

Old-timer Recalls Many Families of The District

This Baker Hill Church I have been writing about was raised up a few years ago and has a nice basement underneath it. It was done by the veteran building mover, Joseph Harrison of Mt. Albert, and another builder took the contract of remodelling the church but became involved in too much work, so another builder Leslie Ogden from Church Hill and his gang of men made a very good job of finishing it.

Well, A. D. Bruce, the pioneer miller of Markham Township, has passed on to his reward. There was a very nice write-up about his death and life, but I was talking a few days ago to a young man and he is a remarkable young man himself in regards to past history, getting a large percentage of his information from "Sandy" as Mr. Bruce was called by his close friends. I was told it would take 50 or 100 ordinary young men today to equal one Sandy Bruce. I attended his Bible class as a boy, and he was still teaching when I visited the Sunday School recently. He spoke about the discontent in our country today compared with years ago, also about the strikes and labor unions. He said there was none of that going on years ago, and didn't think it was any benefit today. He followed the miller trade all his life, but that mill was known as Carrick Mills, years before I was able to read, and the sign was on a corner post on the north side of Bruce's lane. It stated that he was a pioneer but he was also a valued member of the York Pioneer & Historical Society, and maybe a life paid-up member, also his sister Janet.

Mr. Bruce was a highly respected friend of my father's. You might wonder at that, for

"Sandy" was a Liberal in politics. I will remember and many others do, the wonderful talks he gave the afternoon the Markham Township Municipal Buildings were officially opened. He repeated over quite a lot of past history that day and I can't imagine how he remembered it all. He will be highly spoken of long after my generation has passed on. The mill is now taken over by Sandy's nephew.

I will now go over across Maple Leaf Avenue to the little hamlet of Lemonville. Starting on the Seventh on Lot 17. This farm belonged to David Saunders and I understand a daughter Alice still lives there. Lot 16 on the east side was owned by Thomas Mahon, and farther east on this side of the old Sutton railway the land was also owned by his sisters.

Lot 15 east was occupied by the Elliott family but later by the Cooks. There were several boys and girls, but only one remains, George, who lives on the gravel pit farm.

On Lot 15, west, lived Doctor Hunter, the pasture farm now owned by George Rodanz. Thomas, the youngest son, is the only remaining member of the Phillips family who used to own Lot 14. He now lives on No. 47 Highway, east of Goodwood. The 100 acres is now owned by George Rodanz.

One of the Cook boys was owner of Lot 14, William Andrew and his good wife, and it is still owned by one of the daughters.

We are now down to Rose Avenue. There were 3 houses on the north side and I believe John Davis, the carpenter at Lemonville, did the work on them all. Lot 14 belonged to the Hoover family 100 acres of bush

land, and when the old gentleman died he had four boys and he gave each one 25 acres. Either Elmer Clarke or George Rodanz has it now. In this bush there were hundreds of virgin pine. I'd be safe in saying, John Van Nostrand, who ran the mill at Vandf, bought a number of those pine and sent his men over to cut and skid the logs. William Cook drove the oxen and did the skidding. You could hear him across to Baker Hill, talking and shouting at those oxen, believe it or not. This man was an uncle of Jess, late Whit-church councillor.

The Steele family were owners of Lot 12. Some of those boys played in the Lemonville Band. You may think it a cheerful lie, but many never realized that Lemonville once had a band. They later played in the Stouffville Band. Joseph Watts, Mervin's father, lived on that farm and Mervin was born there in July, and I've heard said that the morning he was born, Dr. Free drove up there with a horse and buggy with a fur coat and heavy woollen mitts. Now then, talk about 1956 being a backward spring!

Ira Ramer, the elevator man at Richmond Hill, now owns that farm, and has a fine herd of Ayrshire cattle. Lot 12 on the west side of the 7th was owned by Thomas Cook. He had one son Samuel who was in partnership with John Atkinson who lived on Main Street in Stouffville. They were both good drovers and shipped cattle and hogs from there for several years before the trucking business began. Samuel also had a son William, who was of the firm of Todd and Cook, seed merchants in the town.

On those two farms on Lot 12

on a clear day or on a moonlight night you can see miles of Lake Ontario with the naked eye. From the north line fence east of the bush on Lot 13 where Murray Ramer lives. I have looked north and seen Lake Simcoe and looking south, Lake Ontario. That of course was on a clear moonlight night. This may seem an exaggeration but if you ask Murray Ramer, he'll very likely tell you whether it is truth or not.

—OLD-TIMER

Sunday School Lesson

(Continued from Page 2)

those Gentiles to the Gentile home.

The third argument had to do with the results of the visit. God Himself took over the proceedings, and before Peter was well along in his sermon he and his companions were witnessing a little Pentecost, a Gentile Pentecost. God gave such tokens of His acceptance of these believing Gentiles that Peter had no alternative but to give them the sign of Christian fellowship. Right there and then he baptized them.

Peter had won his case. The church at Jerusalem was convinced. They acknowledged the evidence that God had extended His mercy to the Gentiles. There was still a long way to go before Gentile believers were accorded full liberty with respect to Jewish ordinances and Jewish Law, but a beginning had been made, and although Peter himself vacillated at times, he was later to champion Gentile liberty by recalling this very incident when God chose by him to make the Gospel known in Gentile circles (Acts 15:7-11).

CEDAR GROVE

In spite of the fact that we have not yet found spring plans were laid at this month's Community Club meeting for summer. It was held on Monday evening at the home of A. W. Milroy. The Garden Party program is pretty well lined up and next month committees will be chosen to take care of the sundry other arrangements that must be made for this annual affair. Owing to a few unwelcome visitors taking advantage of the Community lot and causing damage it was felt necessary to erect Private Property signs. The club president, John Petrie, would be very happy to hear from any members of the community who would care to be host to a club meeting. It would be a great help to the executive if the meeting could be settled well in advance.

There will be Euchre held in Cedar Grove Schoolhouse on Monday, May 14th, and on Monday May 21st. All players are cordially invited.

On May 16th the C.C. will hold a Bowling Party in Markham. The time is 9 p.m. and all bowlers are invited.

Notes about Neighbours

Bob Lapp has returned from a trip out west with Jack Offen. It was a wonderful experience, from all reports, and lucky too. They just missed the tornado that hit the States and left 14 inches of snow behind them in Canada.

Allan Smith is home from the hospital following an operation and we hope that his recovery will be speedy now.

Blodwen Davies spent a few days in Toronto this week. Cedar Grove extends sympathy to the family of Mrs. Abe Reesor who died on Wednesday morning.

Euchre in Cedar Grove school house on Monday, May 7th. Prizes and refreshments. Everyone welcome.

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