

# **A Study of the Development of Roads in Blenheim Township, Oxford, County, Ontario**

by Edward B. Kipp, Ph.D., M.L.S., OMH, UE

The information used to draw the following maps was taken from the old Blenheim Township Minute Book 1822-1844. Mr. James Forrest of Princeton, Ontario, found this book around 1950. This is one of the earliest township minute books still in existence in southwestern Ontario. The book was passed on to the late Mrs. Wilfred Williamson, historical coordinator of the Princeton-Woodbury Women's Institute for safekeeping. In 1973, this book was donated to the Provincial Archives of Ontario in Toronto. Two photographic copies were given to the Princeton-Woodbury Women's Institute in return. These are now kept at the Princeton, Museum.

It is sometimes difficult to interpret the descriptions provided for what each Overseer of Highways or Pathmaster was responsible for.

#### **Place Names:**

Mudgeford Mills – Canning

Blenheim Mills – Richwood

Governor's Road Settlement – Princeton, located originally near the Burying Ground

Governor's Road – Dundas Street

#### **Bibliography:**

"Able Mudge Founder of Ayr was Blenheim Township Assessor in 1822." The Ayr News, Vol. 77 (No.30), p. 1, July 25, 1974.

"A History of the Post Office at Princeton." The Ayr News. Vol. 78 (No. 4), p. 8-A, Jan. 30, 1975.

(Post Office was established May 6, 1837)



# THE NEWS

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## Able Mudge founder of Ayr was Blenheim Township Assessor in 1822

**BLENHAIM TOWNSHIP  
 MINUTE BOOK**  
 1822 - 1844  
 by Edward B. Kipp

An old Blenheim Township Minute Book dating back to 1822 was found around 1950 by Mr. James Forrest of Princeton, Ontario. He recovered it from a refuse heap near Richwood, Ontario. This is one of the earliest township minute books still in existence in southwestern Ontario. The book was passed on to Mrs. W. Williamson, historical co-ordinator of the Princeton-Woodbury Women's Institute (PWI) for safekeeping. In 1973 this book was donated to the Provincial Archives of Ontario in Toronto by the PWI. Two photographic copies were given to the PWI in return. These are now kept by Mrs. W. Williamson. These copies will be bound and one of them will probably be placed in the

Princeton Library.

This book contains the minutes of town meetings starting in 1822 and continuing to 1844 and includes lists of the Town and Parish officers appointed for the year. It also contains fines and moneys spent on roads.

The first town meeting recorded in this book was legally notified and held in the old school on Dundas Street on the first Monday in January 1822 with the following persons being chosen to serve as Town and Parish officers for the year: Town Clerk, Jacob Goble; Assessors, Henry Slawson and Able Mudge; Collector, Donald McIntyre; Pound Keepers, William Swarts and Benjamin Bailey; Town Wardens, Earl Martin and Silas Martin; Overseers of Highways, Silas Martin, Elial Martin, Ebenezer Boss and James Pelton. Succeeding meetings were held

once a year on the first Monday in January at various places in the township. The old school house mentioned as being the first meeting place was probably on a quarter acre of lot 14 concession 1 Blenheim in or near the south east corner of the present Princeton cemetery. This information was obtained from the registry office in Woodstock.

Of particular interest are the town laws, which in the early days of Blenheim dealt with animals and fences. The construction of fences was regulated from the beginning, for example rail fences had to be 5½ feet high, staked and ridged and not more than 5 inches between the 5 bottom rails. The animals which appeared to need regulating were hogs until 1828. The year 1828 roughly corresponds with a rapid increase in settlement of the township and regulation of more expensive animals such as horses and cattle. They must of had a problem with cattle running loose on Dundas Street for one of the laws was that unruly and breechy cattle were to be kept off Dundas Street at night. As the years went by the rules regarding freedom of animals became increasingly restrictive. Even if animals were impounded by the pound keepers they were required to be fed sufficient food that the said animals should not fall away or receive damage by impounding. Of course the owner of the animal had to pay for this care.

This book which is very interesting. That is the list of ear marks of sundry inhabitants of Blenheim Township for Horned Cattle, Hogs, and Sheep etc. The various ear marks used were square cropping of the ear, slits, swallow forks, half penny notches, holes, half crops and slanting crops in various combinations on both left and right ears of the animal. This seems to be a novel way of branding animals. One might wonder which would be more painful to the animal, branding with a hot iron or having notches and holes cut in its ears. The first recorded mark was that of Denton Burns on June 5, 1822. This was a slit in the left ear. The last recorded mark was for the animals of James Rochester on May 20, 1859. This was a square crop of the left ear with a half penny out of the underside of the right ear.

Some of the ear marks of prominent members of the township were: Jacob Goble - a square crop of the right ear and a slit in the left; John Galbraith - a square crop of the right ear with a slit in the same ear; Jeremiah Cowin - a crop of the left ear with a slit in the same. A total of eighty-nine ear marks were recorded in this book.

Town Clerks from 1822-1859  
 Jacob Goble, 1822 - 1824.  
 Joseph Smith, 1825 - 1827.  
 Jeremiah Cowin, 1828 - 1830.  
 William Slawson, 1831  
 Peter Bastedo, 1832 - 1833.  
 John Jackson, 1834 - 1837.  
 Joseph H. Laycock, 1838 - 1859.

There is also another part of

## O.R.S.A. Again Has Record Number of Teams

The Ontario Rural Softball Association will, in 1974, again break previous records for number of teams entered for provincial playdowns.

At a classification meeting held in Brantford last Wednesday, association executive learned 316 teams will compete for titles in 33 series. This number includes series for

all ages of boys, girls, ladies and men.

The 1974 entries are up 11 teams over 1973. Teams are entered from all sections of the province excepting northern Ontario.

Ayr has seven teams entered; New Dundee two; Innerkip ten; Princeton four; and Bright one.

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*Service*

# DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS IN BLENHEIM TOWNSHIP

1822

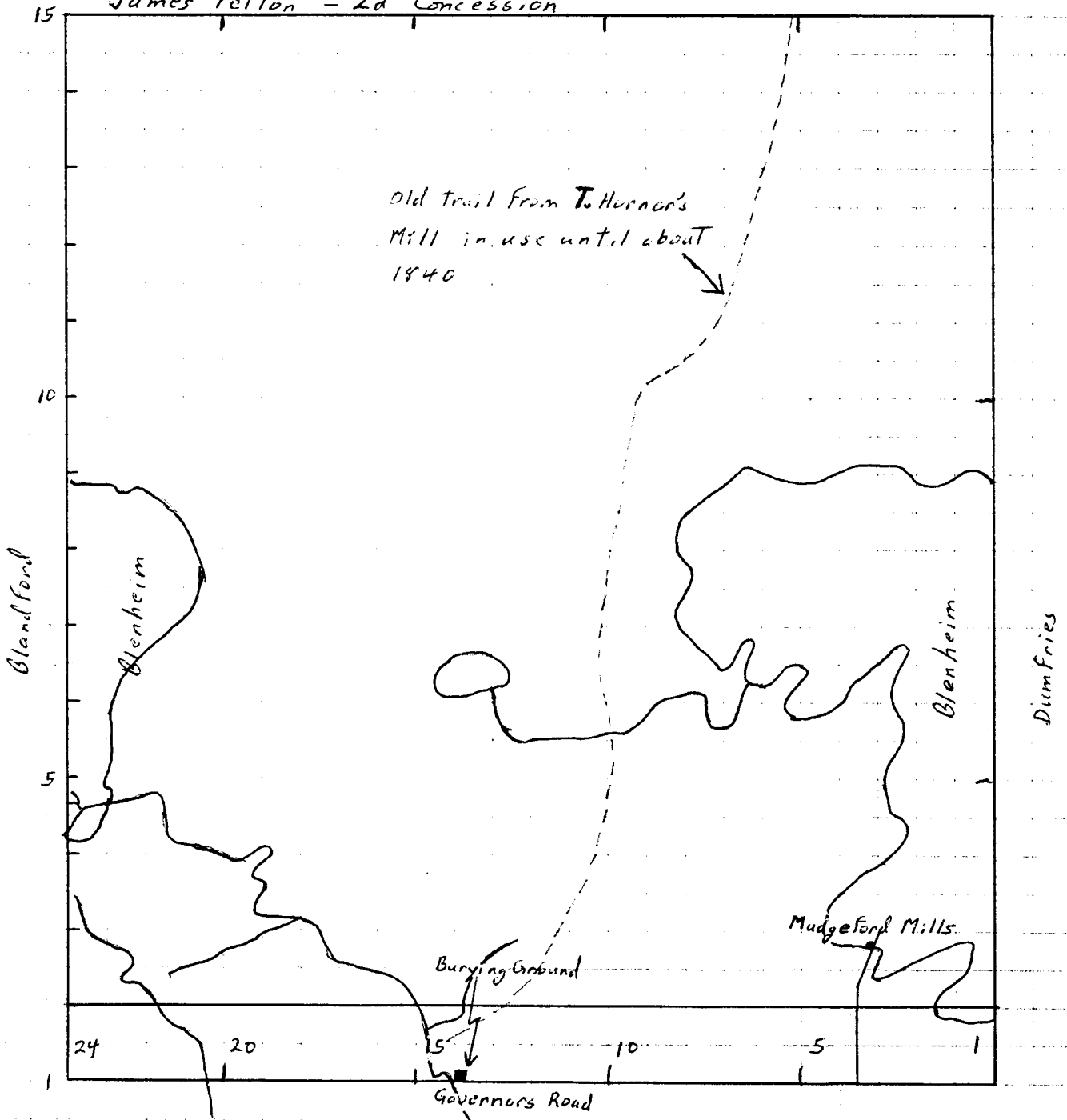
## Overseers of Highways

Silas Martin - W. Division of Governors Road commencing at the old burying ground thence west to the Oxford line

Eliel Martin - E. Division of Governors Road commencing at the old burying ground

Ebenezer Boss - on the road running N from Governors Road to Mudgeford Mills

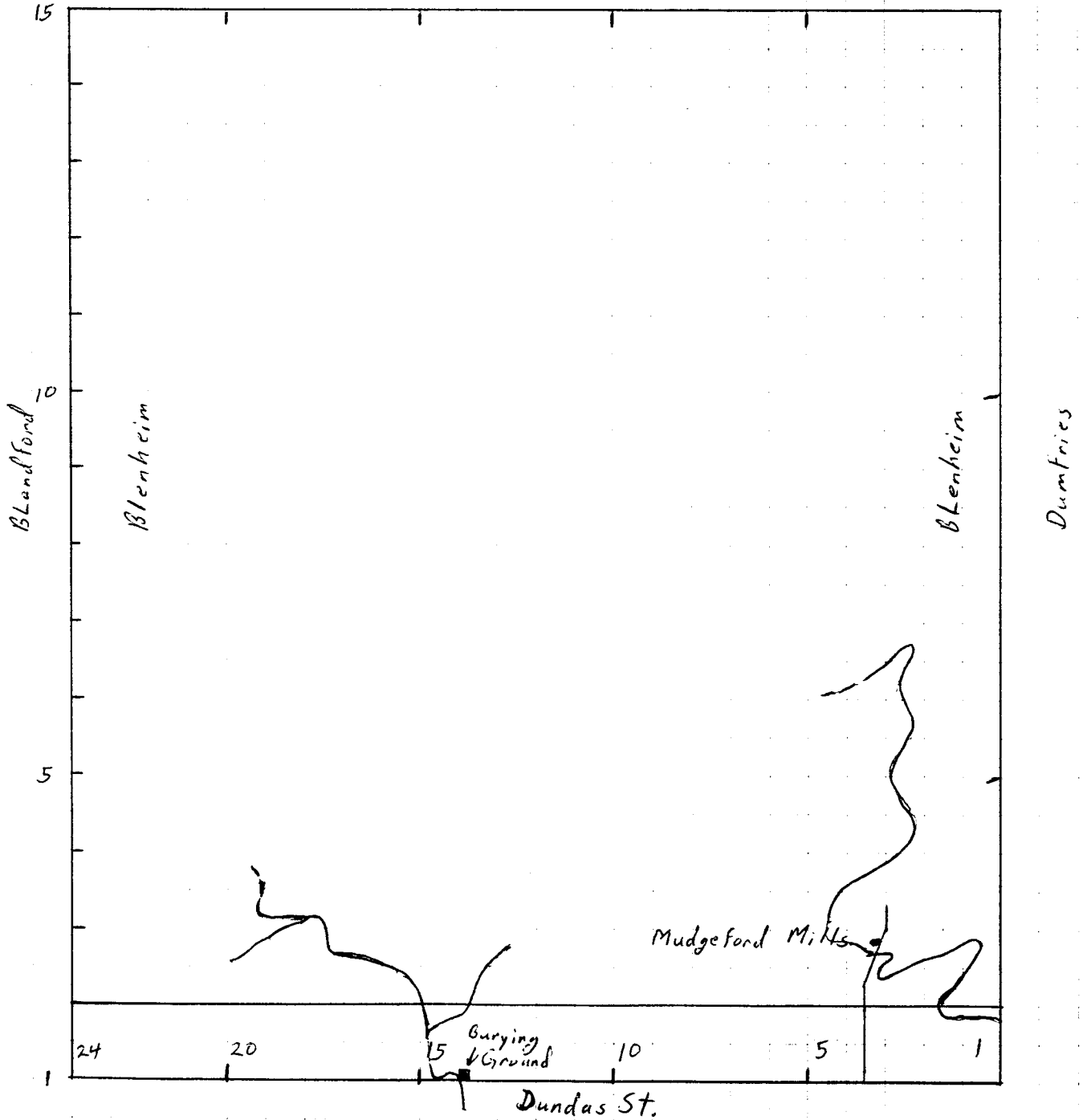
James Pelton - 2d Concession



1823

Overseers of Highways

- Peter Buckben - W. Division Dundas St.
- Earl Martin - E. Division Dundas St.
- Donald McIntyre - 2<sup>d</sup> Concession
- Abel Mudge - on the road running North from Dundas St. to Mudgeford Mills
- Henry Daniels - From Mudgeford Mills North so far as work is necessary



1824

Overseers of Highways

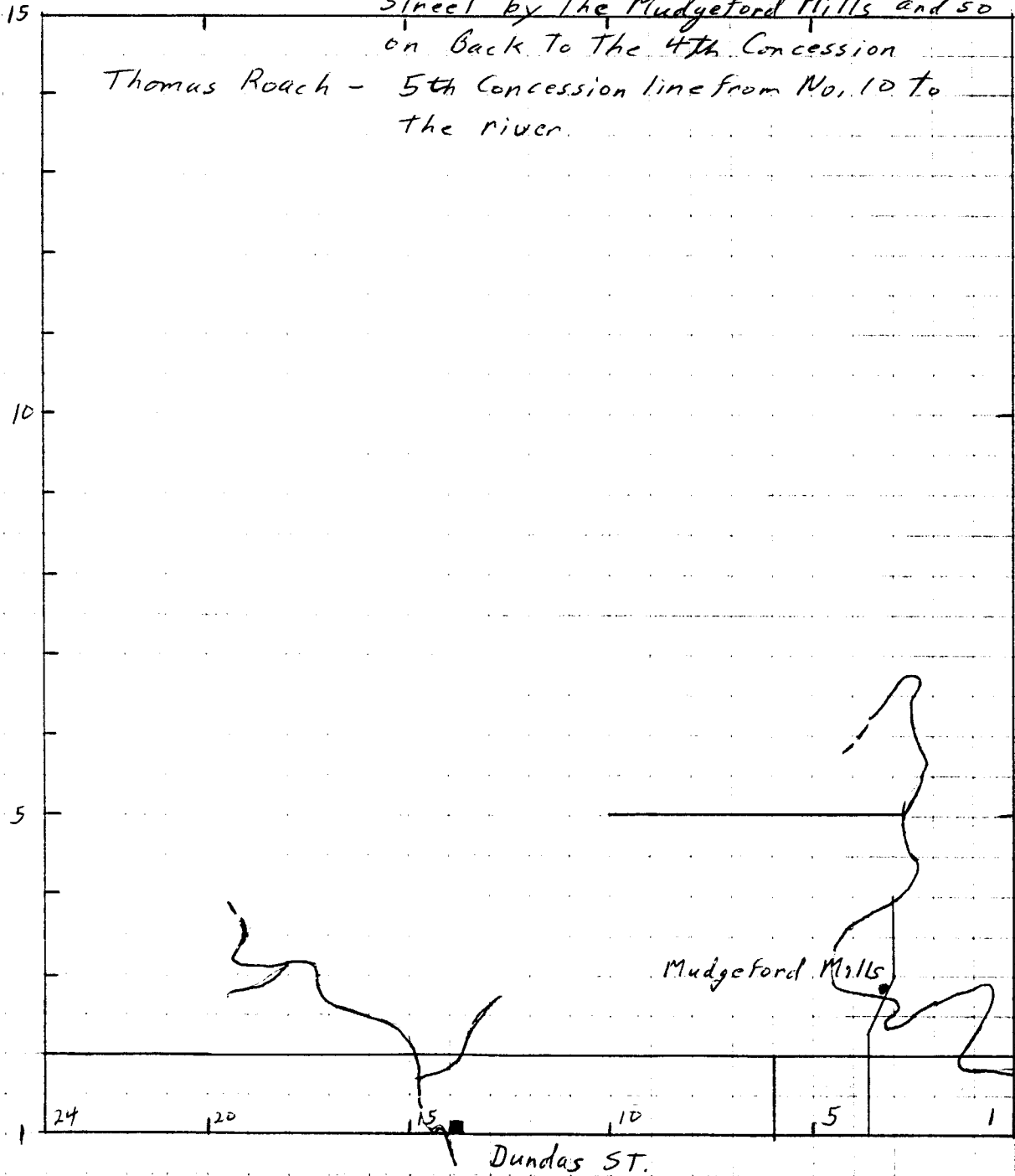
Silas Martin - W. Division Governors Rd

Eliel Martin - E. Division Governors Rd

Henry Slawson - 2d Concession and also to include the crossroad leading from Dundas Street to the said 2d Concession between lots 6 & 7 in the 1st Concession

Elijah Mudge - on the road running North from Dundas Street by the Mudgeford Mills and so on back to the 4th Concession

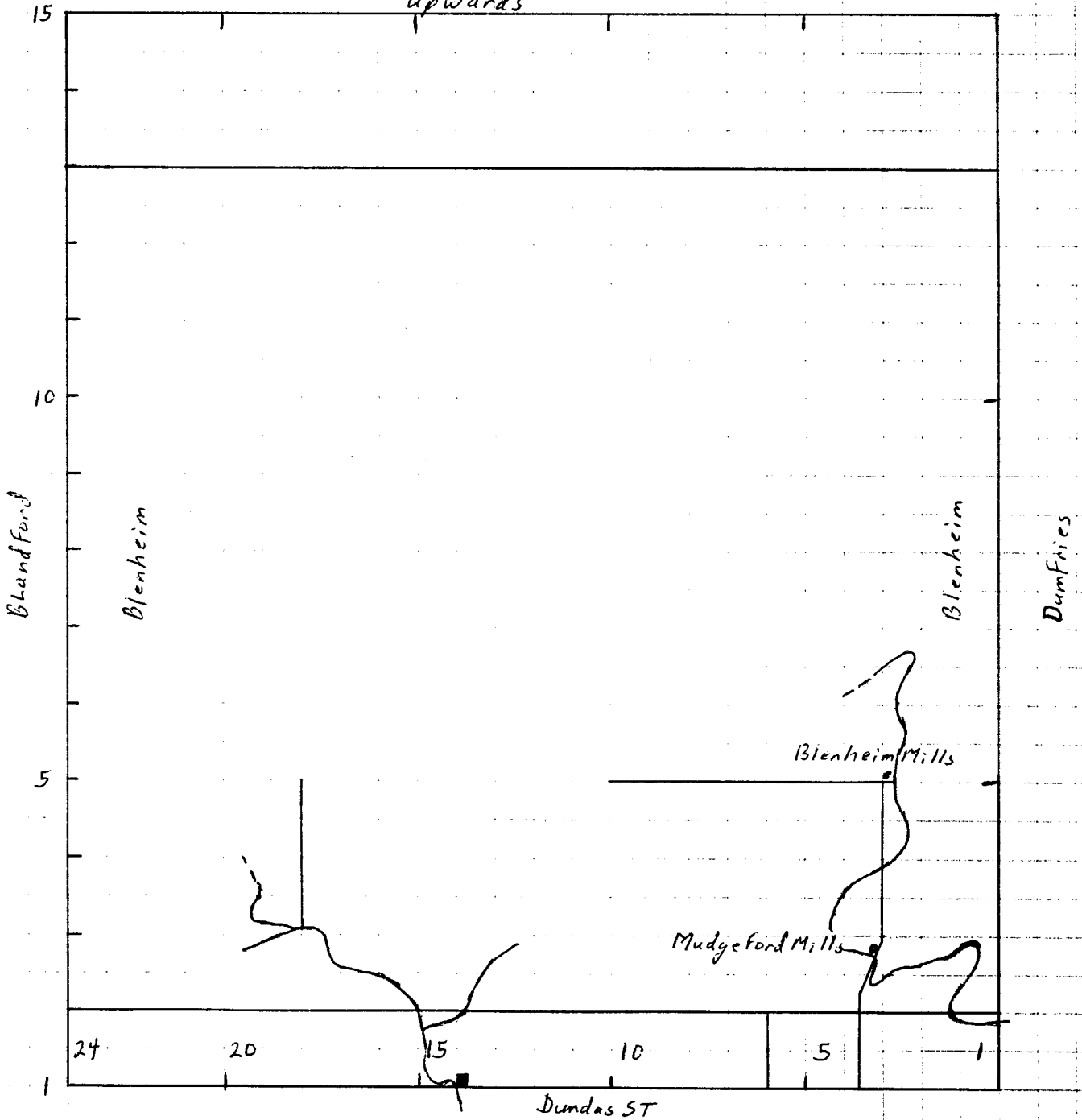
Thomas Roach - 5th Concession line from No. 10 to the river.



1828

OVERSEERS OF HIGHWAYS

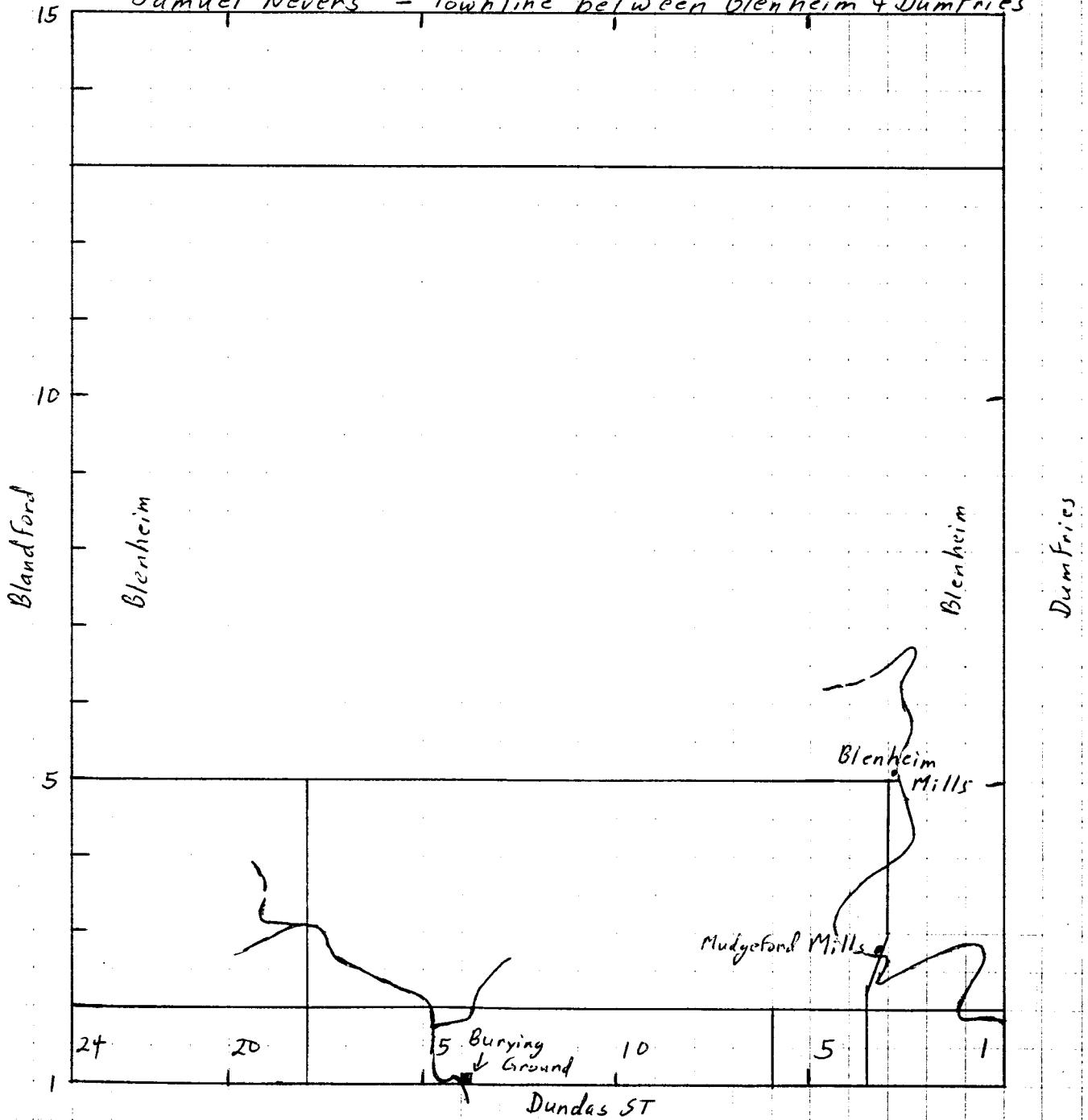
- Eliel Martin - E. Division of Dundas St.
- Silas Martin - M. " " " "
- Chancey Purdy - W. " " " "
- Samuel Pelton - 2<sup>d</sup> Concession
- Abel Mudge - From Blenheim Mills to Dundas St.
- John Rumrell - Townline between Dumfries & Blenheim
- George Reynolds - 13<sup>th</sup> Concession
- Henry Daniels - From the bridge in the 3<sup>d</sup> Concession upwards



1829

OVERSEERS OF HIGHWAYS

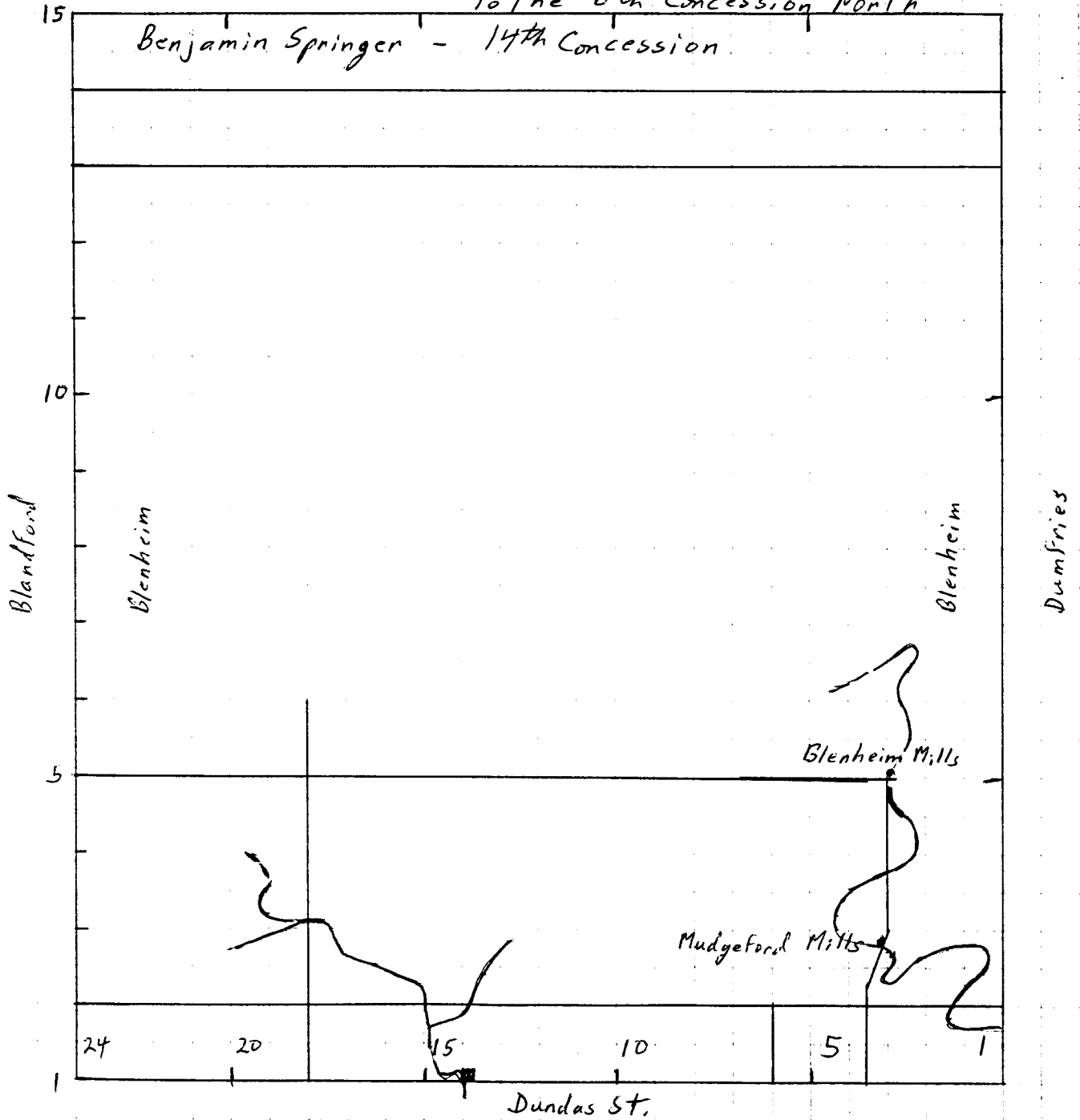
- Rev'd Jacob Goble - W. Division of Dundas St.
- Silas Martin - M. " " "
- Benjamin Bailey - E. " " "
- Hiram Graham - 2d Concession
- James Innis - W. Division Fifth Concession
- Henry Rupert - E. " " "
- Henry Harp - From 3d Concession South by Blenheim to Dundas ST
- Samuel Nevers - Townline between Blenheim & Dumfries



1830

OVERSEERS OF HIGHWAYS

- Thomas Millard - Western Division Dundas St.
- Silas Martin - Middle " " "
- Michael Showers - Eastern " " "
- William Slawson - Second Concession
- Henry Harp - Blenheim Mills
- John Innis - Townline between Blenheim & Dumfries
- Edward Burgess - 5<sup>th</sup> Concession From the West to James McLeods
- Daniel Bawtinheimer - From the bridge on the 3rd Concession to the 6<sup>th</sup> Concession North

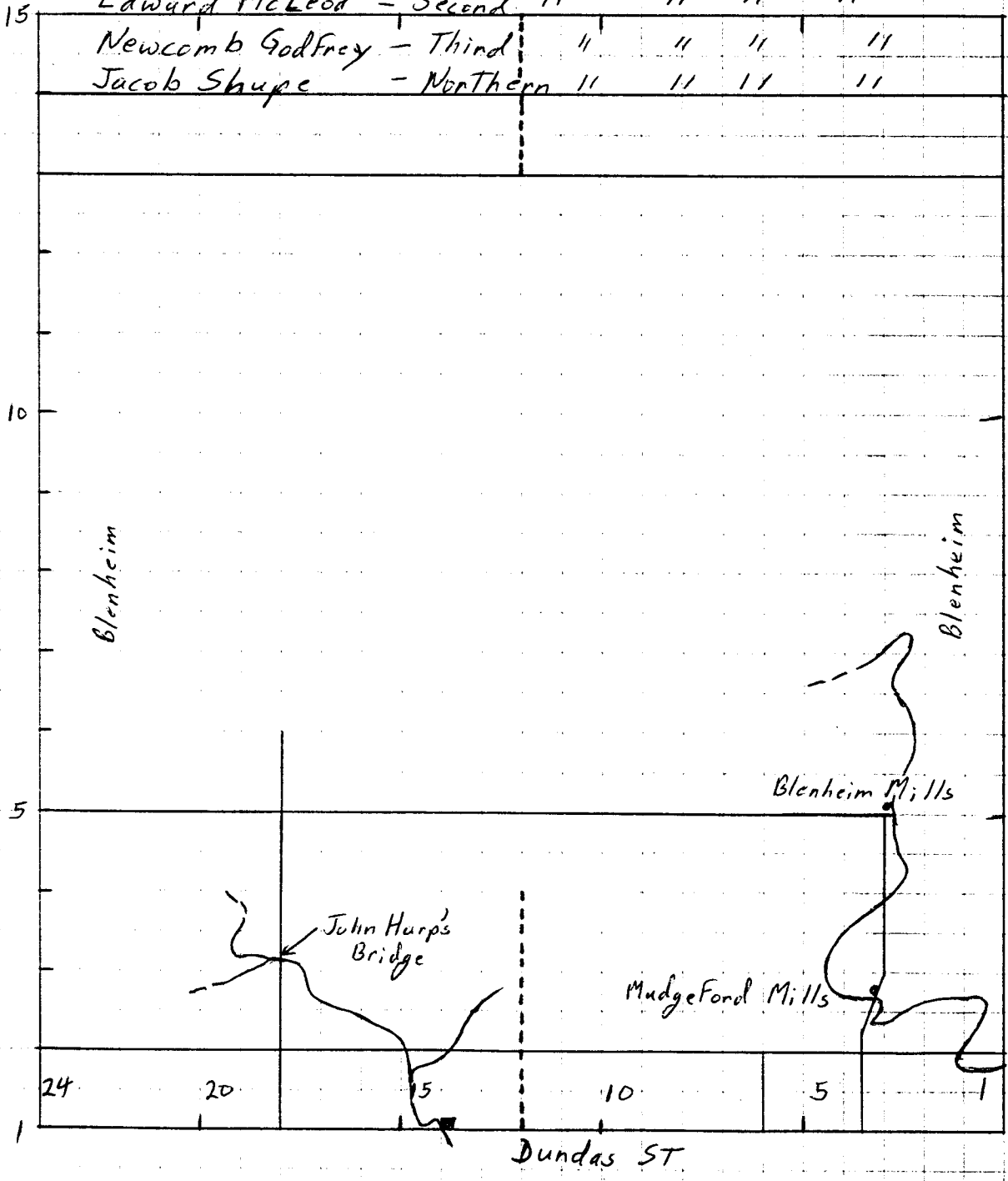




1831

OVERSEERS OF HIGHWAYS

Steven Chase - E. Division of Dundas St  
 Joseph Smith - Middle " " " "  
 John Milton - W. " " " "  
 Walter H. Martin - Second Concession  
 Stephen Howey - Mill Division  
 Christopher Rupert - From John Harp's Bridge to Tolls Mill  
 Jonas Ennis - 5th Concession  
 Ahab Sayles - First division of the Townline  
 Edward McLeod - Second " " " "



Blandford

Blenheim

Blenheim

Dumfries

Blenheim Mills

John Harp's Bridge

Mudgeford Mills

24

20

15

10

5

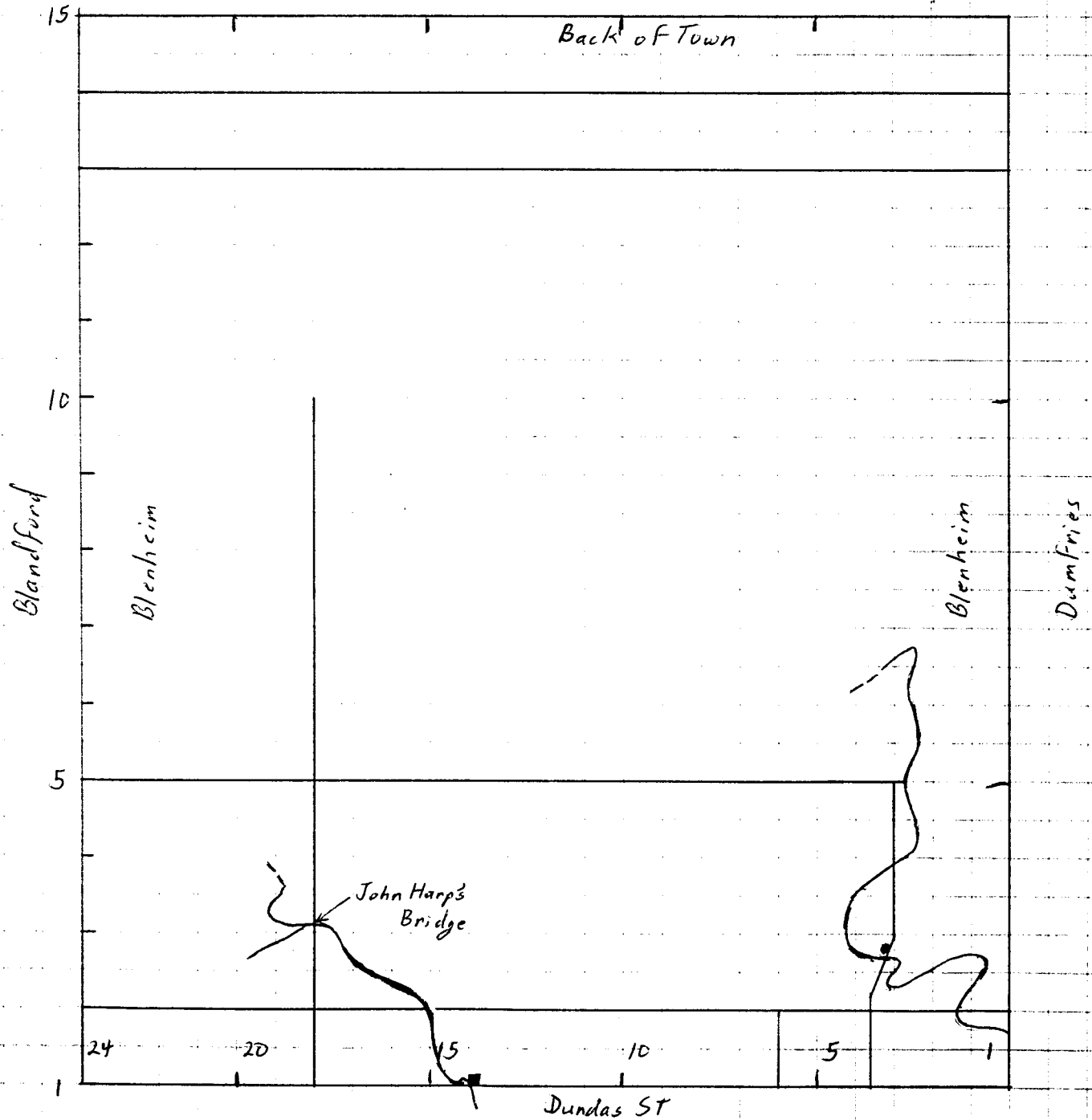
1

Dundas ST

1832

OVERSEERS OF HIGHWAYS

- Nathan Chase - E. Division on Dundas St.
- Silas Martin - Middle " " " "
- Jacob Goble - W. " " " "
- Walter Martin - 2d Concession
- Samuel Crosby - West part of 2d Concession
- John Wecoff - From the Governor's road to the bridge at John Harps.
- Hiram Graham - For the East Town line



1832

Ebenezer Towl - From No. 4 to the middle of Harps  
bridge

Silas Sprague - From the Townline between Blenheim  
and Dumfries - From the Governans  
Road to the 5th Concession

William Dawson - From the 5th Concession to the 9th

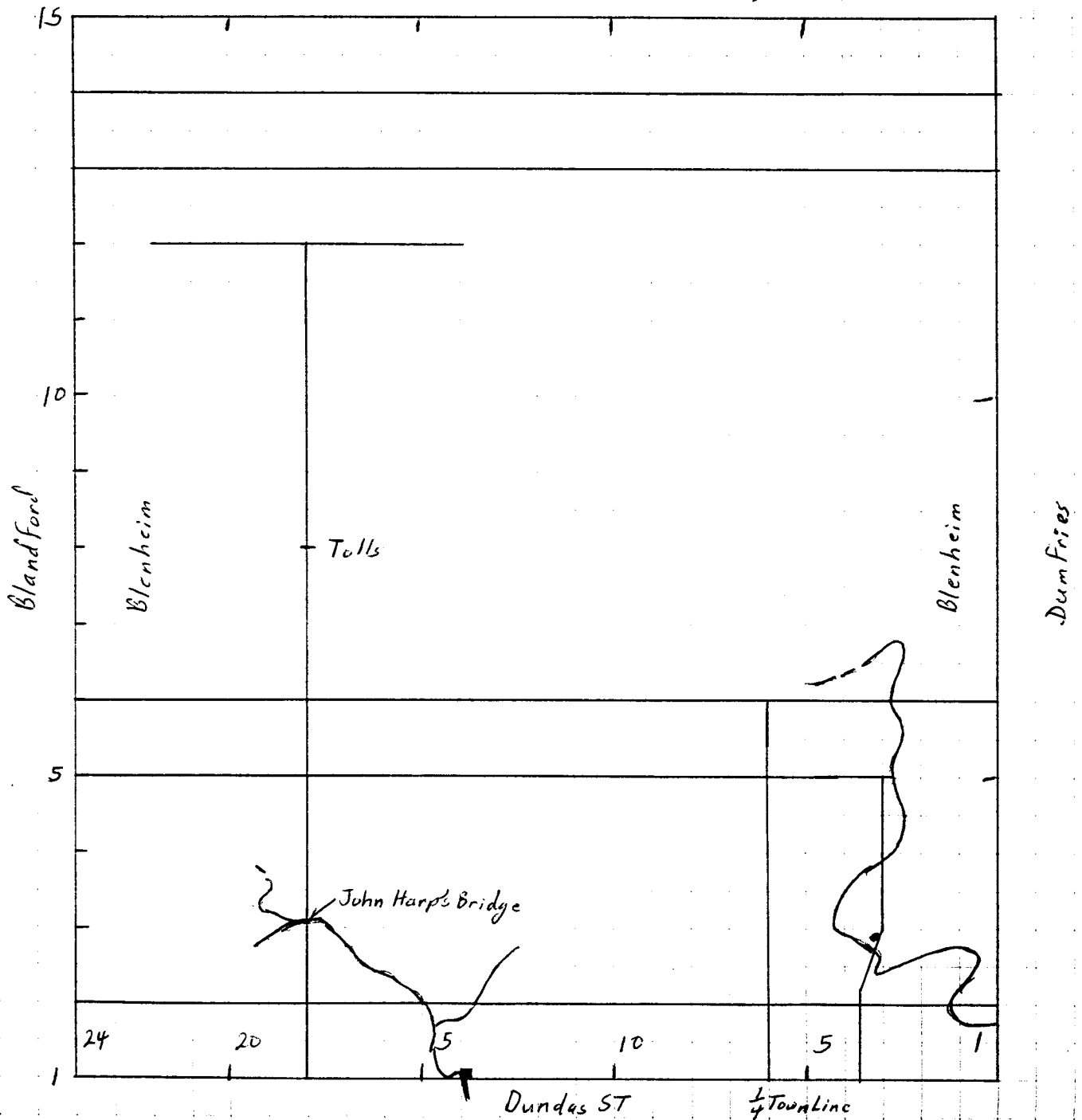
Henry Haskin - From the 9th Concession to the  
back part of the Town.

George Runels - From the back part of the Town

1833

OVERSEERS OF HIGHWAYS

- Michael Showers - E, Division on Dundas St.
- Rolland H. Pelton - Middle. " " " "
- Robert Millard - W. " " " "
- Samuel Tubes - for the Second Concession East part
- James Pelton - West part of 2d Concession
- Stephen Howe - for the East Townline
- Henry Spalding - From the Governors Road to John Harp's Bridge
- Joseph Huston - From John Harp's Bridge To Tolls



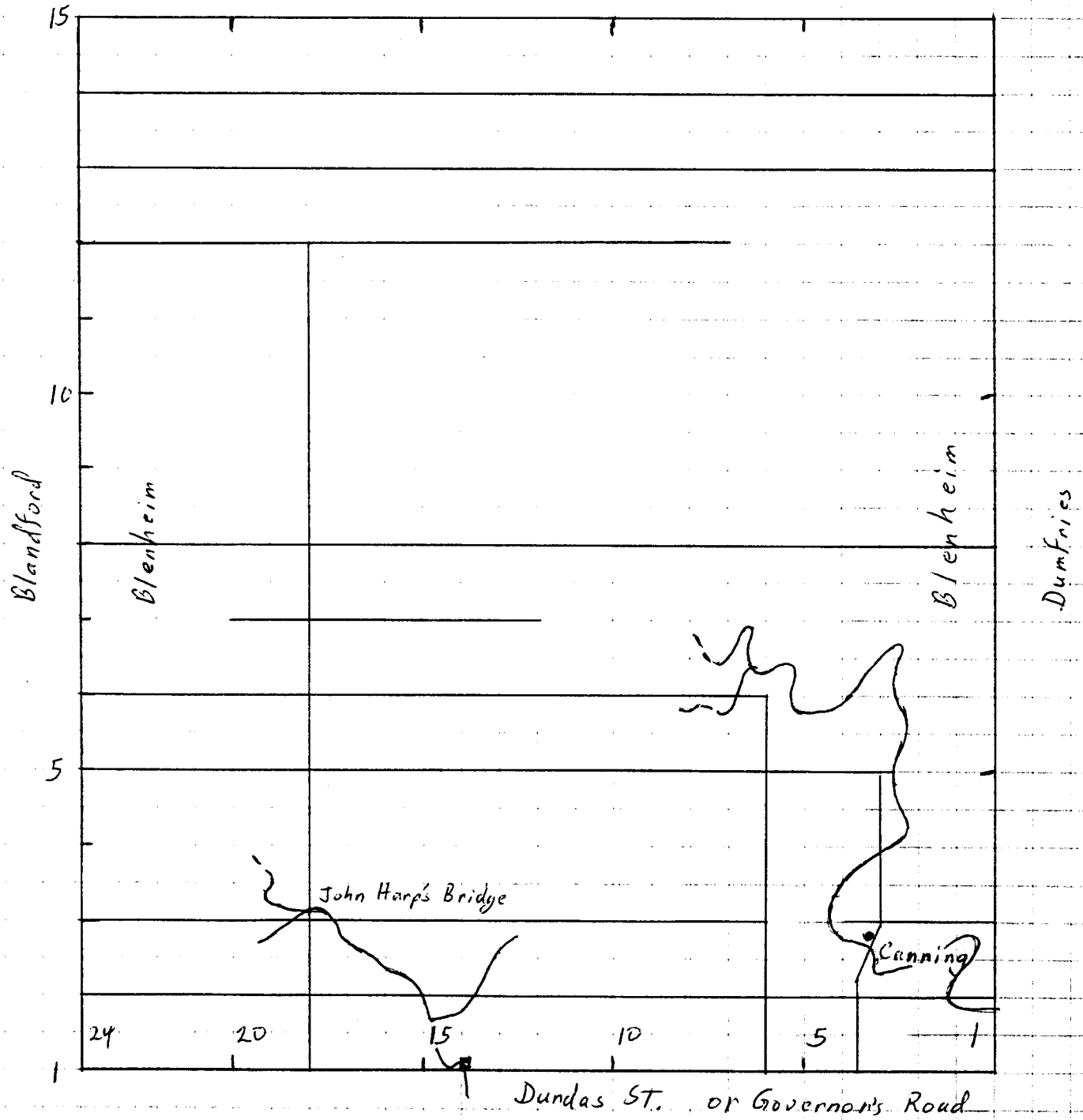
1833

N. Pickle - on the Quarter Townline to the 6th Concession  
John Manard - W. 4 E 6th Concession  
James Ennis - For W. Part of 5th Concession  
Peter Bawtsnheimer - Part of the 5th Concession  
James Baly - From the 8th to the 12th Concession  
Angus Clank - From the Indian Land up the Townline  
Samuel Nevers - From the 8th to the 5th  
Daniel Shupe - Part of the 12th Concession  
George Runels - Part of 14th Concession

1834

OVERSEERS OF HIGHWAYS

- William Goble - West Division Governors Rd
- Silas Martin - Middle " " "
- Benjm Bailey - East " " "
- Jer<sup>d</sup> Cowen - West 2d Concession
- Denton Burns - East End
- Marcus White - Canning
- Edm. Thompson - qu. Town line
- John Dickson -



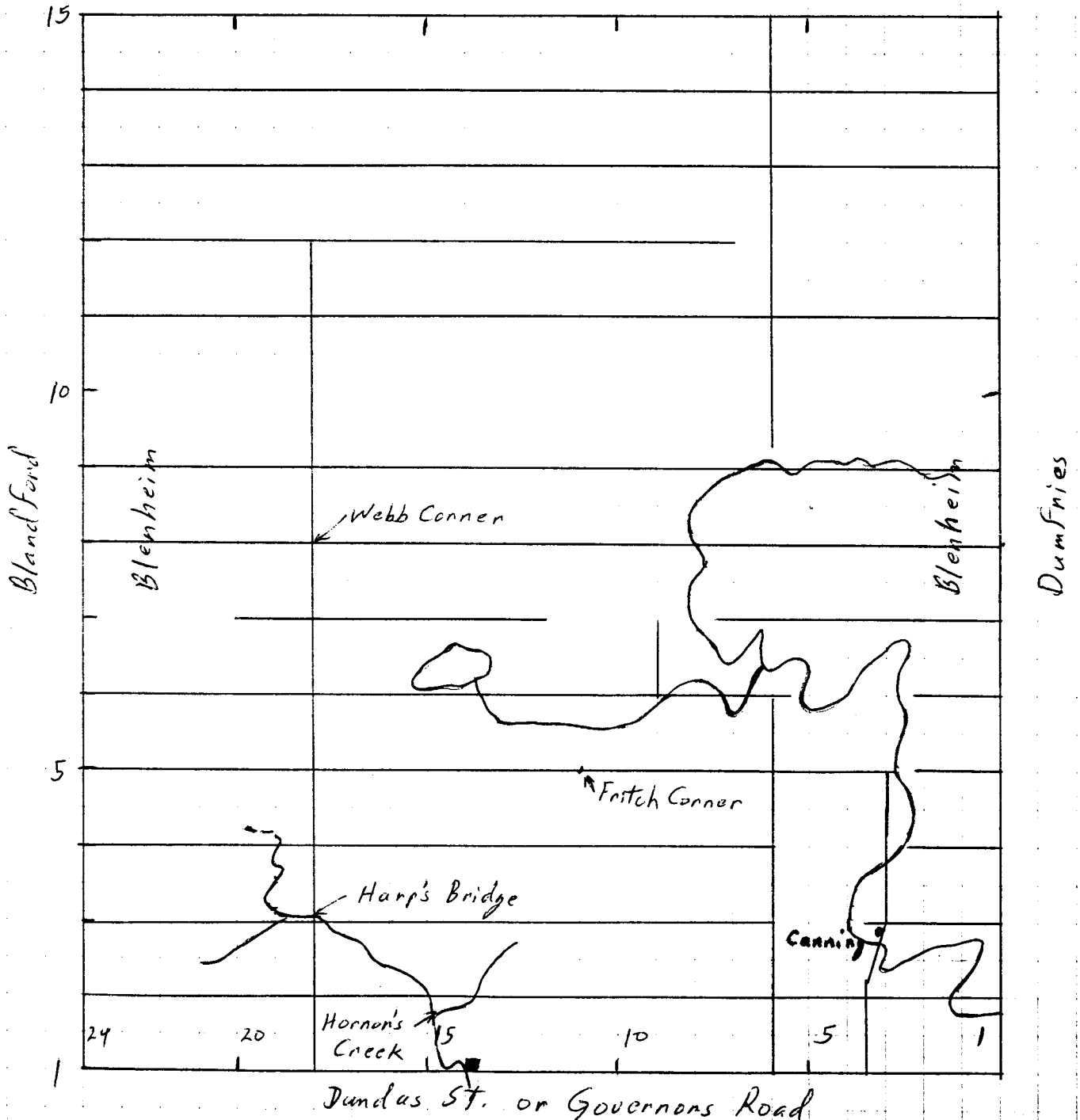
1834

James Innis - 3d Concession W. End  
Nicholas Pickle - " "  
John Pine - 6th Concession W, End  
Christopher Rupert - 6th " "  
Samuel Gufton - Townline between Mill & Blenheim  
George Randle -  
George Thompson - 12th Concession  
Benj. Springer - 14th Concession  
Abraham Johnston - Townline  
John Gilchrist - " " }  
Roland Pierce - " " }  
John Rumlle - 3d Concession  
William Dawson - 7th Concession  
Thomas Dawson - 8th Concession  
Jacob Shupe - 14th Concession

1839

PATH MASTERS

- William Goble - From Hornon's Creek West
- Gabriel Purdy - From Hornon's Creek to Eakins
- Thomas - Governon's Road East
- Saml Crosby - 2d Concession West
- Anthony Worch Sr - 2d Concession East
- Jas N. Williamson - From Harp's Bridge To Governons Road
- Abraham Quiverly - W. Division of the 4th Concession





1839

Ben Green - Middle Division of the 4th and the  
Quarter Townline to the Center of the  
3rd Concession

Wm Daniel - From Harp's Bridge to the  $\frac{1}{4}$  Town line

Wm Bennet - 4th Concession East of the River

Elam Martin - Quarter Townline

Daniel Pine Jr. - " " North

Sam<sup>l</sup> Foe - 5th Concession W. to J. Fritch Corner

Timberley Campbell - From Fritch Corner to the  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline

W. Colsure - From  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline to centre of river.

Elijah Sprague - From River to the Townline

James F. Sippinelle - 6th Concession - J. Harp to the  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline

Christopher Rugent - 6th Concession -  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline to the River

Cris Woolventon - 6th Concession - River to the Townline

Ruben Ranson - Sideline from the 6th to the 7th Concession

Sam<sup>l</sup> Doyle - 7th Concession from 21 to the Middle  
Townline.

Wm. Dawson - 7th Concession from the River East

John BauTinheimer - 8th Concession

W. Winegarden - 9th Concession South Division

Theophilis Tuper - 11th Concession

- Vandecar - 9th Concession North Division

Geo. Thompson - 12th Concession from 7th West

E. Bricher - 12th Concession to the Townline

Joseph Alman - 14th Concession

- Hulburt - From the Governors Road to the  
5th Concession

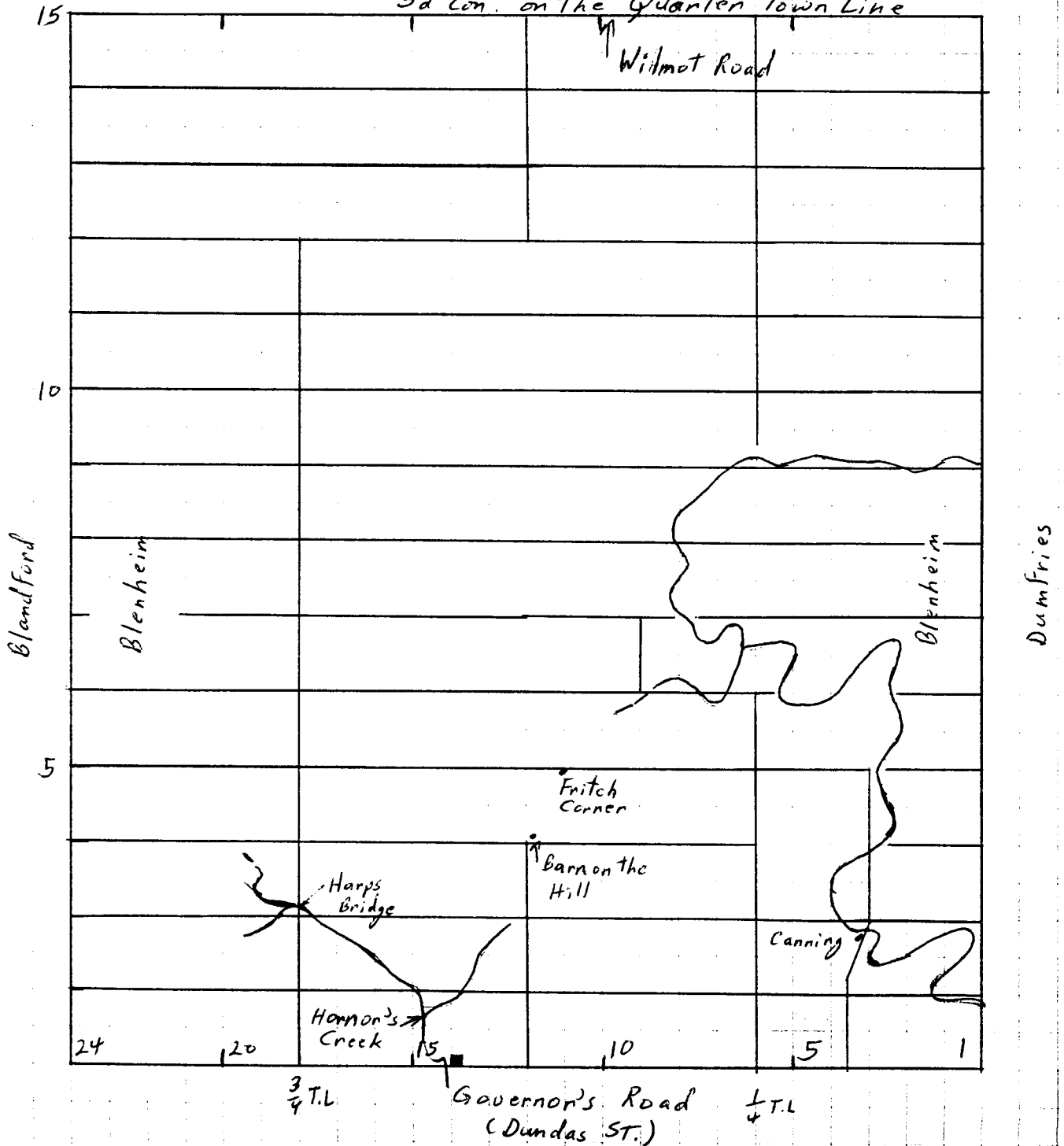
John Rumrill - 3rd Concession East

John Gilchrist - From the 5th Concession to the 8th

John Easton - From Webb Corner to the 12th Concession

1840 PATHMASTERS

- Wm Goble - W From Hornors Creek (Dundas St.)
- John G. Lindsay - Hornors Creek To Eakins Creek (Dundas St.)
- Hy Horner - E From Eakins Creek (Dundas St.)
- Wm. Hensee - From the W. corner 2 Con To the \_\_\_\_\_ Road
- A. Wonch - E. part of the 2d Con.
- W. Yale - From the Barn on the Hill To the Governon's Road
- Beamer - W. division of the 4th Con.
- John Dickson - E. part of the 4th Con. S. to the center of the 3d Con. on the Quarter Town Line

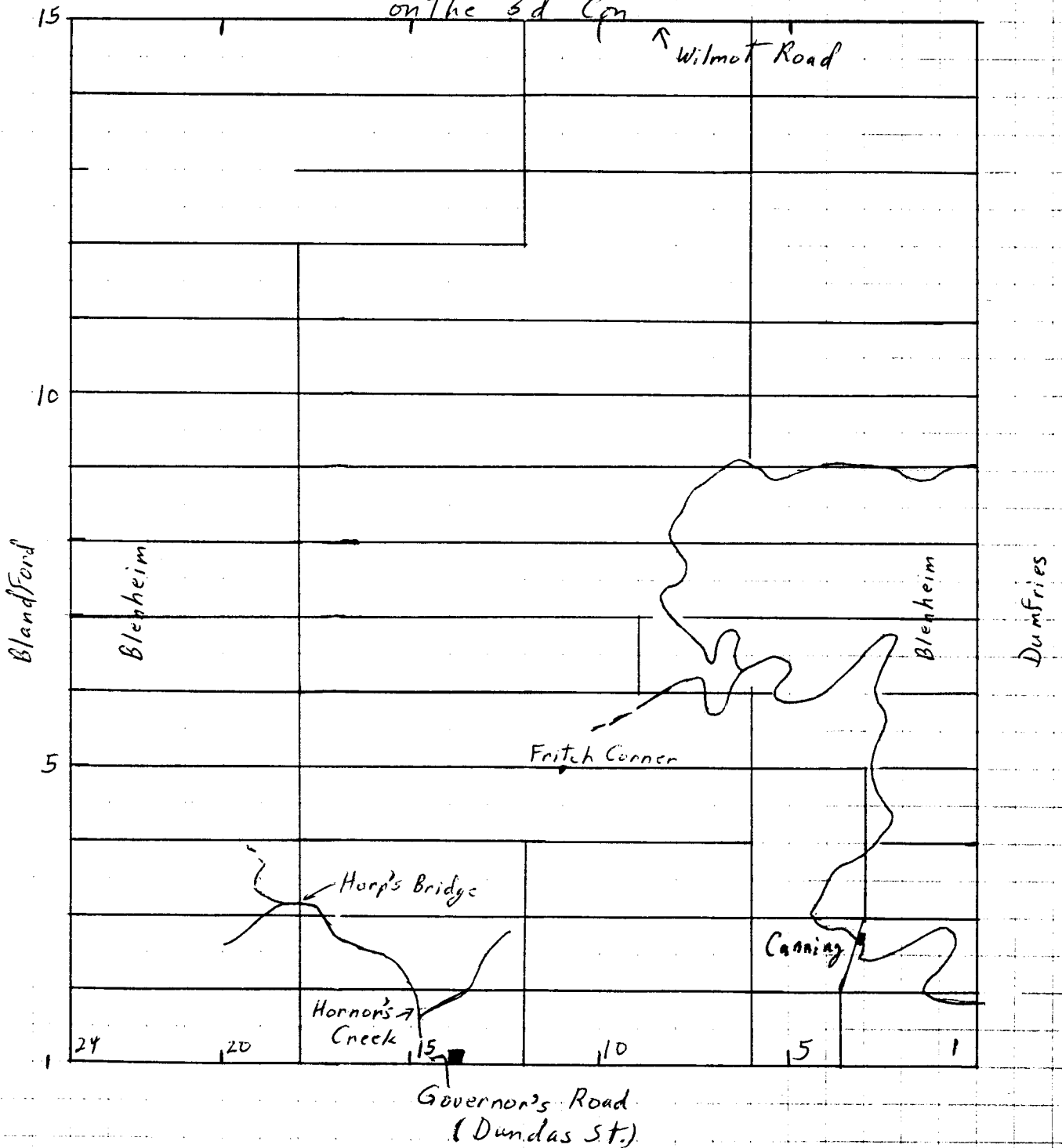


1840

- N. McLeod - From the Quarter Townline on the 4th Con To the barn on the hill.
- B. Griggs - 4th Con to the Townline From the river
- Elam Martin - Quarter Townline From Governor's Road to the centre of the 2d Con.
- John Goate - Northern Part of the Quarter Townline
- A. Stewart - 5th Con. W. From J. Fritz Corner
- James Fritz - From Fritz corner To the  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline
- John Daniels - From the  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline To the east River
- Alanson Clank - From the River To the Townline
- Jas Kennedy - 6th Con From S. Harps to  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline
- John Husson - 6th Con From  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline To the River
- Jas Sippinelle - From the River To the Townline
- A. Clank - side line From 6th to 7th Con.
- Saml Pelton - 7 Con From 21 To the Centre Townline
- Warren Snow - 7 Con E From the River
- O. Tripp - 7 Con From the center of Townline To the River
- Thos Atkins - 7 Con From 22 To the  $\frac{3}{4}$  Townline
- John Bawtinheimer - 8th Con
- Wm Winegarden - 9th Con E. Division
- Joseph Sherman - 9 Con W. Division
- A. Parkes - 10th Con
- Saml Gregisbene - bit 10 & 11th Con.
- Thos Adams - 11 & 12
- Thos Workman - 12/13. Con From the Center Townline
- Hy Harp -
- Isaac Bind - 12/13. From the  $\frac{1}{4}$  T.L. To the Center
- Michael Munro - From the  $\frac{1}{4}$  To the Dumfries Townline
- James Cooke - 13th Con From center To the  $\frac{1}{4}$  line
- Joseph Johnson - From the 12 Con on the center Townline To the Wilmot Road.
- P. Bricker - 14th From  $\frac{1}{4}$  line East
- Abraham Hayey - 14th From  $\frac{1}{4}$  line To Center
- Charlie Scott - 14th W From center line
- Wm. Warden - From the River on the  $\frac{1}{4}$  line To the Wilmot Road
- John Rumrill - 3 Con E From the River
- Jas Thomas - From the River on the Townline To the 5th Con
- Stephan York - Townline From the 5th, 6th, 8th
- Saml Munro - Townline From the 9th, 10th, 11th
- Saml Freede - Townline From the 11th To the Wilmot Road

1841    PATHMASTERS

- W. Goble - Dundas St. W. of Hannon's Creek
- W. Lindsay - " " From Hannon's Creek to Eakin's Cr.
- Nathan MacLate - " " E. From Eakin's Creek
- W. Hersee - From Baileds Bridge
- John Kinsey - E
- J. Kirkpatrick - From the 3d Con to Governor's Road
- Jas. Ellison - From the Center Townline to the Townline on the 3d Con



1841

- H. Beaver - W of the  $\frac{3}{4}$  line 4th Con  
W. Britt - 3 Con E From the river  
W. McKay - the 4 Con C From the C. Townline E From the  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline For the 4th to the 3rd. 4 Con From the  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline  
H. Fonger - From the River to Townline  
W. Campbell -  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline From 3 Con To Governan's Road  
W. Pine -  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline From the 4th Con to the 6th  
Wm. Burgess - From J. Fritz W. Line to The Center line 5th Con  
J. Fritz - 5 Con From J. Fritz to J. Roach's  
N. Pickle - 5 Con to the River  
J. Jackson - 5 Con to the Townline  
E. Burgess - 6 Con From the  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline to The Center  
Wm. Stawson - 6 Con From the  $\frac{1}{4}$  Townline to the River  
John Harp - 6 Con From the Center line to the  $\frac{3}{4}$  line  
Jas Sippinelle - 6 Con From the River to The Townline  
J. Maynard - Sideline From the 6th to the 7th Con  
Saml Doyle - 7 Con Center line to  $\frac{3}{4}$  line  
Saml Pelton - 7 Con  $\frac{3}{4}$  line West  
Moses Campbell - 7 Con Center line to River  
Wm Snow - 7 Con E From the River  
H. Holm - 8 Con From lot 22 to the  $\frac{3}{4}$  line  
J. Bawtinheimer - 8 Con  
Wm. Winegarden - 9 Con E Division  
Wm. Sherman - 9 Con W Division  
A. Parkes - 10 Con  
Thos Prossen - 11 Con  
A. Ester - Townline between 11 & 12 Con  
John Flemming - 12 Con Center line W.  
I. Bird - 13 Con From Center to  $\frac{1}{4}$   
J. Litler - 13 Con From  $\frac{1}{4}$  to Townline  
Jas. Cooke - 13 Con Center to  $\frac{3}{4}$   
Joseph Johnson - From the 12 Con on the Center line to the Wilmot Road  
Wm. Strome -  $\frac{1}{4}$  line East 14 Con  
Wm. Reynolds - Wilmot line.  $\frac{1}{4}$  line East  
A. Hagey -  $\frac{1}{4}$  line to center 14 Con  
Wm. Scott - Center line W 14 Con  
W. Warden - From 13 Con to the Wilmot Road on  $\frac{1}{4}$  line  
Geo Slipper - From the 13 Con to the Wilmot Road on the Center line

1841

Silas Sprague - Townline 5 Con. 5.

J. Innis - Townline from 5 Con to 8th Con

S. Freede - Townline from the 12th to Wilmet Road

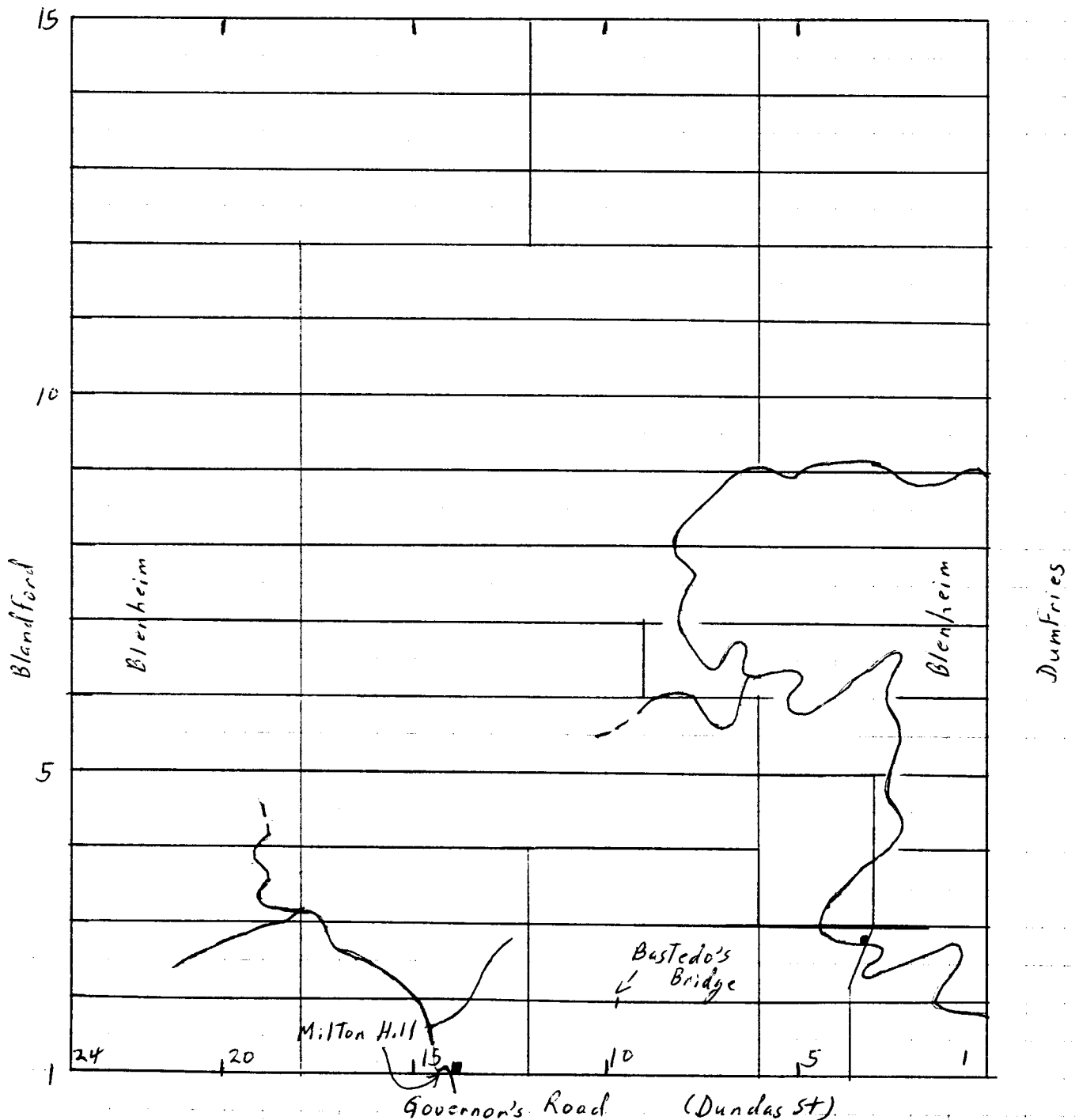
W. Slawson -

P. Bricker -

J. Maynard -

1842     PATH MASTERS

Robert Millar	-	1st Con	Gov. Road Miltons Hill West
John McGriffon	-	1st Con	Miltons Hill to Eakins Creek
H.T. Hornar	-	1st Con	Eakins Creek East
Wm. Slawson	-	2 Con	Bastedo's Bridge West
Denton Burns	-	2 Con	Bastedo's Bridge East
Gideon Aran	-	3 Con	From Centre line West
Joseph Maycock	-	3 Con	$\frac{1}{4}$ line West
- - - McArthur	-	4 Con	Centre line to $\frac{3}{4}$ line
Hiram Beaver	-	4 Con	$\frac{3}{4}$ line West



1842

- John Rumrile - 3 Con From the River East  
Ham Dickson - From the centre line East to the  $\frac{1}{4}$  line  
From the 4th to the 3rd on the  $\frac{1}{4}$  line  
Marcus Diamond - River to the Townline  
Thos Speains - on the  $\frac{1}{4}$  line From 3 Con to G. Road  
John Roach - on the  $\frac{1}{4}$  line From 4th to 6th Con.  
5th Con Wm. Burgess - Jas Fritz W. line to the C. Line  
Jas. Fritz - W. line to J. Roachs  
N. Pickle - From J. Roach to the River  
Joshua Burnett - Pines to Townline  
Sam'l Hoc - Centre line West  
Wm. Whitehead -  $\frac{1}{4}$  line 4 Con to Harps Bridge  
6th Con Jas Kenedy -  $\frac{1}{4}$  line to Camp W. Line  
John Burgess - " to Centre line  
Stephen Henry - W of the Centre line  
Aaron Clank - 6th to 7th Con  
C. Kupert - W of the River  
Jas Lipperell - C of the River  
7 Con B. Swears - W of the River to Centre line  
John Kitchen - Centre line to E. line of N  
Caloie Fox - E. line of 16 to 21  
Wm. Dawson -  
8th Con H. T. Ryan -  $\frac{3}{4}$  line to 22  
John Bawtinheimer -  
9th Con P. Bawtinheimer -  
Wm. Winegarden -  
Joseph Sherman -  
10th Con Sam'l Guigisberg -  
Silas Sprague - Townline 5 Con. South  
Thos Hulbut - Townline 5 Con. North  
11th Con John Taylor - 1st Division  
Obed Willson - 2nd Division  
Geo. Hurnen - 3rd Division  
Robert Holborne - Townline  
Wm. Warden -  $\frac{1}{4}$  line  
Geo. Slippen - Centre line  
12th Con Moses Bricker - 1st Division  
John Rice - 2nd Division  
Laysander Guigly - 3rd Division



1842

13th Con Daniel Slicter - 1st Division  
Thos Woolsey - 2nd Division  
Thos Hamson - 3rd Division  
Jas Esten - 4th Division

14th Con Joseph Himan - 1st Division  
Saml Cramer - 2nd Division  
Francis Dayton - 3rd Division  
Robt Cooke - 4th Division