

It is doubtful if any person in this area ever knew how Scotch Line in Verulam Township received its name.

It is assumed that many years ago when the area was a virgin forest that a number of pioneers of Scottish ancestry settled on the Line. Incidentally, the Line extends in almost a straight line from Sturgeon Lake south to Pigeon Lake.

J. J. Robertson, who lives on the farm where he was born four score years ago is thoroughly and genuinely of Scottish birth, so much so that on Saturday, June 26th, he journeyed to Toronto to see the beloved Queen mother. "Her Majesty is of Scottish descent and that is good" said Mr. Robertson.

Below will be found a history of the Robertson clan, but a short chat with "J. J." a few days ago brought forth the information that as a farm boy with cheeks of tan, he not only wielded the axe, felled tall timber, but hauled many cords of wood to Lindsay.

It was choice hard maple and the price in Lindsay was \$3.50 per cord. John Maunder of "The Maunder House" was one of the best customers, and J. A. Williamson, harness maker was another.

"On one of those trips to Lindsay I swapped a load of \$3.50 hardwood to Johnny Williamson for a set of \$4.00 harness said J. J. Today there are not many horses in the country, but one would not buy a halter for that price" added Mr. R. Robertson.

The original Robertson farm of 100 acres was extended to 250 acres, but most of the fine timber has disappeared. "We used to haul some of the tall logs to Emily Creek, and many a large boom of logs went to the Carew Mill in Lindsay" he said.

The history of the clan follows, written by Grandmother Jenette Campbell.

"I was born in Fortingalel, Scotland. I lived in Perthshire. On June 5th, 1833, we sailed from Greenock, near Glasgow, for Canada. The vessel was named "Tamerline" and besides the crew, carried 365 passengers. From the day we left Greenock, we were six weeks on the water. I was seasick for ten days.

At Quebec the family had smallpox and we had to stay there for four weeks, then we went on up the river to Montreal. There we stayed three days and then went on to Kingston, and from there we took a steamer to Toronto. Because the children were sick we stayed there four weeks. We then bought 400 acres in the Township of Verulam which was said to be in the Newcastle district.

To reach Verulam we took a steamer from Toronto to Cobourg. We then went by wagons to Rice Lake where we slept in a barn near a tavern. Next we went in a little steamer to Peterboro where we lived six weeks and built a log shanty on a farm. Following this we stayed two days in Bridgenorth, and from there went to Bobcaygeon on a little steamer. Near Bobcaygeon we landed at Green Bay and this is near where the Bobcaygeon river empties into Pigeon Lake. We remained there three days with a kind woman till our luggage was taken up to Sturgeon Lake on a scow.

I well remember the first night in Verulam. A fire was built below a pine tree, the snow was ankle deep, and we hung blankets from tree to tree to shelter us from the east winds.

For food we had on hand bread, (poor) flour, salt, soda,

and water. For our first meal in Verulam we had fried pork and tea.

Not far away was an Indian village where we stayed for a while in a wigwam. The Indians were kind. They brought us venison. For a week our only table was pieces of log which they sawed out of a log for the door of the cabin. The pieces sawed from the windows made the seat.

They carried about 1700 weight of luggage and six barrels of flour on their backs up from the shore. For our first fire we had basswood, and we might as well have tried to burn stones it was so hard. Then they found cedar and that gave more satisfaction.

We were here only three weeks when the baby died. This was in 1833. He was buried in a spot a little way up the hill. He was the first member of the family buried there but now there are sixteen buried on the hillside.

In May our flour was finished. We had barley, peas, and

oats, and Indian corn — a little of each. The corn was not good, and we paid sixty cents a bushel for potatoes.

All we had left when we got to Verulam was thirteen dollars and a few shillings. The cow we bought cost us five pounds. One carried a hen under his arms for eighteen miles. We bought four chickens from a boy for a dollar a pair and two sheep at six dollars each. It was two years before we got oxen, and we paid sixteen pounds for them, about \$64. They were the best oxen that were ever in Verulam. The first horse cost \$52.

In 1846 mother died of intermitting fever. In November three children died, on the 14th. James, on the 16th Elizabeth, and on the 23rd Duncan, of scarlet fever and they all died at seven o'clock at night.

The father lived until 1875 when he passed away on January 10th of old age. He was born in Logurat, Scotland.

“Janette Campbell”