

Special feature

Memories of the Heritage Village



In 1867 Paisley's main street, Queen St., was but a narrow dirt road with wooden buildings along both sides, in the centre is the H.A. Wilson Medical Hall, with farmland and a few scattered houses behind the main street, and, of course, the woods in the distance.

Photo courtesy of Bruce County Museum

HERITAGE

Week

February 15 to 21



Editor's Note

The snows of February usually provide for a welcome time of reflection. And all across the province, Heritage Week will be celebrated from February 15 to 21. As we ponder our past and the hardy group of settlers who ventured into the Queen's Bush more than a century ago, we are reminded, as someone so aptly put it, that without a past, we can have no future.

Certainly one of the people most responsible for writing this area's history was a gentleman named Norman Robertson. Mr. Robertson, a former treasurer of the County of Bruce, was also secretary of the local historical society. His history book, published in 1906, is probably the most familiar and popular chronicle of this area's pioneering

days.

We feel, that as part of our look at Heritage Week, we should re-examine Mr. Robertson's original work titled the "History of the County of Bruce." Accordingly, we are presenting for your reading enjoyment brief excerpts from Mr. Robertson's book. These passages are unchanged and faithful in spirit to their subject. In sum, they stand as a fine testament to the hardy settlers of the Bruce, an undaunted people who prevailed against much hardship, and worse - the unknown.

We are also grateful to the Bruce County Museum for the use of their rare photographs. They help provide an unusual and keen sense of reality to the written word.

Beginnings and a name

The name of Paisley was given to the village when the post-office was opened, February 1st, 1856. The first

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