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Clarkson

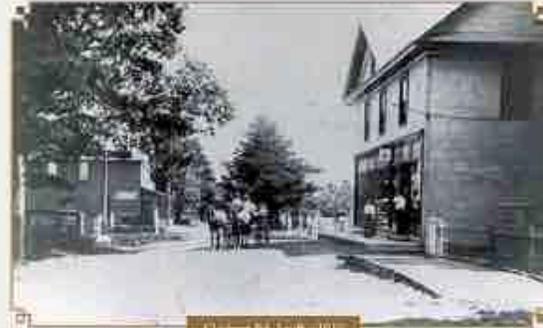
Clarkson began, not along Lakeshore Road, but rather along the shore of Lake Ontario. United Empire Loyalist settlers began moving here, mostly from New Brunswick, where they had resettled following the American Revolution.

Henry Gable Sr. (1765-1834), who received a land grant in December 1807, was the first to settle in the area that would come to be known as Clarkson.

One of the earliest and influential arrivals was Thomas Merigold (1761-1826), who brought his wife and 10 children here in 1808. Many other families came to settle nearby. The area became referred to, over time, as "Merigold's Point".



Thomas Merigold, 1808



Clarkson St. 1911

Other early settlers included Frederick Starr Jarvis (1786-1852) and Lewis Bradley (1771-1843). Captain James Beveridge Harris (1797-1884), a retired British military officer, settled in the area in 1837, purchasing the Benares property. Several generations of the Harris-Sayers family lived at Benares, and in part inspired author Mazo de la Roche (1879-1961) and her famed Whiteoaks of Jalna novels.

The village inland began around 1819 when Warren Clarkson (1793-1882), a young veteran of the War of 1812, came to the area. Warren opened the community's first general store around 1835. The village received its name in 1853, when construction began on the Great Western Railway, who purchased land from Warren and named the station



Clarkson Train Station

"Clarkson's" Warren's son, William Warren Clarkson (1830-1894), became the first postmaster in 1875, followed by his son Warren Frank Clarkson (1861-1904) and granddaughter Edith Clarkson (1868-1919).



Barrymede House, Fudger family house, 1920

Before the railway, Russell Bush purchased land in November 1835 for a home and an inn, which became a resting stop on the Toronto-to-Hamilton stagecoach line. Later the home was owned by a retired army officer, Captain Edward Sutherland (1784-1885), who is said to

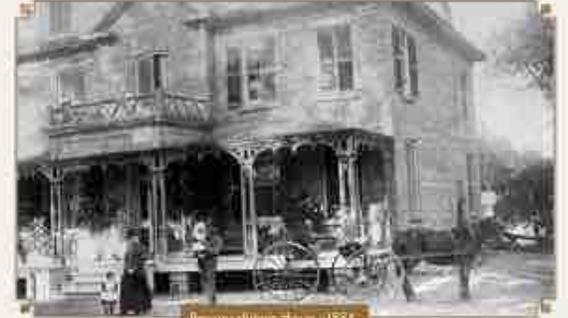
have been the first to grow strawberries in Clarkson. In time Clarkson became known as the "Strawberry Capital of Ontario."

Reuben Howson Lush (1868-1934) was actively involved in politics and was a leading promoter for the development of hydroelectricity.

Several affluent Toronto businessmen built summer



Clarkson Methodist Church, 1910



Barrymede House, 1887

cottages in Clarkson. Harris Henry Fudger (1852-1930) built a summer home here in 1920, named Barrymede. Major James Rattray (1887-1969) purchased the property in May 1945. The protected wetland, "Rattray Marsh", bears his name today.

Major John Barnett (1880-1972), a lawyer and veteran of the First World War, together with his wife Blanche Eunice Barnett (1883-1979), who served as a president of the Clarkson-Lorne Park Women's Institute, were highly involved in their community and focused on recording the history of the area.



Captain Edward Sutherland

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