

THE WALTERHOUSE FAMILY OF COOKSVILLE

The Walterhouse Blacksmith's shop was for many years a landmark in Cooksville. Located at what is now the corner of Hurontario and Agnes Streets the shop was operated by Lewis Walterhouse and after him by his son, Francis Lewis, known as Frank. This photograph shows from the left: Lewis Walterhouse, Ralph Burry on the horse, an unidentified farmer, and Frank Walterhouse.



The Walterhouse family was one of the earliest to settle in the Cooksville area. The first Walterhouse, William, came from New Jersey (probably Sussex County) as a child with his family about 1789. The family settled first in Lincoln County, in Thorold, but probably moved to Toronto Township about 1809. At that time William and his family took up Lot 14 Conc 1 NDS. In 1829 William purchased the north half of Lot 13 Conc 1 NDS from John Harris. On his petition for land in 1829 William stated that he was native of New Jersey who had lived in Canada for thirty years. Mitchell & Co.'s *General Directory for the City of Toronto, and Gazetteer for the Counties of York and Peel, for 1866*, under Township of Toronto, Ward no. 3, shows William Walterhouse, Senr. and John Walterhouse at Conc 1, Lot 13, and George Walterhouse and William Walterhouse, Jnr. at Conc 1 Lot 14.

William married Sarah Van Camp, probably in the United States, and had nine children, all of whom, except one, settled in the Cooksville area. Lewis Walterhouse, the son of William's son, Isaac, is recorded in his father's will, dated 14 April 1873, as a blacksmith. Edway Walterhouse, the son of William's son, John, was the proprietor of the hotel, the Revere House, which stood for many years at the north-west corner of Hurontario and Dundas Streets. After the Revere House ceased operation as a hotel it became the home of Ward's Drug Store and other stores. It was eventually demolished in the 1960s and the area is now the Cooksville Parkette.