

THE "NORWOOD" OF 1868.

Extracts from a story of the Village of Norwood as it was in 1868. Written by Dr. S. P. Ford, M.D., who followed the Medical Profession from 1868 until his death in 1923. This story appeared in the "Register" under date, December 23rd, 1922.

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"My first acquaintance with Norwood", he writes, "was in 1854 when I visited my Sister who was then a teacher in the newly established Grammar School, but, my more intimate knowledge began in 1868 when I started the practice of my profession, succeeding the late Doctor Poole. It was a very small village at that time, containing only four brick buildings, the Anglican Church, the new combined Common and Grammar School, a small house on Ridge Street, (now occupied by Mr. R. Elgie) and the front part of a building occupied by Ira Cummings as a Machine Shop. Where King's Hotel now stands, there was a low frame building used as an hotel, run by Dennis Feely. A similar type of building on the opposite corner was occupied by Ned Kennedy as a shoe-shop. James Foley's store was on the southeast corner, which also housed the Post Office and the Office of the Division Court Clerk as well as the Secretary of the local School Board. James Foley was also a Justice of the Peace and, because of his numerous appointments and duties, he had as a most able assistant, John A. Butterfield who, after the death of Mr. Foley in 1864, took over the entire works and successfully carried on the growing business for the twenty-two years thereafter.

The methodist Church, a white frame building occupied the fourth corner, that building was later sold, torn down and removed to the Ninth Concession of Belmont Township - and the beautiful "Limestone" Church erected in its stead. The Presbyterian Church was located at the corner of Ridge Street and Victoria Street at the top of the hill, while the Roman Catholic services were still being held in small Log building (also used as a School) located on the "Hurley" farm about two miles West of the Village, adjoining their present Cemetery.

Mercantile establishments were few in number, small in area as well as in the matter of "goods and wares". They were, Thos. Buck's store and a smaller one operated by P. W. Reynolds on Peterborough Street, Charles Sheppard and W. E. Roxburgh on Belmont Street, not omitting the general store kept by James Foley on the corner of Peterborough and Colborne Street.

Active "tradesmen" were quite numerous and very capable in their respective lines. Seven Blacksmiths specialized in that particular line of work, they were, - Robert Hetherington, William Sedgwick, Dan Dwyer, William Sargent, William Nicol, Jacob Wood and James Metcalfe. Five Shoemakers in the persons of, - Robert Scott and Hamilton Douglas on the East side of the Ouse and Bristow Moffat, Thomas Armstrong and William Udy operating on the West side of the river. Catering to the needs of the travellers and the "thirsty" residents of the Community were five hotels of various classification, - Feely's, where the King's Hotel now stands, Cronk's Hotel on Colborne street, Johnston's - later known as the "Sky Blue" on the Hastings Road, "Mother" Hartley's House and Morris Horrigans place on Belmont street.

Finlay's Carriage Factory, Plant's Foundry, Grover's Saw-mill, Buck's Grist Mill, Matt. Scott's Tannery and Minaker's Furniture Factory made up the list of manufacturing establishments in those early days.

The old Orange Hall, built in the 1860's and used as an emergent meeting place by some of the early Church groups, stood at the East end of Belmont street. It was destroyed by fire not many years before this writing.

The Federal election, the first after Confederation, and also the election of the Legislative Assembly for the province came during my first year in the new Community and proved to be a very exciting event indeed. P. M. Grover of Norwood and James Anderson of Otonabee were the Federal Candidates with Evans Ingram and George Read, both of Otonabee being in the race for Provincial honors. P. M. Grover and George Read were the favored ones and both were re-elected in later campaigns."

Despite the fact that the Doctor was interested in sports, the only mention of that element is a statement that, "Baseball, Lacrosse and Hockey were not known in these early days but," he continues, "we had a Cricket Club that, for a number of years, really put the village on the map", and made mention of several of the players by name, - "Harry Doughty, Bristow Moffat, W. E. Roxburgh, Thomas Fraser, W. H. Stephenson, John Powell, Matt Vars, and Tom Bell." He also tells of a very large and interesting "Calithumpian" parade in which it is quite apparent that the Villagers went "all out" to make it an outstanding event and, - he states - "any that I have seen since then, were but poor imitations".

"Education facilities," - the Doctor writes - "were very good in the earliest years of