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PIONEER FAMILIES OF THE BRUCE PENINSULA

(By Helene Scott)

Among the many well-known and highly respected pioneer families of the Bruce Peninsula were the Shute brothers, John and James.

John Shute came to the Peninsula as a young man and settled first in Lindsay Township. Here he owned and farmed one hundred acres on the 3rd concession. While living there, Mr. Shute was active in the affairs of the township, served on the township council, and was reeve at one time.

After farming for a number of years, he gave up the farm and moved to the village of Stokes Bay, where he owned and op-

erated the first store to be built there. He also was postmaster from 1884 to 1903. The Shutes also had the first telegraph office at their store.

Mr. Shute owned a great deal of land, part of lots 38 and 39 west of the Bury Road on the 3rd Concession. His holdings included the Stokes Bay cemetery, which he had surveyed by the well-known surveyor, J. D. McNabb, in 1899. Mr. Shute sold plots in the cemetery to anyone needing them. (A receipt for such a transaction is in the writer's possession).

The John Shutes had no family of their own, but adopted a baby boy by the name of Renshaw. They named him Willy Shute, and he accompanied his adopted parents when they left Stokes Bay for the Canadian West.

Through the urging of John Shute, his brother James came to settle in Lindsay Township in 1883. He was reeve of the township in 1885. James Graham Shute had been born in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, and came to Canada with his parents when he was twelve years of age. They settled in Holland Township, in Grey County. Ambitious and intelligent, James Shute put himself through high school and obtained a second class teaching certificate. In 1872 he married Anne Dealy who was born in Albion, near Toronto, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dealy, and she moved with her family at the age of five to Sydenham Township about eight miles south of Owen Sound.

The Shute family moved to Stokes Bay on a wagon drawn by a team of horses. It was a very rough trip, as the roads were little more than trails through the rough bush. In swampy places, the horses walked across almost floating corduroy logs which served as bridges. As the Shutes were coming along on their journey between Colpoy Bay and Hope Bay, they were confronted by a large sign which someone had painted on a big rock--the quotation from Dante's *Inferno*, "Abandon hope all ye that enter here!", which didn't exactly give them a feeling of confidence.

While operating the farm in Lindsay Township, Mr. Shute also taught school there, and was active in municipal affairs. In 1895 he left the farm and went back to Holland Centre, where he taught school for one year. He then returned to the farm, which his sons had been looking after during his absence. The Shutes left the farm about 1897 and moved to Stokes Bay where they bought for their home the hotel known as the "yellow house" in the east end of the village.