

HISTORY OF NORMANBY TOWNSHIP

This is the early history of the portion of Normanby Township including S.S. #3, Normanby, from Owen Sound road west, in old survey, three miles to 3rd Concession where new survey starts. It is two and one half miles wide by three miles deep--an area of four blocks, containing 3500 acres. The first inhabitants were Indians.

The exact date of the first settlers to arrive might be difficult to say but from 1840 on would be a possible guess. The Owen Sound road was surveyed in 1840-1841 and other roads followed in 1845. By 1851 all roads and lots were surveyed, low spots in roads being built by falling trees across the roads called corduroy. Travel was by foot, and later by oxen.

Industries

The first saw mill was built on the Owen Sound road by John Dickson on the Saugeen River. About the year 1850, he moved to the 2nd Concession of Normanby and built ^{a saw mill, a flour mill and,} a store and named the small hamlet Gleneden. The flour mill ceased about 1890 but the mill was used for chopping ^{GRAIN} until 1908 when spring floods washed away the dam. The property is now owned by Roy Clarke.

Several lime kilns were located around the district, and three blacksmith shops were also in demand. They were operated by J. Best, Mr. Klug and Mr. Allen.

A place for weaving cloth was located on Lot 22, Conc.1, Normanby. A pottery was also operated by Mr. Bradwin on Lot 28, Conc. 1, Normanby.

Taverns on the Owen Sound road were also in demand to accommodate travellers.

In 1890 a store was built at Gleneden. The store was built and operated by Joseph Dickson until 1905 when it was rented to Tom Sockett until 1910, then in 1911-1912 James Spicer with assistance from Gordon McIntyre. It was closed in 1912 and taken down in 1916. It was used to build two houses in Mount Forest on Market Street.

Post Offices

The first Post Office was three miles north of Mount Forest called Egremont. Later, when the store was built at Gleneden, the Post Office was moved there, too.

The first mail carriers from Mount Forest to Gleneden were Mr. Hunt, Mr. Holmes and Mr. Clarke.