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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 25 1905

DEAR SIR,

I wish to obtain information respecting the derivation of the place-names of Canada—of the names of the villages, towns, cities and of the natural features, such as rivers, lakes, capes, bays, mountains, etc.—and shall be much obliged if you will give me any information that you may possess or can procure, respecting the below-mentioned name and also respecting the names of any other features in the vicinity of your residence concerning which you have knowledge.

In many localities, the older generation is passing, or has passed away, and unless steps are taken to collect this information, it will, in many instances, be too late. In most communities there are persons who take an interest in things of this nature or that have been connected with the early settlement of the locality. If there are any such in your neighbourhood, will you kindly submit this to them.

Below I have indicated the lines along which I desire information and also the commoner derivatives of place-names in Canada :—

(1.) Whether named after a village, town, or city, or natural feature in any other province or country ; if so, the name of province or country in which the original locality is situated.

(2.) Whether named after a person ; if so, the person's name, occupation, spelling of name as rendered by the person and any details of interest respecting him (or her) such as (a) Whether alive or, if dead, approximate year of death ; (b) Whether at any time a resident of the locality and, if so, whether still living there.

(3.) Whether named after a natural feature ; if so, any details respecting the origin of the name as applied to the feature and the geographical position of the latter.

(4.) Whether the town, village or city ever had any other name or names ; if so, at what dates, approximately, and the origin of these obsolete names.

Any information bearing on the above will be deemed a courtesy.

Yours truly,

JAMES WHITE,  
Geographer.

Kindly write your reply on the attached sheet.

To ensure free transmission of your reply I enclose herewith an addressed envelope which will come free of postage.

Richmond Hill ✓  
York Co. Oct

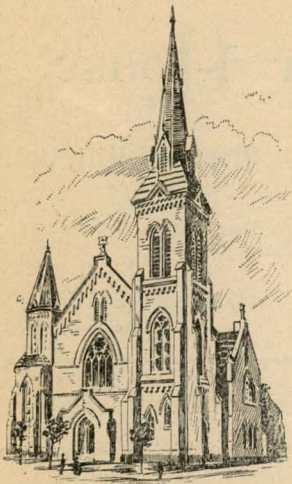
The printed matter relating to the origin of Richmond Hill is from a series of letters by W<sup>m</sup> Harrison, an old resident still living. He informs me that the first settler here was one Balser Munshaw, who settled here in 1791. The exact date of the naming of the village "Richmond Hill" is unknown but must have been prior to 1821, as the first church built here was erected in that year & was named, perhaps jocularly, the "Pride of Richmond Hill." W. Harrison has a statement from an old lady, who is since deceased, and who was present at the above occasion, viz. the erection of & the naming of the Church.

Hoping the accompanying information will be of some service to you  
I am yours very truly

A. J. Stone  
Blessed



Richmond Hill  
1840

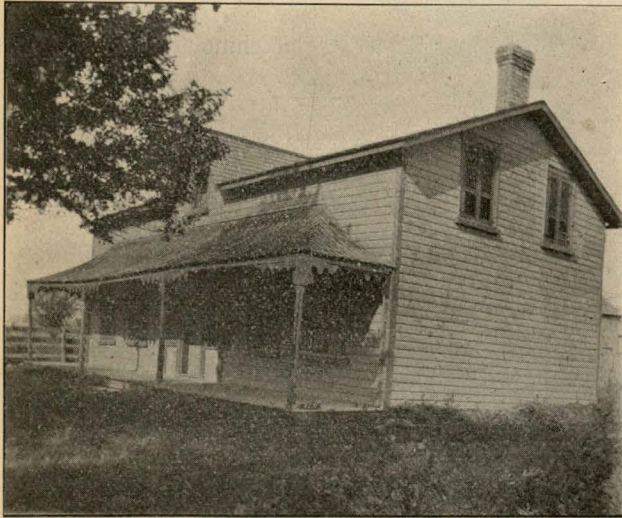


Methodist Church, Richmond Hill.

## Richmond Hill

**R**ICHMOND Hill is picturesquely situated on an elevation over 600 feet above the level of Lake Ontario. From the tower of the Presbyterian Church may be obtained a pleasing view of a wide range of scenery, the elevated position of the village renders it free from Miasma and Malaria, the village has a population of about 700 inhabitants and was incorporated in 1873. It has four handsome Churches, High and Public Schools, two

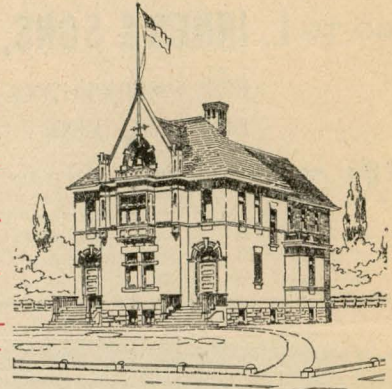
fine hotels, halls for Agricultural, Masonic, and Temperance purposes, various lodges and societies, a public reading room and a library of over 4,000 volumes, a newspaper, "The Liberal," a well-equipped Fire Brigade and an efficient Brass Band. Its sanitary conditions are excellent, its sidewalks concrete, and its



"A RELIC OF 1837."—Colonel Moodie's residence, east side of Yonge Street, northerly limit of Richmond Hill

streets beautified with Canada's national tree, "the Maple." The village of Richmond Hill was first settled by U. E. Loyalists,

French Refugees and Government land purchasers. It was first known as Miles' Hill, after Abner Miles, a York hotel keeper, who later became the owner of 1,000 acres in this locality, then known as Mount Pleasant. The present name was suggested when last century was in its teens, by Mr. Benjamin Barnard, its first public school teacher, a gentleman who came from near a town



Richmond Hill High School.



P. G. SAVAGE  
Reeve, Richmond Hill

twenty feet from the Street there is still standing the residence, of which an illustration is here given, from which Colonel Moodie rode to his death in 1837. (The foregoing information relating to Richmond Hill is from "Letters on Richmond Hill" by William Harrison.)

of that name in Surrey, England. Mr. Barnard was a man of strong English proclivities, and with him the well-known song of "The Lass of Richmond Hill," was a special favorite, suggesting the idea which was subsequently adopted. Among the memorials of the village at the north end on the east side about