

MORMONS VISIT OSHAWA 1838 or 1839

In the year 1838 or 1839 Joseph Smith the Mormon leader, also his associates, Babbit, Taylor, Rigden, Oliver, Cowdrey visited Oshawa.

Joseph Smith, Babbit, Taylor & Rigden came from Niagara Falls in a beautiful carriage drawn by a fine team of bay horses, driven by a colored man.

They drove to the McGregor wood near the Union School house south of the village, on Sunday and placed their carriage in the centre of the campground used by the Methodists every year. Rigden who was the chief orator of the Mormons held forth before a vast concourse of people of all denominations.

At the close of Rigden's speeches he gave liberty to Clergymen present to ask questions but as none of them did so George Munro, an Oshawa innkeeper raised his hand and said, "If there are no Clergymen here who wish to ask a question, I desire to do."

Rigden the Mormon speaker rising in the carriage said, " All right, sir."

Munro the innkeeper then said, "Is Joe Smith here?"

A tall handsome man in the carriage rose and replied, "My name is Joe Smith, Sir."