

HISTORY OF STELLA VILLAGE

This information was given to me by Mrs. Sarah Saunders. She couldn't remember dates, but from her age I would say that the story starts about 102 years ago, in 1841.

Mr. Edward Allen was working for the Finley family on the present Tom Cochrane farm. William Cochrane bought it from them. When Mr. Allen married he bought the hundred acres which is now owned by Mrs. John Tugwell. There was only the log house there then, and he added the frame part to the log house which is the west part. That farm ran from the water to the Presbyterian Church and from "The Forty-Foot" down to the bridge. The Presbyterian Church then was a wooden building in the corner of the lot near the road and was called the "meeting-house".

The first lot sold off the Allen farm was where Mrs. Saunders now lives. It was sold to Robert Montgomery, a tailor. He sold to Mary Ann Gorman, and she to Henry Saunders. Mr. Allen then built a house on the next lot for the Presbyterian minister. That lot now is owned by William Beaubien.

On the other side of the lane from the Allen farm, there was only the brick house and farm now owned by Mrs. Edward Scott, which belonged then to George Wright.

At this time Stella Point was the shipyard, and where Mr. Sutherland's golf course now is, were the houses of the workers. When Mr. Allen bought the farm the houses were lifted over the fence to where they now are - David Lawson living where Maurice Hogeboom now lives. These lots extended right out to the lane. Joseph McFern bought from Lawson, and built the house, where E. Welbanks lives, for W. Munroe. The next lot was owned by Pat Cotter and afterwards by H. Mackatee. The next lot was owned by Paddy McGeein, and then seems to have been divided with James Montgomery's building where Robert Filson now lives, and J. Polley in the house where Eva Glenn is living. Girvin's lived there later. Of course, those old first houses have been torn down and the present ones built. At the corner where we have our telephone "central" was the "County Down Inn" operated by John Watson. Another inn was where the Anglican Church now stands, and the proprietor was William Cousins. Later he bought a frame house, put on brick veneer, and started a hotel there with a large ballroom where all the dances were held. That building is now the Continuation School. He rented the inn at the eastern end of the village to James Montgomery, a shoemaker, and Archie Thompson, a sailor. The Anglican Church and Rectory have been built within the last 48 years.

On the opposite side of this lane there was a house and lot at the corner owned by J. S. Neilson, who worked with Thomas Polley in his store, which was situated in the corner of his lot near the road. The Polley house was right next the Neilson house, and has always been in the Polley family until William Cochrane bought it a few years ago. Mr. Polley also had the Post Office in his store. That would be about 1859, but before that date a store was operated by Polley and Wright where the present Neilson Store is, but the first building ran east and west. Mr. Polley then built the store on the Polley property farther west in the village and George Wright operated one at the corner where Mrs. Florrie Glenn now lives. His family lived over the store. When he sold it to Jack McDonough he built the house now owned by Francis McKee. When Mr. Polley sold his business to a man by the name of Martin, he bought the