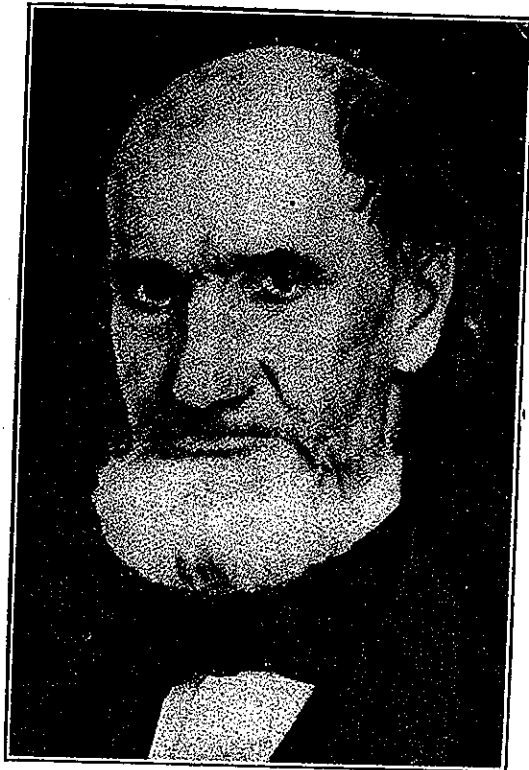


GEORGE LOUNT.

Gabriel Lount was born in England, but early in life migrated to the United States, and finally settled at Catawissa, Pennsylvania, on the Susquehanna River. In 1811 he came to Upper Canada and took up lot No. 84 on the east side of Yonge Street, in Whitchurch, this lot being only about one mile north of Aurora. He was accompanied by his three sons, Samuel, born September 24th, 1791, and George, born February 3rd, 1799, and James.

He was appointed Deputy Provincial Surveyor on May 1st, 1818, in which year he subdivided the Township of West Gwillimbury and part of Tecumseth. It is probable that his son George did the actual

surveying in this township. In 1820 he received script for 1,900 acres in West Gwillimbury and 2,368 acres in Tecumseth.

On April 6th, 1832, George Lount was appointed a Deputy Provincial Surveyor. He settled on lot No. 103 on the west side of Yonge Street, the residence being located on the top of the hill overlooking Holland Landing.

James Pearson, a son-in-law of Gabriel Lount, appears to have made a survey of Innisfil in the winter of 1820, for which he received 3,800 acres in payment, but George Lount did the surveying. The name of James Pearson does not appear in the Government list of Surveyors.

George Lount completed the survey of the Township of Tecumseth in 1832 for the Provincial Government.

The following is taken from the history of Simcoe County, 1909, by A. F. Hunter, Esquire:—

A circumstance which is worthy of note occurred in connection with the survey of Innisfil. According to the narrative of an early settler, the surveyor, Richard Birdsell, who then lived in Little York, Toronto, was an Englishman by birth as well as by training in his profession, and if he was thorough, he was also slow in his method.

He and the Lount brothers came to an understanding and went into partnership in the contract, he to receive half of the pay if he did the "compassing" and they to chain and receive the other half, by which arrangement they would divide the pay into two equal parts. Their Camp was on the Essa line, and the Lounts expected to survey across one concession line to Lake Simcoe in a day and return next day along the next concession line to their Camp, thus being out two days at a time. When the work began, Birdsall demanded that all the trees and other obstructions should be cut down out of the line of sight for his compass, and he would make no off sets, either to the right or to the left. Being of the old school, everything had to come out of his way. This used up three or four days on every trip, and instead of being out two days they spent double that number. The Lounts soon objected to this as they would lose money on their contract. In the altercation which followed, Mr. Birdsall told the spokesman that if he was not satisfied he had better do it himself, so George Lount took the compass, and after this Mr. Birdsall merely tallied for the chainmen and made the field notes. In this way they carried out the survey so as to lose nothing on the contract. The field notes in the Department of Crown Lands are by Mr. Birdsall.

George Lount was not only a land surveyor, but farmer, merchant, tinsmith, and in addition was the first Postmaster at Holland Landing, which office he held until 1834, when he was succeeded by W. J. Sloane. In 1836 he was appointed Registrar of Lands and continued to reside at Holland Landing. In October, 1846, he became Registrar of Deeds, County of Simcoe, and removed to Barrie, where he continued to reside until his death.

He laid out the village site of Amsterdam on the south side of the Holland River, near Bradford, for the Provincial Government in 1836. The projected town did not materialize and the site reverted to the private owner in 1869.

In 1847 he promoted a road from Barrie to Minesing, afterwards known as Lount's Road. Although it was surveyed through to Nottawasaga, the northerly part was not built, owing to the construction of the Northern Railway a few years later.

In 1872 he resigned his position as Registrar and was succeeded by his son Samuel.

George Lount married, first, Hannah Tyson, and after her death married, in 1835, Margaret Rennie.

The following were the children of George Lount:—Gabriel (killed by a fall); Samuel, who succeeded his father as Registrar

at Barrie; Charles W., Stipendary Magistrate at Bracebridge; William, Judge of Supreme Court, Toronto; George L., Barrister; Robert, M.D., of New York; Hannah, who married J. R. Cotter of Barrie, and Eliza, who married John Dickenson of Barrie; Susan, Jane, and Lavina, who married G. P. Irwin of Newmarket.

J. Ewart Lount, Registrar of Bracebridge, is a son of Charles; also George Fenwick Lount, who was employed on the Geological Survey of Canada for many years. Mrs. Samuel Bray of Ottawa is a sister of J. Ewart Lount.

George Lount died in Barrie on May 8th, 1874. His widow died on March 23rd, 1884.

Samuel Lount, the eldest son of Gabriel Lount, was born on September 24th, 1791. Although he did not qualify as a Land Surveyor, he assisted his father and his brother on their surveys. He took an active interest in politics, was a prominent man in the country, and in 1834 was elected member of the Provincial House for the County of Simcoe. In 1836 he was defeated by the fraudulent means adopted by the Family Compact Government. The partizanship and dishonesty that characterized the Government goaded Samuel Lount into active revolt with Wm. Lyon Mackenzie. Through mismanagement the uprising failed, and after the battle at Montgomery Tavern on Yonge Street, December 7th, 1837, the leaders scattered. Mackenzie and others escaped to the United States, but Samuel Lount was captured, and, with Peter Matthews, suffered political martyrdom on April 12th, 1838. In 1843 their bodies were removed to the Necropolis. Mackenzie returned to Canada after an amnesty was granted in 1849, and was elected to the Provincial House for Haldimand in 1852. Samuel Lount's sons, William, Frank, Seth and Daniel, removed to the United States about 1840.