

MISCELLANEOUS cont'd

Startling Changes - Feb. 8, 1965 cont'd

Under the new redistribution plan the western half of Northumberland will be amalgamated with Durham County to form a single riding. East Northumberland will become part of a new riding to be known as Kawartha and which will include the eastern and northern part of Peterborough County, extending all the way to the boundary of Haliburton County. Thus our present riding which is compact and homogeneous will be replaced by an elongated territory stretching from the heavily populated area along Lake Ontario to the sparsely inhabited land of lakes and rocks of north Peterborough. Certainly the electors of the new riding will share little in common, and many years of political tradition associated with the history of Northumberland will go down the drain.

MISCELLANEOUS - 1964

One more link in the early history of Presqu'ile Point has disappeared. The last remaining headstone in the Pioneer Cemetery located in Presqu'ile Provincial Park is reported missing by Department of Lands and Forests officials. Someone presumably a souvenir hunter, has removed the stone. The department is most anxious that it be returned so that it may be permanently installed in an enclosure over the grave, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who has knowledge of its whereabouts.

According to the Department of Lands and Forests the stone bore the following inscription:

" IN MEMORY OF"
PARMELIA
Wife of
Mr. I. Nutliff
died
Sept. 1, 1865

Aged 34 yrs. 1 mo. and 3 days

Farewell my friends and children dear,
I am not dead but sleeping here.
As I am now, so you must be,
Prepare in time to follow me."

However, a story written by Cap. C.H.J. Snider in his Schooner Days column of the Toronto Telegram years ago, records the inscription as "the wife of Alexr. Nutliff."

Few people in this area have been aware of the existence of this early burying ground, located a short distance to the right of the new park road where it ascends the sand ridge a little beyond the entrance to the camping area. Formerly it was visible from the bay shore road, and in the summer orange lilies, bluebells and other flowers waved silently over the long neglected graves of the departed pioneers. In winter the bitter winds sighed among the bare sumachs and other shrubbery over which the wild grapevines climbed. Now it is hidden from view by new plantations of evergreens.

When presqu'ile Point was selected as the site of Newcastle and the capital of the newly created District of Newcastle in 1802, a townsite was surveyed, a plan of which appeared in the old county atlas of 1887. However the loss of the government schooner Speedy off Presqu'ile Point on October 7, 1804, spelled the doom of the projected capital. But the few settlers and sailors who continued to reside there had to have a cemetery and the existing site was chosen. One or more of Selleck family, Presqu'ile pioneers of the 1800 era, are believed to be buried there. Oldtimers can remember when several headstones marked the dozen or more graves. Eventually the cemetery was abandoned in lieu of the old Covell Cemetery and Mount Hope, which was opened in 1867.

Miss Mayne Atkinson, veteran postmistress at Presqu'ile Point, recalls a letter received in Brighton years ago, addressed to the postmaster. It was from a 90 yearold man in Vancouver, B.C. asking the postmaster to look in the old Presqu'ile Cemetery for a date on a tombstone which would determine the death of a relative and substantiate his claim to an inheritance.

Miss Atkinson recalled that her father, the late William Atkinson, had told her of a pioneer cemetery at Presqu'ile and a search supplied the requested information from the headstone which is now reported missing.

A.C. Corbey, Brighton's veteran memorial craftsman now in his 91st. year, told The Trentonian that at one time there were about a dozen grave sites visible in this pioneer cemetery. But no one mentions whether there was more than one tombstone there. Perhaps some of the graves may have been originally marked with ordinary field stones, a custom in pioneer days, or wooden markers which have long since disappeared.

Various rumors are current as to the fate of the monument, but to date the Department has been unable to discover its present whereabouts. Lands and Forests officials are anxious to have it returned in order that it may be restored to its original site and a fence erected around the old cemetery.

Incidentally, vandals recently toppled the boulder from the top of the cairn erected to Brighton's first settler, Obediah Simpson, located at the entrance to Presqu'ile Provincial Park. The stone remains on the ground near the base of the cairn but to date no one has seen fit to replace it.