school teacher.

Lewis Burwell sold his field notes to Quentin Johnstone, and from him they passed successively to John Fair, R. H. Squire, W. H. Fairchild, Jackson and Lee, and Lee and Nash, in whose possession they now are.

His notes were carefully entered and few surveyors to-day do as good work.

For the Provincial Government he made the following surveys:—

- 1831—Township of Luther.
- 1832—Township of Enniskillen.
- 1833—Town plot of Cayuga.

1834—N. W. boundary of Canada Co., Huron tract.

1834—Military Reserve, Burlington Heights.

1838—Lots 13 and 15, Village of St. Thomas.

1859—Lots in Town of Brantford.

1859—Lots in Town of Brantford.

1861—Line between 13th and 14th concession, Burford.

When asked for an explanation of the irregular Gores in Brantford, he is reported as replying that the place would never become more than a village in any event.

He was a man of quiet manner, retiring habits, and a Methodist in religion. He took no part in politics, although some said he was a contributor to a humorous, but short lived publication called "The Snapping Turtle, or the Grand River Roarer." He lived in a frame house on Darling Street, north side, between King and Market, this house being afterwards occupied by Dr. William Nichols.

C. C. Fairchild, Esq., O.L.S., Brantford, has contributed the following re Lewis Burwell and his family:—

There is a plan in the possession of the City Clerk here of Col. Talbot's estate, on which is endorsed: "This is my first attempt at map making," signed by Lewis Burwell, and dated June 16th, 1813. This was evidently made while he was a student.

In 1830 he signed as a witness to the original surrender deed of the site of Brantford by the Indians.

His first wife was a Miss Whitehead, by whom he had four children, one son and three daughters.

(1) Alexander B., who lived to manhood, but died unmarried about 1860.

(2) Sarah, who died young.

(3) Caroline, married Alfred Owen of Simcoe, and died there.

(4) Eliza, married Gilpin, and died in London.

I am unable to get dates and can find no record of any families from these unions.

There was an adopted daughter (5) Lucy, who was a school teacher in Brantford. She afterwards married George

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act. Triggerson of Brantford, and had one son, who now lives in Winnipeg.

His second wife was a Mrs. Camp, whom he met while engaged on survey work at Stoney Creek.

Burford. Lewis Burwell was taken suddenly ill on the day the report of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln reached Brantford, and died suddenly, April 20th, 1865. He was buried in Burford beside his first wife, son and daughter.

and a The tombstone was found lying face downward amongst although it short many more, and is in a good state of repair, but the grave, Grand Street, like most of the others in the cemetery, has fallen in and is g after- overgrown with rank grass and weeds.

tributed This tombstone, of white marble, is beautifully carved, but contains no reference to Mrs. Burwell or the son or rk here daughter. The inscription reads:—"Lewis Burwell, died is my April 20th, 1865, aged 71 years and two months."

while he A verse from the New Testament at the bottom of the rrender marble slab and a rather ornate leaf scroll around the top of he had the stone is all the record we have of one of Brant County's died un- first and most notable surveyors. The grave, unkept and nd died neglected, is a disgrace, and something should be done to of any repair it. The cemetery where the grave is, along with many was a George more of our pioneers, is no longer used as a burial ground, and this accounts for its present condition.

JOHN BLAKELY

John Blakely was born in Scotland in 1796 and came to Canada when a young man. He settled on lot No. 1 in the sixth concession of the township of Bastard, County of Leeds, this lot being at the head of the mill pond on Mud Creek, west of Toledo. He married Mary Bovell. They had seven children as follows:—Hugh John, who moved to Minnesota; Franklin, who practised medicine at North Augusta; Robert, also a medical practitioner at Frankville, Ontario, who died at his father's home; Mrs. Crawford; Mrs. Robert Seymour; James; and Mary.