

FORD MOYNES

ON THE MAIN STREET



"Many Snows Away" pioneers used a method to kindle and light fires, which was known as the "feather cedar". We never heard the expression before. How many readers recall this pioneer term?

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J. J. Robertson, the Laird of the Scotch Line, Verulam, has been hibernating during the frigid weather but conversing with a friend a few days ago he remarked: "People today are shivering in their boots and the thermometer only went down to 25 and 30 below."

"Sure, several years ago the mercury used to go down out of sight and 45 below was not uncommon. Kids walked to school ten miles away and waded knee deep through

the drifts. When there was a hard crust on the snow we used to walk over the rail fence and take short cuts home. It was generally so cold on the farm that steam enveloped a team of horses as they drew sleigh loads of grist to the mills, in Lindsay and when we had to go to Lindsay with loads of wood which we had to sell we did not dare to return home

without selling it.

When I could not get a buyer at the market square then we had to try and find a buyer. One of my best customers was Johnny Williamson, the harness maker and at times we used to bargain for a set of harness. Howard Williamson, Glenelg Street, is a son of my friend who passed away many years ago."

"J. J." added: "It was tough at school in Winter time but it was also fun. The school windows rattled with the wind, we wore lots of clothes and most of what we wore was home made. The school was freezing cold until the old stove crammed full of long sticks and fence rails became red hot."

The story of old time Winters kindled a few memories of winter days the writer battled with when attending the old school at Woodville.