

PETER CARROLL.

Isaac Carroll resided in the Township of North Oxford at the dawn of the last century, his family comprising his wife and seven children, John, James, William, Robert, Peter, Ellen and Maria. Ellen married John Choate of Ingersoll, Maria married Harry Hall of Chicago.

Peter Carroll was born in 1806, and was educated at the local schools.

He studied Land Surveying probably under Mahlon Burwell, and qualified as a Deputy Provincial Surveyor on October 14, 1828. For many years thereafter he practised his profession near Ingersoll, where he owned a beautiful farm; with fine residence and outbuildings. An

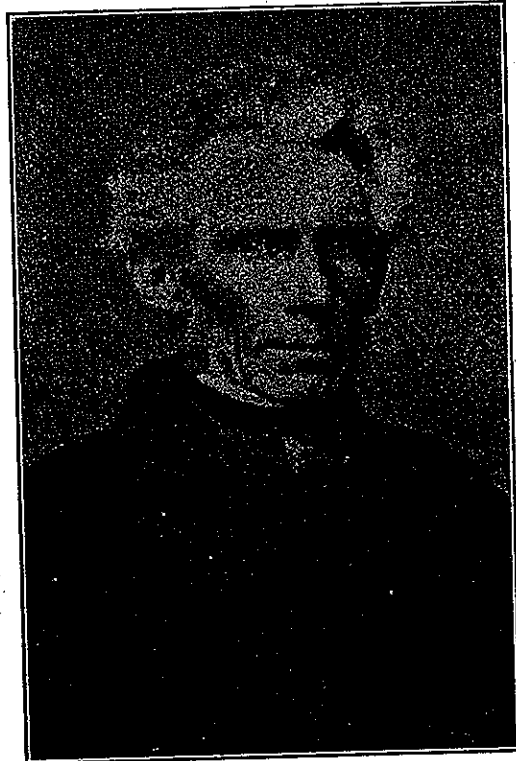
artificial trout pond, with miniature waterfall, added to the beauty of the place. He was employed by Col. Talbot for some years in surveying townships, roads and lands in the Talbot District, Lake Erie. He was also Government agent for the sale of Crown Lands in Oxford, Brant and Wentworth.

He married Miss Henrietta Martin, daughter of Calvin Martin, of Beachville, but they had no children.

In 1831 Mr. Carroll received instructions from the Provincial Government to explore a tract of land between Carradoc, west of London, and Lake Huron, also certain Crown Reserves. In 1832 he completed the survey of Plympton, and in the following year surveyed the Township of Adelaide. In 1835 he made surveys at Town of Errol, Gore Bay Township, Norwich and Town of Warwick. In 1837 he surveyed the marsh in front of Charlotteville, and in 1846 surveyed the Hamilton Harbor, also a mill site.

About 1850 he removed to Hamilton, where he was appointed Government agent for the sale and management of Government Lands, and for collection of dues thereon, which position he held for many years.

After retiring from practise as a Land Surveyor he became a contractor of gravel road construction before the advent of



railways. The gravel road from Brantford to Burford was one of the roads constructed by him, and that from Burford to Dorchester another. He built and owned other gravel roads leading out from Hamilton, the Plains Road, Waterdown Road and Carlisle Road.

He was a director of the Great Western Railway, the Niagara Suspension Bridge Co., the Gore Bank, and Bank of Brantford.

He was a lieutenant-colonel in the militia, and church warden at the Cathedral. He made a bequest in perpetuity to the rector and his successors in office, in trust, for the poor of the parish.

He was a Conservative in politics, and twice aspired to Parliamentary Houses, but was defeated by Sir Francis Hincks, the majority in each instance being a narrow one.

He also speculated in lands and was induced to take stock in the Bank of Brantford, but it soon suspended operations.

About 1855 he built a stone residence on the north side of Burlington Bay, at what is now known as Rock Bay, or Carroll's Point, near the Valley Inn. A gun pit dating back to the war of 1812 is now to be seen on this point.

His farm at Rock Bay extended back from the Bay across the Plains Road and from the Valley Inn easterly. The residence was of cut-stone with port cochere, stables, outbuildings and gate lodges. This fine building was destroyed by fire in June, 1907, at which time it was occupied as a club house. The ruins of the house are at this day standing.

An incident in connection with the Bank of Brantford has been furnished by Mr. W. G. Smart, of Hamilton. It would appear that Mr. Carroll was a director of the Brantford Bank, and, after its suspension, had stored in the attic of his stone house at Rock Bay several boxes containing unsigned bills, probably forgotten. Years afterwards, a nephew by marriage named Brown, in attendance at Port Hope School, brought another boy named Deacon home with him during the holidays. In rambling through the attic of the old house they discovered the bills and took a supply back to Port Hope with them, where they sold them to the other boys. Later the circulation extended until it came to the notice of the Dominion Police, who traced the bills back to their source. The two boys admitted taking the bills and informed the officers where they obtained them. The bills were promptly seized and destroyed. Deacon became an engineer, and is now practising in South America.

Mr. Harry Brown of Vancouver contributes the following: "The first basket run over the Niagara River by Peter Carroll is still on exhibition at Niagara. When Carroll found the basket strung on the cable was safe to cross on he took his wife and some

leading gentlemen down to go over on it, Mrs. Carroll being the only lady. When the basket came to the middle of the river it came to a dead stop, due to some hitch in the machinery. Mrs. Carrol, after looking about, said: 'You will excuse me, gentlemen, but I must scream,' which she immediately did, then settled down to await her fate, which was luckily to land safe on the American shore."

In 1876, being in poor health, he visited France and the Continent, and shortly after his return he contracted smallpox, from which he died on September 18th, 1876. A substantial monument was erected in the cemetery on Dundurn Heights to his memory.

His wife also contracted the disease, but she recovered. Her death occurred July 20th, 1907.

The Rock Bay farm was acquired by his niece by marriage, Miss Annette Martin, whom he had adopted as a daughter. She afterwards married Harry Brown, who later removed to Winnipeg, but in a few years he returned to the old Peter Carroll house on Rock Bay. He died at Hamilton in June, 1911.

The important facts in this sketch have been furnished by Cyrus Carroll, O.L.S., of Hamilton, a son of John Carroll and a nephew of Peter Carroll. G. Holme Carroll, a son of George Carroll, and a grandson of James, brother of Peter, resides at Paris, Ontario.

The photograph which accompanies this sketch was furnished by Mr. M. H. Martin of Mohawk, Ontario, a nephew of Mrs. Peter Carroll.