

The History of Kincardine Township 1848

A story of Armow and the surrounding community, could not be told without giving some picture of the township in general and its location to the town of Kincardine. Kincardine Township is south-west in Bruce County on the shore of Lake Huron.

The Village of Penetangore (Kincardine) on the shore of Lake Huron and at the mouth of the Penetangore River had a good natural harbour, quite suitable for the small craft of 1848. Penetangore is an Indian word meaning water on both sides.

Kincardine got its name from the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine. The Earl's family seat was adjacent to that part of Scotland from which a large part of the early settlers came to this section of Bruce.

The creek at Armow is a branch of the Penetangore River and all the first settlers built near the small creeks for their water supply.

All the supplies and mail were got from Kincardine, which was the closest centre for wagon and blacksmith shops, saw and grist mills.

Kincardine Twp. north of the Fourth Concession was not surveyed until after 1850. The lands were offered for sale in 1851. The land near the lake was \$2.00 an acre while the inland Twp. was offered at \$1.50 an acre.

The following is copied in part from the first directory of Bruce, published Feb. 1867 by J.W. Rookligh; "The plan of giving grants of land consisting of 50 acres in each grant to each of such as became immediate actual settlers, together with the fertility of the soil led to the influx of parties in search of land.

To prevent speculation, the land was open for actual settlers only, who, to keep valid their tenure were required to clear, and to put under fence and cultivation five acres during four consecutive years from the date of settlement. Erect a house 18 x24, and a barn on each lot of 100 acres. The period fixed by the government for payment of the land was ten years.

Indians were somewhat numerous at one time but now are comparatively few. They appear during the fall and winter for hunting purposes, when they usually kill many deer with flint locks, fowling pieces, used by them with unerring aim. The Indians carry guns only. The squaws carry the venison and all the moveables. They are expert at basket-making, they also make moccasins most likely to meet with ready sale.

A good variety of trees, cedar, elm, maple, beech etc., are found around. But oak for wagons such as plank, hubs and spokes as well as pine lumber are usually imported.

The exports wheat, oats, barley, peas, timothy seed, pearl aches, hides, hemlock bark, wool, pork, butter, livestock, eggs, flour and oatmeal.

To travel through a roadless forest, strewn with a profusion of windfall in the way, with occasionally heavy burdens of provisions is not easy to accomplish, yet this was the only way of procuring the staff of life by the first settlers of the interior.

These sturdy Scottish settlers erected many fine homes and churches that stand as a pattern of Scottish craftsmanship.

Kincardine Twp. was classed as first in 1864 with 13,808 acres cleared and nine schools, with the best roads in Bruce County and much more money being spent on them. 1852 was the first year taxes were paid in the County of Bruce. "