

school house in SS# 18

Here is a story related by Garret Oakes who settled on the N. W. corner of New Sarum. " In 1810 I took up a lot in Yarmouth at which time my two hands constituted my sole stock in trade. The next year Col. Talbot sent word to a few settlers that he had wool to let to be made into cloth on halves. I hired a horse and went and got 50 lbs. Here was 40 miles travelled. I hired a horse and took the wool to Pt. Dover and had it carded for which I paid the equivalent of \$6.25 and returned home which made a hundred miles more. My wife spun the rolls and as I had made a loom for weaving but had no reed for flannel. I then went 60 miles on foot to a reed maker but he had none suitable and would not leave his farm work until I agreed to give him the price of two reeds, \$6.50, and work a day in his place. This I did and returned home with the reed. My wife wove the cloth and I took my half to Dover to the fulling mill. When finished I had 18 yards for which I had paid \$34.75, travelled 140 miles on horseback, 260 miles on foot making 400 miles requiring 15 days labour.

Then every man had his neighbour's interests interwoven with his own so that it was in fact a co-operative community. Every settler within 5 miles was a neighbour in reality. We enjoyed true contentment and this is a blessing which the votary of wealth often seeks in vain".

When the pioneers by industry and perseverance raised grain for bread there was no mill to grind it within 70 miles so Col. Talbot erected a mill on his own creek but it was burnt by "Yankee Savages" in the war of 1812. By then there were about 30 families on the Talbot Road needing grain milled and when they were forced to take it to Long Point it sometimes took 4 weeks for the round trip by boat.

There were other hardships demanding extraordinary fortitude especially by the women who worked beside their husbands and often alone when he was ill and so often widowed, for epidemics of 1819 and in the 30's took an alarming toll.

Wolves and bears were prevalent in those days and one pioneer reported losing 35 of his sheep in one evening as he ate his supper. Deer were numerous and often jumped the stone or rail fences and trampled the tender grain shoots. Wild Turkeys were numberless and a drove

of them clean out an oat field in no time and Racoons could devour the corn crop over night. Would you believe ther were Rattlesnakes that lurked in the hay stooks?

And what of the spiritual life of the pioneers of Yarmouth? Our own St. Thomas Anglican Church on Walnut Street is an important part of the history of this community and of thoes hard working, determined people. Daniel Rapelje, the very first citizen of St. Thomas, came in 1810 with his wife and eight childeren up Kettle Creek cutting their way through the bush to clear their 200 acres on Lot 1, con. 8 of this township at the west end of Stanley Street down to the creek. In 1819 their eldest son, George, died and was buried on the brow of the hill behind the log cabin overlooking the valley. The next month on Christmas day a younger son, Lambert died and was buried beside his brother. The following year when Rev. Stewart, representing the Bishop of Quebec made his visit Rapelje offered a bit of his land for a church so his sons might lie in consecrated ground. Construction began in 1822 and in the summer of 1824 the first service, baptismal and marriage was preformed. Alexander Mackintosh was the first minister. Here are the first records entered in the first book.

St. Thomas, July 25, 1824. Mary Ann, infant daughter of James Hepburn and Margaret, his wife, of Southwold baptized by me by public baptism.

St. Thomas, July 25, 1824. Benjamin Petit, Yeoman, and Lydia Johnson, Spinster, were married by Banns.

St. Thomas, July 31, 1824. Maria Moorehouse, a native of Ireland, aged 3 years, was interred by me, on this day.

St. Thomas, August 1, 1824. Thomas, infant son of Phinehas Drake, and Emily, his wife, Yarmouth, was baptised by me, this day, by public baptism. Richard C. Drake, Richard D. Drake, Mary Spades, Sponsors.

So the Church record begins with the names of thoes who settled here, and distinguished names, too, Mandeville, Drake, Spades, Nevills and I might add Caughells, Oakes and Abraham House. In the church yard lie seven members of the Chisholm family. Five of them under the age of twenty died of cholera .

Daniel Rapelje, himself, died in 1828 and was buried beside his sons but Elizabeth, his wife, who trudged the weary way with him lived for 37 more years before she too was laid to rest beside her loved ones

As the community grew other denominations sprung up. The Presbyterians held their first service in the old Grammar School in 1833 and was known as St. Andrews Church. A few years later a frame structure was built near where First United is now. In 1865 a beautiful brick edifice was built on the corner of Mary and Talbot Streets where the Post Office now stands and the manse was where the Y.W.C.A. is at present. The Church on Hincks Street was erected in 1883 at a cost of \$28,000 dollars. Their first minister was Rev. Mr. McKillan.

The first mass was celebrated by Father McDonnell in July 1827 and the first frame church built on the present site of Holy Angles in 1830 for the price of \$500.00. A school was soon built behind it with a residence for the Sisters and this was finally replaced by the beautiful church of to-day.

The children's schooling was not neglected. In 1810 Captain David Secord settled in his new log house a mile west of New Sarem and in one of the rooms the first school held its classes beginning eight years later. Neither the rod was spared nor the child spoiled. In 1824 Col. Burwell presented the village of St. Thomas with a strip of land where Judge Ermatinger's house was built (Brian Kempster now lives there) and in a frame building housed the "Seminary" which was used as a public school. Mr Randall was the first teacher and after him Rev. Mr Alex. Mackintosh. The Classic School which later developed into the old Collegiate Institute was opened about 1847. Several years after this Classic School was called the Country Grammar School.

In the beginning the seats and writing desks were logs flattened with an axe. The tuition was 10 bushels of wheat per year or some other commodity. Later the Common School was not free but a parent bought a "ticket" at Kent's Drug Store on top of the hill on Church Street or at Mr. Morgan's general store at the bend of Talbot Street. In those days children went scuffling through the dust barefooted, like so to church, and saved their home tanned leather boots for winter.

As soon as the settlers became better supplied with the necessities they yearned for a few luxuries, and so manufacturing commenced. There

came a demand for wagons. Oxen were too slow for journeys so horses were acquired and with them a need for harnesses and wagons. With wagons came a need for iron work and so George Wegg started manufacturing them in 1832. His establishment was at 12 Elgin Street. Col. Talbot did not encourage industries for he felt agriculture was the one art alone to provide happiness and as he made his own furniture and cloth he did not understand the desire for such luxuries. As he was also against the use of water as a thirst quencher or any one who advocated its use as such no where in Canada where there so many distilleries and nowhere else where they worked so industriously. Paul and Ketchum had a distillery at the foot of Kains Street and had a thriving business selling good whiskey at the rate of 5 gallons for one dollar. Henry Van Buskirk conducted another near the Old English Church on Stanley Street but unfortunately it burnt down.

Alexander Love, our very first Reeve, opened a cabinet shop in the early 30s and employed a number of men who made fine furniture. His partner was Thomas Lemon and the firm known as Love and Lemon. There came soon after a foundry on Centre Street at Metcalfe and then gradually others sprung up.

A community needs a newspaper and the first was The St. Thomas Journal printed in 1831 and in the following year The Liberal. Soon the two were fighting politics, each attacking the other and it wasn't unusual for one editor or the other to come to work and find his press dismantled and out the window. These two papers lasted for ten years when The Enquirer began to be published, then the Standard edited by a Conservative, Mr Ermatinger. In 1853 the Dispatch was published followed by The Home Journal the ancestor of the present Times Journal.

There is so much more to tell and this is only a sketch but I am sure you will realize that those who first came to Yarmouth were full of determination and fortitude. We can be proud of them for their sons and daughters for generations have inherited their sterling qualities and have gone forth into the world to take a prominent place in history

Catherine J. Lemon

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HISTORY OF SOUTH YARMOUTH

-by Edgar Haight-

South Yarmouth called "The Plains" before the white man came, was the favorite home of the Indians, one of the few localities where he raised corn, north of the Great Lakes. It was the first selection by Colonel Talbot, but as Colonel ~~Birds~~ ^{Baby} had received it, the Colonel had to select further west at Port Talbot. The fertility of these plains, the beauty and natural wealth were reported to the Friends in Pennsylvania by persons, who had visited the north shores of Lake Erie.

Jonathan Doan, born the 16th day of the 3rd month, 1765, and his wife, Jane Thompson, formerly lived about 20 miles from Philadelphia. Being a U.E. Loyalist, he emigrated to Niagara at the time of the War of Independence and in 1813 he pitched his tent near where Sparta now is. He was the fourth white man to settle in South Yarmouth. With him came his grandson, Jonathan Steele, seven years of age. After two years he visited Pennsylvania and his favorable report induced several families to return with him, this being the beginning of a considerable emigration of Friends from the U.S. Jonathan Doan built the first flour mill, also a tannery.

In 1815, Jesse Zavitz came. He also built a flour mill and in this year Capt. Smith built the first store. In the following year he built the first distillery, and in this year the first death occurred when Permilla Preffer passed away and was buried on the farm of Isaac Moore.

In 1819, David Burgess, the father of Chancey, David, Nelson, Daniel, and Truman, was the first man to thresh his wheat on cold water. that is without whiskey. In 1820, Dr. Hawkins, the first doctor, arrived and this also was the year the first meeting house was built of logs. The first Methodist meeting was held at the home of Daniel Burgess, Bud Byerman being the preacher. The first Baptist meeting was held at the home of Anderson Montross. Calvin Witt was the first male child born in the district.

Abner Chase endeavoured to do the impossible, that is, to have a barn raising without whiskey, and succeeded. He lived to be nearly 100 years of age.

The Friends had an advantage over others, as they could perform the marriage ceremony. Others had to go to Long Point or to Colonel Talbot, who had authority to perform the ceremony.

The acknowledged leader of the Patriots in South Yarmouth was George Lawton, an Englishman who had settled amongst the Friends. He was a hard-working farmer of great natural abilities and exceedingly well informed on the platform, being a match for any of his ablest opponents. He raised the spirit of some of the young Quakers to the fighting point.

Dr. Wilson had the first door knocker, which was something wonderful at that time. The first store was started

by Henry Yarwood, a Friend from Lancashire who was in business a short time when he sold the building and lands to John A. Eakins.

On December 1, 1834, at a meeting of land owners held at Yarmouth Corners, the village was named Sparta. One-seventh of the land was clergy or crown lands, which the government leased for twenty-one years at \$3.50 per acre, doubling every seven years.

In 1882 wheat sold at one York shilling per bushel. In the year 1821 lumber for flooring and window frames had to be brought from Norwich, a distance of forty miles through dense forest. Money was very scarce, business being barter and trade; 20 bushels of wheat and 15 of corn for a cow; 4 bushels of wheat for 6 or 8 yards of cotton. Clothing was made from flax and tow. A few products would demand 1-4 or 3-4 each and in this way taxes were paid, being very light.

The nearest court house was at Vittoria, seventy miles east.

Mr. Haight described the religious life, their churches, and meetings as one to whom they were very precious, the labors of the leaders, women and men who, in silence of their meetings individually approached that Power from whom all life comes, the communication of the Divinity with that divinity in each one of us. He also read a long list of the

names of the first families. It was the opinion of the members of the Historical Society that the paper should be preserved for, as time passes, it increases in value as a historical document.

SPARTA HOME HAS NINE DOORS IN KITCHEN

House begun in 1871 after two years of collecting materials.

The modern housewife wedged between a gas stove and refrigerator in the kitchen of her three-roomed apartment, would be justly astounded to find nine doors in the kitchen of her home. Yet, in the Chase homestead in Sparta, Ontario these will be found. All the floor boards were cut by hand from trees brought from the surrounding forests.

A writer in the London Free Press who recently visited this old homestead says; "This particular house, said to be the only one of its kind in Canada, took two years to collect the material for it, and another 12 months passed before the structure was completed. The house is made entirely of stone, the walls are two feet thick and a facing of stones, none of them larger than a hen's egg, for an interesting pattern on the entire extent of the four walls. The house was the result of the tireless efforts of one Isaac Chase, who came to Sparta from New York State in 1863. This pioneer collected every stone while engaged in clearing the land of trees. Eventually a large pile of small stones was formed and the house begun in 1871. Today, it is as