

In 1806 John Rowswell was married to Sarah Jayward in Somerset, England. In 1821 they sailed for Canada taking 3 months to cross the Atlantic Ocean coming to Brockville. He followed a blazed trail to find a home for himself and family. One and a half miles due south of what is now known as Crosby he took up a homestead buying it from the Crown and there settled to clear the land for tilling.

His reason for settling there was due to the fact of his great love for hunting. He was a fine marksman winning many prizes for same. Game becoming scarce there he craved for more sport and found for himself a Hunters' Paradise in the dense forest and lakes near by where he could enjoy his favorite pastime as well as tilling the soil.

In 1848 there was a log school house built on his farm with just a few weeks of school each year. The first cheese factory in Leeds was also erected on his farm a few years later. The farm still re-