

### THE ORIGIN OF A NAME

If you were asked for the origin of your own name or the name of the community wherein you live, would you know the correct answer? It is very doubtful.

However, many of our "place" names can be traced back to a logical source of origin as well as a reasonable meaning. In most cases they are of Indian origin and refer to places of special interest to the various tribes. In the case of our own Township of Asphodel, the origin appears to be from the Greek word "Asphedelus" literally meaning the "Flower of Hades" a bright scarlet flower which grew in great profusion along the natural waterways and in low places throughout the Township. There are still to be found, here and there, a few of these beautiful plants growing wild, but for the most part, they are grown in our gardens and known as "Salvia" or "Crimson Sage".

I have, many times, tried to find the correct origin of the name of "Norwood" as applied to our own Village and the best I have been able to find is a sort of "two-headed" explanation. First, - we know that the very first sod was turned in 1820 or 21 by Joseph A. Keeler who had received a grant of 500 acres of land on condition that he build a saw-mill and a grist-mill upon the said land, within a period of two years. We know that those mills were built and that the settlement was known as "Keeler's Mills" until about 1836. We know that our first settlers came from the northern shores of Lake Ontario, then recognized as the "frontier" of Upper Canada. We are told that Keeler's holdings were a full fifty miles inland and was commonly referred to as "the North Woods" thus providing strong support to the belief of many people that the name 'Norwood' originated through the simple slurring of the two words, North Woods.

With respect to the second theory... we know that the frontier of our province was settled by a goodly number of United Empire Loyalists who migrated here from the New England States, arriving in groups during the period of 1790 to 1800. That there was a community in those states either in Vermont or New Hampshire, named 'Norwood'. that there is still a community in England, not far from its Capital, named 'Norwood' therefore it is quite logical that a number of loyal British subjects came from that particular area and brought with them fond memories of earlier days and the surroundings of their beloved homeland and transferred the name to their new homes in America. Later, because of their loyalty to the homeland, they were forced to move once again, this time coming to Upper Canada, then under control of the Crown to which they had been so loyal, it would be quite natural to continue the name of their own ancestral origin. In consideration of both the foregoing factors, it is the opinion of this writer that the name of our fair village - which did not become official until 1877 - is really a combination of the two sources as above written, combined with the fact that many of our first settlers (after 1820) were of undoubted British descent.

Written by R.A. Dean