

LEWIS WALLBRIDGE, QC

Inducted 2007

Lewis Wallbridge was a lawyer, politician and judge with Loyalist connections to the Bay of Quinte area. He was born in Belleville, Upper Canada, on November 27, 1816, the son of William Wallbridge and Mary Everett. His father was a farmer, trader, and lumber merchant in Belleville. He studied at Upper Canada College from 1831 to 1833, articulated in law at the Toronto offices of Robert Baldwin. Lewis was called to the bar in 1839 and set up his legal practice in Belleville. In 1855, he became a Queens Council. In 1857, he was elected to represent Hastings South riding in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada and was re-elected in 1861 and 1863. He was chosen as solicitor general in the 1863 government led by John Sandfield MacDonald and A. A. Dorion, and was chosen as speaker for Parliament. Wallbridge served as the last speaker for the Province of Canada, presiding with tact, skill, and firmness over the stormy debates in 1865 leading to confederation. During the time of coalition, although still a Reformer, he increased his ties with John A. Macdonald, and he carried considerable influence with Macdonald in local patronage. His brother, Thomas Campbell Wallbridge, represented Hastings North from 1863 to 1867. Lewis did not run for election in 1867 and was an unsuccessful candidate in 1878.



He also served as a director of the Bank of Upper Canada from 1862 until 1865, and had the largest and most respected legal practice in the Belleville area. In 1882, he was appointed Chief Justice of Manitoba by the Macdonald Government and moved to Winnipeg, where he also established a legal practice. He died in Winnipeg on October 20, 1887 and was buried in Belleville. He was unmarried.

Lewis has loyalist connections not directly through his father's family, who were early settlers of Belleville, but through his mother Mary Everett. William Holloway Walbridge (1776-1832) was married on March 20, 1808 by the Rev. John Stuart to Mary Everett of Kingston (1790-1854). Mary was the daughter of Major John Everitt UE of Kingston, born 1743 died June 28, 1825, and his wife Mercy Purdy. Mercy was a daughter of Gilbert Purdy Sr. UE of the Guides and Pioneers, who was born 1721 and died in 1778 in Ulster County New York, and his wife Mary Dorland born 1734 died January 16, 1813. Mary Dorland was the daughter of Samuel Dorland.