

Editor's Note:— In the late summer of 1864 there settled at The Junction of the Muskoka Road and Parry Sound Road, where the latter of those colonization roads branches from the former in the northwestern part of Macaulay Township, Matthias Moore, 6 feet 2½ inches tall, 40 years old, his face bearing Lord Dundreary whiskers and a big moustache. He named the place Falkenburg and the name came to be applied to a large area. Why he chose that name is now uncertain. From England came with him his wife (nee Susan Fielder) and their children Francis, George, Fanny, Harold, Emma, Arthur, Alice and Helen and to these were added two children born at The Junction, namely Saxon and Gilbert ("Chaddy"). Muskoka without a steamboat or a railroad, then formed part of the hinterland of Upper Canada, also then known as Canada West. For land registry purposes, Muskoka was attached to Simcoe County but for municipal and judicial purposes was divided between Simcoe and Victoria counties, the eastern part of Muskoka, including the then unorganized township of Macaulay, being in Victoria County. (Later for judicial purposes all of Muskoka was attached to Simcoe County.) Mr. Moore carved a homestead out of the bush and in 1873 added to his farming activities a steam sawmill which he operated the rest of his life. Beginning in March, 1865, and continuing until only 6 days before his death in April, 1893, he kept a diary which to-day remains intact except for a very few missing pages. The Junction, using that term to include not only the actual forks of the roads but also the immediate surrounding area, was in its hey-day an important village, the main centre of the Falkenburg settlement. At the Junction was Falkenburg post office (the present one of which Matthias Moore's great-grandson Frank Moore is Postmaster, is officially "Falkenburg Station" P. O. to distinguish it from the old Junction one). The Junction had two hotels, one at the west side of the fork in the roads, the other on

farther north, stores (one a 3-storey building in the "V" at the fork of the roads,) an Orange Hall, a steam sawmill, a blacksmith shop, a school, an English Church and quite a few barns, stables and sheds as well as dwelling-houses. Matthias Moore subdivided considerable land there into village lots. Farther south in Falkenburg settlement were a store, about where Moore Brothers' store now is, a Primitive Methodist Church and the church of another old-time denomination of Methodists, those churches being near where to-day the English Church stands. The cemetery in the latter vicinity, on the east side of the Muskoka Road, was a Methodist one. Since 1873 members of the Moore family have owned steam sawmills at Falkenburg, Matthias Moore his son Arthur, the former's grandson George Moore and now the last-mentioned gentleman's sons, Moore Bros, though to-day the Moore Bros. sawmill and planing factory are in the south part of the settlement. George Moore's mother, wife of Matthias Moore's eldest son Frank, died when he was a small boy and he was raised by his grandfather Matthias Moore whose sword and Crimean War medals are now among his cherished possessions. From Mr. George Moore, still active at Falkenburg, I have derived information on a number of points of Falkenburg history which clarified some entries in the old diary and for this I am very grateful. For the loan of the diary I am deeply indebted to Mrs. Ernest Gibbs of Monck Township, the former Miss Frances Moore of Macaulay Township, whose father, Mr. Saxon Moore, who died in 1948, was the last survivor of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Matthias Moore. To-day all the business establishments are gone from The Junction and of the English Church, on the east side of the top of the big hill, only the church-yard remains wherein sleep Mr. and Mrs. Matthias Moore, some of their children and many pioneer friends, but the church building itself, moved to the

south part of the settlement, is still in use. The diary consists, of course, chiefly of items personal to Matthias Moore, which give a clear insight on pioneer life, and it abounds in references to the weather and contains many religious sentiments, for Mr. Moore was a pious man who led his family in prayers and read aloud to them from the Bible. But the diary also contains a vast number of references to people and events and prices and wages, not only in Falkenburg but a widely surrounding area, including Bracebridge, for in the pre-railroad days a heavy volume of traffic moved over the two colonization roads which meet at The Junction and news from a wide area was heard there. It is the last-mentioned type of news which is given below. Naturally some names appear in the diary with great frequency but I have omitted most references to them not failing to mention them occasionally. On the other hand even if a name occurs but once in the diary it is mentioned below. Mr. Moore I refer to as "M.M." The frequent absence of Christian names simply follows the entries in the diary. Where he says "here" it is not certain whether he means at his own home or simply at The Junction, perhaps sometimes one thing, sometimes the other. When he uses the word "in" he likely means "into the country" as new settlers. To condense the long day-by-day diary into one paragraph per year has taken many, many hours. Sprinkled through the following extracts from the diary will be found words or sentences inclosed within brackets which I have added as explanatory matter.

— Redmond Thomas.

1865:—Wages for road work 90c per day; men "linding own tools." M.M. attended church for 1st time, no minister before. (Presumably in a private home.) Rankine's ox got lost. Frank Moore logging or Mr. Jack. (Frank was then only 14.) M.M. stacked Tibbs' oats. Griffin's bee held. M.M. is sent berry bushes by Mr. Oliver. (R. J. Oliver, Prov. Govt. official, who in Oct, 1859