

BOLTON TIMELINE THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS



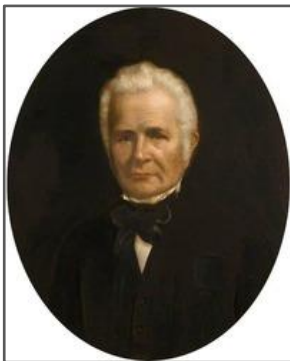
c.1900 Albion Bolton Historical Society

BOLTON
BICENTENNIAL

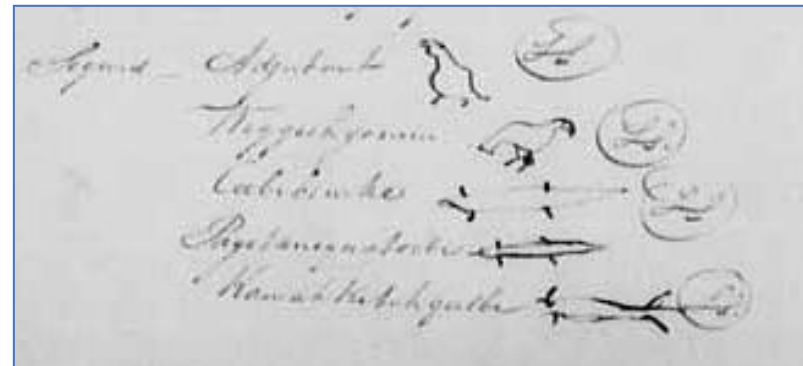
1821 - 2021

KEY FACTS 1818-1835

- 1818: Mississaugas of Credit First Nation sell 648,000 acres (Peel and Halton) to British Crown (Ajetance Purchase)
- 1819: James Chewett is contracted to survey Albion Township; he is paid in land, 2635 acres in total
- 1819: Albion Twp. opens for settlement, late October; James Bolton settles ~ 7km NE of what is now Bolton
- 1821: George Bolton buys 200 acres, bounded on the west by 7th Line Albion (Queen Street), from James Chewett
The land parcel along the Humber River is known to have water-power potential. George builds a house
- 1822/3: With guidance from his older brother James, George dams the Humber and then builds a grist mill
- 1824: George Bolton starts operating his grist (flour) mill, the first in Albion Township
- 1830: George provides land for the first school in the area; it is built from logs
- 1831: George builds a store, also from logs, along the rough track to the mill (corner of Mill and King streets)
- 1832: George applies to the government for an area post office and is appointed postmaster
- 1832: The post office is named ALBION and is housed in George's store
- 1832: Ann and Samuel Sterne arrive and build a log house close to the river, across 7th Line from George's land
- 1834: Thomas Rogers builds a log inn and smithy on Mill Street, on land provided by George Bolton



Portrait of James Chewett



Indigenous signatories to 1818 Ajetance Purchase (Treaty 19)



Location of George Bolton's c.1822 dam

KEY FACTS 1836-1845

- 1836: Francis McDonald builds a log house and a separate cooperage to make barrels for storing flour
- 1837: William Lyon Mackenzie's rebel cause is supported in Bolton area. James Bolton Sr. flees, later dies in US
- 1839: Samuel Sterne builds village's first hotel; he also starts up a stone distillery along the Humber River
- 1839: Richard Paxman starts up a tannery on the north shore of the river
- 1841: Blacksmith Elijah Harsent is operating a tavern/inn and 'smithy' at the NE corner of Mill and Queen
- 1841: Samuel Walford Sr. develops a soap and candle making business
- 1842: Mud brick school (unkilned bricks) opens under government supervision. Samuel Walford Jr. is the teacher
- 1842: George Bolton donates land for Primitive Methodist and Congregational churches
- 1843: Samuel Walford is appointed postmaster for life. He will serve for the next 24 years
- 1843: Samuel Sterne starts selling commercial lots on the west side of Queen Street
- 1844: An Anglican church is built using mud bricks (bricks that are not kilned)
- 1845: George Bolton sells the mill and property to nephew and assistant James Bolton Jr.
- 1845: James Jr. decides to move the mill downstream in order to increase its size and available power



Mackenzie rebellion scene



Mill pond with tannery to left



c.1842 Primitive Methodist Chapel

KEY FACTS 1845-1854

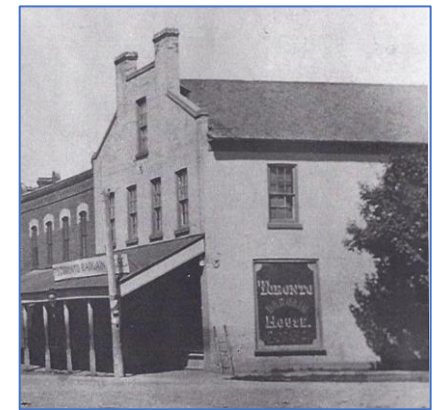
- 1845: George Evans is issued a licence and converts his shoemaking shop into a tavern
- 1845: A new mill race is created; James uses an oxbow to deflect flow from the dam away from the new mill
- 1846: James Bolton Jr.'s much larger downstream grist mill is producing flour by year end
- 1846: Charles Bolton, James Jr.'s brother, registers village's first plan of subdivision and begins selling lots
- 1846: Saw mill is set up on original mill site; it is run by William Bolton, youngest of James Bolton Sr.'s six sons
- 1847: George Evans replaces his tavern with a two-storey hotel called the Exchange
- 1847: Matthew Gray starts a brickyard on the southeast side of the village
- 1848: James Johnston builds an inn with tavern on the SE corner of King Street at Queen
- 1848: Anglican and Methodist church cemeteries are established
- 1850: James Jr. builds general store known as 'Bolton Brothers', run by Charles and his sons Lambert and John
- 1851: 'Town Hall' is built on the south side of King Street West
- 1852: Callendar Brothers build a large commercial building
- 1854: Surveyor T.C. Prosser lays out lots and streets east of Queen St on Bolton's first map



1846 mill as seen in early 1890s



James Johnston's Inn



c.1852 Commercial building

KEY FACTS 1855-1870

- 1855: Edward Lawson purchases the grist mill and property from James Bolton Jr.
- 1855: Glasgow woollen mill is set up west of Bolton by James McIntosh, on land leased from James Bolton Jr.
- 1856: Edward Lawson builds two-storey store on Queen Street at Mill, open daily at 6:30 am
- 1857: Wyatt Jaffary becomes a partner in a store on NW corner of Queen and King
- 1859: Lawson's steam biscuit factory is in operation close to the saw mill site
- 1860: John Gardhouse buys the grist mill and property from Edward Lawson
- 1860: Thomas Curliss opens the Albion Hotel on Queen Street, just north of the river
- 1860: Temperance Hall at John and Victoria streets is converted into a larger school
- 1867: Bolton Militia unit is set up to counter the threat of Fenian raids
- 1868: William Porritt builds an ashery
- 1869: William Dick starts up a foundry business named Bolton Agricultural Works on King Street East
- 1869: Ontario Hotel is built...there are now six hotels/inns on Queen Street within a two block radius
- 1870: Toronto Grey & Bruce Railway reaches Bolton. A station is built on the tableland close to Queen Street



Albion Hotel



Ontario Hotel



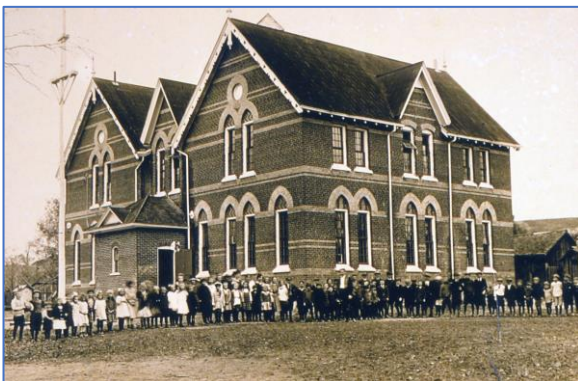
Toronto Grey & Bruce Railway Station

KEY FACTS 1870-1884

- 1872: Jesse N. Bolton (son of Samuel Bolton) starts a local newspaper named the 'Cardwell Observer'
- 1872: Population reaches 795 and Bolton meets requirements for village incorporation
- 1872: Lambert Bolton is elected first Reeve of the village; Samuel Walford is named Clerk
- 1873: Albert Dodds opens the Bolton Carriage Works
- 1873: Toronto Hotel aka Station Hotel opens beside the railway station
- 1874: Two-storey brick school is built on Albert Street and named Bolton Public School
- 1875: John Gardhouse builds an elaborate store on Queen Street
- 1877: Percy Block is built on west side of Queen Street, north of Sterne
- 1881: Andrew McFall buys the grist mill and property from John Gardhouse estate
- 1881: Doig Block is built on the site of Sterne's Hotel which burned down in 1880
- 1881: Exchange Hotel burns down and is re-built; c.1885 it is renamed Queen's Hotel
- 1884: Bolton's men's baseball team wins the three county championship
- 1884: Rear space in David Hughes' store houses Mechanics Institute reading room



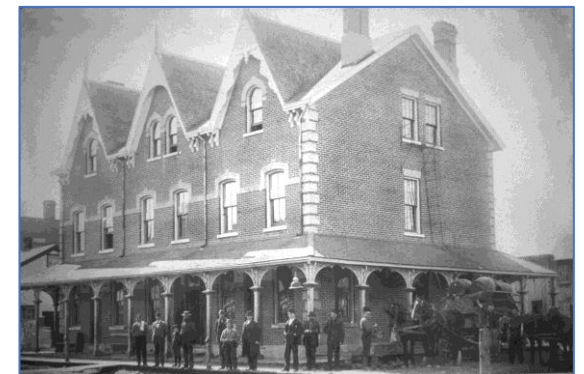
John Gardhouse Store



Bolton Public School



Percy Block



Queen's Hotel

KEY FACTS 1885-1894

- 1884: Bolton Brass Band is formed under the leadership of David Hughes
- 1885: Bolton skating club is formed at the open skating rink on Hickman Street
- 1885: Tannery closes as hemlock bark is depleted; the ashery also shuts down for lack of hardwood ashes
- 1886: Disastrous fire destroys the frame buildings that make up much of the east side of Queen Street
- 1886: Rutherford Block with six brick commercial units quickly replaces the buildings lost to fire
- 1888: Bonnar Block is built at the SE corner of Queen Street at Mill
- 1888: Herbert Bolton buys his cousin's newsweekly, re-names it 'The Enterprise'
- 1888: First long-distance telephone line is installed in Samuel Snell's drugstore
- 1888: John Plummer builds his own foundry on Mill Street
- 1890: Concerts are frequent. A lawn party in Godbolt's Grove features the Lloydtown Ladies Brass Band
- 1891: Nancy Stork takes over as Librarian
- 1893: Frank Leavens purchases 'The Enterprise'. He relocates it to the Doig Block in 1900
- 1893: Jaffary family build a new brick store on the NW corner of King and Queen Streets



Bolton Brass band



Bonnar Block looking south



Enterprise Building Doig Block

KEY FACTS 1894-1908

- 1894: Arthur McFall purchases the mill operations and property from his father's estate
- 1894: Laurel Hill Cemetery opens as a public cemetery
- 1894: William and Mary Buist build confectionary and ice cream store on SW corner of King and Queen
- 1894: There are three doctors and one dentist practicing medicine and dentistry in Bolton
- 1896: Arthur McFall builds tennis courts and organizes a tennis club on land below the mill dam
- 1900: Councillor Geo. Scott defeats plans for water mains in Bolton; it will be years before there is running water
- 1900: Private telephone line is installed from the mill to the grain elevator near the station
- 1900: Joseph F. Warbrick Jr. takes over the local private bank, established the previous year, in the Percy Block
- 1902: Acetylene gas is being used for public street lamps and for some commercial buildings
- 1904: Phone directory lists the McFall mill, Beamish butcher, Hodson hardware, Leavens printer and CP station
- 1906: CPR starts building a new rail line north from Bolton to meet the transcontinental line near Sudbury
- 1908: New CPR station at the top of Station Road opens in mid-October
- 1908: Masonic Arms Hotel is taken down; a newly built Imperial Bank of Canada branch opens in 1909



CPR Station in Bolton



Imperial Bank of Canada: King at Queen



Telephone poles along Queen Street

KEY FACTS 1909-1925

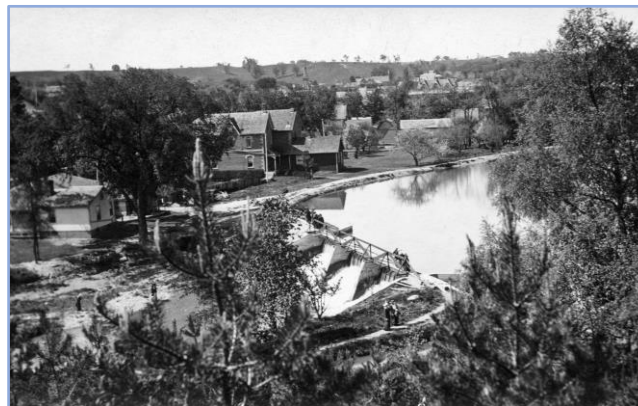
- 1908: Government programme enables Arthur McFall to re-forest the hillside north of the mill race and mill
- 1909: Percy Block is demolished to make way for the new Bolton Telephone Company building
- 1910: Bolton Light Heat and Power Company starts providing electricity to businesses in Bolton
- 1910: Continuation School, grades 9 and 10, is introduced in Bolton
- 1912: Major flood in April destroys the mill dam; it is replaced by a concrete dam built further downstream
- 1913: Hickman Street arena is built by the Bolton Rink Company, an incorporated community venture
- 1913: William R. Egan purchases carriage works and funeral business from Albert Dodds
- 1916: Thomson Dick sells the area's first Chevrolet automobile
- 1919: Thomson Dick builds an implements showroom (now 44 Queen Street North)
- 1922: Bolton Camp welcomes its first families and children
- 1922: Electrical wiring in residential properties begins, supervised by Wilfred Maw
- 1925: Bolton Women's softball team wins the Ontario Championship



Albert Dodds and family



Bolton Telephone Company building opened 1911



McFall Mill Dam in 1912



Hickman Street Arena