

One of the earliest pioneer families in connection with the history of Fenelon Falls and district is that of Jordan, and particularly William Jordan who died in the late eighties. The father of Capt. G. A. Jordan, one time Barrister and Chief Magistrate in Lindsay, the latter being the father of the present Crown Attorney L. W. Jordan.

In the summer of 1834 a row boat came up Sturgeon Lake, passed Sturgeon Point, the Spring, Green Point and drew to shore under the shadow of the pine forest that over-hung the lake near what was then called the Blythe. In that row boat were two generations, the extremes of which were a lad of eight years and his aged grandmother. The little party was just completing their long journey from Cavan, Ireland. Jordan was the family name, and the spot on the landing was Jordan's landing. From Port Hope through Peterborough to Chemong Lake and thence by row boat had come to the then wilderness of their landing place.

The eight-year-old lad (Jordan) was accompanied by his father and mother, Mr. and Wm. Jordan Sr. and the other four children, John Jordan of Ops, Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Wood mother of Dr. Lloyd Wood of Toronto and Mrs. Rehill. Although so early on the scene, the Irish settlers had been preceded by an Englishman; for Mr. John Langton, afterwards auditor-general of Upper Canada, had settled there some time before and had made a small clearing and built a log house on Sturgeon Point, who was the author of a history of early days in Fenelon Township.

Members of the pioneer Jordan family had the distinction of having been a partner in chopping and clearing three farms, totalling as many hundred acres of virgin pine and hardwood bush — a feat that even today becomes a challenge to the tillers of the soil who farm with modernized and mechanized machinery. These were strenuous days, the days of the axe stroking through the forest by day and the wolfe cry at night. To protect the stock from these animals, big log corrals had to be built and in them the stock was put at night. Often the sheep and the cattle came home lacerated and exhausted as a result of the attack of wolves and occasionally a head or two was missing.

The first steam boat to reach Fenelon Falls was the Woodman, which came from Port Perry unannounced and at the sound of its whistle the settlers, mistaking it for the wolf cry, hurried to house their stock. Mr. Jordan helped to build the First Anglican Church at Fenelon Falls which was recently destroyed by fire. He was one of the church's first wardens.

About this time Rev. Mr. Fidler held services in the Willock's settlement across the lake from Sturgeon Point. To that appointment he was rowed a distance of seven miles by two men and a terrible tragedy occurred when their small craft was carried into the rapid current towards the Falls. The oarsmen became confused until too late and in a few moments later the boat was beyond rescue, and amid the piercing crys of its occupants, heard on shore, it plunged over the dam and

then over the cataract. It was smashed into kindling wood and all occupants killed. Rev. Mr. Fidler's body was recovered by Mr. Samuel Irwin inspector of weights and measures, Lindsay, in the whirlpool at the first bend below the Falls.

Mr. Jordan had a strong liking for speculation in real estate and accumulated a good deal of property, besides his farm. When the Winnipeg boom was on he went out there and made a good deal of money, and got clear before the boom collapsed.

Mr. Jordan was a member of the council of the united council of Verulam, Fenelon and Bexley, and assisted in dividing them. He sat in the County Council for nine consecutive terms. He was a stalwart and active Conservative all his life.