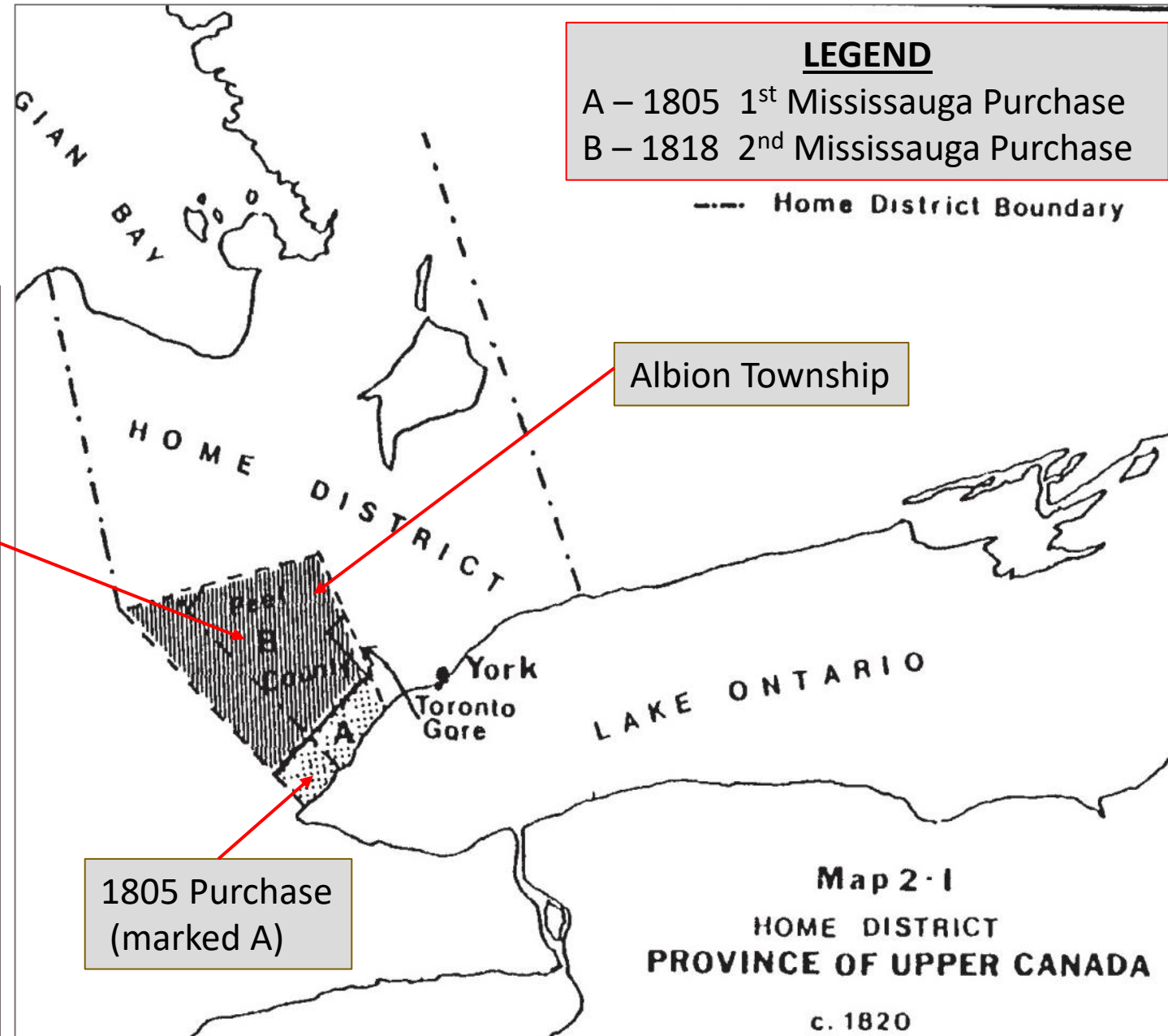


*The land around Bolton has been occupied and used by Indigenous peoples for millenia, including the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee. It is the Treaty Land and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, having been acquired from them by the British Crown through the Ajetance Purchase (Second Mississauga Purchase) in October 1818.*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> MISSISSAUGA PURCHASE 1818

- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation sold 648,000 acres to the British Crown (B)
  - The Crown = King George III
  - Called the Ajetance Purchase or 2<sup>nd</sup> Mississauga Purchase
- The land is within Peel and Halton Counties
- Peel County was divided into townships including Albion and surveyed in 1819

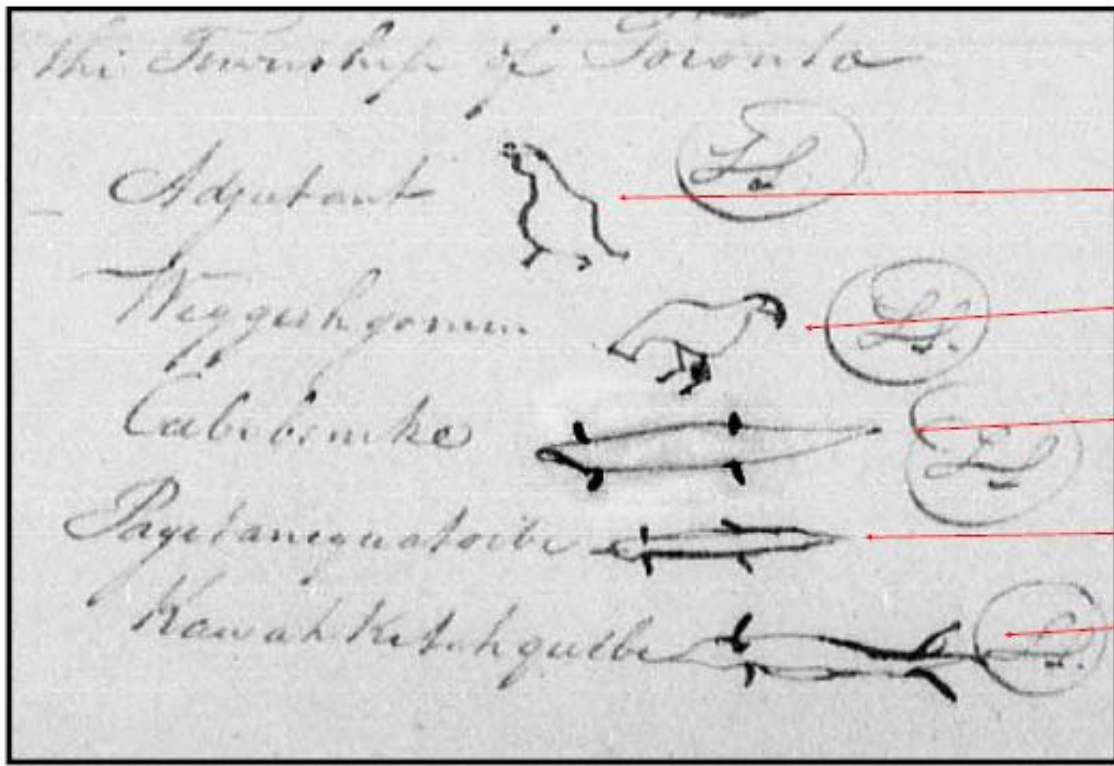




2<sup>nd</sup> MISSISSAUGA  
PURCHASE 1818

=

AJETANCE  
PURCHASE 1818



The Ajetance Treaty Was Signed by:

Ajetance, Chief of the Eagle Tribe

Weggishigomin, Chief of the Eagle Tribe

Cabibonike, of the Otter Tribe

Pagitaniquatoibe, of the Otter Tribe

Kawahkitshqubi, of the Otter Tribe

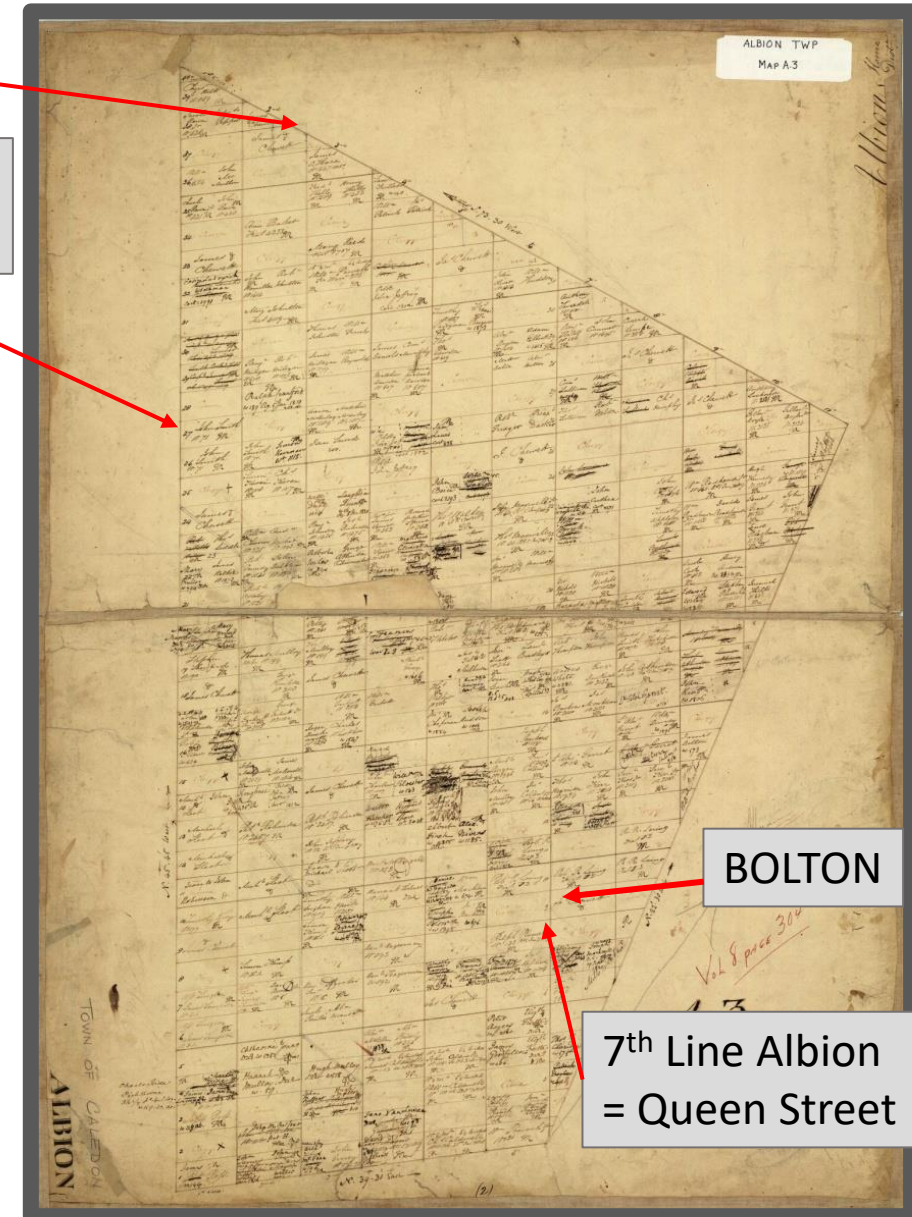
Totems or clan symbols are the signatures  
used by the Indigenous signees to the treaty

# SURVEY OF ALBION TOWNSHIP 1819

Highway 9

Airport Road = Concession line  
= 1<sup>st</sup> Line Albion

## Albion Township Survey Map



BOLTON

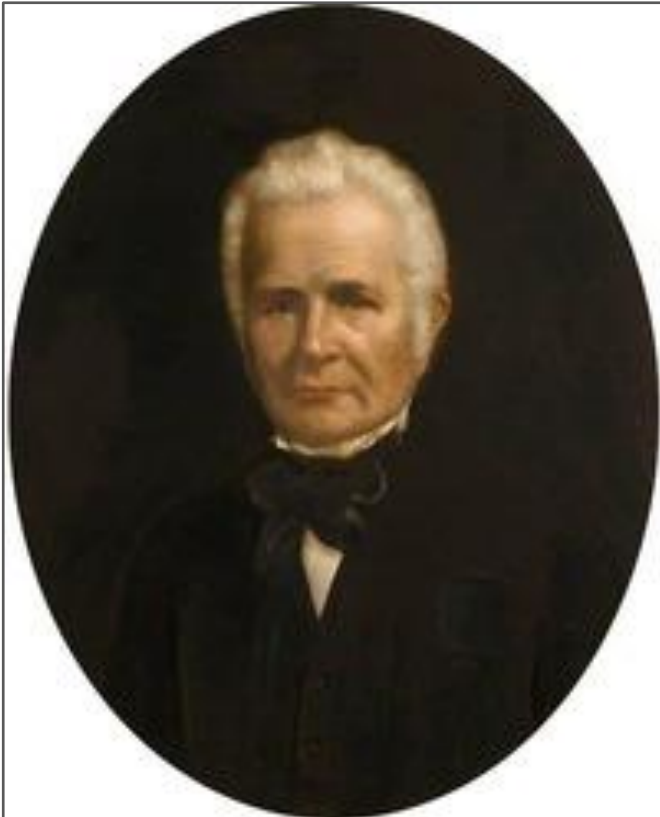
7<sup>th</sup> Line Albion  
= Queen Street

Concession lines + sideroads = today's road grid

Source: Archives of Ontario

- James Chewett was contracted to survey Albion Township. He was tasked with:
  - blazing trees + clearing a sightline (width of horse) along the length of north-south concession lines
  - setting posts to mark 200 acre lots for settlers
  - staking out east-west side roads after every 5 lots
  - reserving 2 lots in every 7 as income for Crown and Clergy
- He hired a work crew of 10 to 12 men + a cook
- The crew hauled equipment, supplies and food
- They dragged a 66 foot iron 'measuring' chain with 100 links every step of the way, mostly through forest
- Lots were measured in 'chains, links and perches'
- The survey took four months to complete

# SURVEYOR JAMES CHEWETT



Portrait of James Chewett

*Source: Dictionary of Canadian Biography*

- James Chewett surveyed townships created from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mississauga Purchase
  - Albion Township
  - Caledon Township – east half
- He was 24 at the time of the surveys (1819)
- His father was a leading government official
- James was paid in land
- He became Peel County's largest landowner
- He subsequently trained as an architect
- Later, he became a government banker



## SETTLEMENT BEGINS LATE 1819

- Albion opened to settlers on October 27, 1819
- There were no roads, only Indigenous trails and the narrow sightlines left by surveyors
- Settlers were required to complete settling duties within an allotted time:
  - build a dwelling 16 feet x 20 feet
  - clear half of roadway in front of their lot
  - clear and fence five acres
- On completion, the land patent was issued
- It was arduous work



Alexander Smith Log House

# 1821 BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 2021

## HOW BOLTON CAME TO BE



# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL

1821 - 2021

## What is a Bicentennial?

It's the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a significant event

The word itself is derived from:

- 'bi' = 2
- centennial = a period of 100 years

A bicentennial commemorates something that happened 200 years ago



# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

What happened in this vicinity 200 years ago?

- On June 5th, 1821, a young immigrant from England, named George Bolton, purchased land along the Humber River
- He bought the 200 acres, bounding on 7<sup>th</sup> Line Albion (now Queen Street) from Albion Township surveyor James Chewett
- This was the 1st commercial transaction in Albion Township



Humber River on part of George Bolton's property

Source: ABHS

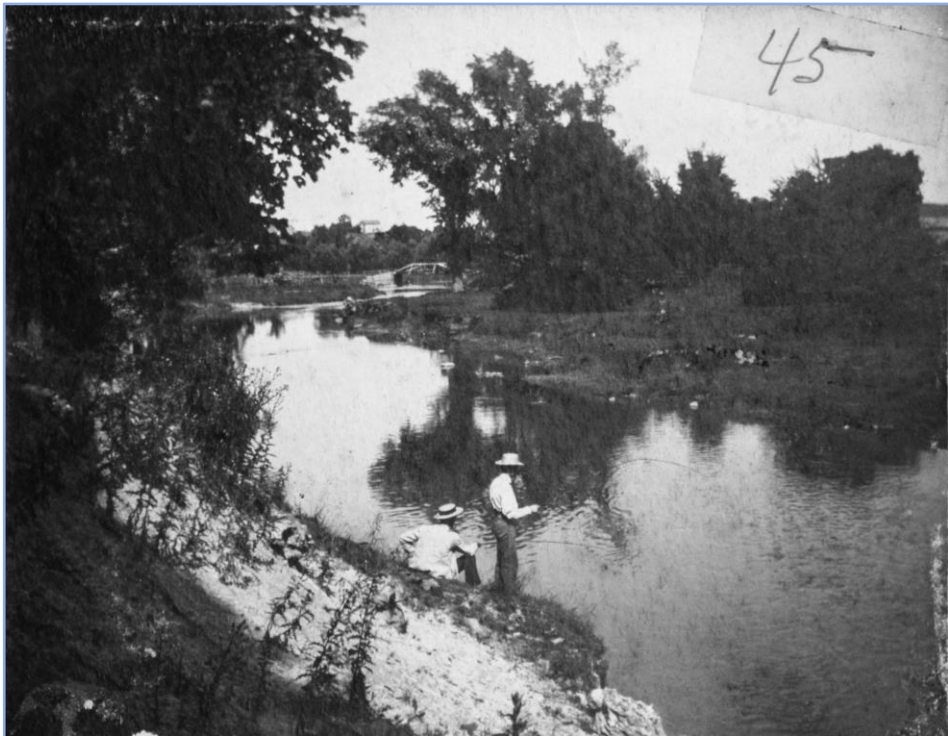
LOT No. 9			CONCESSION		
INSTRUMENT	ITS DATE	DATE OF REGISTRY	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	QUANTITY OF LAND
Patent	25 Aug 1810		The Crown	James P. Chewett	All 200 Acres
1 <sup>st</sup> Sale	5 <sup>th</sup> June 1821	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1824	James Grant Chewett	<u>George Bolton</u>	all
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sale	16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1830	14 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1831	George Bolton	John Goodall	60 acres
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sale	11 Apr 1833	20 Aug 1833	George Bolton	Joseph Canham	41 rods
4 <sup>th</sup> Sale	26 Mar 1839	3 Apr 1839	George Bolton	Charles Bolton	60 acres
5 <sup>th</sup> Sale	8 Dec 1840	14 June 1841	George Bolton	Elijah Harcourt	Part
6 <sup>th</sup> Sale	10 Mar 1845	3 Oct 1845	James Boulton wife	Richard Rapman	1 rods
7 <sup>th</sup> Sale	5 Dec 1845	20 Feb 1846	George Bolton	John Goodall	20 acres

Land Record showing George Bolton's purchase. These 200 acres were part of 2635 acres that Chewett was paid for his survey work in Albion Township

Source: Peel Archives

# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

## Why was this important?



c.1897: A stretch of the Humber River that had been part of George Bolton's property

Source: ABHS

- George Bolton was the first person to settle in what has become BOLTON
- The Humber River flowed through his land which was in Albion Township
- The property was known to be valuable for its water-power
- James Chewett selected it as part-payment for his work surveying Albion
- The land contained one of the best water-powered mill sites in Peel County
- The availability of water-power was highly important in the 19th century

# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL

## 1821 - 2021

### Who was George Bolton?



- George grew up in the village of Worlingworth in Suffolk England
- He was the youngest of six children
- George was 22 when he arrived in Canada in 1821
- His brother James Bolton, 18 years older, settled in Albion Township after it opened to settlers late in 1819
- James' farm was about 7 kilometres northeast of George's land
- James was a skilled carpenter/millwright
- He used these skills to guide George and help him establish his mill



## BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

- First, George built himself a house
- It was a frame building, not one constructed from logs
- The finished house was clad with roughcast plaster
- Wood shingles covered the roof (unlike this example)
- The house was close to the bank of the Humber River

## BUILD A HOUSE



George's house might have looked like this

*Source: Heritage Caledon*

## BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

- The next step was to pick where to dam the Humber River
- George's choice was to position the dam where the valley slope rose on the far side
- The dam was built from large wooden beams
- It was completed in 1822
- The original dam location is still evident

## BUILD A DAM



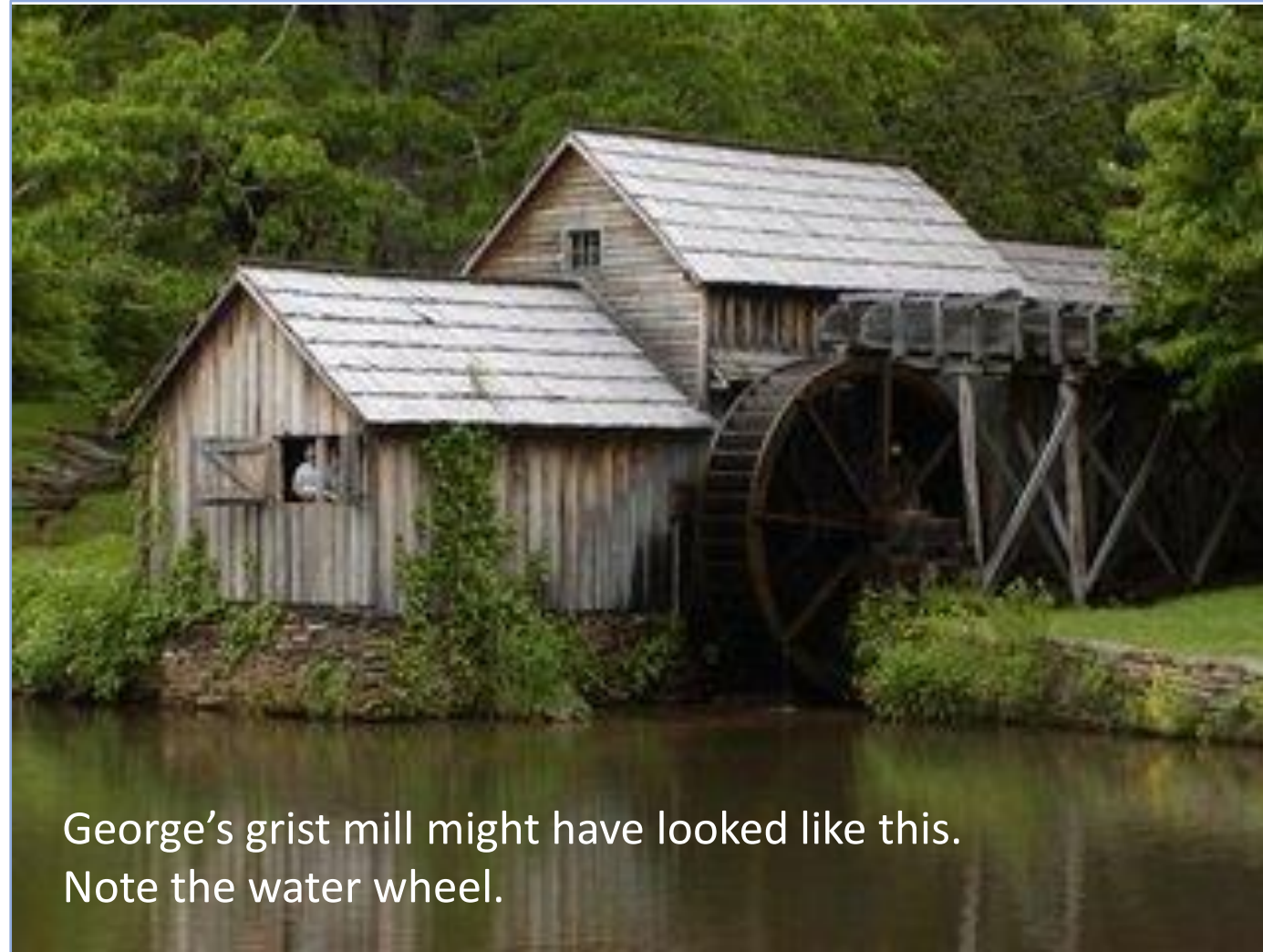
c.1897, showing the location of George Bolton's original dam.  
That first dam washed out in 1842.  
George rebuilt it in the same place.



## BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

- Later in 1822, George started to construct a grist mill
- Grist mills produced flour
- George was guided by his brother James
- The mill took 2 years to finish
- It sat along the river near the curve in Mill Street
- The mill's water wheel was key to the milling operation

## BUILD A GRIST MILL



George's grist mill might have looked like this.  
Note the water wheel.



# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

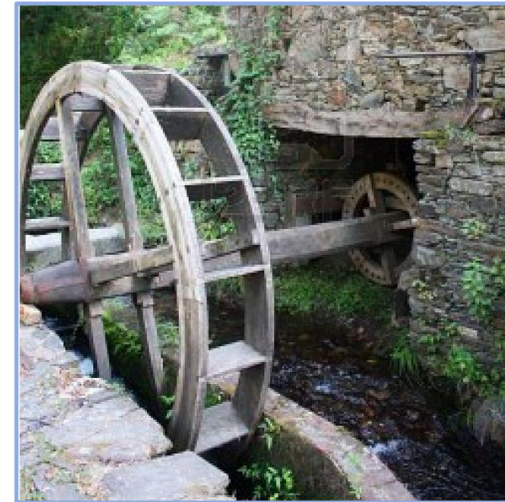
- A large mill pond formed behind the dam
- An opening channeled water from the mill pond to the water wheel
- The channel = a millrace
- The water's force made the wheel turn
- As the wheel turned so did a wooden shaft at its centre

## MILL POND and WATER WHEEL



Bolton's mill pond, circa 1915.  
The dam's edge is visible across the pond.

*Source: ABHS*



Example of water wheel and drive shaft.

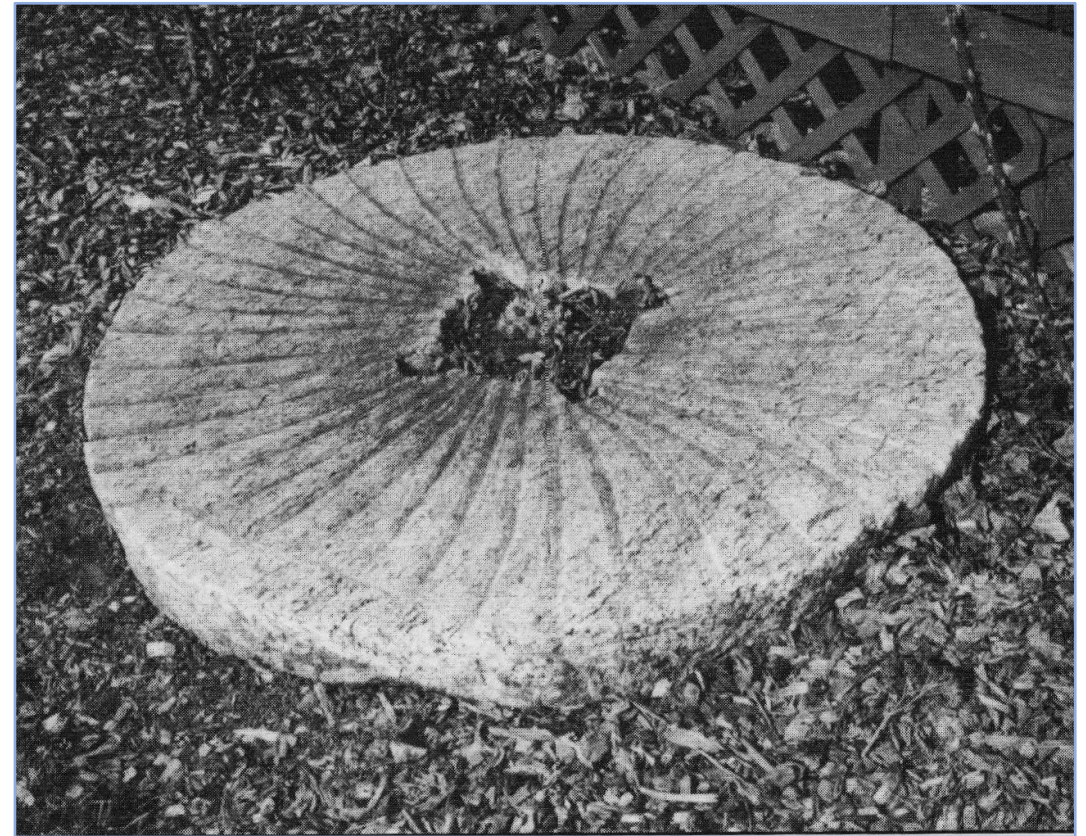
*Source: Internet*

# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL

## 1821 - 2021

- A grist mill produced flour using two large, heavy stones
- The bottom stone was stationary
- The upper stone was connected by cogs to the water wheel's drive shaft
- As the water wheel moved, it rotated the upper mill stone
- The two stones grinding against each other milled wheat kernels into flour

## MILL STONES



A mill stone found near Caledon East.



# MILL PARTS

# WHEAT to FLOUR

Water wheel

Gears and cogs

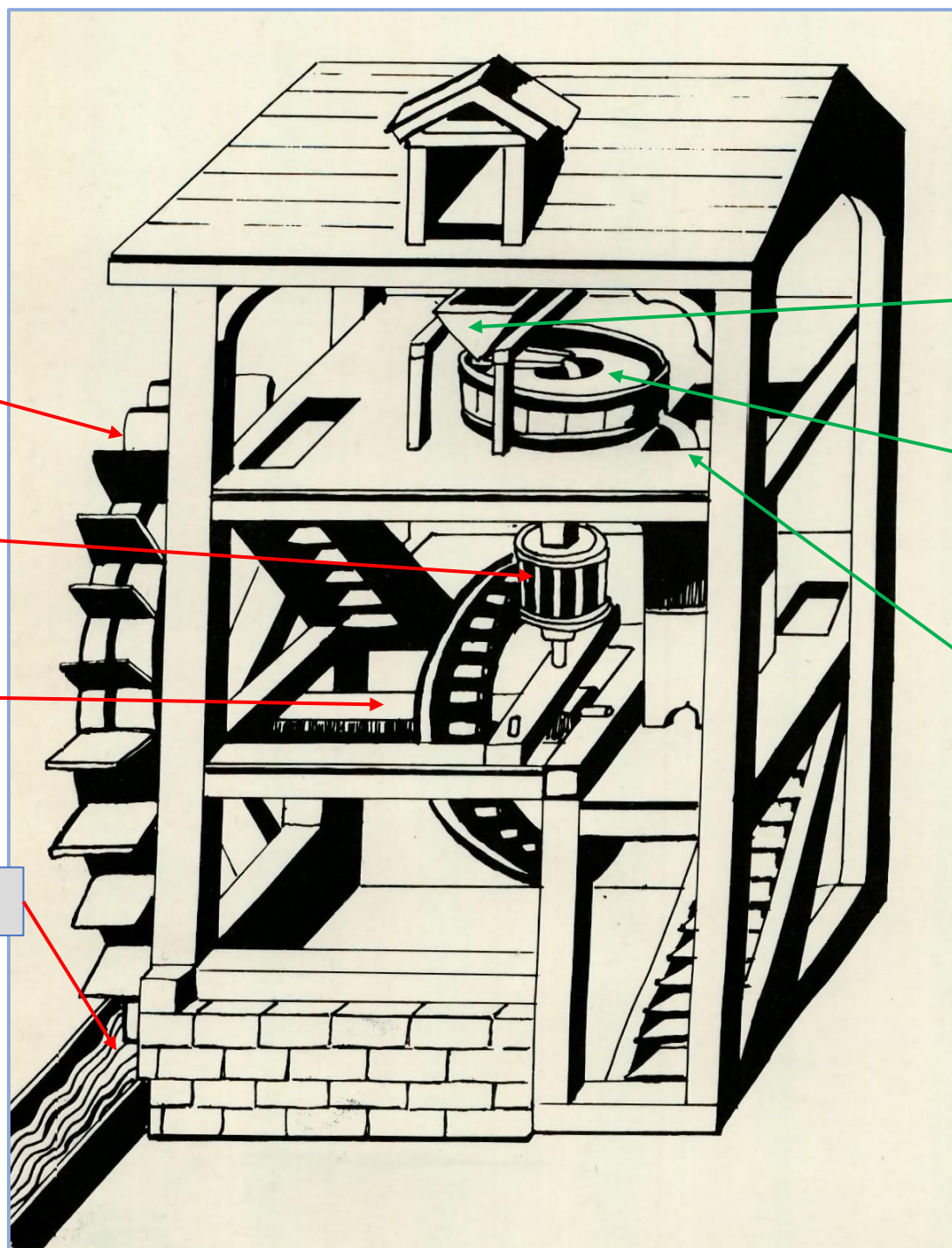
Water wheel drive shaft

Narrow channel = millrace

Hopper for wheat kernels

Wheat kernels flow into a hole in the middle of upper stone

Flour exits via grooves in stones





## BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

- George had to clear roads so settlers could get to his mill
- This included the surveyed 'concession line', now Queen Street, along his lot line
- Mill Street was cleared on either side of the mill
- Once cleared, roads needed to be maintained

## CLEAR ROADS



*Source: Internet*

# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021



Founding of Bolton plaque in Founders Park  
It marks the original dam position on the river

- The grist mill was operational by 1824
- It was the first built in Albion Township
- It initially served farmers within a radius of ten kilometres
- Planting a successful wheat crop was essential for new settlers
- Wheat created flour to make bread
- Getting to the mill was often a challenge:
  - Absentee landowners did not clear their road allowances
  - The mill was in the river valley, surrounded by steep hills
  - Land near mill was reserved for special interests
  - Forced roads such as King Street and Glasgow Road were created to provide access

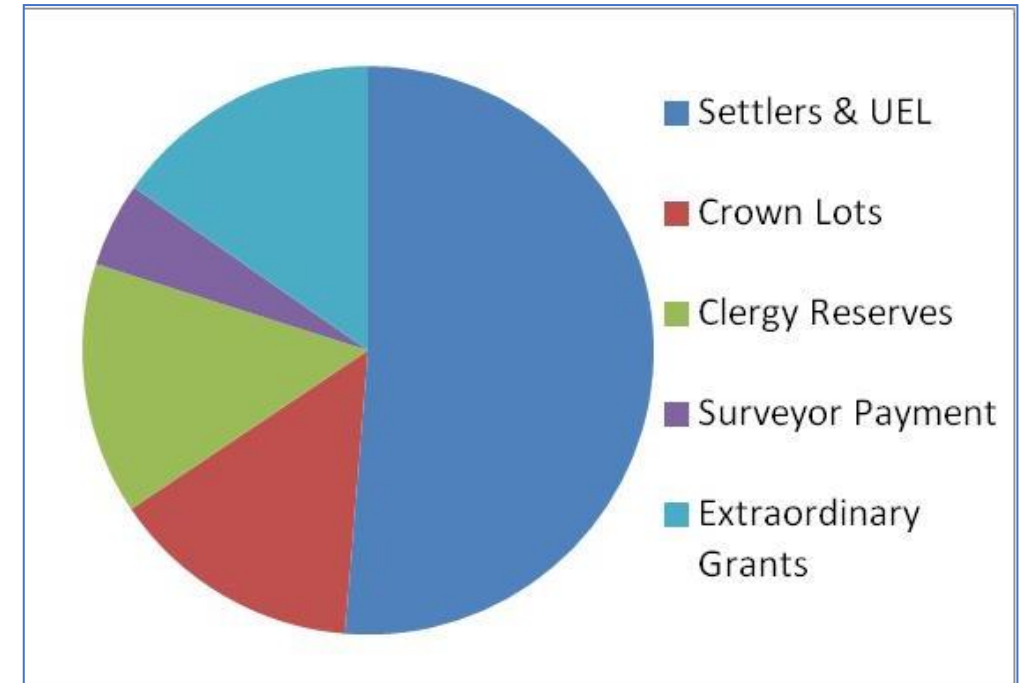
# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

## Story of Robert Loring

- high ranking military staff officer
- he served before, during and after the War of 1812
- was granted 700 acres near Kingston where he lived
- was granted 900 acres in Albion Township
- his land bordered on George Bolton's mill site
- he was typical of many absentee landowners
- he didn't clear his share of the roads
- he held his vacant land for close to 20 years
- his inaction restricted the new settlement's early growth

## IMPACT OF SPECIAL INTERESTS

'Special Interest' groups controlled at least 49% of land in Albion in 1819  
Government and the Anglican Church held Crown and Clergy Reserves  
These Reserves, two of every seven lots, totalled 29% of surveyed land  
Settlers to Albion Township had access to only 51% of surveyed land  
Most of the extraordinary land grants were 'located' in Albion  
These included Family Compact, military officers and 'friends'  
These 'Interests' forced other settlement to be spread out  
No requirement to clear or maintain road allowances  
No requirement to complete settlement duties  
Most were absentee landholders





George Bolton was surrounded by absentees and vacant land

Concession 5	Concession 6	Concession 7	Concession 8	Concession 9	Lot #
Castlederg Sideroad					
					15
				James Bolton	14
					13
	Clergy Reserve		Clergy Reserve		12
Crown Reserve	R Loring Absentee	Crown Reserve	R Loring Absentee		11
deep valley gullies		Today's Columbia Way was uncleared			
	R Loring Absentee	R Loring Absentee	R Loring Absentee		10
	Crown Reserve	George Bolton	Crown Reserve		9
Clergy Reserve	Especial Grant	Clergy Reserve	remnant		8
			remn		7
James Chewett	Clergy Reserve		re		6
Healey Road					

Today's Caledon  
King Town Line

Bolton circa 1830

1 in 7 lots were reserved for Crown  
1 in 7 lots were reserved for Clergy

## BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

What else do we know  
about George Bolton?

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Bolton". The ink is dark and the signature is written on a light background.

- He donated land for the first school 1830
- He opened the first store in 1831
- He became postmaster in 1832 and housed the post office in his store
- He donated land for two churches
- He helped others establish businesses
  - blacksmith
  - cooper
  - tanner
- He persevered and was successful

By 1834, the settlement that formed near George's mill site was called Bolton's Mill

# BOLTON'S MILL c.1834



George's niece Harriet Bolton and John Godbolt settle around 1823



Grist mill operating by 1824

Dam

What is now Mill Street

Humber River

Schoolhouse circa 1830



George Bolton's house



Rough trail leads to the mill

George Bolton's 1831 log store + 1832 post office



★  
Today's King and Queen  
Street intersection

Thomas Rogers' inn and  
blacksmith shop



Samuel Sterne's log  
house circa 1832



# KEY FACTS 1835-1845



Mill pond with tannery to left

- 1836: Francis McDonald builds a log house and a separate cooperage to make flour barrels
- 1837: Samuel Sterne takes over as postmaster; Thomas Rogers is the local constable
- 1837: William Lyon Mackenzie's cause is actively supported in Bolton's Mill; it ends in rebellion
- 1837: In the rebellion's aftermath, James Bolton Sr. flees to US with two sons; James died in Indiana in 1840
- 1839: Samuel Sterne builds village's first hotel; he also starts up a stone distillery on Humber River
- 1839: Richard Paxman starts up a tannery on the north shore of the river
- 1841: Blacksmith Elijah Harsent is operating a tavern/inn and 'smithy' at the NE corner of Mill and Queen
- 1841: Samuel Walford Sr. develops a soap and candle making business
- 1842: School made from mud bricks opens under government supervision. Samuel Walford Jr. is the teacher
- 1842: George Bolton donates land for Primitive Methodist and Congregational churches
- 1842: Major flood washes out the dam; it is rebuilt in the same location
- 1843: Samuel Walford Sr. becomes postmaster for life, a role he will hold for 24 years
- 1843: Samuel Sterne starts selling commercial lots on the west side of Queen Street
- 1844: An Anglican church is built using hand-made mud bricks
- 1845: George Bolton sells his mill and mill property to his nephew James Bolton Jr.
- 1845: George Evans is issued a licence; he converts his shoemaking shop into a tavern



c.1842 Primitive Methodist Chapel

## BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

- George Bolton operated the mill until 1845
- He then sold it to nephew (and assistant) James Bolton Jr.
- James Jr. built a new, much larger mill, further downstream, in 1846
  - The new mill was three storeys high
  - it operated with 3 runs of stones
  - A full stone basement opened onto the riverbank behind

## A NEW MILL 1846



Mill built by James Bolton Jr. as it appeared in early 1890s.



## BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

- Moving the mill site downstream was a huge undertaking
- James Jr. organized workers to dig a new mill race, by hand, part of which was tunneled, to reach the mill
- The mill race forms part of Bolton Mill park

## MOVING THE MILL

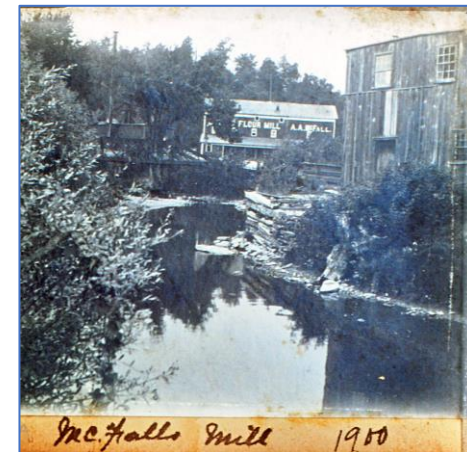


# KEY FACTS 1846-1859

- 1846: James Bolton Jr.'s much larger downstream grist mill is producing flour by year end
- 1846: Charles Bolton, James Jr.'s brother, registers village's 1<sup>st</sup> plan of subdivision; Charles begins selling lot
- 1846: Saw mill is set up on earlier grist mill site; run by William Bolton, youngest of James Bolton Sr.'s six sons
- 1847: George Evans replaces his tavern with a two-storey hotel called the Exchange
- 1847: Matthew Gray starts a brickyard on the southeast side of the village
- 1848: James Johnston builds a hotel with tavern on SE corner of King Street at Queen
- 1848: Anglican and Methodist church cemeteries are established
- 1850: James Bolton Jr. again doubles the size of the grist mill
- 1850: James Jr. also builds a large general store called Bolton Brothers
- 1850: James provides a village bake oven, probably operated by baker Frederick Toy
- 1851: Charles Bolton with sons Lambert and John is running Bolton Brothers general store
- 1851: Village Hall is built on the south side of King Street West
- 1852: Callendar Brothers build a large commercial building
- 1854: Surveyor T.C. Prosser lays out lots and streets east of Queen St on Bolton's first map
- 1855: James Bolton Jr. sells his grist mill and property to Edward Lawson
- 1856: Edward Lawson builds two-storey store on Queen Street at Mill, open daily at 6:30am
- 1857: Wyatt Jaffary becomes a partner in a store on NW corner of Queen and King
- 1859: Tremaine's Map of Peel County contains a separate map of Bolton
- 1859: A steam biscuit factory is in operation



c.1852 Commercial building



1846 mill as seen in 1900

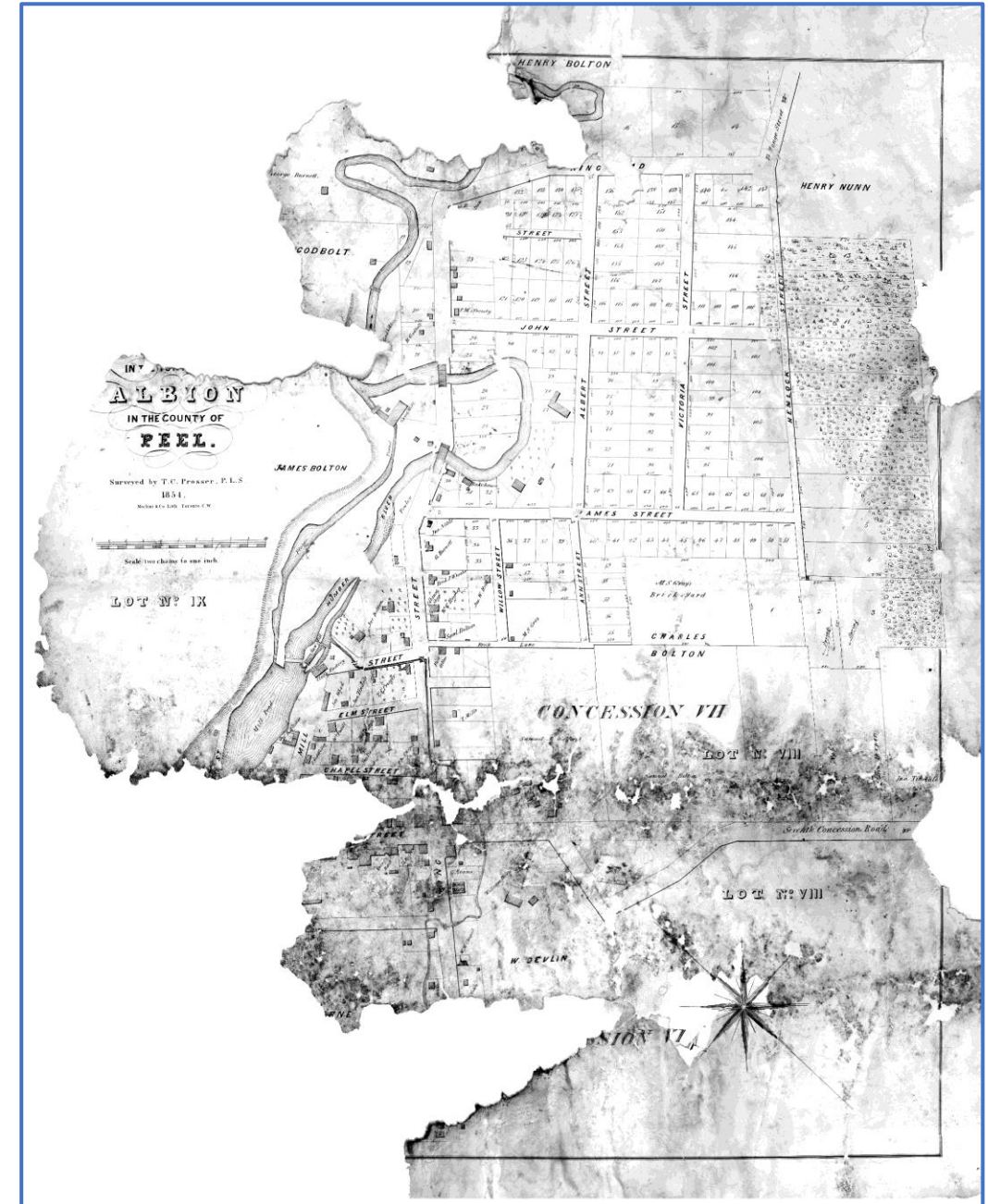


# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

- This map was found in pieces inside a bag that fell from the attic ceiling of a house during demolition
- The pieces were 'stitched' together electronically
- It is the earliest map of Bolton and the only copy
- It was commissioned by Charles and James Bolton
- It was drawn by T.C. Prosser, PLC and local resident
- The lots and names noted have provided information about who was living in Bolton in 1854
- It confirms that there are 15 buildings, built prior to 1854, that are still standing today

E  
↑

## PROSSER MAP 1854



# KEY FACTS 1860-1875

- 1860: Edward Lawson sells the grist mill and property to John Gardhouse
- 1860: Thomas Curliss is operating a hotel on Queen Street just north of the river
- 1860: Temperance Hall at John and Victoria streets is converted into a school
- 1867: Postmaster Samuel Walford dies; hotelier George Evans is then appointed, also for life
- 1867: Bolton Militia unit is set up to counter the threat of Fenian raids
- 1868: William Porritt builds an ashery
- 1869: William Dick starts up a foundry business named Bolton Agricultural Works on King Street East
- 1869: Ontario Hotel is built...there are now six hotels/inns on Queen Street within a two block radius
- 1870: Toronto Grey & Bruce Railway reaches Bolton. A station is built on the tableland close to Queen Street
- 1871: Passenger train service to Toronto commences
- 1872: Jesse N. Bolton (son of Samuel Bolton) starts a local newspaper which he calls the 'Cardwell Observer'
- 1872: Bolton's population of 795 meets requirements for village incorporation. Lambert Bolton is elected Reeve
- 1873: January 1 is first meeting of Incorporated Village of Bolton. Samuel Walford Jr. is named Village Clerk
- 1873: Albert Dodds opens the Bolton Carriage Works
- 1873: Toronto Hotel aka Station Hotel opens beside railway station
- 1874: Two-storey brick school is built named Bolton Public School
- 1875: John Gardhouse builds an elaborate store on Queen Street
- 1875: Bolton's hillsides are denuded



Toronto Grey & Bruce Railway Station



John Gardhouse Store



Bolton Public School



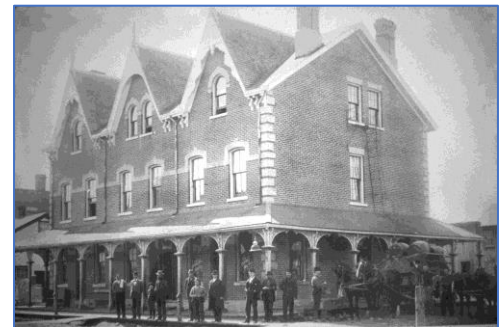
# HOTEL, INN, TAVERN LOCATIONS



Albion Hotel (aka Curliss Hotel)



Ontario Hotel



Queen's Hotel



Balmoral Hotel



Elijah Harsent Inn



Sterne's Distillery c.1839

Albion Hotel c.1860

Elijah Harsent Inn c.1841  
Building is still standing

Sterne's Inn c.1839

Ontario Hotel c.1869

Evan's Tavern c.1845

Exchange Hotel c.1847. Rebuilt c.1881  
Renamed Queen's Hotel

James Johnston's Inn/Tavern c.1848  
Renamed Masonic Arms then Balmoral

Toronto Hotel at TG&B Railway c.1872  
Queen and Shore Street

*Annotated copy of Tremaine's Map of Peel 1859*



# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

How many people  
were there in  
Bolton?

## BOLTON POPULATION ESTIMATES

	Original Source	Population	
1819	Location Tickets	0	
1830	Estimate <sup>1</sup>	12	
1835	Estimate <sup>1</sup>	20	
1840	Estimate <sup>2</sup>	60	
1851	Albion Twp Census	~ 400	
1866	Fuller's Directory	700	
1872	Incorporation Census <sup>3</sup>	795	
1877	Historical Atlas of Peel	~ 900	
	compiled by Albion Bolton Historical Society		

# KEY FACTS 1877-1894



Pearcy Block



Queen's Hotel



Enterprise Building Doig Block

- 1877: Percy Block is built on west side of Queen Street, north of Sterne
- 1881: Andrew McFall buys Bolton grist mill and property from John Gardhouse estate
- 1881: Doig Block is built on the site of Sterne's Hotel which had burned down in 1880
- 1881: Exchange Hotel burns down and is re-built; c.1885 it is renamed the Queen's Hotel
- 1884: Bolton's baseball team wins the three county men's championship
- 1884: Rear space in David Hughes' general store becomes Mechanics Institute reading room
- 1885: The Bolton Brass Band is formed under the leadership of David Hughes
- 1885: Ashery closes as ash supply from hardwood trees dwindle
- 1885: Tannery closes after local supplies of hemlock bark are exhausted
- 1886: Disastrous fire destroys much of the east side of Queen Street, all frame buildings
- 1886: Rutherford Block with six brick commercial units is built on east side of Queen St
- 1888: Herbert Bolton buys his cousin's newsweekly, re-names it 'The Enterprise'
- 1888: First long-distance telephone line is installed in Samuel Snell's drugstore
- 1888: John Plummer builds his own foundry on Mill Street
- 1893: Frank Leavens purchases 'The Enterprise'. He relocates it to the Doig Block in 1900
- 1894: Laurel Hill Cemetery opens as a public cemetery
- 1894: With few hardwood trees left, heating homes depends on coal and wood dealers
- 1894: Arthur McFall purchases the mill operations and property from his father's estate

# KEY FACTS 1900-1912

- 1900: Councillor Geo. Scott defeats plans for water mains in Bolton; it will be years before there is running water
- 1900: Private telephone line is installed from the mill to the grain elevator near the station
- 1900: Joseph F. Warbrick Jr. takes over the local private bank, established the previous year, in the Percy Block
- 1901: Arthur McFall builds tennis courts and organizes a tennis club on land below the mill dam
- 1902: Acetylene gas lighting is being used for street lamps and some store lighting
- 1906: CPR starts building a new rail line north from Bolton to meet the transcontinental line near Sudbury
- 1908: Arthur McFall adopts a government programme and re-forests the hillside north of the mill race and mill
- 1908: New CPR station at the top of Station Road opens in mid-October
- 1908: Masonic Arms Hotel is taken down; a newly built Imperial Bank of Canada branch opens in 1909
- 1909: Percy Block is demolished to make way for the Bolton Telephone Company's new building
- 1910: Bolton Light Heat and Power Company starts providing electricity in Bolton
- 1912: Huge flood in April destroys the mill dam; it is replaced by a concrete dam built further downstream



CPR Station in Bolton



Imperial Bank of Canada: King at Queen



McFall Mill Dam in 1912



# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

- Bolton was no stranger to flooding
- The Humber River frequently overflowed its banks
- One of the worst floods was in April 1912 when a major storm destroyed the dam

## FLOOD OF 1912



April 1912: the ruptured dam, ice and flooding on the Humber.

## BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

- After the 1912 flood, a new dam was built further downstream
- It was built by Arthur McFall who then owned the mill
- The downstream location created a larger mill pond
- Larger mill pond = more power
- Remains of the concrete dam are visible from the McFall Lookout on King Street East

## A NEW DAM 1912



The McFall Dam shortly after its construction in 1912.



# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

- The mill continued milling flour until 1951
- For years, it was the community's largest employer
- The mill supported the local economy for 130 years

## THE MILL LEGACY



The McFall Mill around 1915.

*Source: McFall Family Collection*



# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021

## A COMMUNITY EVOLVES



Around 1912: Looking south across the Humber River at what had been George Bolton's property.

*Source: ABHS*



# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL

## 1821 - 2021

From George Bolton's purchase of land in 1821 and his subsequent construction of a water-powered grist mill, our community has evolved to what it is today.



Bolton circa 1905: looking north through the four corners.

*Source: ABHS*



# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL

## 1821 - 2021





# BOLTON BICENTENNIAL 1821 - 2021



JUNE 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

