



CHRISTMAS TABLE is set at the museum in the main building. Vi Slade and Kathryn Boyle remember Christmas of long ago in this nostalgic setting.



AS IT WAS long ago when Adam Alexander came to Canada from Scotland with his wife in 1836. He settled at Kelso, having been struck by the awesome beauty of the escarpment and called his new home Glen Eden.

Pioneer Christmas meal often sparse pickings

Christmas dinner is traditionally a feast. However, a typical everyday farmhouse meal in 1826 as described by Joseph Pickering was "bread or cake, and butter and potatoes, or mush-and-milk if for supper." The latter dish was ground Indian corn boiled in water to the consistency of hasty pudding, then eaten with cold milk.

Considered a favorite dish, it was popular because of its wholesomeness and lightness as a supper meal. Occasionally Johnny cake and meat were added. The cornmeal mush referred to by Pickering was sometimes called suppone by Americans, and was the only porridge until the late forties, when oatmeal came into common use.

New-laid eggs

In the homes of the more prosperous settlers the food was better. Sometimes the dinner consisted of fried pork, the standard dish of the country, eggs, new potatoes and pancakes. This was considered an excellent meal.

Breakfast often consisted of tea and coffee, rich cream, delicious hot cakes and new-laid eggs.

The best food was saved for great occasions such as Christmas and New Year's days. In some homes fish, ducks and venison were served with potato soup.

Potato soup

The soup was made by boiling a lump of pork, an onion and a dozen or so potatoes until "it acquired the desired consistency." Pea soup was described as "not so good, consisting of hard, black peas floating about in weak greasy broth."

Plum pudding

Settlers tried to recreate the traditional English plum pudding for Christmas but "currants and suet were scarce, eggs entirely wanting, and flour by much the preponderating ingredient."

The pudding was often a failure but never wasted. Sugar and milk were very scarce so tea was usually drunk clear and strong. After the first months of settlement a goat was bought to supply milk.

Bread was usually baked in a frying pan before the fire.

Traditions formed

An ordinary meal in 1800 is described by Joseph Willcocks in his diary. "We had

for dinner a salmon, a fillet of veal, a pair of roast fowl and a bread pudding."

On another occasion he ate "roast pork, sausages, black puddings, soup, corned beef and pancakes."

On Christmas day, 1800, he enjoyed a heavy repast of "soup, roast beef, boiled pork, a turkey, plum pudding and mince pies."

So our traditions were formed.

Richmond school

Also known as S. S. No. 6 or Christie School it was originally constructed in 1864 with the present building erected in 1885. Located about one-half a mile from the Halton Museum complex on Appleby Line, the site was originally the north-west corner of the Alexander farm. The land was donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander (wife of Adam II) who also named the school "Richmond".

It is the last one room school closed in Halton and was last used June 29th 1965. The primary school for the area, children from kindergarten to grade eight were taught together by one teacher. Still furnished with the old desks, many artifacts from the school can be seen in the main building of the Museum.

*Merry Christmas
and Thank You*

BILL'S AUTO BODY

IN WATER
Buy the freshest, greenest Christmas tree you can obtain, and store it outdoors or in an unheated garage until you are ready to decorate it. Then cut one or two inches diagonally from the butt before setting it up indoors in water. Replenish water regularly. Remember that if a tree has dried out beyond its moisture recovery limit, it will continue to dry out, even when standing in water.

Merry Christmas

Here comes Santa Claus! Hope his pack is brimming with lots of good things for our customers and their families. We take this opportunity of thanking you for your patronage during the past year.

CATION EXCAVATING LIMITED

BEST WISHES

All of us at Karen's Flower Shop extend a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS

to all our friends and customers, and thank all for their patronage.

May the holiday season be abloom with peace and love for all.

Sincerely,

Karen's FLOWER SHOP

Milton Mall

878-2881