

# PROMINENT FAMILIES OF THE PERIOD

## CAPTAIN WALTER BOSWELL RN 1770-1850



### WHO HE WAS:

Walter Boswell was a brother of George, a descendant of the Boswells of Balmuto, and a relation of the celebrated biographer James Boswell. He had **a long and distinguished career in the British Navy**, seeing service in many parts of the world: off the coast of Spain, the English Channel, the Mediterranean, Newfoundland and the Caribbean. He was promoted to captain, in 1814 and retired shortly afterwards.

### HOW HE GOT HERE:

About 1818 Boswell came to Cobourg with the intent of taking up his land grant north of Rice Lake. For several months, according to family tradition, the Boswells stayed at a hotel near the corner of present day Division and King Streets. His family much objected to going out into the wilderness so they were very happy when one day the Captain arrived back at the hotel to announce that he intended buying a farm near the settlement. Shortly afterwards he bought a large cleared farm east of Cobourg and named it Beech Grove.

Boswell was active in promoting and developing the area. He was **a member of the colonial Legislative Council, Warden of the Council and the District of Newcastle and the first People's Warden for St. Peter's Church.**

He and his wife Catherine established a prolific family that for generations was prominent in the affairs of the town and the province. Their children's marriages illustrate the small pool of eligible spouses and the complex relationships that were formed in these early years.



*Beech Grove Farm*

John married Mary Ann Sowden, daughter of half-pay officer William Sowden.  
Walter married Fannie Spilsbury, daughter of half-pay officer Francis Spilsbury.

William married Eliza Graveley.

George married Minerva (Mary) Ann Perry, daughter of Ebenezer Perry.

Catherine married half-pay officer Capt Archibald Macdonald.

Eliza married her first cousin, Edward Boswell.

Margaret married William Graveley, brother of Eliza.

Ann married Roland Macdonald, nephew of Archibald Macdonald.

Roland's sister Magdalen married George Perry, brother of above mentioned Mary Ann Perry Boswell.

