

FUR TRADING AND TRAPPING.

There was much violence and thievery in the Northwestern area of Ontario. Fur trading companies competing with each other to control the fur industry. Whatever the choice, the historic facts remain that the mad violence and death occurred among trappers and fur-traders. Malicious revalary between the Hudson Bay Company and the Northwest Company was common. Fights would be with fists, clubs, knives, rifles, revolvers, or even swords or whatever could be found to protect themselves. Many trappers would die, or be permanently injured. The fur-traders being competitive companies would try by fair or foul means to capture the trade.

A story that was heard here was of a company, maybe a private one was stationed at the mouth of the Hewitson River at Selim in the early 1800's. It was run by a husband and wife team. The story on to relate that a band of Cree Indians came down from the North and ravaged the Trading post one spring and killed the trader and wife. One ^{body} was found in a room of the building and the other across the door-step and crawling with maggots. This Hewittson River was formerly known as MAGGOT River that many old timers will recall. Not too many years ago, it was renamed after a Mr. Hewittson a former teacher at Rosspport, later forming a construction company in Port Arthur.

Other trading posts were situated at Wawa, (Michipotcoton), Heron Bay, Mobert, Coldwell, and Lake Nipigon. Large quantities of fur bearing animals roamed these areas, ---such as bears, wolves, foxes, lynx, bobcats, beaver, weasel, mushrats, raeoons, martin, mink, etc. The furs were shipped mostly to European