

Fergus, Ont - Wellington  
Co.

Fergus 28<sup>th</sup> October 1905

40 P/9

James White Esq<sup>r</sup>  
Geographer  
Ottawa

Ans'd

Dear Sir

Yours of 25<sup>th</sup> Ultimo, wherein you express a desire to obtain "Information respecting the derivation of the place-names of Canada", and indicating the information you wish to obtain concerning the Village of Fergus, came duly to hand:

In reply, I beg to say, that, the Village of Fergus, is situated on the banks of the Grand River thirteen miles north of the City of Guelph, in the County of Wellington, Ontario; The Village was laid out by two gentlemen from Scotland, namely the late Hon Adam Fergusson who came from Edinburgh, and James Webster from Forfarshire in Scotland (his Father's estate "Balrinderry" lying a few miles west of Dundee, <sup>between Dundee</sup> and Perth. I ~~enclose~~ quote an extract from a lecture delivered by "A. D. Ferrier" in 1864, wherein he describes Fergus as it was when he first saw it; description of Fergus as on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1834, Mr. Ferrier says, Fergus at that time, consisted of a clearance of about 10 acres chopped, but not logged up, there were two inhabited houses, one belonging to Mr. Scott, in which Mr. Webster lodged, <sup>in</sup> which was situated as near as ~~may be~~ possible to where "Dickson's" house and shop now are, and the other, at Mr. Coreighton's Store, the house now occupied by Mr. Webster and better known afterwards as the "Clockum", The only land under cultivation was Mr. Buxton's (long known as the Provost) garden, on the creek at the end of Mr. Miller's butcher shop now is, and was, I daresay at least 16 feet square. Mr. Scott was known as the "Contractor" and built the first bridge at same place the Tower Street bridge now is, it was a queer looking structure, but stood out wonderfully. Scott's "Monkey" a machine he invented to pull out stumps, was long celebrated, it was like the big wheel of an old spinning wheel, and just as well adapted for pulling out stumps as the spinning wheel would be. Such was Fergus when I first saw it; between "Hamilton" and Scott's house, there was not 10 miles of road cut out a chain wide, and not two miles without a c. and beyond Fergus to the North, was an unbroken wilderness of Wood.



for many years for the settlers, who flocked into the new Country. Fergus long remained the business centre for the settlers to the North, Farmers coming from Peel, Arthur, Luther and Egremont with their gristing, and marketing their grain, &c, until the Villages of Arthur, Mount Forest and Durham came into existence, and cut off a large amount of the traffic for their neighbourhood, more especially since the <sup>time they</sup> secured railway connections.

Mr Webster when he was appointed to the Office of Registrar for the County of Wellington, ~~he~~ removed to Quelfsh the County Town, and having disposed of his property in Fergus, his connection therewith was severed.

The Fergus of today, is a beautiful and substantially built Village containing say 1500 inhabitants; the Grand Trunk Railway Co and the Canada Pacific Railway Co. have each a Station on their through lines, which afford facilities for transport to, or import from all portions of the Dominion, while its local privileges and conveniences of all kinds render it a pleasant residential Village.

You may get some information from the foregoing that will suit you, and anything else, you will kindly excuse me for troubling you with, as well as for my delay in replying to your reasonable request.

I remain

Yours truly  
William Ross