

Southern Section of Dungannon Township

Turriff

BY: Mrs. Alex McGibbon,
L'Amable,
Ontario.

The southern section of Dungannon township is mostly rolling hills, lakes and streams.

Egan Creek, which empties into the York River brought out our first settlers. They came up the river to cut timber for the Boothe Lumber Co., of Ottawa, and they settled along the Egan Creek.

Mr. John Turriff and his wife and family were the first settlers, and they settled and later the settlement was named after them. The Wanzleys came next and there was a lake named after them, now changed to White Lake on our maps. Bob McFees came next and a dam built over Egan Creek to hold water for log drives was named after them. Its still McFee's Dam and an ideal spot for speckled-trout fishing. The Saulays own the farm cleared by the McFees.

Mr. Fred Nobbs was the first settler to come to the 4th concession for the purpose of farming; then the William Eastons, George Eastons, Ira Prices, Alex Fosters McGees, Towes, McInnises, Andersons and the McIndoos.

The Bronson Lumber Co., Jobbed logs for the Bootes Archie Riddel was their foreman; they built roads to haul logs to the creek.

Later Mr. Peter Van Allen built a saw mill using water power. He sold to the Spurr and its still known as Spurr Mill. But the old building are gone.

Later the first and oldest settlers came from Lanark Co., and travelled by way of the old snow road.

Horses were the only means of transportation and the roads were trails. My father, Ira Foster, who was born in 1870 (and passed on Aug. 30, 1964) often told us of carrying a bago of flour 10 miles on his shoulders, usually after a days work. He also told of a crotched tree being made into a sloop to draw wheat to the nearest grist-mill.

A railroad was built from Trenton in 1898-1899-1900. A bad accident on February 15, 1900 claimed the life of Robert McGibbon and badly injured Bob Anderson, when they were dynamiting a rock-cut for the railroad. It is a C. N. R. line.

The first car in our community was owned by Frank Conlin which was a Ford and people with horses were not happy as horses were frightened of it.

The farming was just mixed farming, but the land was new and the farmers were happy people. Some had oxen and at first they used horse power to thresh their grain. Later John Turriff brought a threshing machine from Lanark (made by Young Brothers). I believe one family had what you call a tread-power for threshing, also for sawing logs. They built a cheese-factory and men took turns drawing milk. At the start of the route men had to have their milking done and the milk out on the milk stand by four o'clock in the morning.

At first a lot of trees were burned just to clear the land, but by 1900 trees were needed for the railroad. and Van Allen's Mill sawed lumber ties and shingles.

In 1800's my great-grandfather, Ira Price made the first shingles in these parts. They were hand-shoved shingles.

We have some minerals and these have been some fair fair assays. Back in the 18th. century there seemed to be a real promise of gold, silver, copper and lead, they all have deep mine holes but nothing ever came of it.

We do not have any industry out side of lumbering.

My husbands uncle, David Curry who lived with us for a number of years before he passed on, often told me a story of their first election for reeve. They all gathered at their town hall, and the two men who were running went to opposite sides of the hall; and who ever you were voting for you went to stand beside him. Which ever side of the hall had the most men, won. There must have been some fights for they always appointed a police man for the day.

Religion was very important to the early settlers; they held services from house to house. They were Presbyterians and Plymouth Brethern, later they held services in the school house, and the Brethern built a log cabin church on the 4th concession, a cemetery was also given by Mr. Fred Nobbs, the deed of which read Dec. 22nd. 1899. About 1910 a more modern meeting place was found and the log house was given to a new family and moved to Gaffney Lake. The house was moved again and in about 1923 and given the fourth concession as a work shop. About 1950 a Gospel Hall was built on the 2nd concession. It is still well-attended in 1965.

At one time there were big families on every farm. From 1914 on, as the boys went into the armed services and many young people left for jobs in the cities that by 1939 there were many vacant farms. To-day there are only a few people farming.

The first school was built on the (then) Main road. It was built of logs and had a fire place for heat. Children sat on benches. My Dad walked about four miles one way and could only go in the summer. Later they built a school on the 2nd concession and 1909 replaced it with a birch dwelling which still stands. It is now used for a dwelling. Our children are taken by bus to a Central School in L'Amable. Others are taken by bus to North Hastings High School in Bancroft. Our Central School has 7 teachers, also a music teacher and about 325 pupils. Miss Patterson was one of the first teachers I have a record of. She taught in 1899; Miss McIntyre taught in 1902.

Back in the early 1900 Turriff always had a good foot ball team. They played against L'Amable also the Marble Quarrie team. Later base ball took over.

NAME of COMMUNITY,.....BRONSON SETTLEMENT.
By..MRS HERBERT HAWKINS. Bancroft, Ont.
Present population of Community Approx, 115 .
Township of Dungannon ,County of Hastings.

Bronson Settlement was formed when the BRONSON LUMBER CO
Lumbering on what is known as the Bronson Farm; Archie Riddle,
was "Supervisor".

Robert Lancaster purchased farm from Lumber Company.

The original Settlers were-
Robt Lancaster ,Frederick Mullet, Henry Bentley,William Detlor,
Chas Smith, Lorenzo Weise,Joseph Kerr,George Payne,Richard Payne
Ira Ferril, Angus Kennedy, Nathaniel Stoughton,George Bentley,
John Cooney, John Hawkins,John Graham, Frank Peltshaw,.

Of the older residence, There are- Bentley, Cooney & Hawkins, In
Bronson Settlement.

The original settlers came as employees of the Lumber Company
Taking up Residence on Government land, Clearing ,And working on the
land in the summer and working in the lumber in the winter.

After the Lumbering stopped, The residents Procured Cattle,
Sent their milk to a local Cheese Factory, Which was known as
One of the Best in North Hastings.

They grew wheat and other grains, The wheat was sent to
L'Amable, Ontario . A distance of approx 4 miles, Where it was
made into flour.

The last Miller Who made flour in L'Amable was Tommy
Seice or "Sice" ,Was Of German descent, A picture of Mr Seice
may be had upon request Taken sometime in 1914- 1918.

The settlers moved in here to get employment, Their mode of travel
was hand made sleighs known as a jumper , Drawn by horses or oxen.

The roads were Dirt, Corduroy ,and Swamp trails.

The first mineral was the Ontario Marble Quarries,
After a few years they folded up , Still mining is the
Sodilite Gem Novelties.

There are no Industries to-day,.

Pine trees were most valuable those days, Now we have Spruce,
Balsam, Poplar, Which are valuable for pulpwood.

The Community had no church, There was Church Service
every Sunday in the Little School House weather permitting, In
the winter they held Church service in private homes.

There were large families, The school age was 5 to 20,
But they only went to school when weather permitted, The
Majority only obtained their Three R's 'Readin', 'Ritin' & 'Rithmetic',
Taught to the tune of the Hickory Stick, Which was not spared in those
days, Not to mention Mr Mackintosh ,P,S,I, With his Cane.

Bronson Settlement Continued.

recreation was Skating, Sleigh-riding, Hay-rides, Ball-games & dancing.

Fifty years ago Children built school fires for 10¢ Per day. I recall one time when a little girl built fires, every morning for \$1.00 per month.

Secretaries of schools were paid \$10 per year in early 1900. Herbert Hawkins took the job of Secretary Treasurer of Bronson School January 1924 at a salary of \$10, per annum & has Given Continued service to January 1965, The Job now pays \$75, Per month. In 40 years there has been some wonderful changes and a Marvelous experience.

Some of the Inspectors He worked under were- Collins, Pickering, Cannon, Deyell, Simpson, Smith, Bates, Linten.

School Teachers Beginning 1904 to 1941--McCoy, Tucker, Kelleway, Payne, Jeffrey, Maltby, Fair, Montier, Harlen, Fisher, Reynolds, Weese, Thompson, Morrow, Ashley, Nelson, Wyville, Reynolds, Neyville, Patric, Chevis, Pickard, Brummel, Panting, Graham, Horne, Metcalf, Sutherland, Wallace, Johnson, Bentley, Kellar, Vader,.

In 1898-9 Teachers salaries were \$225.00 to \$300.00 per Year. Now they average \$300 to 5 or \$600.00 per month, In rural districts.

A School Area was formed in 1940 with two rooms in operation At L'Amable in 1941, Bronson school closed in 1951, Children were transported to L'Amable by bus to S S No 7 Dungannon.

The York River Runs on The Southern-eastern Boundary of Bronson Settlement, It has very scenic spots, such as Egan Shutes, Farm Shutes, & La Valleys Rapids.

Early days River Drivers drove logs and Square Limer to Madawaska river, into Ottawa, From our YORK RIVER.