

still recorded as the Perry Montith  
colonization road.

In 1880 or 1881 the present site known  
as Kearney with its Post Office was chosen  
with the late Mr. O'Neil as Postmaster and  
general merchant. The first store and  
Post Office was located in a log building  
with Scarp roof on the site of the  
present public school, or to be exact about  
100 feet north of the school.

About 1883 a frame store was  
constructed which stood in the south-west  
corner of the present school grounds. This  
store was operated in turn by A. J. O'Neil,  
J. A. MacDonald of Emsdale, R. Y. Fish of Emsdale,  
R. R. Rankin, and later by Rankin and  
Beveridge. After Rankin and Beveridge  
moved to their store now known as  
Harrison's Grocery, the old building was  
used as a junior school room, but  
fell prey to fire about 1904.

When settlement of the country in  
the vicinity of Kearney began, railway  
service over the G.T.R. extended only as  
far north as Gravenhurst and settlers  
took the boat from there to Brace bridge,  
then by road to Port Sidney, by boat  
again to Huntsville, and then road to  
Kearney.

In 1881 Kearney consisted of four  
buildings, O'Neil's dwelling and store,  
Weir's Hotel (later R. McConkey's dwelling  
on McConkey's corner) Ivor McIvor's house  
and McGill's home.

Possibly the greatest difficulty early  
settlers had to contend with was lack  
of transportation facilities. All  
supplies had to be teamed from  
Brace bridge and Huntsville, and only  
a few teams were available for this