



# Old house on the Opeongo

by Harry Hinchley

Photo: Public Archives

In his talk to Heritage Renfrew last week, Richard Trainor told of how old log buildings are often hidden under a covering of lumber, stucco or other material. When this is removed, as is often being done now-a-days, the old logs are still there sometimes as sound as when first erected.

The photo shows such a log building. It seems to have originally been a small log house that was perhaps built by the settler who first cleared the land. In this house he may have lived and raised his family.

At some later date the owner improved the house by building an upstairs and covering the logs with lumber siding. He built a fancy veranda across the front and added a summer kitchen at the rear. The interior was partitioned into several small rooms much after the style used in the stone houses of the day.

When the exterior was given a coat of paint and flowers planted in front of the veranda he now had a neat and attractive farm home. The photo shows how the place looked back in the days when teams were still going up and down the nearby Opeongo Road.

Then the time came when the house, like so many others on the farms of Renfrew County, was no longer occupied. The veranda came down, the doors were broken open and the windows all disappeared.

Now it still stands as another old house.

## Opeongo Line bus tour

The Heritage Renfrew bus trip up the Opeongo Line on Saturday turned out to be most successful. The weather was perfect, the scenery on the mountains was grand and Pat (P.J.) Sheahan made a great job of the commentaries by loudspeaker over the whole tour.

In the forenoon the bus followed the Old Opeongo out over Carswell's Hill and up through Shamrock and Dacre. There was a short side trip out to Renfrew County's famous Magnetic Hill. Here driver Gerry Mackin brought the big bus to a stop,

threw it out of gear and let it pick up speed from a standing start while apparently coasting up hill. At Esmonde, Art O'Connor gave a touching recitation of a poem in memory of the old pioneers of the Opeongo.

There was a most hospitable coffee stop at the Davidson century farm with its log buildings dating back to days of early settlement. Allan had set out an interesting display of antiques and Mrs Davidson provided plenty of steaming hot

coffee and big trays of homemade donuts which were just the greatest. Their kind hospitality was really appreciated.

Then it was back into the bus and up over Plaunt's Mountain, past Foymount and Brudenell and on through Barry's Bay to Carson Lake for a picnic lunch. Tables had been set out for everybody and the weather was almost like summer.

After lunch the trip went back through Barry's Bay, out along Lake Kaminisseg, across the Madawaska at "the Palmer" and Latchford Bridge and then down to Eganville by way of Foymount and Cormac. There was a short stop at the Bonchere Caves and another at Union Star Cheese Factory and then back to Renfrew by 4 o'clock.

Before the close of the trip Art O'Connor and Johnnie Moran expressed the thanks of everybody to the committee for a well planned trip.