

Ottewell Settlement

It is with a great deal of admiration and respect that we recall the hardships and accomplishments of our pioneers in this district.

One Hundred years ago, Oct. 1865, the Ottewell Settlement saw its first settlers when Mr. Richard Ottewell moved from Goderich, Ont., to make his home in the settlement which was to bear his name.

Mr. Ottewell was married to Jane Towle who died in 1872, just seven years after he came to the Ottewell Settlement in Amabel Twp. Later he married Sarah Anne Cragg. From these two marriages there was a family of nine sons and four daughters, who either took up land in the settlement or moved to other districts to make their homes. David, George, Samuel and Stephen took up land in the settlement and farmed for many years. Philip moved to Clover Bar Area, Alberta; Alfred and Sidney, Bremner Alberta; Albert a professor of the University of Alberta, Edmonton; Rev. Wm. Ottewell died at Otterville, Ontario; Alice (Mrs. Mark Latham Bremner Alberta; Miss Annie Ottewell Edmonton and Mary Helena (Mrs. Wm. Dinnivell) lived on the nineteenth concession, Amabel Twp.

Mr. Ottewell first lived in Pickering Twp., Ont., Co. moved to Middlesex Co. and then to Goderich, where he lived for three years before coming to Amabel Township.

The journey from Goderich was made by boat on the steamship "Bruce" a side-wheeler, to Southampton. From there on, Mr. Ottewell, his wife and six young sons, travelled by wagon on a brush road to Tara and then north-west to Park Head. They camp