

# PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF AREA OF INDIANS, OLD FERRIES, SAW MILLS HOW MOODIE FAMILY FIRST SETTLED

By J. J. B. FLINT  
Former Police Magistrate of  
Belleville

I shall endeavor at your request to mention some events in the history of my native town, dear old Belleville. In Foster Ward in my childhood I frequently gazed at a round tower which was built of bricks and stones, near the bay shore. I think it was about thirty feet in height. In it was a stairway which led to the summit. No one knows its history; it gradually crumbled away. My view is that it was erected at a time when it was quite possible that the inhabitants of the (then) village would watch from its summit the approach of possibly hostile Indians.

Prince Edward's shere was approached by a horse boat, a treadway upon which two horses walked and which turned a wheel or paddle at the stern. An old man named Moon owned the land at which the ferry boat stopped. There were then about three houses on the Rossmore point. The owner of the boat was John Redner and he bought the point from Moon.

In payment he gave a watch which looked like gold but which really was of doubtful character, and was popularly presumed to be brass.

At one time Rossmore was the centre of a great lumber industry. An immense saw mill and many other buildings were erected by Americans. I frequently saw booms filled with logs. The sawed lumber was shipped by barges to Oswego, and for many years after the mill disappeared two of these remained stranded near the islands. I used to shoot snipe where the mill was built.

Grape Island now owned by Mr. Sprague was selected by the Government as a site for an Indian Reserva-

tion. Many houses were built; the well still in use today was dug; a Church was built and Father Case, a Methodist preached in it. The island was surrounded by wild rice. I visited it one Sunday in a canoe paddled by my father. When the elder was ill his wife preached the sermon. This lady had a brother-in-law who at one time owned nearly two hundred acres now part of the site of the city of Chicago. The Indian settlement was of commercial importance to Belleville because all supplies were purchased here. It was a distinct loss when the Government found the island too small and removed the Indians to Rice Lake where the remnant of the tribe still live. The horse boat was laid aside and a series of steamboats formed the ferry. I remember Abraham Bogart, and John Redner ran steamboats to Rossmore.

The most literary family in Belleville was the Moodie family. John W. Dunbar Moodie was an English officer who received a severe wound in battle, came to Canada to seek his fortune. The Ontario Government had issued pamphlets containing glowing accounts of the splendid free grants of land given to settlers. These were distributed over the United Kingdom. Among those who believed these statements were Moodie and his large family. He came and with his family took up some of this land. The unfortunate family found the statements upon which they had relied were false. They suffered fearfully not being able to raise crops upon these stony barren lands. They abandoned them. Mr. Moodie was created Sheriff of the County. Read "Roughing It in the Bush" written by Mrs. Suzanne Moodie and you will get a revised and true idea of the sufferings of these unfortunate settlers.

A few weeks ago I drove through

the country; the barren land; the poor fences; the habitable for the district.

One of the rising citizens of Belleville, a gentleman, completed the 'jardin' was a rising and into his Mackenzie 'ter,' and lea jamin's staff meteoric car is so recent need not be further than cherished by out that pr

"Wilson's" newspaper son, a true founded the "gencer" was natives. T Miles and the Liberal ney founded a member ada, and re his town an family of Miss Falkn His only so by mistake. by drowning of my father is associate in Belleville inhabitants, city, Brock bridge was very large him for five became Ch The hill w stands east was styled was an ore man named a few appl boys great ouse was chitect. Th ed from hu

country and saw this horrible bar-  
land; the houses abandoned; the  
or fences; a country utterly un-  
bitable for the greater part of the  
strict.

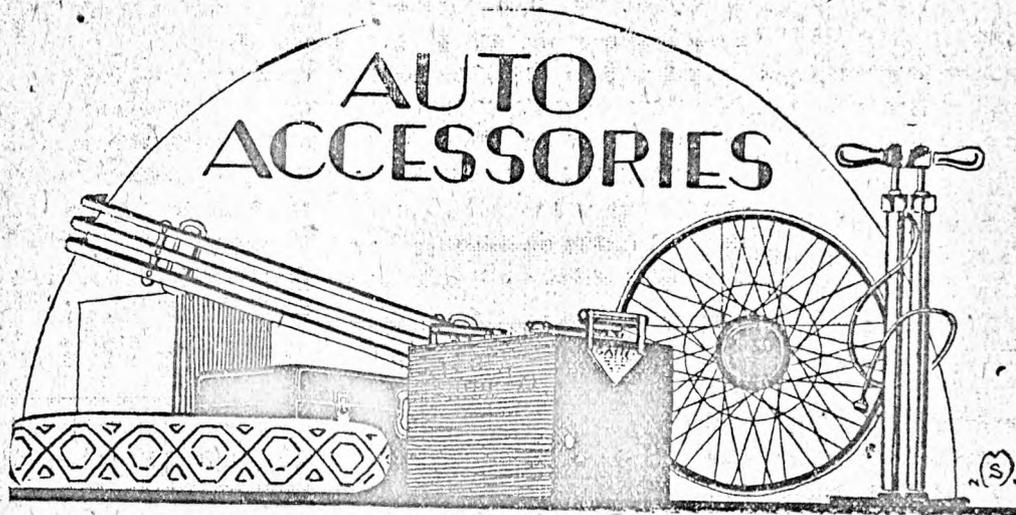
One of the leading and most enter-  
ising citizens in the early days in  
Belleville, was a highly intelligent  
gentleman, George Benjamin who pub-  
lished the "Intelligencer." Mr. Ben-  
jamin was for many years an enter-  
prising and popular citizen. He took  
to his home a young lad named  
Blackenzie Bowell, who became a prin-  
ter, and leading member of Mr. Ben-  
jamin's staff. The extraordinary and  
meteoric career of this wonderful man  
is so recent and well known that I  
need not make refer to him at length  
farther than to say that his memory is  
cherished by every one who knew him.  
But that precious lie and read it

"Wilson's Experiment" was a small  
newspaper published by Joseph Wil-  
son, a trunk maker. J. W. Carman  
founded the "Ontario." The "Intelli-  
gencer" was the organ of the Conser-  
vatives. The Ontario under Elijah  
Miles and Mrs. Carmen represented  
the Liberal views. Hon. Edward Mur-  
ney founded Murneyville and became  
a member of the Parliament of Can-  
ada, and rendered signal services to  
his town and country. He had a large  
family of whom Mrs. MacLeod and  
Miss Falkner are the only survivors.  
His only son died from poison given  
by mistake. Mr. Benjamin lost a son  
by drowning in the river. The history  
of my father who was created Senator  
is associated with many enterprises  
in Belleville. He was one of the early  
inhabitants, and came from his birth  
city, Brockville. Hon. Louis Wall-  
bridge was the senior member of a  
very large family. I was articled to  
him for five years. Mr. Wallbridge  
became Chief Justice of Manitoba.  
The hill where the Wesleyan Church  
stands east of the Catholic Church,  
was styled "Meyers Mill." This mill  
was an orchard planted by a gentle-  
man named Meyers. In my early days  
a few apple trees remained which we  
boys greatly enjoyed. The Court  
House was erected by a Kingston ar-  
chitect. The large columns were form-  
ed from huge maple trees which grew

in Meyers orchard. Meyers brought  
bricks from Kingston by large boats  
propelled by oars and a large sail. He  
was wealthy; I think a German. He  
never mastered the English language  
thoroughly. He quarrelled with his  
eight children and willed his  
properties to his thirty-nine  
children.

# OLD BOYS Who Motor

Will find in the Old Home Town an up-to-date Store where they  
may secure the best in Auto Accessories.



Special Values for Old Home Week

## TIRES

- Guaranteed Fabric Tires ..... \$5.65
- Guaranteed Cord Tires ..... \$6.50
- Guaranteed Tubes ..... \$1.50

- Locktite Patches ..... 43c.    Champion Spark Plugs 1-2" 69c.
- Air-Tite Patches ..... 43c.    Champion Spark Plugs 7-8" . . 79c.

Tire Pumps  
\$1.19

Spot Lights  
\$2.25

Windshield Cleaner  
75c.

# SUPERIOR AUTO ACCESSORIES

303 FRONT STREET

E. GRASS, Mgr