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Bedell

Location—Early Settlers and Present Owners of the Land—Methods Used by First Settlers in Clearing the Land—A Comparison of the Past with the Present Regarding the Use of Liquor in this place—Industries—First Buildings, Schools, Church—Progress Made in this Section in the Way of Advancement Along the Different Lines.

BY J. W. BENN

Bedell is a settlement on either side of the road that begins at the Houlton road, about three miles west of Woodstock, and running nearly in a south course, to where it connects with the Hodgdon road.

About 1830 three sons of Joseph Bedell, sr., (who lived in the vicinity of Woodstock) came to this section, and made improvements on land owned by their father, which was a block of 400 acres.

In 1843 Joseph Bedell, sr., and the rest of the family came and settled on what is now known as the Kirk farm, present owner, Wm. Kirk.

Joseph Bedell was the son of John Bedell, a Loyalist, who came from New York. One of his sons, named Walter, settled on the farm that is now owned by Jas. Montgomery, jr.

Another son, Edward, lived on the farm that is now owned by Geo. Fleming. The place takes its name from these three first settlers. Benjamin Fairweather came soon after the Bedells and settled on the farm that is now owned by Henry Montgomery, junior.

Sydney Gates came to this section about 1831 and settled on the lot of land lately owned by James Montgomery, sr. This farm is now owned by Eddie Kilpatrick.

In the spring of 1847, Gates sold his property to Henry Montgomery, sr, who came from Ireland that year with his family, excepting John, Henry and James, who came a few years before.

The next lot south of Wm. Montgomery was settled and is owned by the McDade Bros, Enoch and John.

The farm now owned by Wesley Slipp was first settled by Charles Bull of Loyalist descent.

Harvey Bull was the first settler on the lot north of Slipp, it is now owned by Robert Kirk. Nicholas Cunliffe was first settler on the farm now owned by John Montgomery jr. The next north of Montgomery was first owned by Oliver Peabody, present owner Geo. F. Vanwart.

The remaining part of the land from Vanwart's to Houlton Road is about 800 acres, which was taken up by two first settlers, each owning 400 acres. The names of these men were Samuel McKeen and Wm. Bull, they came here about 1810. They were of Loyalist descent. Joseph McKeen lives on part of his grandfather's property, the remaining part having been sold. In like manner the Wm. Bull property has been subdivided, and with the exception of John Bull, the remaining part has passed into other hands.

The names of the persons who are living on these subdivided sections of the land are Guy Hall, Frank Foster, Herbert Hall, Allison Hall. In the meantime the Price property is occupied by Jos. McKeen.

The methods used by these early settlers in clearing the land was a co-operative system of help. The felling of trees usually began about the latter part of June and first part of July. When a settler wished to make a fallow he would invite the neighbors to come on a day set, to help him fell all the trees that he would need to form space he wanted for next crop, nearly all the settlers followed the same plan. These gatherings were then called "frolics." The custom then was to have plenty of liquor to treat the crew. Many disorderly scenes were witnessed at these gatherings.

The burning of the fallows generally began in the later part of August during the dry season. It was an exciting scene to witness these burnings, the flames and smoke arising from several of these fallows, on the same day, many at the same hour, were witnessed by the children especially with delight. After the fallows were burned, when the settlers found a convenient time, they would again invite the neighbors to come and help them to pile their fallows, these were called "rolling frolics." Here again liquor was freely used. While we

regret to record these facts, in regard to the drink habit of these early days, we are glad that the scene has entirely changed, and that temperance principles are held to the front, as one great means of help in becoming good citizens, as well as in leading the Christian life.

The early settlers were occupied in the winter months, some by cutting cordwood and hauling it to Woodstock, and some by making birch timber and hauling to St. John river, where it was rafted and floated to Fredericton to market. Pine and spruce were for the most part hauled to Woodstock where it was manufactured. Some hauled butternut and birch to Woodstock, generally exchanging for furniture as trade and not cash was the order of these early days.

During the last forty years the lumbering business has been on the decline, and agriculture has been taking the lead as a paying industry. Hay and grain of the different kinds are grown in large quantities here, a large surplus every year is placed on the market.

The land is well adapted to potato raising, large quantities of which are grown here and sent to market. During the first part of February, 1912, the selling price in Woodstock was \$2.85 per 180 lbs.

The first buildings some of them were built of logs, roofed with shingles, about two feet in length, split from cedar or pine and smoothed with a draw shave. The greater part of the houses were built of a frame, boarded, shingled and plastered. The barns were mostly frame.

Schools—The first school house was built at the Houlton Road where the Bedell Road connects with it, on the McKeen farm about 1842.

Wm Reid was the first teacher. About 1846 Margaret Bedell taught school in Walter Bedell's house six months.

Margaret Clements followed her and taught school one year in the same house

About 1855 a log school house was built near the Hodgdon Road where it connects with the Bedell Road, which served for a few years to accommodate a part of Bedell and some of the adjoining places. The first teacher was Patrick Donnelly.

About 1858 a school house was built at the mouth of the Beardsley Road where it connects with the Bedell Road, this was a frame building. The first teacher was Matilda Beardsley.

About two years later this school house was moved to the farm owned by John Montgomery, sr. James Boyd taught here.

About 1861 a change was made in the location of school houses, placing them about two miles apart.

The school house at the Houlton Road was moved about half a mile south and a new one was built on the site of the old log school house near the Hodgdon Road where it connects with the Bedell Road.

About 1869 a Baptist Church was built on the west side of Bedell Road about half a mile south of the Houlton Road; a neat building having sheds near for accommodation of horses.

The progress that has been made in this section in the way of improvement is evident to all who pass this way.

The houses have an inviting appearance most of which are first class neat and commodious.

The farms too present the same tidy appearance, the fields are smooth and clear of stone, allowing the use of the different sorts of machinery with ease and comfort.

In view of the fact that less than 100 years have passed since this section was unbroken forest we are impressed with the thought that these pioneers did not shrink from bearing the burdens and heat of their day, and that those who followed them must have been possessed of much of the same aggressive spirit that made those early settlers so successful in their work.

Mrs. J. D. Dickinson

At Holtville, Imperial Co., California, Feb. 27th., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. W. C. Raymond, Mrs. Sarah A. A. D. Dickinson, widow of the late J. D. Dickinson of Woodstock, New Brunswick.

Five years ago Mrs. Dickinson came to California with her daughter, Mrs. Alice Raymond. Because of its beautiful climate, she made San Diego her home, remaining there until December

last, when, not feeling strong, she came to the Imperial Valley to the ranch home of her daughter, hoping to be benefited by the change. In January her daughter, Mrs. C. D. Dickinson came west to be with her. A little later her sister Mrs. Z. H. Peters (for several years a resident of Woodstock) came. Loving hands ministered to her comfort, and all hoped for her recovery; but though suffering no pain, whatever, she continued to fail, sleeping much of the time until she entered the long sleep which knows no waking until the trump of God shall sound, and the dead in Christ shall come forth immortalized and glorified.

Her faith was clear. She knew whom she believed and her hope in the resurrection was very positive and gave her great comfort and joy.

Service was held at the Advent Church at Los Angeles. Eld. M. MacFadyen (a former pastor of the Advent Church in Woodstock) is pastor, but owing to his illness, Mrs. MacFadyen was assisted by Pastor Nelson of the Pasadena Church who preached a very able and fitting sermon from 2nd. Tim, 4-7 & 8. Elder J. C. Smith (a nephew) offered prayer. Mrs. MacFadyen spoke of her as a friend and Christian Sister.

The Church and loving friends and relatives brought floral offerings which were very much appreciated by the sorrowing family.

She was laid to rest temporarily at Tr-pico, a suburb of the city, but will be brought to her former home at Woodstock, N. B., to be placed in the family lot, in the early spring.

Colin M. King

Colin M. King died at his home Lakeville on Sunday afternoon, March 31st., after a long illness, aged 30 years and 7 months. Mr. King was a son of the late Colin King. He leaves to mourn his loss his wife, who was a daughter of Dr. Beairsto, Lakeville, and one daughter, two years old, his mother who is 77 years of age; also two sisters, Mrs. H. P. Carvell, of Lakeville and Mrs. James D. Page, of Long Settlement, and two brothers, J. Burns King and James D. King, of Lakeville. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon. The service at the house was conducted by Revs. Henry Pierce, Superintendent of the Centreville Circuit, assisted by M. H. Manuel, Pastor of the Presbyterian church, Greenfield, G. Ayers of Jacksonville and R. W. Weddall of Woodstock, of whose church Mr. King was a member. The choir sang the hymns "Jesus Lover of My Soul" and "I am Thine O Lord." Prayer was offered, appropriate selections from the "Word of God" were read, and a suitable address delivered by Mr. Weddall, from Romans 8-18. "The sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us" the text chosen by Mr. King some time before his death.

Fitting reference was made to the protracted sufferings and remarkable patience of the departed during those long months of struggle for life, to the splendid character of the one whom the speaker designated, as a noble son, a devoted husband, a loving father, a true friend, a genuine christian.

The verity of these statements would be most certainly endorsed by all who shared the acquaintance and friendship of that one who had now entered upon the higher service and passed from the sufferings of the present time to the glory now revealed to him.

An immense concourse of people attended the service from Woodstock Lakeville and surrounding communities.

The Free Masons, to which ancient and honorable fraternity Mr. King belonged, attended in large numbers, about twenty five going from the town, and the beautiful and impressive masonic burial service was read by John McLaughlin Esq. Revs. H. Pierce and M. H. Manuel conducted the religious ceremonies at the grave. The pall bearers were four masons Messrs A. J. Hayden, W. Jack Dibblee, F. McNaught and Geo. Smith.

Earl Spicer, student at Mount Allison University spent Easter vacation with Ernest Ross.

Master Paul Burrst spent Easter in Centerville, the guest of his grandmother, Mrs. C.A. West.

Mr. Patrick Gorey of Johnville was in town part of last week on business. He was a caller at the Dispatch office.

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PROMOTION.

The Bank of New Brunswick will open a branch at McAdam Junction this week. F.H. Estabrooks, of East Florenceville (N.B.), first teller in the bank here, will be manager. He is a very popular employee of the bank, and has many friends who will congratulate him on his promotion.—Telegraph.—Mr. Estabrooks is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Estabrooks, of Chester.

The Supply of York and Kent Timothy Seed, and 111 Long Late Clover, is less than half of last year's supply. If you wish to get good Seed buy these brands early before supplies are exhausted.