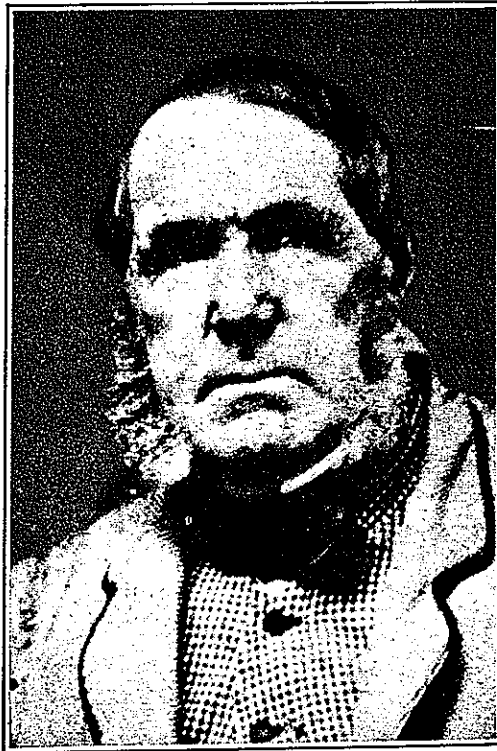


WILLIAM J. FAIRFIELD

William Fairfield, Sr., and his wife, Abigail Baker Fairfield, came to Canada in 1783, from Paulett, N.Y. State. His ancestors came to America from England about 1630, and were prominent in the Community. One of the family, John



Fairfield, became Governor of the State of Maine from 1841 to 1843. William Fairfield Sr. served with the British in Major Jessups Corps during the Revolutionary War, and came to Canada as a U.E. Loyalist in 1784. He settled on Lot 37, of Ernestown, in 1784, on the shore of the Bay of Quinte, about three miles west of Collins Bay, where in 1793 he erected a large three-storied frame house, that is standing to-day in a good state of preservation. It is reported that there are brick walls beneath the clap board exterior. It is known as the White House, or the Fairfield House, and is owned and occu-

pied now by Thomas D. Fairfield.

Nine of his children were born before he came to Canada, three afterwards. His children were as follows:—

Archibald, a Land Surveyor at Three Rivers, Que.; May; William, Jr.; Benjamin, Jonathan, Stephen, John, Abigail, Clara, Janet and Sarah.

William J. Fairfield, the eldest son of Benjamin, was born in 1800 on his father's farm, on which the easterly part of the Village of Bath is located. Wm. Fairfield, Sr., built a house at Bath in 1796 for his son, Benjamin, which was known afterwards as "The Villa," and was also occupied by his grandson, William J. This building is now in a good state of preservation.

Benjamin gave the plot of ground for St. John's Church, Bath. The first church was built 1787. In 1793 a second church was built, which was destroyed by fire April 5th, 1925, but was rebuilt in the same year on the original site. Rev. W. G. Swayne, the present rector, married Miss Jessie E. Hope, a granddaughter of Robert Hope and Eliza Fairfield, sister of Wm. J. Fairfield.

Wm. J. Fairfield qualified or was appointed as a Deputy Provincial Surveyor on June 17th, 1822. In the same year on August 25th he married Margaret Jackson but there were no children. On May 2nd, 1840, he was married a second time to Mary Louise Thiebadeau, at St. George's Cathedral, Kingston, by the Rev. Robt. D. Cartwright. She died in 1845, leaving one daughter, Margaret Louise, aged three years. This daughter died in 1922 unmarried. In 1855, he married a third time, his wife being Miss Perry of Oswego, who died a few years ago. There are now no living descendents of Wm. J. Fairfield.

Miss Alice S. Fairfield, daughter of Thos. D. Fairfield, has furnished the photograph of Wm. J. Fairfield, and a large part of the material for this sketch. Miss Louise Fairfield, daughter of James Fairfield, resides at Kingston.

Wm. J. Fairfield was educated at the Bath Grammar School, said to be the first in Upper Canada, built in 1811.

He was appointed a Justice of the Peace early in his career and was Postmaster at Bath prior to 1847, a position he held until his death in the year 1878. He was buried in the family plot at Bath, but there is no tombstone to his memory. He was a tall man with reddish beard and charming manners. It is said that he was never a greater distance from Bath than twenty miles, but this does not appear probable.

Mrs. Seymour Corley of Toronto, who has been of much assistance to the Committee in compiling this sketch, is a daughter of Capt. Simeon M. Smith, an Upper Canada School boy under Dr. Scadding, who married Joanna Fairfield, daughter of Charles E. Fairfield, a son of William J.

The members of our Committee failed to discover conclusive evidence that Wm. J. Fairfield practised as a Land Surveyor, although Mr. Aylsworth, a member, is sure he made surveys on Amherst Island.