

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: At the home of Mr. Gust, 104-40 Victoria St.,
Petawawa, Ontario

Mr. Gust discussed his father's lumbering days, but the interview was not recorded on tape, since he felt there was sufficient information on tape from the 1982 interview with Donna Bowes.

LUMBERING IN PETAWAWA AS TOLD BY MR. ADOLPH GUST

Adolph's father, Albert Gust, came to Petawawa from his home country of Germany when he was 16 years old. His grandfather, August Gust, was one of the first settlers in Petawawa. In 1904, Albert was one of the first to have a team on the base. He went to pick up high-ranking official soldiers who came to Petawawa to fish at Cardy Lake or do other activities. This lasted until 1909.

Mr. Gust recounted his knowledge of the Petawawa lumbering era as he knew it:

Within reaches of the Barron and Petawawa Rivers, square timber was cut during the 1880's. At the time, Pembroke was the end of the CNR. Supplies and food (mostly potatoes, salted pork, beans, bread, and butter) were transported by horse and wagon to the end of Black Bay. From here the supplies were put on boats and travelled to the First Shute on the Barron River. Then the horse and wagon there took the supplies by way of Grand Lake (now Achray) to Long Lake, Lake Rouge, and then to Lake Traverse (once called "Crooked Lake"). Albert Gust took a horse and wagon from Pembroke, crossed the Barron River at the First Shute (it was shallow at this point), and moved along what is now Portage Road, eventually reaching Lake Travers.

In 1919 Adolph went up to Lake Cauchon to a lumber camp when he was only thirteen years old, to saw hardwood logs. All pinewood logs came down from Cedar Lake, through the Petawawa River, and eventually reached the mouth of the Petawawa River.

Some local people involved in the lumber industry were Xavier Turcotte, (sometimes called "Xavier the rich" by other loggers, since he was reputed to have borrowed money from the Pembroke Lumber Co. to set up his own logging business more than once since he spent his money with his family in Montreal after each successful start), who worked on drives on the Petawawa River, and Fred Mohns who worked for the Pembroke Lumber Company around 1890. Fred Mohns started a family lumber business, taking part in cutting and log drives with his sons Henry (who jobbed himself), Jack, Edward, and Leonard all involved in the operations. Fred Gust, Adolph's uncle, also worked for Fred. Ed Mohns loaded splint (poplar logs) on flat cars for the CPR, and George Hample worked for Henry Mohns when he was only 11 years old.

At this time the Pembroke Lumber Co. owned the first big limit and was headed by Peter White. Other companies holding limits in the area were McLachlin, J.R. Booth, and Gillies. People were allowed to cut pine for their own use, however, they could not sell pine.

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In 1919 wages were \$125 a month plus board for the men, and \$95 a month for Adolph, since he was only 13. In 1920, wages suddenly plummeted to \$1 a day plus board. Mr. Gust believes this could be the possible result of overproduction, and the fact that there were more than enough men to work in the camps.

Mr. Gust says the CPR was here at least prior to 1886, and believes the CNR laid tracks from Pembroke through Achray, Brawny, Lake Traverse, Brent and Kiosk.

Pine in those days towered over the men like giants. Although the magnificent white pines slowly disappeared over the years, Adolph remembers a 5 foot thick log on a saw cut in 1923.

In the 1800's the men mostly wore woolen clothing and woolen mitts with leather on the palms for a better grip when working with logs, which are slippery when wet.

Mr. Gust was made a camp foreman at the age of 15. The overall atmosphere was good; in seven years of working in lumber camps, Adolph can only remember one "scrap" occurring during one of the poker games played in camp. Apparently, the matter was quickly settled with a bit of force, and nothing more was said about it between the parties involved.

**The first house was built in Petawawa by the Selkirk family in the 1800's by the Selkirk family. It still stands today on Doran St., beside the new Ambulance center.

Darlene Fitzgerald