

those early years, her ancestors were totally without the modern conveniences which we take for granted today. She remembers hearing about how her grandmother, Martha, would walk to Cobden to barter for goods. She would take butter and eggs with her to trade, and she travelled along a forest trail next to Muskrat Lake. In Cobden, Martha would trade the farm products for tea, sugar and other such luxuries.

When the Canadian Pacific Railway was being built through the region in the 1880's, land was purchased from the Shields family for a scant \$1 per acre. The railway crossed what was then a dirt road there, and that's when the area became known as Shield's Crossing.

In the early 1900's, the Shields house also became known as Shields' Post Office. Mrs. Smith's father, Hugh Moore Shields, worked as the postmaster there for many years.

But more than anything else, the house was very much a home for the Shields family. Mrs. Smith says that she, her two brothers and one sister were all born in the house, as were eight of her cousins. And when she married Robert Smith in 1930, the wedding took place at the house as well.

There were other weddings at the house, along with wedding showers, and anniversary celebrations. And the house proved to be a haven in times of trouble.



A familiar sight in the Cobden area, the 113-year-old Shields house, is now becoming a familiar site in the Dacre area. The log home was recently dismantled and moved to a new location near Dacre. Built in 1873 at what later became known as Shields Crossing, the home was very much a focal point of the small community.

Mrs. Smith says there were many deaths there, and often funerals were conducted from the home.

In 1943, the house and surrounding property was sold to Harry Berry of Pembroke, however the Shields family continued to

live there for many years afterward. Most recently, the house is owned by Mr. Berry's son Jack, also of Pembroke.

Mrs. Smith says it saddens her that the house no longer stands on the Shields homestead, but she is very pleased that the

building is being given a second life. She says the new owner used great care in dismantling the logs, and it's her understanding that

the house, which was reassembled near Dacre, is once again being used as a home.