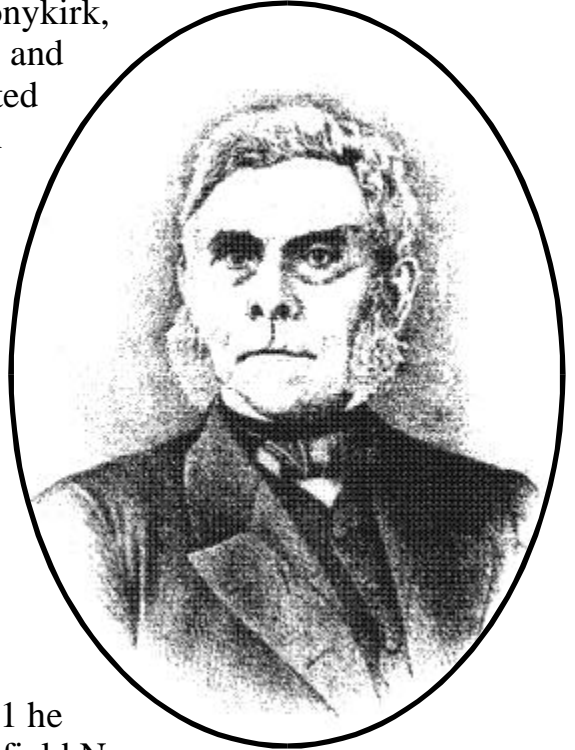


JOHN CROMBIE

Dr. John Crombie (1794-1877) was born in Stonykirk, Scotland where he received his early education and taught in the parish school. In 1819 he emigrated to Canada with his family. His father settled in Chinguacousy. Crombie began his life in Canada by teaching school in the Niagara District. Soon Colonel Street hired him to teach his family in Streetsville. After one and a half years he decided to become a physician.

In 1829 he graduated from medical school in Fairfield, New York. He began practising in Streetsville which was still almost a wilderness with few roads. He became a familiar figure on horseback as he conscientiously visited the sick and needy frequently carrying provisions to his poorer patients. Often he did not collect a fee. In 1821 he married Mary Waite who had been born in Fairfield New York in 1815. All their children died in infancy so they adopted their niece Mary Crombie.



In the census of 1871 he is described as 75 years of age, Scottish born, and a member of the Canada Presbyterian Church. In the 1877 Atlas of Peel, his picture, signature, and residence (Lot 3 Second Concession west, east half) appear.

Friends described him as frank, cheerful and honest. He had a moral fearlessness and was a highly respected and useful citizen who was a noble example to young men. He always took an active interest in the schools of Toronto Township. For many years he was one of the County Examiners using his considerable influence to improve schools.