



GEORGINA

Charles Henry Howard: The First Reeve of Georgina

At the age of 17, Charles left his home in England, for Canada. In 1819 he was granted 200 acres of land; this he took up at present-day Beaverton.

Charles returned to England and remained for two years, to settle “family affairs”; this likely being the death of his father, which occurred in 1821. His brother, a veteran of the Battle of Waterloo, died in January 1824. Upon Charles’ return he was employed [in 1825] by Peter Robinson in the Newcastle District, specifically at “the Rice Lakes, and Peterborough, in the settling of Irish Emigrants”.

Unfortunately, during the time away, the required Settlement Duties on his land were not performed, and it was granted to another settler. However, for his “Extraordinary Services” an Order in Council [1832] was issued, permitting him to take up the 200 acres elsewhere.

He purchased 100 acres from Ralph Smalley in 1824 and another neighbouring 50 acres from Asa Smalley in 1838, in Georgina. It is unknown where the actual 200 acre grant was taken up.

Charles married Margaret Lyall in 1826. In 1837 he had the occasion to join an armed “banditti” and demand of his wife’s uncle, William Johnson, that he join them in levying war against the Rebels. Johnson refused and was arrested for Treason weeks later. During those troubled times Charles was a Lieutenant in the 9th York North Regiment of Militia.

In 1840 Charles built a stone house and named it St. Julian’s; it still stands, just East of Sutton. He and Margaret had 8 children before throwing his hat into the ring. He died in 1881.

