

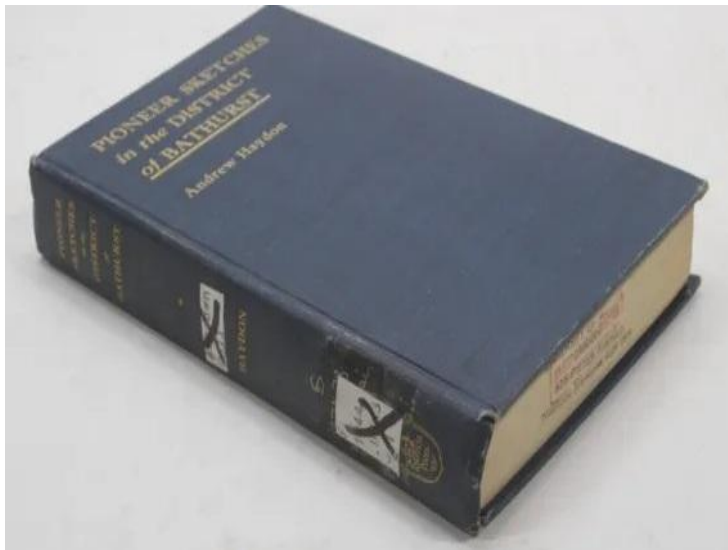
PIONEER SKETCHES

**Senator Andrew Haydon
(1867-1932)**

Andrew Haydon, teacher, lawyer, political operative and Canadian Senator, also authored the first serious account of early Lanark County history -- *Pioneer Sketches in the District of Bathurst*¹ published in 1924.

A century earlier, Reverend William Bell (1780-1857) had published *Hints to Immigrants, In a Series of Letters from Upper Canada*.² However, while Bell's book offers a valuable eyewitness account of the early Perth Military Settlement, it only covered the first eight years of the story and its focus was on providing a guide to immigrants rather than recording history.

Two other early books captured some useful information but were works of historic fiction -- *Perth-on-the-Tay, a Tale of the Transplanted Highlanders* (1901)³, by Josephine Smith, and *Colin of the Ninth Concession: A Tale of Scottish Pioneer Live in Eastern Ontario* (1903),⁴ by Robert Lorne Richardson (1860-1921).



More than four decades passed before Haydon's *Pioneer Sketches* was followed by another serious history of the early settlement -- *A Pioneer History of the County of Lanark* (1968), by Jean S. McGill (1920-2019).⁵

Andrew Haydon was a son of the District⁶ he chronicled, the eldest of five children⁷ born to James Haydon (1843-1927), a Welsh immigrant who had arrived in 1854, and Eleanor 'Ellen' Sadler (1845-1916), a daughter of Irish immigrants born at Pakenham.

¹ After 1849, the United Counties of Lanark & Renfrew Counties.

² Waugh & Innes, Edinburgh, Scotland, 1824. Available on-line at <https://archive.org/details/McGillLibrary-129031-4881>

³ Mortimer Co., Merrickville, 1901. Available on-line at <https://electriccanadian.com/pioneering/perthonthetay.pdf>

⁴ George N. Morang & Company, Toronto, 1903. Available on-line at <https://www.electricscotland.com/history/ninth/index.htm>

⁵ More recent books on the history of Perth and Lanark County are itemized on the Perth & District Historical Society website <https://www.perthhs.org/history/books-perth-and-area.html>

⁶ The District of Bathurst became the United Counties of Lanark and Renfrew in 1849 and the County of Lanark in 1866.

⁷ Andrew (1867-1932), Lucy (1868-1948), William (1871-1953), Emily 'Emma' Jane (1879-1945), Joseph South Wood (1884-1943).

After attending elementary and secondary schools at Pakenham and Almonte, Haydon taught in Carleton County elementary schools for two years before enrolling at Queen's University, Kingston. He graduated a double medalist, with first class honors in English, History and Political Science, obtained his MA in 1893, his LLB in 1896, and completed law studies at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, in 1897. From 1897 through 1899 he practiced law at Lanark before moving to Ottawa where he joined the law firm of McGivern, Haydon, and Ebbs⁸ in 1902.

When his Ottawa law partner Harold Buchanan McGivern (1870-1931) ran as a Liberal candidate in the federal election of 1908, Haydon managed his election campaign. His organizational abilities and skill at handling public relations brought Haydon to the attention of Liberal Party leaders, including Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier (1841-1919) with whom he became friends.

Laurier's death in February 1919 led to a Liberal Party national convention at Ottawa that August. Haydon served as general secretary of the convention and, operating always unobtrusively behind the scenes, he further impressed the party leadership, especially William Lyon Mackenzie King (1874-1950) who emerged as Laurier's successor.

In 1920 Haydon was appointed general secretary of National Liberal Organization Committee to organize and raise funds for the federal election of December 1921. When the Liberals formed a minority government, Haydon officially resigned the general secretary's job in 1922 but became a key advisor to Prime Minister King and remained the party's "*one-man national organization throughout the 1920s*".⁹

In March 1925 Haydon was rewarded for his party work with an appointment to the Senate filling the Ontario vacancy created by the death of Valentine Ratz (1848-1924).

With a secure position in the Red Chamber, Haydon had time to pursue other interests, including authoring two works of history: *Pioneer Sketches of The District of Bathurst* (Ryerson Press, 1925) and *Mackenzie King and the Liberal Party* (Allen, 1930).

In *Pioneer Sketches* Haydon first backgrounds the creation of the District of Bathurst from 1763 when the Treaty of Paris ended the Seven Years War to the decision to create a "*settlement on the Rideau*" in the early years of the 19th century. The following chapters relate local history through the stories of 'Perth-on-The-Tay', the Richmond settlement (and the duke for whom it was named¹⁰), arrival of the Society Settlers at 'Lanark-On-The-Clyde', the 'Ballyghiblines' riot at Morphy's Falls¹¹ and creation of the Dalhousie Township Library. *Pioneer Sketches* concludes with chapters profiling Lanark County's long-time sheriff, Andrew Dickson (1797-1868), and poet, journalist, and politician Thomas MacQueen (1803-1861).

⁸ John Parson Ebbs (1883-1965). In addition to practicing law, Ebbs played for the Ottawa Senators hockey club for a single season in 1906-1907.

⁹ Dictionary of Canadian Biography.

¹⁰ Charles Lennox (1764-1819), 4th Duke of Richmond.

¹¹ Carleton Place.

Pioneer Sketches is still available as a historical reprint from Global Heritage Press.

Andrew Haydon's final years were mired in political controversy and scandal.

In 1928 the Beauharnois Power Corporation Limited, one of his law clients and one of the Liberal Party's largest donors, announced plans for a 20-kilometer-long canal¹² to divert the flow of the St Lawrence River to a huge new powerhouse at Montreal. Senators and party operatives, Haydon, and Donat Raymond (1880-1963), co-treasurers of the Liberal Party, collected more than \$500,000 from Beauharnois company President Robert Oliver Sweezey (1883-1968), plus a \$50,000 payment to Haydon's law firm, alleged to have been contingent on federal approval of the canal plans. In March 1929 the McKenzie King government passed an order in council approving the project and construction began that October following an extravagant ceremony attended by prominent representatives of business and politics including Andrew Haydon.



Andrew Haydon (1867-1932)

In the spring of 1930 whispers about a Beauharnois pay-off began to circulate in the opposition press and in July that year a national election replaced King's Liberal Government with the Conservatives of Richard Bedford Bennett's (1870-1947). A House of Commons select committee soon began investigating the Beauharnois affair.

The Liberals denied the project had been approved in return for political contributions, and no conclusive evidence to the contrary was ever produced. Nevertheless, the committee's report harshly criticized Haydon, Raymond and Haydon's law partner Senator Wilfrid McDougald (1881-1942), leading to creation of a special Senate committee to determine what disciplinary action should be taken.

By the summer of 1930 Haydon was ill with heart disease, and the investigative committee had to visit his home to take his testimony. He acknowledged collecting donations from Beauharnois, but insisted no bargain had been made, no promises asked, and none given. He also told the committee he had provided McKenzie King and his cabinet no explanation of campaign funding and that there was no connection between the Beauharnois contribution and the Order in Council. He also swore that he had kept none of the money for himself. *"This whole matter of campaign funds,"* he told the committee, *"is one on which the general public is liable to become very self-righteous. Everybody knows that elections cost money – and a lot of money – for perfectly legitimate expenses. The ordinary voter gives nothing".*¹³

¹² Replacing the Soulanges Canal.

¹³ Dictionary of Canadian Biography.

The Senate committee report of April 1932 forced McDougald to resign his seat and severely reprimanded Raymond. Haydon's conduct was judged "*unfitting and inconsistent with his position and standing as a Senator*"¹⁴ but that he had not received any personal benefit from the payments or lobbied the Prime Minister in favor of the Beauharnois project. Haydon escaped further sanction, but the affair cast a dark shadow over the final months of his life.

In 1902 Haydon had married Euphemia McDonald Scott (1868-1941) of Stafford Springs, Connecticut, USA, and they became the parents of one son, Andrew Scott Haydon (1903-1968), and a short-lived daughter Eleanor Haydon (1905-1913). Their grandson, engineer Andrew Scott Haydon Jr. (1933-2024), became Reeve of Nepean Township 1970-1978, the first Mayor of the City of Nepean when it incorporated in 1978 and was Regional Chair of Ottawa-Carleton 1978-1991. The City of Ottawa council chambers, Andrew S. Haydon Hall, are named for him, as is Andrew Haydon Park on the Ottawa River (Carling Avenue). Carleton University awards an engineering scholarship in his name each year.

Lawyer, Liberal Party bagman, Senator and historian Andrew Haydon died on November 10, 1932 at his Ottawa home and was buried in Beechwood Cemetery.

Ron W. Shaw (2025)

¹⁴ Dictionary of Canadian Biography.