

JOHN continued 3

Life was still difficult in the early 1800's. Wheat had to be ground by hand and taken 45 miles over the Mohawk trail to Niagara to be ground into flour, though between 1800 and 1850, nine mills were erected in the Stoney Creek area.

Education was provided by dedicated men from eastern United States who would get a room for three months and hold school. Books were scarce, pens were of quills, and ink the juice of strawberries.

The spiritual needs were provided by a "circuit rider" who preached his sermons 'straight from the shoulder' to the homespun-clad settlers who may have walked 20 to 30 miles to hear him.

The area grew rapidly from about 1820. By 1815 there were 35 log houses and about 22 frame houses, and a school, in the vicinity. Trade was encouraged by the building of the Burlington Bay and Desjardin Canals, and by 1840 this was the centre of the mercantile business. By 1847 there was a grain storehouse at the lake, and the area soon became the head of navigation on Lake Ontario.

John and Mary were blessed with 11 children. He died in 1875.