

William Durie Lyon 1825 – 1893

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William Durie Lyon, son of John Lyon and Catherine McFarlane was born June 5, 1825 in Blantyre, now a part of Glasgow.

He immigrated to Canada in 1871 settling in the and settled in Esquesing Township, Ontario. He married Mary MacEachern (1822-1908) in 1853. They had at least 7 children:



- i. John Lyon b. Dec 1854, Milton, Ontario, d. 24 Mar 1892 Milton, Ontario
- ii. Margaret Lyon b. 1856, Milton, Ontario d. 1885 Milton.
- iii. Catherine Lyon b. Mar 1858 in Milton, Ontario. 30 Dec 1874 at Milton, Ontario
- iv. Mary Marion "May" Lyon b. 15 Nov 1859 in Milton, Ontario m. John Wallace d. 25 September, Toronto, Ontario
- v. William Lyon b. 1863, Milton, Ontario
- vi. Flora Rachel Lyon b. 29 Apr 1867 Milton, Ontario married George Murray in Rat Portage on 5 Feb 1889, d. 28 Jul 1906 Winnipeg,
- vii. Annie Elizabeth Lyon b. 19 Sep 1872 Milton, m. Abram Carr Hopper, 24 Sep 1942 Ontario Chicago

He worked in a store in Streetville. He moved to Milton where he clerked in a store owned by Matthias Teetzel. In 1856 he was a member of a mercantile firm of White, Martin and Lyon in Milton. He served as Postmaster in Milton. on the Town Council of Milton. He then served several terms on Milton Council and Warden from 1862 to 1866.

In 1867 he established an extensive lumbering business at Michael's Bay on Manitoulin Island with John White and George Brockitt Abrey. He served as Liberal MPP for Halton Riding from November 2, 1875 to April 25, 1879. He served on the Standing Committee on Railways and on Standing Orders.

He was appointed Stipend Magistrate for Rainy River in 1879. He settled initially in Fort Francis and then made his home in Rat Portage. His wife refused to come to Rat Portage remaining in Milton. Only the younger son William ever came to Rat Portage.

Before incorporation, the affairs of unincorporated areas were managed by Magistrates appointed by the Crown. Duties covered every facet of the town - hiring the constables, paying them ordering their supplies and supervising their duties. He bought land from the Hudson Bay Company for \$150 per lot for a courthouse and jail on Matheson Street. He began sidewalk and street improvement. He assessed timber standards and set timber limits. He oversaw business licenses. One of his concerns while in Rat Portage was the whisky peddling going on the lines during construction days.

He served the town until his death October 13, 1893. He was buried in the Evergreen Cemetery at Milton.

