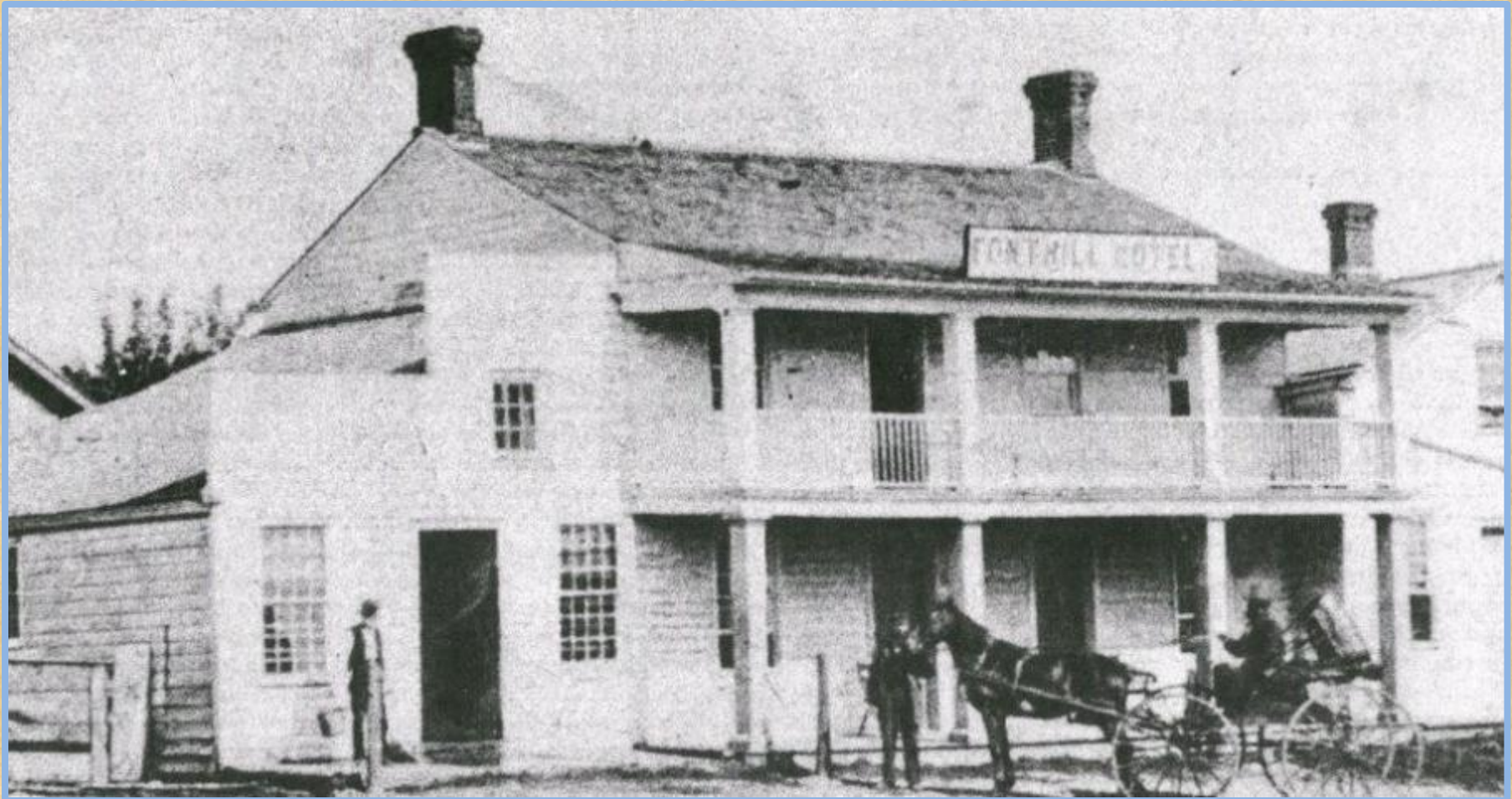


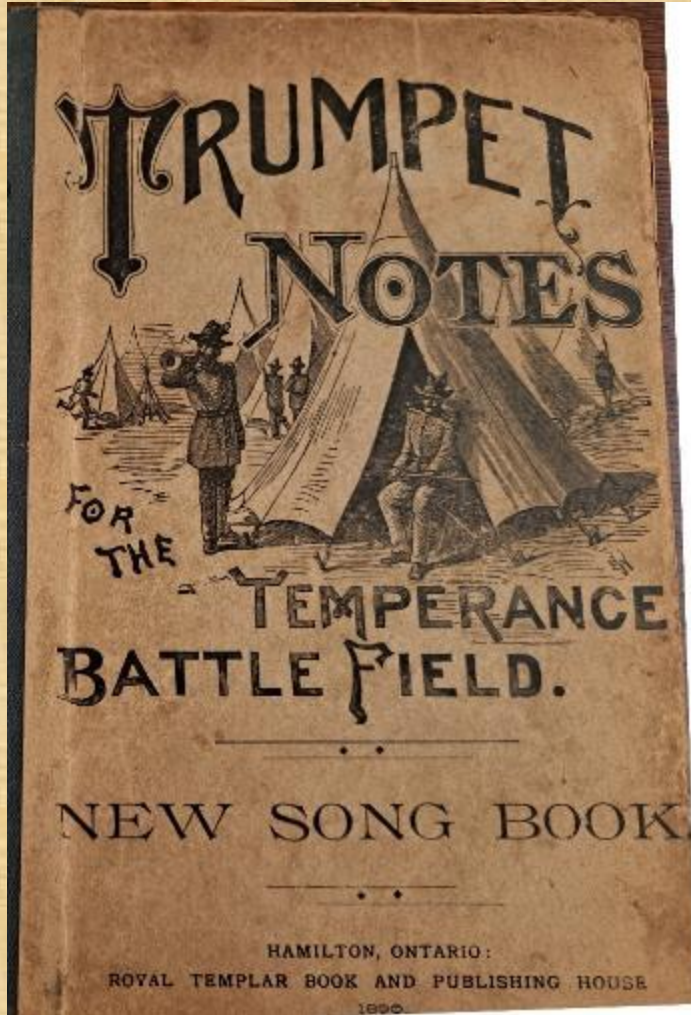
Taverns, Temperance and Roads in Early Pelham Township



Local 19th Century Temperance Organizations

- Sons of Temperance organized in Fonthill in 1850
- Royal Templars of Temperance, Willett Counsel #10 was instituted March 25, 1880 in Pelham
 - A grand temperance demonstration and picnic was held in Mr. D'Everardo's Grove on August 16, 1882 under the auspices of the Royal Templars (Hamilton Spectator, August 12, 1882)
- Women's Christian Temperance Union
- International Organization of Good Templars
- Temperance County Lodge
- Youth groups through the Sunday Schools
- In 1876 there were 30 members in Fenwick in each of Soft and IOGT and they competed for members

Temperance Songbook Covers



1890



1900

Temperance Legislation

- *1864 Canada Temperance Act (Dunkin Act)*
- *1878 The Canada Temperance Act (Scott Act)*
- *1898 Referendum*
 - 51% voted for prohibition but Wilfred Laurier declined to adopt the measure as a majority voted against it in Quebec
- *1916-27 Ontario Temperance Act*
- *1918-19 Federal manufacturing ban*

Prohibition

- 1915-1917 - each province, except Quebec, enacts prohibition under the War Measures Act (1914)
- 1918 – the Canadian government banned the inter-provincial trade in liquor

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made you free and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage."

"Maintain Prohibition" Programme

for
Sunday Schools
1924

The Merriest Joke

"The children in America had never had such a time since the days of Eden. . . . I am not sure whether there were any children there, but if there were not, well, they are making it up by establishing one of their own in America. . . . I have heard men laugh at prohibition, to treat it as a great joke. Believe me, the children of America are laughing at prohibition, and they regard it as the merriest joke of their little lives."

—Right Hon. David Lloyd George

Published by

THE ONTARIO PLEBISCITE COMMITTEE

Send Orders to

THE ONTARIO PROHIBITION UNION

24 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ont.

Why Ontario Must Vote

No!



Twelve Plain Reasons for Banishing Booze Forever

- 1** "Booze" cost Ontario \$36,000,000 a year before war-time prohibition came in. The Ontario Temperance Act has saved this huge, waste-ful expenditure, which is more than enough to pay Ontario's share of interest on the Canadian war debt.
- 2** "Booze" fills the jails, the insane asylums and the hospitals. The Ontario Temperance Act is emptying the jails, has closed the gold mine hospitals, and alcoholic insanity has disappeared.
- 3** "Booze" drains money from productive industry and kills jobs. The Ontario Temperance Act has increased manufacturing and business prosperity.
- 4** "Booze" mangles wives and children, homes clean in misery and squalor. The Ontario Temperance Act has brought peace and happiness into thousands of homes and improved the living conditions of thousands of families.
- 5** "Booze" shortens a man's life, so infamous Canadian liquorism proves absolutely. The Ontario Temperance Act has saved years of life to thousands of citizens.
- 6** repeal of the Ontario Temperance Act means return to the Ontario Liquor Act and the evils of the open bar, and liquor of every kind and strength. The Ontario Temperance Act will keep the "lid on Booze" if the majority at the Poll vote "No", and the voters do not neglect their franchise.
- 7** "Booze" is constantly the cause of fatal accidents—motor accidents, railway accidents, shipwrecks, and accidental murders, homicides and suicides. The Ontario Temperance Act is the greatest saviour of all for "Safety First." Remember that your life is in the hands of others every day.
- 8** "Booze" has been driven out of practically every responsible community in North America, including the entire United States and most of Canada.

If the Ontario Temperance Act is repealed, or rendered worse than worthless by the proposed amendments, Ontario will be the "sack-bull" of the continent.

9 "Booze" wastes lives, money, God-fraught labor and time; produces suffering, sorrow and causes insanity, crime, poverty, sickness and death. The Ontario Temperance Act will save all this waste and mischief at a period when every man should be 100 per cent efficient, and every cent is needed to meet the cost of living and the debts of war.

10 Booze as strong as poison on the ballot will produce drunkenness and its attendant evils. The Ontario Temperance Act forbids beer stronger than the limit for liquor defined by law as non-intoxicating.

11 By the sale of 25¢ beer in Standard Hotel bars, the liquor people hope to smother the thin end of the wedge, to pay "the lid off" other restrictions. The Ontario Temperance Act has improved legitimate hotel-keeping in Ontario, removed the liquor trade, returned the "lid on" "booze", and closed up the "loose" saloons.

12 By a century of experience Ontario has proved that there can be no compromise with "booze." It must be eradicated root and branch, family and for all. Three years of experience of the Ontario Temperance Act has proved it a blessing in the province, and that its repeal or weakening would be a calamity.

Men and Women Electors of Ontario

1	Am you in favour of the repeal of the Ontario Temperance Act?	YES	NO
2	Am you in favour of the sale of light beer containing not more than five and eight per cent alcohol and made to the Ontario Temperance Act's pattern "weak beer"?	YES	NO
3	Am you in favour of the sale of light beer containing not more than five and eight per cent alcohol and made to the Ontario Temperance Act's pattern "weak beer"?	YES	NO
4	Am you in favour of the sale of sparkling and still wine to the Ontario Temperance Act's pattern "weak wine"?	YES	NO

Your duty to yourself, your children, your neighbors and your Province is to get out on Monday and VOTE—Everybody! Let us see this morning of "booze" in this Province forever! It can't be left to somebody else. It can't be done by writing at home. Vote, and vote No.

Mark Four X's
(Once under each NO. Once after each question)

Mark nothing more or less. Be careful. The sum of 100 years is at stake.

Ontario Referendum Committee

Setting the Scene - Early 19th Century US Tavern

This painting shows a bird cage bar similar to what was in the Brown Homestead at the NE corner of Pelham Township and the Fralick Tavern at Lundy's Lane Battlefield, both of which can still be visited today.



“Village Tavern,” John Lewis Krimmel (1814-1815)

The Bar and the Road

A Bar to Respectability	The Road to Vice
A Bar to Honour	The Road to Gamblers' Hell
A Bar to Happiness	The Road to the Brothel
A Bar to Domestic Felicity	The Road to Poverty
A Bar to Heaven.	The Road to Wretchedness
	The Road to Robbery
	The Road to Murder
	The Road to Prison
	The Road to the Gallows
	The Road to Hell.

*The York Herald, February 9, 1872 as quoted in Tavern in the Town:
Early Inns and Taverns of Ontario, Margaret McBurney and Mary Byers*

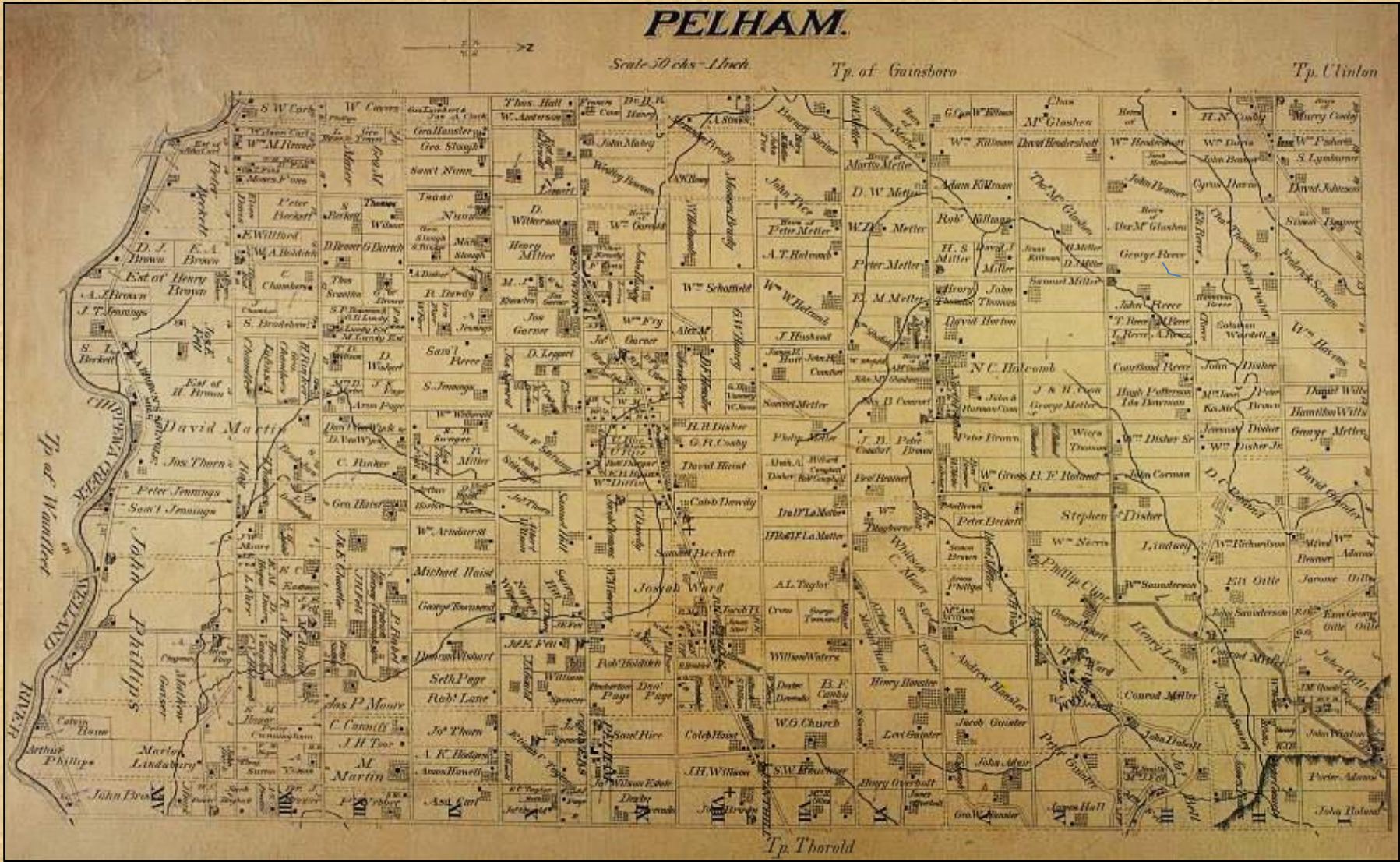
Roads and Taverns

- Our session title includes Roads because without roads, and through-roads in particular, there might not have been many Taverns in Pelham.
- The vast majority of early settlers were members of the Quaker, Tunker or Mennonite faiths, all of whom had a strong aversion to strong drink.
- Later in the nineteenth century German immigrants such as the Haist family and the Church of God adherent Bouk family shared this temperance leaning.

Stage Coach Lines & Taverns

- Samuel D. Purdy opened a stage coach line between NOTL and York in 1816, though there were already several running along the Niagara Portage Road as early as 1801. These stage coach lines were often operated by tavern owners.
- Taverns acted as terminus, ticket office and way stations for the coach companies. Occasionally coaches were deliberately delayed to ensure adequate time for travelers to spend money in the wayside taverns.
- Horses and coaches were cared for at livery stables, usually attached to or closely affiliated with the tavern.
- The demise of the stage coach lines began after 1856 when the railways came through Niagara, compounded in 1874 by Temperance votes.
- 1851 Census of Canada West (Ontario) reported 1 tavern for every 500 people

1876 H.R. Page Atlas Map of Pelham



Twenty Road Which Skirts the Northern Border of Pelham (1862 Tremaine Map)

- D – James S. & Isabella Bates (C2L19) – 1860s
- C – Palmer Buckbee Inn (C1L17) (1834-1868)
- B – Henry (Smith) of Pelham Tavern 1842-1856, aka The Mountainview Inn (Louth C8L5)
- A – Brown Homestead (early 1800s Adam Brown and after 1858 Joseph Chellew)

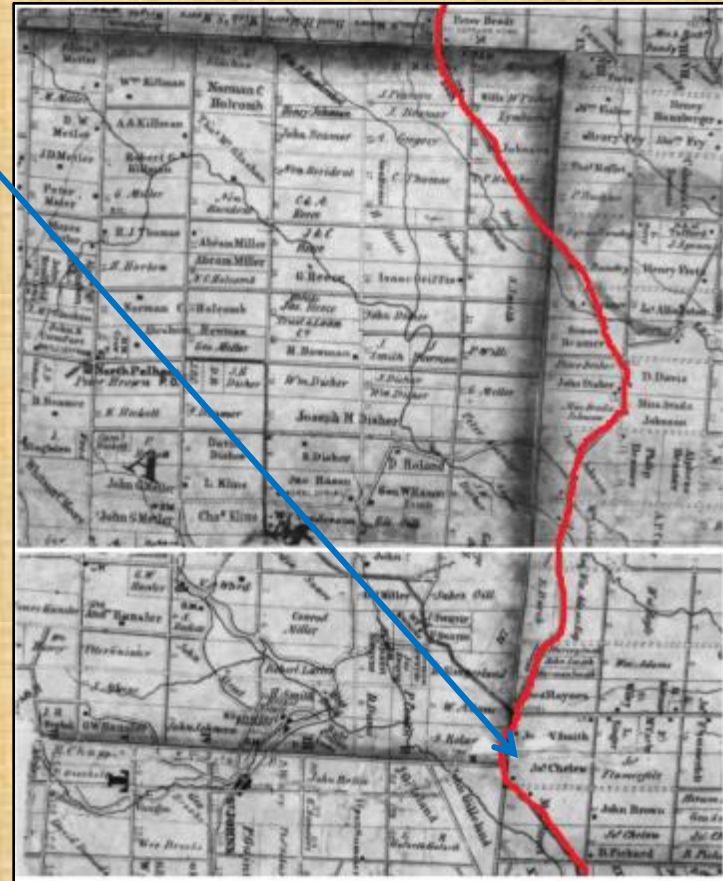


Power
Glen

Twenty Road (1862 Tremaine Map)

- **A – Brown Homestead** (early 1800s Adam Brown and after 1858 Joseph Chellew)
- Though located in St. Catharines, its is only a few hundred metres from the NE corner of Pelham Township (and Town)

To Smithville



Power
Glen

Twenty Road (1862 Tremaine map)

- **B – Henry (Smith) of Pelham Tavern** 1842-1856
- Corner of Effingham and Pelham (Stone) Road. Marked as a “Hotel” on this 1862 map.



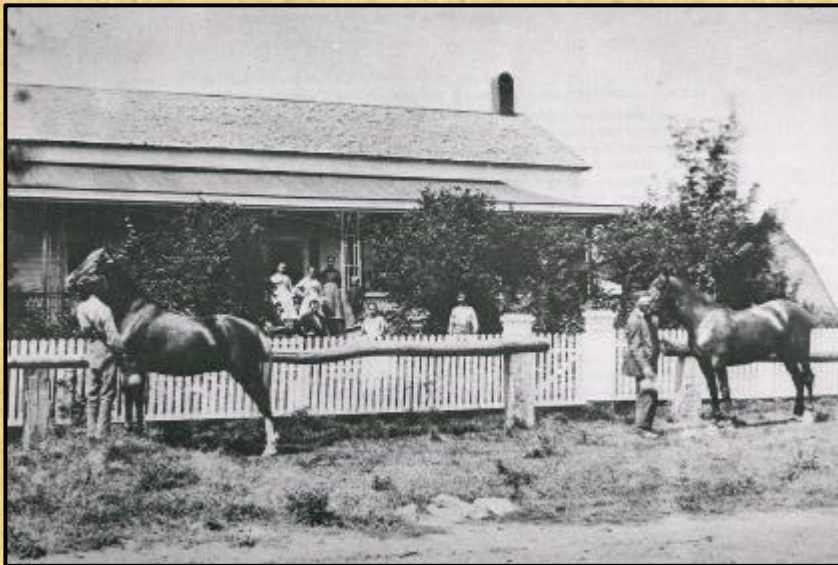
To Smithville



Power
Glen

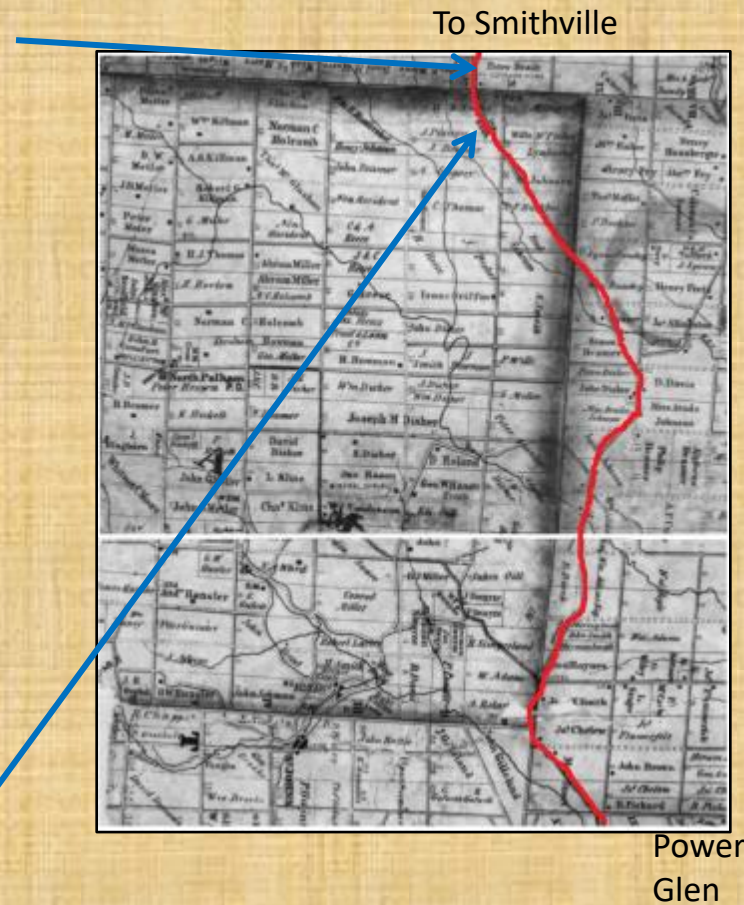
Twenty Road (1862 Tremaine map)

- **C – Palmer Buckbee Inn** (C1L17)
(1834-1868)
- 1978 PHS Calendar – A Former Inn,
photo believed to be from 1870 just
after it stopped functioning as a
tavern
- Coopers shop and weavers shop in the
back of the Inn as well as a blacksmith
forge – tubs, barrels and hand woven
articles were produced



Twenty Road (1862 Tremaine map)

- Immediately west across Hwy 24 and the Gainsboro Twp line (now West Lincoln) on the Twenty Road was the John S. Moore Hotel also marked on this map (later Putt's Inn)
- **D – James S. & Isabella Bates (C2L19)** – inn keeper and blacksmith per a caption on the side of this 1862 map. James S. Bates purchased 1.25 acres in C2L19 on August 27, 1860 and sold on Feb 8, 1865. He also purchased the west 50 acres o C2L19 in 1869 and sold in 1871.
- There had been a tavern on this property as early as 1845 when Abraham Hendershot was granted a tavern license and again in 1847 & 1848 when Jacob Hendershot was given a license. Jacob had purchased the property in 1832. Moore family members held it briefly from 1858 to 1860.



Pelham Union (Pelham, Louth, Clinton, Gainsboro)

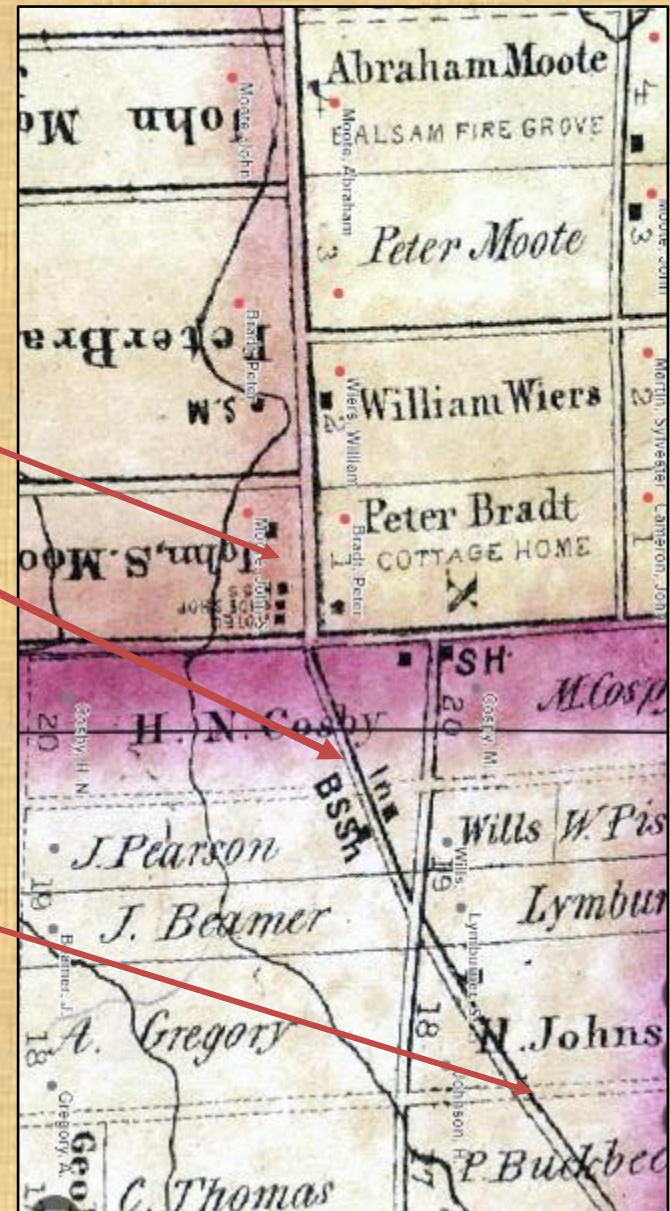
John S. Moore

Hendershot-Bates

The Bates inn stretch of Twenty Road
between Sawmill and the West Lincoln part
of Twenty Road no longer exists

Palmer Buckbee

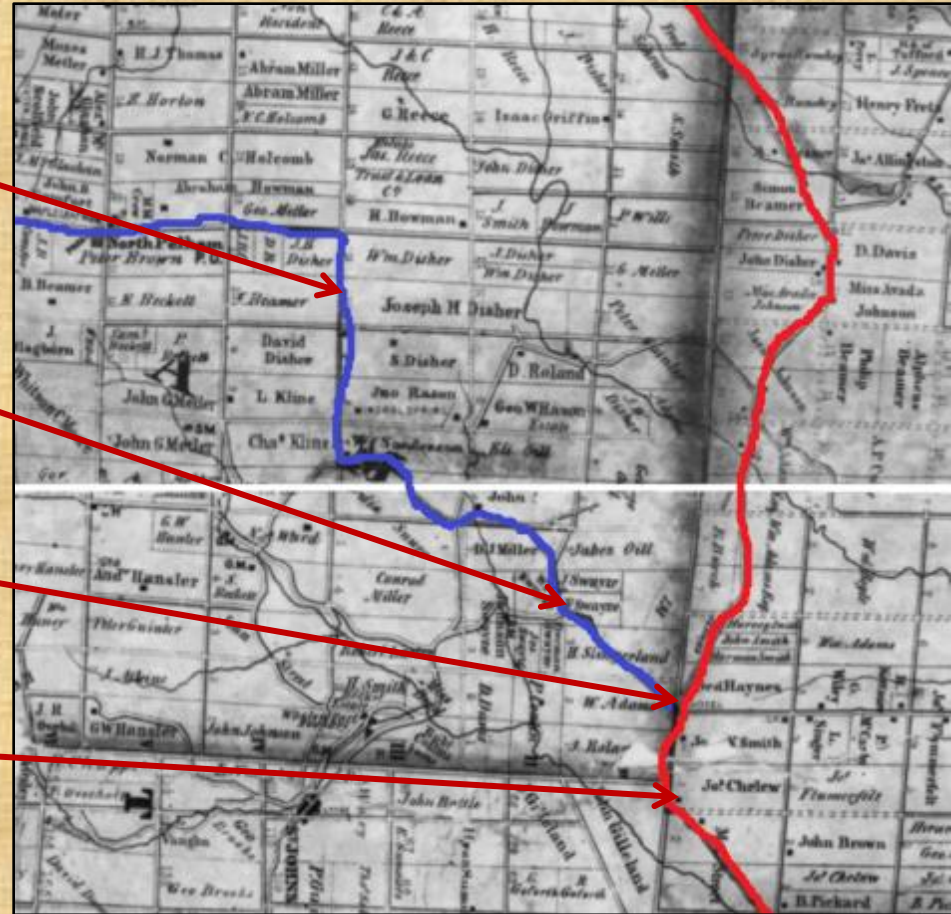
The Pelham Union School House (SH)
shown on this map remained open until
1965. It served students from 4 townships
– see 1978 PHS Calendar article



Effingham to North Pelham & Fenwick

- F – Disher Hotel (C3L10) – 1855-1872
- E – William Freeman Swayze's Inn (C2L4) 1850s
- B – Henry (Smith) of Pelham
- A – Brown Homestead

Fenwick

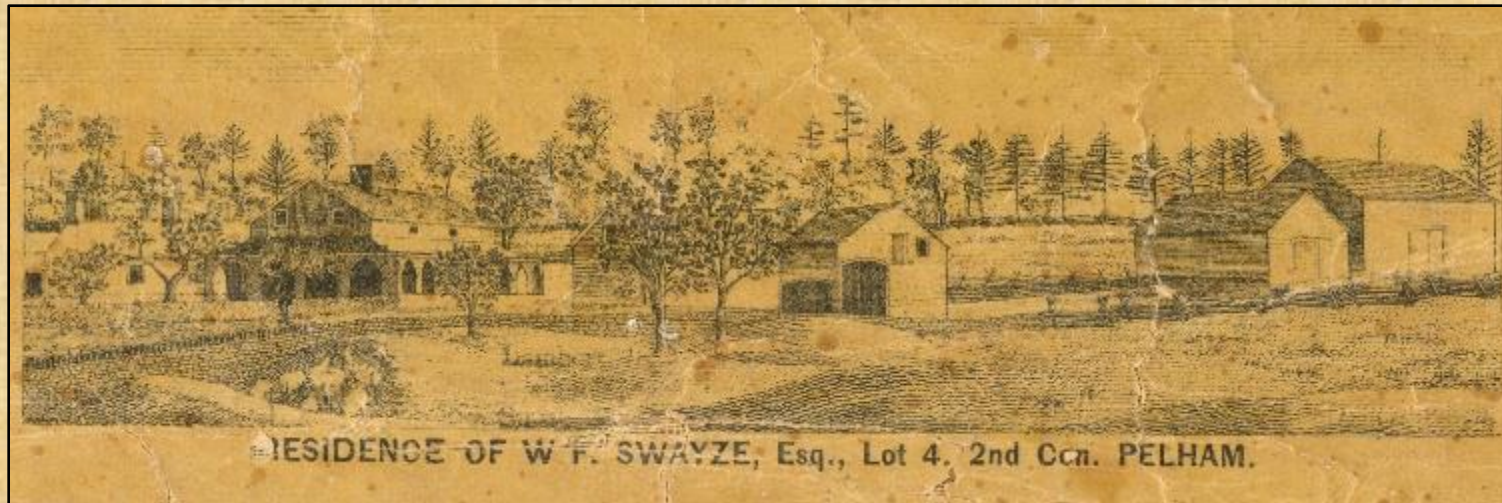


William Freeman Swayze Inn

- E – William Freeman Swayze's Inn (C2L4) 1850
- The 1980 PHS Calendar-Swayze's Falls article quotes a Swayze descendant as saying that there was a substantial amount of bootlegging done from Swayze's Inn



William Freeman Swayze's Residence



The above image was a Vignette on the 1862 Tremaine Map showing the Inn after it had reverted to a residence. Also used in the 1977 PHS Calendar - Swayze's Inn article

Located east of Oille Street on Effingham Road

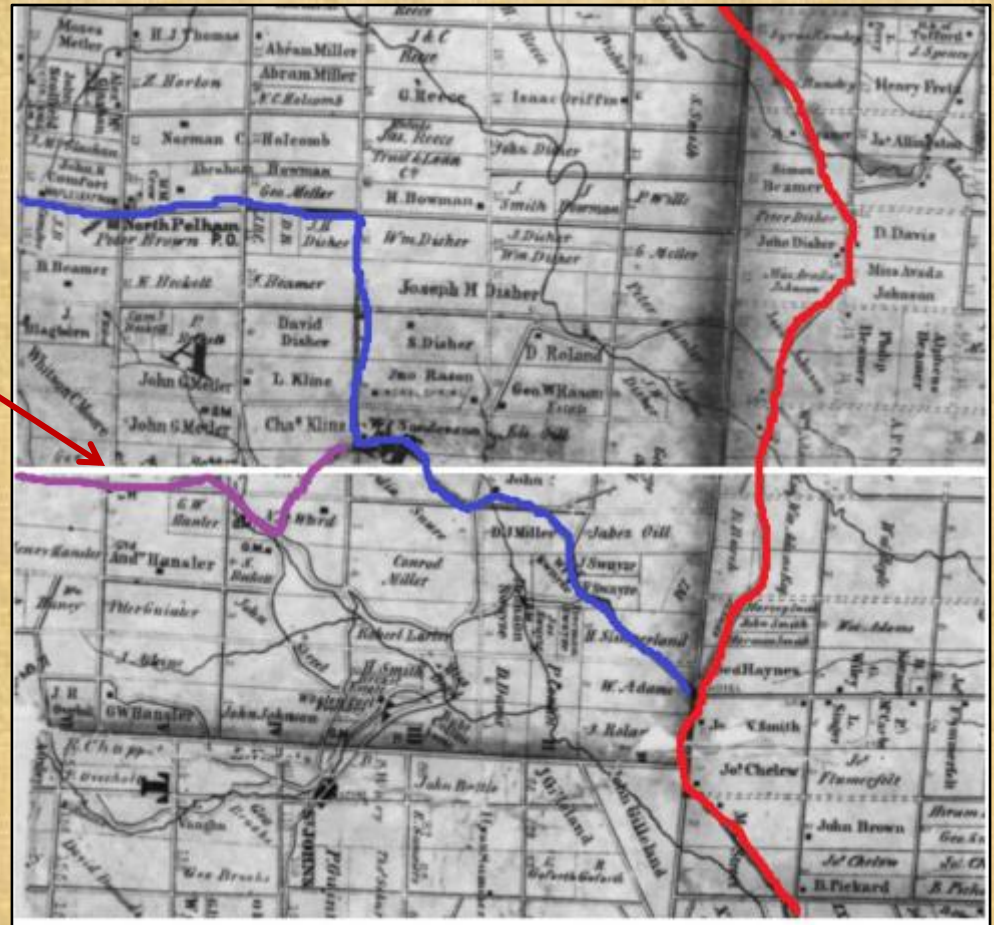
Effingham to North Pelham & Fenwick

- **F – Disher Hotel** (C3L10) – 1855-1872 located on Sixteen Rd.
- sold By Joseph & Eliza Disher to John Corman in 1872 and converted to a residence. Several sources erroneously refer to it as the Corman Hotel. See the 1980 PHS Calendar Disher Hotel – Corman House article



Effingham Road

- Effingham to Ridgeville and then on to O'Reilly's Bridge crossing the Welland River
- There was no tavern in Effingham, but there were two in Ridgeville, a few miles to the south



St. John's West

G – St. John's Tavern
and John Ousterhout
Inn (Thorold Lot 111
and Pelham L1, C3&4)

Roads to St. Johns came
from Beaverdams and
on Holland Road from
Allanburgh

Ephraim Hopkins had
an inn in Beaverdams in
1846. Matthew Seburn
and then Polly Smith
hada tavern stand in
Centreville (Cataract
Road and Holland
Road).

There were 3 taverns in
Allanburgh (more on
these shortly)



Ousterhout Tavern

Site of the 1838 attack on Queen's Lancers by insurrectionists

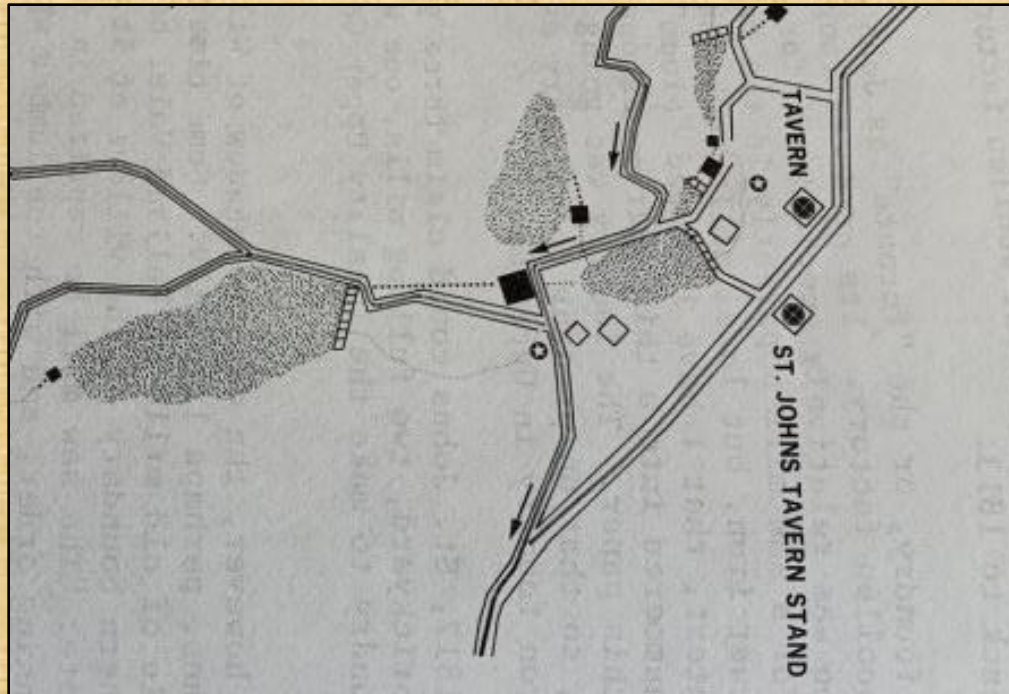
Tavern was moved to Fonthill in 1900 where it became the Romp Funeral Home and later Gertsinger Furniture (now the Root & Bone)

Image from the 1985 PHS Calendar - Ousterhout Tavern article



St. John's

St. John's, Short Hills: From Bloom to Doom, Colin K. Duquemin in
Second Annual Niagara History Conference, Villages in the Niagara
Peninsula, April 12-13, 1980 p21



- St. Johns tavern license holders included James C. Harris in 1844 & 1849; Joseph Smith in 1865
- The road on bottom (east) was Holland Road which went to Centreville (at Cataract) and Allanburgh and split off to Beaverdams Road. The road at the top is Rolland Road joining the Pelham Stone Road (now Effingham);
- Hollow Road and Hansler Road at left; Orchard Hill goes to Effingham at top.

Port Robinson

(per 1897 Jubilee History of Thorold)



- In 1840 Port Robinson was booming and was a central point for travelers with **seven taverns**
- A steamboat made daily trips between Buffalo and Port Robinson, carrying hundreds of passengers during the navigation season
- a line of passenger packets plied daily during the open season between Port Robinson and Dunnville
- a daily stage coach was laden with passengers on each trip to and from St. Catharines
- mail coaches came to the village from Wellandport and way stations, and from St. Johns West and North Pelham
- A four-horse stage coach also carried passengers and the mail between Port Robinson and Hamilton
- this all changed when the Buffalo, Brantford & Goderich Railway was completed, the steamboat to Port Robinson ceased to make its usual trips, and the Welland and Great Western divisions of the Grand Trunk Railway were finished
- the stage coaches from St. Catharines and Hamilton ceased to run

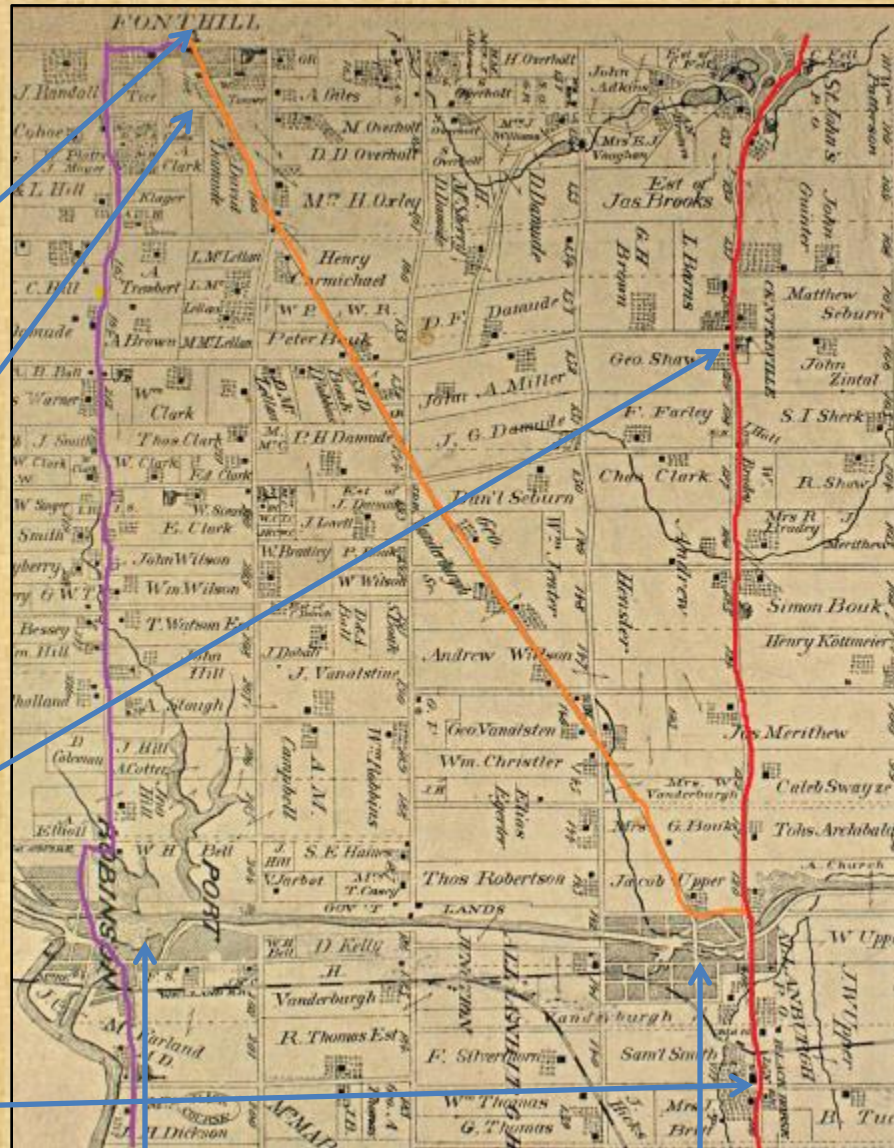
1876 Allanburgh and Port Robinson to Fonthill & St. John's

J – Osman's Tavern /
Temperance Hotel / Fonthill
Hotel

I – George Gambles Tavern
Stand (1856-1864)

H – Matthew Seburn / Polly
Smith Tavern Stand, Centreville

Black Horse Inn (and three
others in Allanburgh)



Port Robinson

Allanburgh


H – Centreville Tavern Stand

- This tavern sat in the south-west corner of Thorold Lot 106 on the north side of current Holland Road beginning $2\frac{3}{4}$ chains (approx. 54 metres) east of the corner of Cataract Road and Holland Road.
- This location on Holland Road was described in an 1835 advertisement as ten miles west of Niagara Falls on the main road leading to Hamilton
- Matthew Seburn owned the stand between 1832 and 1835 followed by Polly Smith between 1835 and 1846
- It was described in the April 1835 Seventh Report of the Select Committee of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada on Grievances as the single polling station for the 3rd Riding of the County of Lincoln

I – George Gamble Tavern Stand

- This tavern sat on the south side of Highway 20 about where the Shoppers Drug Mart is now located on a one-quarter acre parcel, part of Thorold Lot 168. It had its own page in the Fonthill Land Records
- It was also known as the Desideratum Hotel when it was listed in the 1864/65 and 1865/66 Mitchell's Directories for Canada
- George Gamble was an Irish shoe maker, prominent in the Masons. When Welland Lodge No. 36 was transferred from Chippawa to Fonthill, where the first regular meeting was held on June 21, 1855, George Gamble was the Worshipful Master (and again in 1858)
- George also owned 22 acres where Timmsdale Estates and Rumar Farm are now located between Hwy 20 and Canboro.
- He sold his properties in 1864 and moved to New Philadelphia, Ohio. His son George G. Gamble, also a shoe maker, returned to Fenwick

J – Fonthill / Temperance Hotel

- NW corner of Canboro (Hwy 20) and Pelham Street
- Established by Jacob Osman in 1832 and acquired by Thomas Canby in 1842
- Thomas Smith purchased the hotel in Feb 1853 but was likely the licensee earlier – he was first licensed in Pelham in 1845
- After the 1873 Dunkin Act vote Smith was charged with infractions at least twice
- Hugh Savigny and Thomas Smith's widow Jane took over after 1883
- 1909 photo 



May 29, 1850 – Niagara Mail

Those who wish to stop at a comfortable house will do well to call upon Mr. Thomas Smith, the village tavern keeper. He understands the secret of keeping people comfortable with all and his house has a good name with all who stop at it.

Speaking of taverns reminds me of hearing E.W. Stephenson, Esq. – the Gough of Canada – deliver in Font Hill Church on Tuesday evening. The house was crowded, and the audience very respectable and attentive. Mr. S. spoke two hours, and was repeatedly cheered. He comes down on all Alchy like a waterspout, and for our part we think he goes ahead of Gough.

About seventy signed the pledge after the services closed, and on the following day a lodge of the Sons of Temperance was formed in Font Hill. The whole district seems to be alive to the Temperance cause. –

Quoted in *Fonthill in 1850*, 2001 PHS Calendar

Hugh Savigny

Hugh Paine Savigny became the new proprietor of the Temperance Hotel in 1883 and was described in the 1887 History of Welland as “of a genial disposition, and is an obliging landlord”. He was also credited with greatly improving the hotel and “keeping one of the best public houses in Welland County.” The hotel had suffered after the implementation of the Dunkin Act temperance provisions in Pelham in 1874. (Rice, Sidey, and Langs, *History of Welland 1887*, p486)

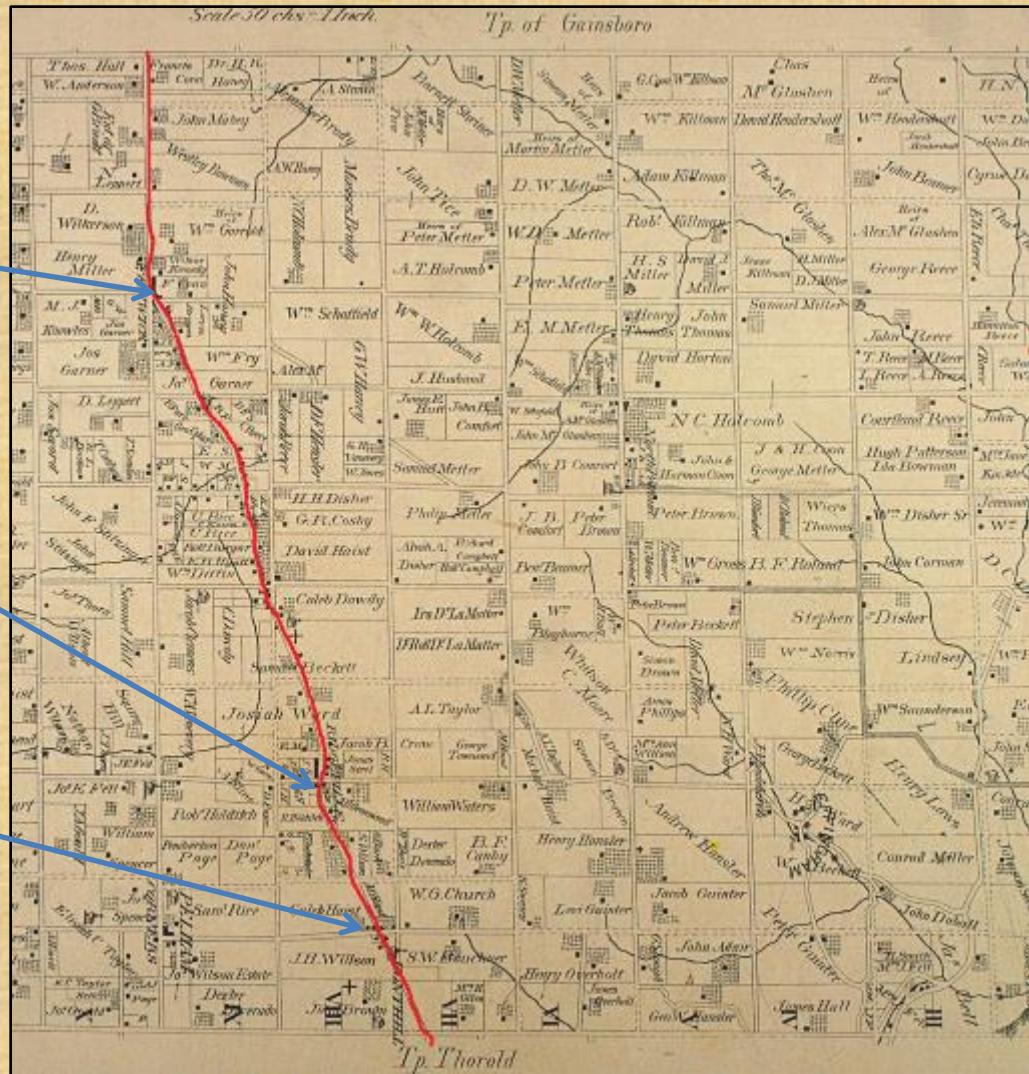
During the nineteenth century the hotel had many names including Osman’s Tavern, Fonthill Hotel/Inn, Smith’s Hotel and Temperance Hotel. In the twentieth century it also carried the name Hilltop Inn and Drift Inn. It has now been replaced with a commercial building.

Central Pelham

M – Fenwick - Diffins /
Woods Hotel & Diffins
Inn / Royal
Temperance / Royal
Hotel

L - Ridgeville - Holditch
/ Dochstader Hotel &
Tunncliffe Hotel

K – Riceville - Eber Rice
Tavern / Pelham
Heights Hotel /
Scallen's Hotel

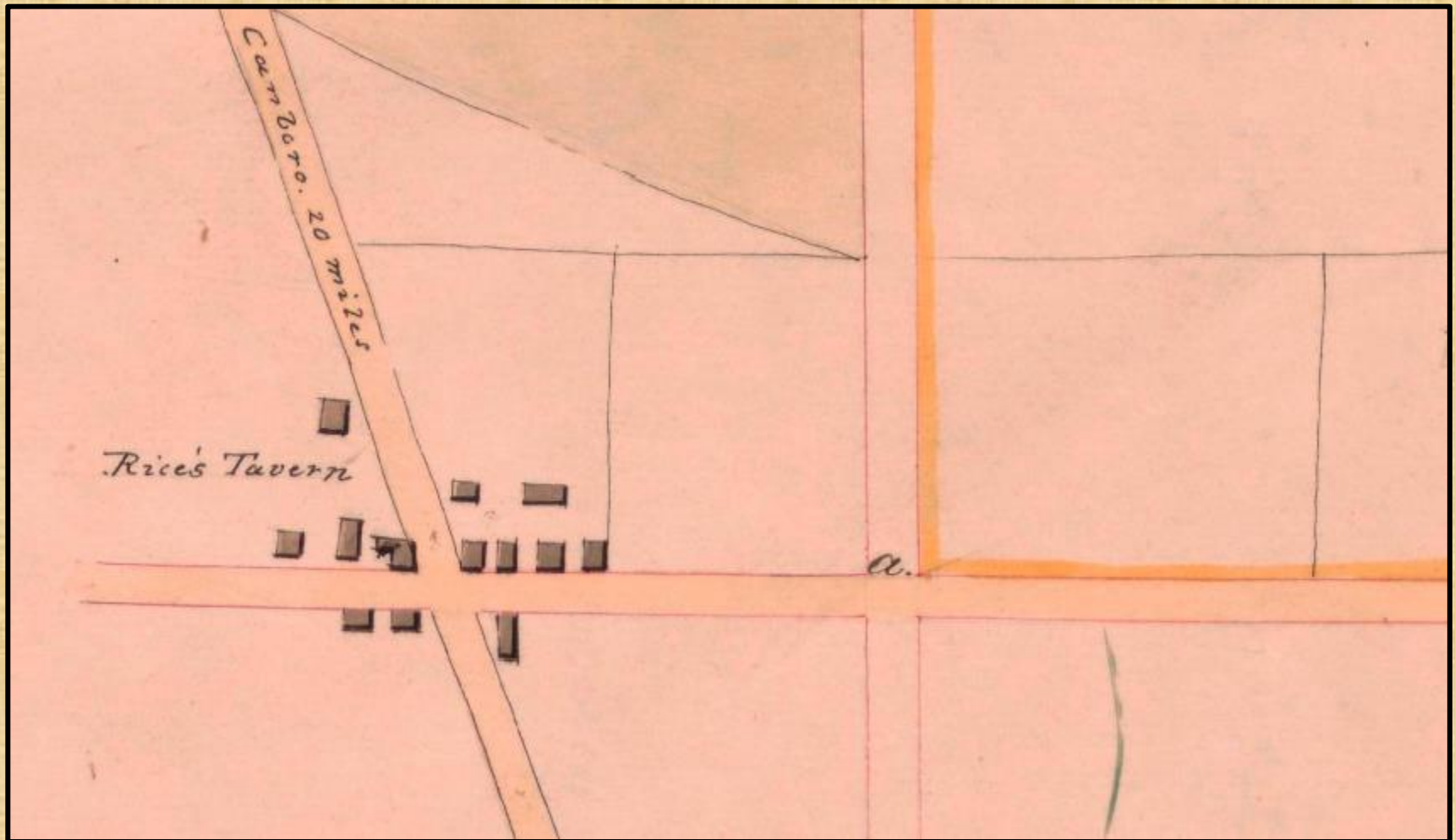


K – Riceville Hotels

- The first record of a hotel in Pelham was Eber Rice's Tavern at Riceville (SW corner of Haist & Canboro) established in 1823 shortly after he purchased the property in 1821
- It was the site of much excitement over the ensuing years including
 - Accusations of gambling and prostitution
 - A place of sanctuary (and perhaps planning) for participants in the 1838 St. John's insurrection mentioned earlier
 - A nasty oil fire which took the life of two people including one of Eber Rice's sons
 - In 1836 Eber also had a license for a Still
- Thomas Smith was Eber's son-in-law and likely got his start here
- It was briefly called the Pelham Heights Hotel in 1864 with John England as the proprietor (shortly after Eber Rice died in 1863)
- William Scallen ran a hotel in Riceville in 1868-73, which might have been this same Eber Rice / Pelham Heights Hotel
- Per Smith Gazette 1846 Riceville had 50 people and 2 taverns – there is no entry for Fonthill so the 2 hotels are likely Eber Rice's and Thomas Smith's

Riceville – 1840 Military Map of Short Hills

Created in connection with the Short Hills Fortress proposal – a similar map with fewer houses exists for 1827



L – Ridgeville Hotels

There were two hotels in Ridgeville, one on the SE corner of Effingham and Canboro Roads (where the water station is located) and the other on the NW corner (open field)

- SE – Owners included William Dockstader, John Tunncliffe then Harold Pollard
- NW – Owners were Robert and then George Holditch until it was destroyed by fire

L – Ridgeville Hotels

- On March 7, 1872 Jonas Steele who had the general store in Ridgeville applied for a tavern license – 50 petitioners were opposed and the application was declined
- In 1876 Isaac Hyatt of Ridgeville was charged with selling “raspberry” liquor in contravention of the Dunkin Act – fined \$20
- There are many anecdotal oral accounts of a robust market for the product of numerous stills operating in the Ridgeville and Fenwick countryside

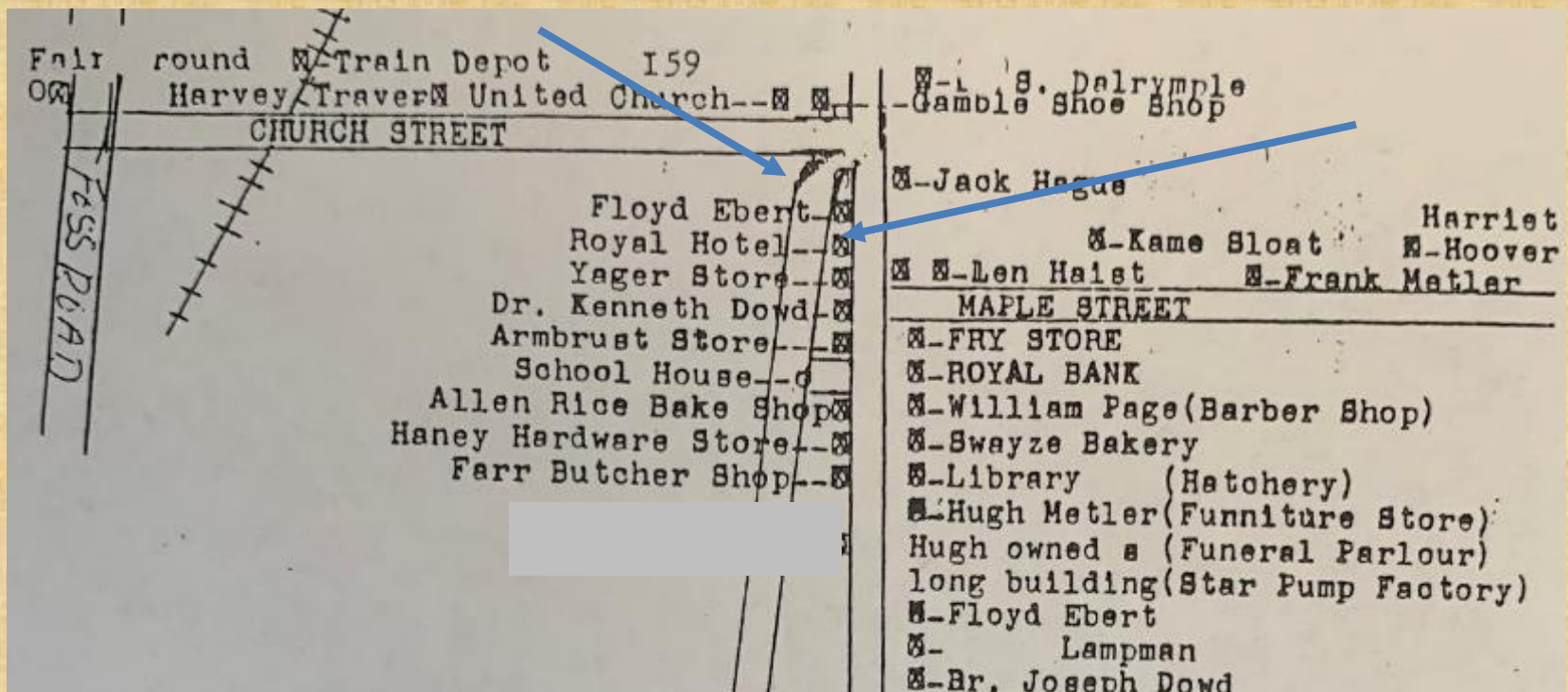
1341 Effingham Road

Howard Pollard moved the Dochstader / Tunncliffe hotel
100 yards south on Effingham, where it still sits today on
the east side



Fenwick Hotels

- Benjamin and George Diffin built two hotels in 1845 & 1849. They hired inn keepers to run them, initially Bob French and Sonny Hodgkins respectively (per Edith Stokes as told to Asa Orton Hansler)
- Map of Fenwick Village, circa 1927 by Kenneth O. Hansler, as published by Asa Orton Hansler



First Diffin Inn

- By the 1870s the First Diffin Inn had become known as Seburn's Hotel. It and its barn were destroyed by fire in 1872 but the Seburn Hotel was back in business by 1874.
- For much of the second half of the 19th century Charles Seburn (1821-1884), followed by his wife Deborah (Hainer) Seburn (1828-1901), were the proprietors per census records. They are buried in Hillside Cemetery.
- In 1874 a charge was laid and then dismissed against Jonathon Scribner for illegally selling liquor at Seburn's Hotel after the implementation of Temperance



First Diffin Inn - Royal Temperance House

- After temperance was enacted the hotel became known as the Royal Temperance House and then just the Royal Hotel.
- It had several owners, ultimately the Ebert family.
- It is now the Royal Apartments



Royal Apartments – 796 Canboro Road



Second Diffin's Inn / Woods Hotel

- For most of the second half of the 19th century Benjamin Wood (1820-1901) was the licensed tavern and inn keeper. In some records it is referred to simply as the Wood's Hotel
- It has also had several owners over the years and is now a private residence
- 796 Welland Road
- Analyzing 19th century Fenwick real estate transactions is difficult due to poor record keeping by Dr. Haney who was a significant land owner



Livery Stables

The coaches were always in need of repair from the roads and the coach mechanic would grease the axles, fix spokes, and replace cracked tongues. All this service was billed to the coach company by the Inn Keeper.

Fenwick oral history – per Edith Stokes, daughter of “Little” Tommy Disher, told to Asa Orton Hansler.

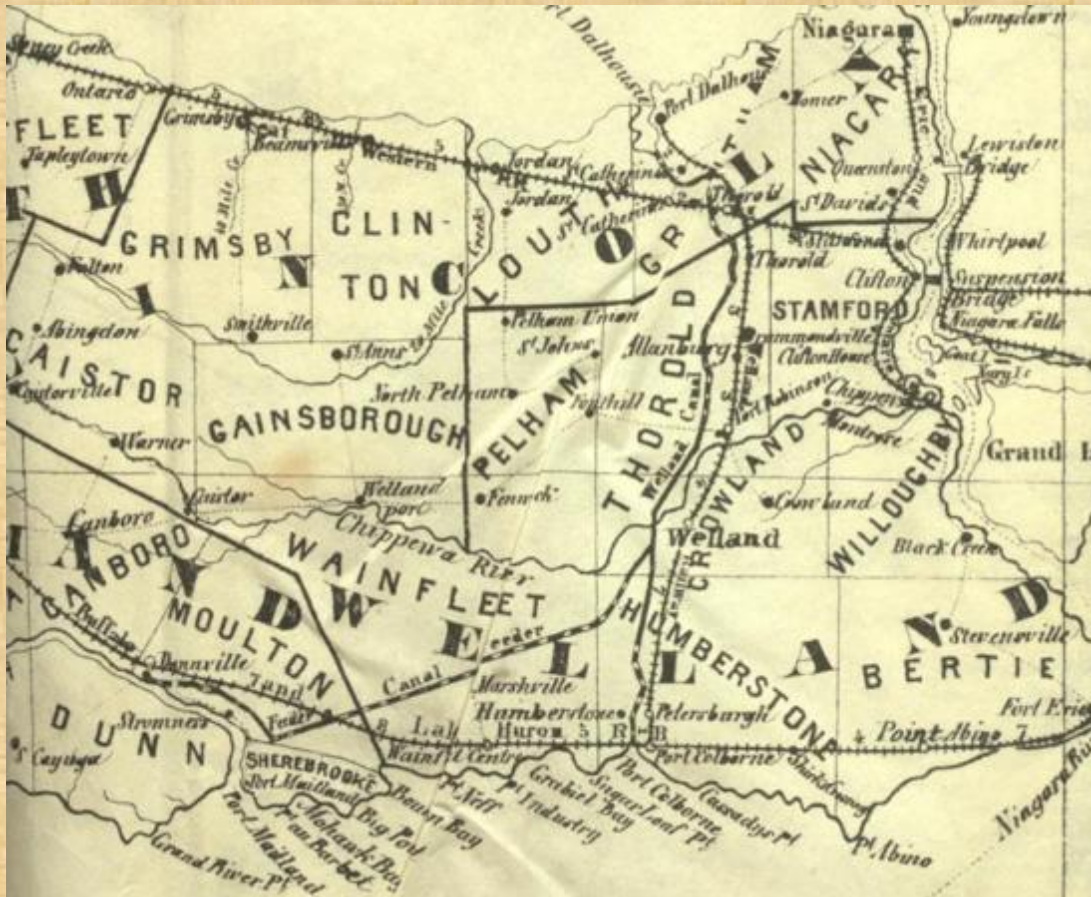
Old livery stable in Fenwick with ice house on side.



N - Hotels to the West

- St. Ann's on Twenty Road had the Mingle Inn
- At one time there were two hotels in Boyle (Haggarty's Tavern and the Lambert Hotel), two in Wellandport and two in Attercliffe
- Chambers Corners (Victoria & Forks Road, Wainfleet) had a stage coach stop at the Chambers Inn from 1855 until it burned in 1895.

The Railroads Arrive



Starting in the mid 1850s there was a rush to build railroads.

This spelled the beginning of the end for many of the transient taverns of Pelham, compounded by Temperance legislation

(Tackabury Atlas)

1856

CHAPTER 231.

AN ACT respecting Inns and Inn-keepers in the Township of PELHAM.

WHEREAS it is necessary and expedient to pass a By-Law to limit the number of Inns in the Township of Pelham, and to provide for granting Certificates for Licenses, and for regulating the same.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Corporation of the Township of Pelham, and it is hereby Enacted, that the number of Inns, Taverns or Houses of Public Entertainment in the Township of Pelham, shall not exceed six in number.

II.—Any person desiring to keep a House of Public Entertainment in the Township of Pelham, shall be required to make application for a Certificate upon which to obtain a License for that purpose, by his petition to be presented at any special or ordinary Meeting of the Council, setting forth in such petition the particular House and Premises, and the period of time for which a License is desired.

III.—It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Council for the time being, and he is hereby required, immediately upon the granting or allowing of any application to make for a Certificate, to notify the Township Inspector of the fact, and the Inspector shall thereupon proceed to examine the House and Premises occupied by the person referred to in such notice, as to suitability for an Inn, and if the Inspector shall find such premises in conformity with the requirements of this By-Law, and the applicant duly qualified, he shall report the fact to the said Clerk: Provided always, that every such applicant, before receiving a Certificate, shall enter into a Bond to the Corporation, himself in the sum of Two Hundred Dollars, with two sufficient securities, to the satisfaction of the Inspector, in the sum of One Hundred Dollars each, conditioned for the due and faithful observance, on the part of the applicant, of any By-Law or By-Laws, or Statute Law, which may be in force for regulating the conducting of Inns, or Houses of Public Entertainment, in the said Township.

IV.—Upon production to the Clerk of the Municipality of the Inspector's Report to the effect that the applicant is, in the opinion of the Inspector, a fit and proper person to receive a License, and has all the accommodations required by law, it shall be the duty of the said Clerk and the Reeve, under their hands to issue to such applicant a Certificate, stating that he is entitled to a License for the House and Premises referred to in such Certificate, for the term, or next ensuing License year, as the case may be, ending the first day of March.

V.—The sum to be paid for the use of the Township, for the License to be obtained, upon every such Certificate to be issued on heretofore provided, shall be Twenty Dollars over and above the sum of Ten Dollars required to be paid for the use of Her Majesty; and the License to be obtained upon such Certificate shall have any five cents of the said sum of Twenty Dollars shall have been daily paid to the Treasurer of the Municipality, and by the said Treasurer receipted upon such License.

VI.—Every House to be kept as an Inn or House of Public Entertainment in the Township of Pelham shall be satisfactory, and contain not less than four bed rooms, each furnished with comfortable bed and other necessary furniture, and one furnished, convenient sitting room, exclusive of the Bar Room, and the rooms required for the use of the family of the Keeper; and shall also have connected therewith a good and commodious stable, driving house and shed, with room enough in each stable for stabling six horses securely and comfortably; also, other suitable outbuildings; each stable and driving house to have good doors and be securely locked at all proper times.

JNO. B. CROW, Clerk.

VII.—And be it Enacted, that each keeper of an Inn or Tavern in the Township of Pelham shall observe, act upon and conform to the following Rules and Regulations:

1st.—Each Tavern-keeper shall keep and provide good and wholesome provisions and drink for his guests, as well as good stabling, shed or stable, and driving house, for the security of property of all kinds that cannot otherwise be provided for, if required by travellers; good hay and oats at reasonable charges, and clean and comfortable beds for his guests.

2nd.—And shall also keep a person in attendance, or shall himself attend, to take charge of any horse or horses, and shall see that they are properly and sufficiently fed, watered and taken care of.

3rd.—And shall give and show proper attention and civility to the wants of travellers and others, and see that the baggage, luggage and goods of such travellers are duly taken care of; and any damage or loss thereby, through neglect, shall be made good by such Tavern-keeper.

4th.—And shall not suffer or allow any disorderly conduct or unlawful games in such Tavern or House of Public Entertainment, or anywhere or anywhere thereto belonging.

5th.—If any dispute arise between a guest and the keeper of any Tavern, the matter shall be referred to the nearest Justice of the Peace, whose decision shall be final as to the questions of the charge, and this shall also extend to the hiring of horses and carriages, and other charges incidental thereto.

6th.—Each Tavern-keeper, when required so to do, shall furnish sufficient accommodations for travellers in apartments separate from and unconnected with the Bar Room.

7th.—No Tavern-keeper shall give or sell, or allow or suffer any other person to give or sell any spirituous or fermented, or intoxicating Liquors to any person or persons whatsoever, from or after the hour of Seven of the Clock on Saturday night, till the hour of Six of the Clock on Monday morning thereafter, except in cases where a requisition for Medical purposes, signed by a Licensed Medical Practitioner, or by a Justice of the Peace, is produced by the Vendor or his agent, nor shall any such Tavern-keeper suffer or allow any such Liquors to be drunk in any such places, except as aforesaid, during the time hereby prohibited for the sale of the same.

8th.—No Tavern-keeper shall sell or give intoxicating Liquors of any kind to any person intoxicated, under a penalty of Ten Dollars.

9th.—Each Tavern-keeper having a License, shall exhibit over the door of the Tavern kept by him, in large letters, the words, "Licensed to sell Wine, Beer and other Spirituous or Fermented Liquors."

VIII.—Words in this By-Law importing the singular number or the masculine gender only, shall include respectively or possess their masculine and feminine as well as males.

IX.—Every person receiving a License Certificate under the provisions hereof, shall be furnished with a copy of this By-Law, and shall keep the same posted up in a conspicuous part of the Bar Room.

X.—By-law, Chapter One Hundred and Eighty-two, of this Council, entitled, "An Act respecting Inns and Taverns in the Township of Pelham," and also, By-law, Chapter Two Hundred and Thirty, amendatory thereof, are hereby repealed: Provided, that no By-law contrary part of any By-law repealed by either of the said in part recited By-laws, shall be thereby revived.

Passed in Council this 23rd day March, 1856.

JOSEPH GARNER, Reeve.

There was earlier Canada West and Township rules for the governance of inn keepers but this 1856 example from Pelham is interesting

- 1) Not more than 6 Inns, Taverns or Houses of Public Entertainment in Pelham;
- 2) Must be licensed;
- 3) Must be Inspected for suitability and post a \$200 Bond;
- 4) License issued after inspection;
- 5) Fee of \$20 per year;
- 6) Must be comfortable, have at least 4 bedrooms with comfortable bed and a sitting room exclusive of the bar and the innkeepers rooms, a commodious stable, driving house and shed to accommodate 6 horses

VII.—*And be it Enacted, that each*

keeper of an Inn or Tavern in the Township of Pelham shall observe, act upon and conform to the following Rules and Regulations :

1st.—Each Tavern-keeper shall keep and provide good and wholesome provisions and drink for his guests, as well as good stabling, shed or sheds, and driving house, for the security of property of all kinds that cannot otherwise be provided for, if required by travellers ; good hay and oats at reasonable charges, and clean and comfortable beds for his guests.

2nd.—And shall also keep a person in attendance, or shall himself attend, to take charge of any horse or horses, and shall see that they are properly and sufficiently fed, watered and taken care of.

3rd.—And shall give and show proper attention and civility to the wants of travellers at all times, and see that the carriages, baggage and goods of such travellers are duly taken care of ; and any damage or loss thereto, through neglect, shall be made good by such Tavern-keeper.

4th.—And shall not suffer or allow any disorderly conduct or unlawful games in such Tavern or House of Public Entertainment, or outhouse or premises thereunto belonging.

5th.—If any dispute arise between a guest and the keeper of any Tavern, the matter shall be referred to the nearest Justice of the Peace, whose decision shall be final as to the quantum of the charge, and this shall also extend to the hiring of horses and carriages, and other charges incidental thereto.



6th.—Each Tavern-keeper, when required so to do, shall furnish sufficient accommodations for travellers in apartments separate from and unconnected with the Bar Room.

7th.—No Tavern-keeper shall give or sell, or allow or suffer any other person to give or sell any spirituous or fermented, or intoxicating Liquors to any person or persons whomsoever, from or after the hour of Seven of the Clock on Saturday night, till the hour of Six of the Clock on Monday morning thereafter, except in cases where a requisition for Medicinal purposes, signed by a Licensed Medical Practitioner, or by a Justice of the Peace, is produced by the Vendee or his agent, nor shall any such Tavern-keeper suffer or allow any such liquors to be drunk in any such places, except as aforesaid, during the time hereby prohibited for the sale of the same.

8th.—No Tavern-keeper shall sell or give intoxicating Liquors of any kind to any person intoxicated, or apparently intoxicated, under a penalty of Ten Dollars.

9th.—Each Tavern-keeper having a License, shall exhibit over the door of the Tavern kept by him, in large letters, the words, "Licensed to sell Wine, Beer and other Spirituous or Fermented Liquors."

Early Temperance Influences in Pelham

- Response to an 1810 Quaker Meeting query – *“We believe Friends are mostly careful to discourage the unnecessary distillation or use of spiritous liquors though not so fully as could be desired.”*
- Tunkers, Mennonites, Evangelicals, Church of God, Baptists, Methodists and Presbyterians (a large part of early Pelham society) were also generally supporters of moderation
- This was also a reflection of the predominantly agricultural nature of the township – Pelham was different from most of Ontario in that tavern culture was not ingrained. It was a transient phenomenon.

1864 Dunkin Act

- In 1864, in response to public concern, the 8th Parliament of the Province of Canada (pre-Confederation) implemented the Dunkin Act whose purpose was to "amend the laws in force respecting the sale of intoxicating liquors and issues of licenses therefore, and otherwise for the repression of abuses resulting from such sale."
- This act extended to counties, cities, towns, townships and villages of Ontario and Quebec the right to prohibit the retail sale of liquor within their boundaries, by popular vote. It provided that municipal councils could pass by-laws prohibiting liquor either with or without submitting the law to the voters, or the electorate could petition for such a by-law and request that a vote be taken.
- Christopher Dunkin was a prominent Montreal lawyer and excellent debater. It was said that he could argue both sides of an issue so closely that both were demolished. He was successful in enacting the temperance local option legislation but proved unsuccessful three years later when he opposed Confederation.

1873 Dunkin Act Vote in Pelham

- Pelham – March 31, 1873 a vote was taken under the Dunkin Act *“to repress the abuses resulting from the sale of intoxicating liquors”*
- Rev. Mr. William Wetherald of the Quakers (father of the poet Ethelwyn and adoptive grandfather of Dorothy Rungeling) was a fierce proponent
- Rev Wetherald was described by long time Pelham Reeve W.H. Fry as follows:

“He was a small man in stature with a trembling hand and quivering mouth, but when he arose to speak he seemed to be a mighty machine in action. His voice was strong and he could easily talk to ten thousand people. I have heard him speak for hours and have sat enthralled by his language, which seemed to flow as if from a fountain. He was possessed of a rich vocabulary and his superior education made him a man who could handle his subject at will. He was conscientious and deeply religious.”

1873 Dunkin Act vote in Pelham

Results

- The result was that only one man voted to stay “wet” and 85 voted to go “dry” (women did not have a vote). That one dissenter was Uriah Rice, son of Eber Rice.
- It became effective in January 1874
- There were four taverns in Pelham at the time - Scallen (closed 1874), Smith, Seburn, Dochstader
- A second poll in 1877 was sustained with a 169 vote majority

1878 Scott Act

- 1878 Canada Temperance Act (“Scott Act”) initiated by Sir Richard Scott
- In 1881 Welland initiated a local option vote throughout the county.
- Of the 14 municipalities polled, only in Pelham and Thorold Township did a majority vote for temperance.
- Pelham Council decided to remain dry relying on the previous Dunkin Act legislation and vote.
- This 1881 vote is often cited in many Pelham history books and articles as the start of Temperance in the township but the start was actually seven years earlier on January 1, 1874.

1878 Scott Act

- In January 1964 the last vote on Temperance was held in Fonthill. Of 1,372 eligible voters, 935 (68%) cast a ballot.
- 51% in Pelham voted to go Wet, 9% below the 60% threshold required so it stayed dry
- **Pelham Township remained dry until 1970 (a 96 year period)**

It is Now Time for a 2024 Temperance Vote

- **All in favour of reinstating Prohibition in Pelham?**
 - 4 voted yes (dry)
- **All in favour of maintaining the status quo?**
 - Approximately 50 voted yes (wet)
- **All in favour of allowing all convenience and grocery stores to sell alcohol?**
 - only 3 voted yes

Additional Reading

- “Early Inns and Taverns: Accommodation, Fellowship, and Good Cheer” in *The Capital Years: Niagara-on-the-Lake 1792-1796*, Nancy Butler, Richard D. Merritt, & Michael Power eds., Dundurn Press, 1996
- *In Mixed Company: Taverns and Public Life in Upper Canada*, Julia Roberts, UBC Press, 2009 (and her 1999 UofT thesis)
- *Inn-Roads to Ancestry: Pioneer Inns of Ontario, Vol. 1, Head of the Lake to Niagara*, Robert J. Graham, General Editor, The Ontario Genealogical Society, 1996
- *Tavern in the Town: Early Inns and Taverns of Ontario*, Margaret McBurney and Mary Byers, University of Toronto Press, 1987
- *Pioneer Inns and Taverns*, Edwin C. Guillet, self published, 1954/64

Sources for Pelham Taverns

- PHS Historical Calendar Collection
- Census records reporting Inns and also profession of Innkeeper for individuals
- Early Niagara District court records of licenses issued
- Welland newspaper accounts of events at taverns and also issue of licenses
- Land Registry Office records per Onland and Brock Archives