

AGRICULTURE - MARKSTAY



Mrs. Martin

Mrs. E. Miller

Mrs. B. McDonald

Early days

Like most new settlements, Markstay was a heavy forest of many kinds of timber: white and red pine, spruce, jackpine, poplar and birch. Abundant cedar was also found, especially around the lakes and swamps.

As most people had farming in mind, the settlers cut timber to build their homes which were mostly made of logs, hewn with a broad axe to square the timber.

Logs were cut and sold to lumber companies and hauled to the banks of rivers and lakes to wait for the spring drive to be taken to mills thirty miles distant. Brushing and pulling the stumps followed while refuse was burned. The stumps were hard to get out and roots were cut and dynamite used to blow the most stubborn ones out. This work was mostly done by brain and brawn as horses were not plentiful in those days.

Potatoes, small gardens and a little grain were cultivated to help feed man and beast. Whenever possible cows and hens were kept as well.



J. Holmes - Jas. McNamara & son Bill