

# *“The Grange” – A Short History*

*Built c.1828*



*The Grange, c1890*

A delightful testimony to life in the early years of settlement, “The Grange” tells its story through the number of memorable personalities who have lived here over the years.

“The Grange” was built for Sir John Beverley Robinson, the first Chief Justice of Upper Canada, sometime between 1828 and 1833,

for the dual purpose of being a government office and a rural retreat from his rigorous

professional schedule. The Ontario Regency style of architecture and the high quality craftsmanship reflect the status of its original owner.

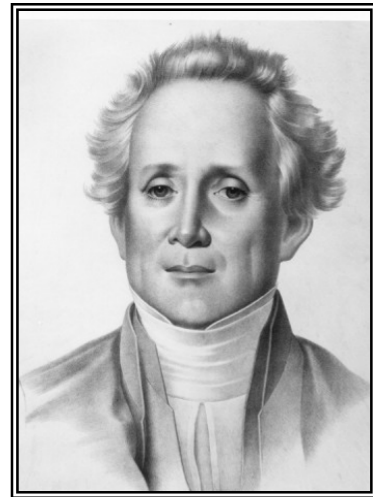
“The Grange” changed hands several times in short succession, being owned in turn by Thomas Hickey (1832), Edgar Neave (1835), Colonel William Thompson (1836) and Doctor Beaumont Wilson Bowen Dixie (1843). Dr. Dixie was a beloved



*Doctor Beaumont Wilson  
Bowen Dixie*

doctor and surgeon who served the surrounding area for many years. Dr. Dixie is attributed with adding the original summer kitchen to this remarkable cottage, as well as numerous outbuildings. It was during Dr. Dixie’s time at “The

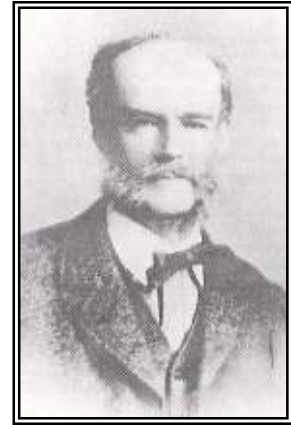
Grange” that we believe a family, with children, first came to call the building home. Sadly, Dr. Dixie and his wife Annie (Anna Skynner) lost four children (Anna Frances, Wolston Alexander, Richard Willoughby, and Harriet Christianna) in 1854, likely to an epidemic.



*Sir John Beverley Robinson,  
builder of The Grange*

“The Grange” was sold numerous times throughout the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, with owners including:

John Irvine (1854), Colonel Charles Mitchell (1856), the son-in-law of General Peter Adamson, and John P. McConnell (1870). In 1878, the building was owned by the Very Reverend Dean Henry Grasett of St. James Cathedral in Toronto. Purchased in 1879 by William Downey, "The Grange" was purchased in 1892 by Weymouth George Schreiber, the husband of renowned artist Charlotte Schreiber. In 1910 Arthur Adamson purchased the



*Weymouth George Schreiber*



*Olive & Henry Harvie Adamson*

property from Weymouth Delisle Schreiber, and in turn

sold it in 1911 to his brother, Henry Harvie ("Harry") Adamson. The Adamson family was the longest single owners of the property, owning the property until 1968 and living here until 1973. Henry Harvie Adamson was the grandson of Doctor Joseph Adamson.

Adamson, together with his wife, Olive, and daughter, Dorothy, were farmers and kept a large orchard. In the winter months, they stabled ponies from Taylor Statton's camp and a few racehorses for E.P. Taylor. Under their ownership the original exterior of "The Grange" was veneered in brick from the nearby Cooksville brickyard.



*Dorothy Adamson at "The Grange", 1914*



*Transfer of title to the City of Mississauga, 1978 (note the brick façade)*

The Cadillac Fairview Corporation,

who acquired the surrounding property in the 1970s, deeded "The Grange" to the City of Mississauga in 1978, its preservation ensured by the efforts of the local historical society and city councilors. In 1978 "The Grange" was designated by the Ontario Heritage Trust as a significant historical and architectural landmark. From 1981 until 2004, "The Grange" was home to the Boy Scouts of Canada.

Today “The Grange”, also known as the Robinson-Adamson House, is home to the offices, exhibit galleries, and Heritage Resource Centre of Heritage Mississauga.

We invite you to visit us and enjoy the charm and beauty of this remarkable and significant heritage landmark in the City of Mississauga.



*Official opening of Heritage Mississauga's offices at "The Grange", 2004*

