

Pioneer Days in New England District

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used anywhere in Canada. A letter was written on three sides of a sheet of paper, folded and fastened with sealing wax. The address was then written on the outside and a fee was paid for delivery. In 1851 the first stamps were issued in Canada and at a later date they were obtainable at post offices. In 1855 the first letter was registered in Canada at a cost of two cents. It costs 10 cents now. It was not necessary then as now to lock the entrance to your home. The latch string was left hanging out so that any who wished might enter. The latch was lifted by a string which ran through a hole in the door. When the string was pulled in the door was locked.

The seventh line on which New England is located was then just a trail through the bush. The road ran along the rock at the top of the mountain, a trail called the Meaford Road. They kept close to the top of the rock so as not to lose the way. They told of seeing herds of deer running by. How those old pioneers toiled and struggled. Heavy frosts came as late as June, injuring the grain and fruit but as the country became cleared the climate seemed to change. Much fine timber was burned up as there were no saw mills then. The old pioneers were real men and women with intelligence, thrift and ambition. They respected the Sabbath in those days and attended the services in the little log church.

After long miles of travel through bush, swamp, creeks and rivers and over hills these brave pioneers settled down to hew out homes for themselves. They had a purpose in view and were brave enough to overcome all obstacles. In those days there was real community spirit and each helped the other. Books might be filled telling of the happy times the boys and girls had who grew up in this neighborhood.

New England is nicely located about ten minutes walk from the top of the rock or mountain overlooking the beautiful valley. What a lovely sight meets the eye, with the Collingwood mountains and the Georgian Bay in the distance. The valley was originally called the Cuckoo Valley, no doubt because it sheltered many of those beautiful feathered birds.

When the pioneers went to Meaford or Thornbury they had to prepare for a three-day journey. They went by the Meaford Road and when night came they made a fire and prepared their meal. Often a pigeon or partridge was captured and cooked. They always took provisions to last three days.

About 1863 a man in Uxbridge had a dog which made the trip from there to Euphrasia, over 100 miles, in about 24 hours. There was company in the Uxbridge home and at tea time the dog was put out and disappeared. This was about five o'clock in the afternoon and about the same time the next afternoon he landed at the home of the Uxbridge man's son here. The dog had been up with the son a couple of times when he was moving here. At that time it was all bush from Shelburne to New England with a small clearing at Flesherton.

Mr. J. Dowding had a small clearing and two miles away his neighbor, Mr. Jos. Breadner, had another clearing. Between them was dense forest. Mr. Dowding with his wife and child went to the Breadner place with a yoke of oxen for a load of straw. Mrs. Breadner wanted them to remain for a lunch but as Mr. Dowding was afraid of being in the bush, which was infested with wolves, he declined and hurried for home. All the way he walked beside the oxen and hurried them along. Before they reached home the wolves were on their trail. When they reached home they hurried the oxen into the stable and were in the house but a few moments when the wolves were howling and scratching at the door.

New England community was in need of a post office as they had to go to Kimberley for their mail. Wm. Carruthers opened a store and a few months later, about 1893, applied to the department at Ottawa for a post office. The application was granted and the name given was Wodehouse. Things were lively then with a store and post office. Sarah Thompson was a weaver and a dressmaker.

Tom Carruthers was the blacksmith and Edgar Donnelly had a carpenter shop in connection with his saw and chopping mill. Things were looking up and they built the new brick Church about this time.

BARRHEAD W. I.

The Barrhead W. I. met at the home of Mrs. Mabel Kinney on Friday, February 21st. The meeting was opened in the usual manner. There was a nice attendance of members and visitors. The roll call was answered by a Valentine greeting. The minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted. Reports were given from the Treasurer and the Sunshine Committee. After the business part of the meeting the program was put on by the grandmothers: Grandma Wilson gave an interesting reading of old folks long ago; Grandma Symes put on a riddle contest, which caused much laughter, and was won by Catherine Davidson; all then enjoyed singing; Grandma Davidson gave a history paper of years ago and also an interesting talk; community singing was again

enjoyed; Grandma Hill put on a contest which was won by Mrs. G. Hill. At the close of the meeting Mrs. Kinney put on a Heart contest, which was won by Mrs. Davidson. After singing God Save the King the hostess and assistants served a tasteful lunch. The hostess also treated the ladies to candy. The next meeting is to be held at the home of Mrs. Hamilton on March 19th at 2 o'clock.

SAUGEEN JUNCTION

Mr. Lorne Wright visited at his home in Feversham this week. Mr. and Mrs. Wes. Dever of Proton visited Mr. and Mrs. T. White last Sunday. Miss Alma White has returned home from Toronto greatly improved in health. Mrs. Joe Sewell visited a few days last week at Duncan and Miss Velma visited with her grandmother, Mrs. Patton, in Flesherton. A number from this burg drove to Eugenia on Sunday to see the skiing.

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IN A WAY!



In a way of speaking, the buying public owns every retail store in our town. It pays the rents and the salaries and all the other costs of our village. It informs the owners of these stores what to buy and at what price to sell. And it demands from all retailers a communication service—meaning news of what retailers have in stock, and what their prices are. And of course it does most of its business with those retailers who report to it regularly and fully—by the agency of advertisements in our newspaper. And if any retailer says—in effect—“I’ll not give you—the real owners of my business—any information about my business,” then the buying public says—in effect—“Right you are! As for us, we shall go in largest numbers to those retailers who communicate to us regularly and adequately via the medium of our local newspaper.”

This way of putting it is not just fanciful. It is stern fact. Retailers who decline to maintain communication with the public via means of the newspaper which it reads lose business to those who are faithfully communicative.

Some retail business is languishing to-day—unnecessarily. Its attitude to the public is wrong. It says—in effect—to the public, “You come and find us,” and the public’s attitude is: “You tell us about your business and your merchandise. You are our employee. Report to us regularly and adequately on how you are serving us. If you convince us that you are our faithful and efficient servant, we’ll keep on employing you, and will pay you well.”

The way of making a business grow and making it healthy is as plain as is the nose on one’s face. It is the way of maintaining a steady communication relationship with one’s employers—via the one effective and economical agency—our advertisements columns.

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