

PIONEER DAYS IN ADMASTON

In November 1832, John Campbell and son Peter came from Lanark County, where they had lived since coming from the Glasgow area of Scotland in 1821, to this part of a then unsurveyed territory, prospecting for land on which to settle. They spent a night somewhere along the creek running through the "Dunne" farm, south-west of Renfrew. The night was very cold and, the story goes, Peter lay so close to the campfire, that the next morning he found a hole burned in his Scotch bonnet. They returned to Lanark without making a settlement, but the following spring, on the strength of the favourable report taken back the previous trip, they returned accompanied by Peter's brother John, Archibald Patterson and John Bremner. They climbed the "Pinnacle" to survey the surrounding country, camping there that night. Next morning they were attracted by the sunshine on a ridge of hardwood timber, a short distance west of their vantage point. Expecting to find good soil where hardwood grew, they took its bearings, by compass, and crossing the Bonnechere on a float, each man soon laid claim to a homestead.

John Bremner claimed the land now owned by Mr. James Reid and part of the Dr. L.D. Livingstone farm.

The farm now owned by Duncan Campbell was the site chosen by the Campbell men.

Mr. Patterson blazed parts of the farms now owned by Erwin Jeffrey, R.J. Ferguson and Duncan Box.

The men returned to Perth to register their claims at the Registry Office there, the nearest such office to the land of their choosing.

George Cardiff accompanied them back to their homesteads. His homestead comprised the farms now owned by Mr. Sam Walker and Wm. Box, the hundred acres north of Wm. Box's farm belonging to the George F. Cardiff estate, and the farm of John Farquharson (also part of the Geo. F. Cardiff farm before Mr. Farquharson purchased it.)

Richard Cardiff Sr., a brother of the pioneer George Cardiff, came shortly after and his homestead was the present Peter Pender farm, (a son-in-law of Richard Cardiff Sr.)

About that time Mr. Robert Brown came also to the new community. His claim was the farms now owned by his grandson Robert W. Brown and Bruce Briscoe.

Another Brown, ^{George}~~Alex~~, settled where Roy Headrick now lives.

In the early years of the settlement the pioneers brought their brides to the new community and their families spread out on to the land adjoining the parents homesteads. The first supplies were carried from Perth, which was then "the end of the road", as it were for anyone coming to this district. Perth was then the boat terminal for the river boats. Travellers followed the waterways, lakes and rivers, using them to guide them through the uncharted country.