

At about this date the first school in the settlement was built at the "spring creek", one-half mile west of the site of the present school. This was a log building with a floor of hewed logs and the seats were blocks of wood. In 1850 the second school was built on the site of the present school. This was a larger building, having a floor of boards.

With lumber available at the nearby community of Renfrew, better houses were being built in the Admaston settlement. The buildings were of logs of course, but lumber was used for flooring, partitions, doors, window frames, etc., and lime would be available for use in making plaster. The first houses "shanties" as they were called, were plastered or "chinked" with mud and moss. Shingles for the new houses were "handmade", as was much of the primitive furniture, although there were men in the community who were cabinet makers in the Old Country and who found plenty scope for the practice of their trade. Lack of time prevented them making the required furniture, as they too were clearing farms for themselves.

Added to the toil of felling and burning the large hardwood trees and removing the stumps was the burden of removing the stones from the cleared land. Ranging in size from great boulders, that defied the combined strength of men and oxen to move them to the ever up-cropping smaller stones, the burden was and still is an ever present one.

So numerous were the stones on some farms that they were piled up near the centre of a clearing or on some farms were built up as stone fences. Needless to say the stone piles and fences grew with the years.

Never did those pioneers dream that many of those same stones would before seventy-five years had passed, be used to pave the highways that were to replace the "trails" of early days.

The first "road" leaving Renfrew in a westerly direction was a little east of the present Carswell Hill road and bridge. This road evaded some of the rocks by swinging to the left and running as straight as the lie of the land would allow in the direction of the "Dunne" farm, now owned by Roy G. Fraser of Renfrew. For some years there was no roadway past the "Dunne" farm; just a winding track from neighbour to neighbour. The winding nature of the early trail is still evident along Road number 80, which is anything but straight.

In the early days a ready market was found for farm produce, such as hay, oats and pork, among the lumbermen on the Bonnechere and Ottawa rivers. As hauling by teams was the mode of transportation for lumbermen's supplies to the "shanties", many of the local farmers worked for the lumbermen during autumn and winter months with their teams.

Let us follow one of those farm teams from the time it leaves home with a load of home grown produce or a load secured elsewhere. The driver must take food for his own and horses use for the trip to camp. When night overtook him he fed himself and horses at one of the conveniently located "stopping places" along the route. The "stopping places" were the homes of farmers situated close to the road where stable room was available at 25¢ per night for teams, and "floor space" in the house where teamsters rested through the night, wrapped in their own blankets.

Teamsters were able to buy hot tea to accompany their provisions and usually "strong liquor", i.e. - whisky, rum, highwines, were on sale at each stopping place. In this community there were two such "stopping places" -