

IVANHOE POST OFFICE

I have been fortunate in securing a copy of a letter sent to T. E. Fleming. A reply to his inquiring regarding the date when the Post Office at Ivanhoe was established.

The Post Office was established under the name of St. George on the first day of July 1850, and was changed to Ivanhoe on April 1st 1857.

The first postmaster was Mr. Wm Frances and he in turn was succeeded by Mr. John Frances on the 27th of June next was Mr. Thomas Emo, who was appointed in charge of the office on December 13th 1860. He remained in charge of Ivanhoe Post Office until May 1st, 1883. Then Mr. Wm Tanner became Postmaster. He remained in charge of the Post Office until there was a movement on the part of the residents to have the office moved one mile farther south nearer to the Public School which was more convenient to the public. We had a general store.

You will note that the change in the name from St George to Ivanhoe occurred when Mr. John Francis was Post Master in 1857. Mr. Emo a young Irishman and a school teacher, had been reading Scott's novel "Ivanhoe" and with the dispatch that characterized the Irish, named the place. Mrs Emo was a sister of John Frances.

After Mr. Wm Tanner's death, Mr Wm Clements was appointed Postmaster. In 1907 Mr. T. E. Fleming became Postmaster.

THE FULLER CONSOLIDATED SAND AND GRAVEL LIMITED

Back in 1923 Mr. W.E. Tummon (later MP for East Hastings) as an agent for Quinalin and Robertson Company bought the farms owned by George Post, Frank Keller and also the Fraser farm and Scriver farm, making a total of three hundred and fifty acres of land. This "Hill" part of the property had gone through drilling tests to find out its value as to sand and gravel proportions previously.

In opening this sand and gravel concern the railroad was first built which led to the railroad going through Crookston. This railroad was constructed in 1923, and the plant in 1924. In 1926 Quinalin and Robertson sold their plant to Consolidated Sand and Gravel for \$ 300,000.00 and it is still owned by them.

Mr. Stewart Pender was the Manager or boss from 1927 - 1940. Since 1940 and up to the present time 1948, the boss is Jim Kincade, Madoc.

This gravel and sand pit was closed in October 1952 and the equipment moved to Paris, Ontario,

IVANHOE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Ivanhoe Public Library was established in 1921. Prior to this books were available from a travelling Library kept in the school house. During the first world war the Township granted a sum of money to each polling booth to be used for war-time purposes. When the war was over this surplus money was used to purchase books. It had eight hundred volumes at one time.

A fee of fifty cents per year was paid by each family. There must be thirty fees paid before the government grant is paid. Books were donated by kind friends who were interested in this project.

Concerts were held twice a year to raise funds. Also the library held a Story Hour for the children on Saturday afternoons at the home of Mrs. John Clements where about twenty-two children would attend.

There was no special time set when books might be exchanged, the members came at any and all hours and remained to visit, so the Librarian, Mrs. John Clements, gladly gave a large portion of her time to this work.

At first the books were kept in the school house with the teacher Mrs. H. B. Rowe acting as Librarian. In 1924 the library was moved to the home of Mrs. John Clements with Mrs. Clements as librarian. After her death in 1942 the books were again moved to their present quarters at Mr F. E. Fleming's store with Annie Fleming as Librarian. The government grant is determined by the number and class of books purchased during the year. For instance a larger grant is received when non-fiction books are purchased such as classics and children's books.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad was completed in 1885 and the same year Ivanhoe Station was built. This seized the interest of the inhabitants. From the engine's smoke stack a plume of white smoke trailed triumphantly. The wind did not need to be in the right direction in order to hear the loud triumphant whistle. This floating feather of smoke was an oriflamme. The whistles note a shout of exultation in victory. Symbols both of them of magnificent splendid happenings in the Big World.

One could go to the City of Belleville in three hours by stage but with the completion of the railroad one could go to the City of Toronto without changing trains and see the Ontario Parliament Buildings, at Queen's Park and might - breath-taking thought - catch a glimpse of the Premier of Ontario and his cabinet. By going East, and changing trains along the line, go to Ottawa, the Capital of Canada, where the splendour would be like unto that of King Solomon in all his glory. To be sure it was not a large station but to the people of Ivanhoe it was the "Gateway to the World."

The first agent to take charge was a partly gentleman of Dutch descent. His name Mr. W. D. Timmerman. He with his wife and family introduced into the community music of the first order. Mr Thos Emo and Mr Geary each had a musical instrument called a Melodeon. People came a distance to hear them play these melodeons. Mr. Timmerman organized a choir in Beulah Methodist Church and held a choir practice each week. Anthems from Winked Book were attempted and sung with Gusto - the high notes well sustained. In order to encourage the choir Mr. Timmerman held out the hope that in time St James, Montreal would extend an invitation to go and sing in their church.

From 1900-1905 the members of the choir were: Mr. Caleb Rose (tenor), D.L. Fleming (tenor), Albert Tummon (base), Miss H. Bishop, Miss Aggie Seeley, Miss Evelyn Gurning, Miss Mary Reid, Miss Gertie Prest, Miss Fattie Fleming, Mr and Mrs John Haggerman and Misses Gertie and May Timmerman, Mrs. E.W.E. Timmerman

Mr. Timmerman gave a clock to the church which still hangs in the present church. (January 1947). For years the Timmerman family drove a horse to Beulah Church and kept the choir together in summer's heat and winter's cold. Ivanhoe community owes a debt of gratitude to them for their faithfulness and their efforts to foster a love of good music.

EARLY SETTLERS OF IVANHOE

The settlement of the area called Ivanhoe took place about 1830. Among the early settlers was a Scotsman - Hugh McMillan who lived on Lot 5 Con 6 Huntingdon. He had a family of four boys. The eldest John a large powerful Scotsman who boasted about being a Scotch plough boy. His three brothers were Charles, Russell and Hugh. All of these boys went to western Ontario except Russell and he had a son Hugh who lives on the old farm at the time of writing - September 1950.

Another Scotsman, James Archibald who resided on Lot 4, Concession 5, Huntingdon had four boys Jacob, Martin, James and William. They were a very prominent family for at least fifty years. St Andrews Presbyterian Church is on part of the Archibald farm. The land the church was built on was a gift from Mr. Archibald. There are no descendants of the Archibald family living near Ivanhoe to-day (September 1950).

In the year 1833, another Scotch family of four boys settled on Lot Concession 2 of Huntingdon Township - John, Robert, James and Alex Woods. These Woods' boys each had their own home and until about twenty years ago each family had descendants in Ivanhoe. Now there is just one grandson of John Woods who lives on the old farm. His name is John Woods who built his stone house and is still owned by his grandson Arthur Woods who along with his only son George has improved the place where his grandfather bought in 1833. In 1950 Arthur and his wife moved to the village of Ivanhoe and George is working the farm. He has a son Jack and a daughter Judith. Another grandson, Elmer Woods, the son of Hector lives on a farm on the 9th Con. of Huntingdon Township.

In the year 1835 the four Mitz boys came to Huntingdon Township. They were of Dutch origin. Their ancestors coming to Canada after the American Revolution 1790. Their names were Henry and William who purchased Lot 6, Con 6 from Ephriam Dunham.

Each taking 100 acres, William the west and Henry the East 100. Wm. Mitz had a family of three boys and four girls. They all died except one son, the son of Alexander who lives on the lot along the highway in the 4th concession. Henry Mitz and his five sons moved to Port Huron, Michigan in 1868 leaving his 2nd son, Lewis on the farm. One sister married Jacob Salisbury of Moira and another Thos. Comerford of Eldorado. Before Lewis died he received the remainder 100 acres and now in 1947 Chas Mitz and his two sons, Roy and Clifford own the place. The other Mitz men who came to Huntington in 1835 were Jacob and Benjamin. Jacob went to Michigan and Benjamin settled on a lot in the 4th concession. Sylvanis, Ray, Jim and Albert are descendants of Benjamin.

Another family to settle in Ivanhoe was the King family who lived near Beulah Church and he built the old frame house that stood on the corner and was wrecked about 1940. He also owned the 20 acres of land now occupied by Wm Clements, now in 1951 owned by Earl McMaster. For many years the corner was called King Corner. Then there was John Geary who built Mrs. Henry Wallace's house. Peter Wright lived where the town hall is and Sylvester Holden lived across the road. A man by the name of Rutledge lived on the 6th concession and across the road was a hotel called the Plug. I do not know who built the hotel, it was quite a large building with a bar room which did a thriving business and was the cause of ruination of many young men and some women. It had a big dance hall and was a meeting place of many of the young people at that time. Several men ran this hotel. The last man who owned it was Mr. Garney. It took fire one evening about 1885 and was burned down, thus clearing an unwanted place of pleasure.

Where Harry Benson now lives there was a blacksmith shop. His grandfather, James Benson did the horse shoeing and other work. Sylvester Holden lived on Robert Shaw's place now the property of Wayne Shaw (held in trust) He was a school trustee and treasurer. Mr. Holden had a big hop yard, which gave the young people a jolly good time for about two weeks in September. Mr. Fitchett lived on a hill just past Elmer Rollins' home. He also had a hop yard where the young folks gathered to pick hops and have fun.