

A. quantity of flax was raised, and nearly all the clothing was spun and woven by means of the spinning wheel and hand loom. A bushel of wheat was the price of a yard of cotton, such as can now be bought for five cents . People found their way through the woods by means of blazed trees, and at night carried torches made of hickory bark to light them through the darkness. The nearest approach to a carriage was a primitive arrangement made by fastening strips across the forks of a sapling and making the butt end of it fast to the ox yoke. Afterwards rude carts were made, the wheels of which consisted of short sections of a log. A piece of timber was passed through holes in the centre of these wheels for an axle, and the tongue was made of a pole which was split up about five feet, and these forks made fast near the ends of the axle. On the triangle formed by the tongue and the axle, a rough box was built. Flour and supplies had to be brought on horse back or on these rude carts from Long Point. Jacob Preffer hollowed out the top of a large stump and in this rude mortar he pounded the grain to a powder. Finding this a slow method of preparing food, he obtained sandstones from the field, made them into mill-stones and used them for grinding grain. A frame covered with coarse cloth was made for separating the flour from the bran. This, the first mill in the section, was run by water power, a small stream on Lot 9, con. 4, being dammed up for the purpose. Preffer was also the black-smith of the settlement, and his first shop consisted of four posts sunk into the ground and covered with bark.

The houses of the first settlers were of course, built of logs, but sometime previous to 1815 a sawmill was built by Isaac Minor to be run in connection with Page's tannery and by the same water power. So in a short time the people came to use lumber instead of logs, in constructing their buildings. Two potteries were started, one by Samuel Macafee, a Scotchman, on south half of Lot 10, Con. 4, in 1822

and in the following year John Harvey, a former employee of Macafee's, started another on Lot 8, concession 4.

There was at this time a general store situated on the southwest corner of Lot 9, concession 4. A grist mill, built in 1836, and owned by Watson Welding, is still in a good state of repair, and doing a good business under the management of Mr. Robert Bailey.

School Houses

The settlers soon began to feel the need of a school house, and a rude structure of logs was erected on Lot 9, Concession 4, for the purpose. Each resident assisted in building it, and supplied a portion of the fuel required. The only text books used were a spelling book, the English Reader and the Bible. The first teacher was a Mr. Prime and his salary was paid on the subscription plan at so much a pupil, and each settler would subscribe according to his means. The teacher boarded around among the residents. The next school-house which was also of logs, was built on the north-east corner of lot 7, Concession 3, and pupils came from as far as Pt. Stanley to this school. On the 4th July, 1832, cholera broke out at New York City, and emigrants coming by way of New York to Pt. Stanley, brought the infection. Many were stricken with the disease at the Port and eighteen of the number died. The nearest physician at this time was Dr. Hawkins, living on lot 8, concession 4. He attended the patients, took the disease and died. The doctor's wife, who was also down with the malady, was removed to the school house on the opposite corner of the road, where she died and both buildings with their contents were burned. The people of the neighborhood were so afraid of the disease, that the road was very seldom travelled for some time.

After this a substantial frame school house was built on the present site and became known as the Springfield Seminary. Later on it was replaced by the present brick structure.

To add to the hardships of their situation, the early settlers had to contend with the attacks of wolves and other wild beasts upon their cattle and sheep pens. The domestic animals would sometimes come home from browsing in the woods with their flanks fearfully torn by these animals. Children going to school or on errands to the neighbors were often startled by the cry of a wolf or lynx, or the appearance of one of these fierce creatures in their pathway.

Although there has never been any church building in the section, religious services were held in the schoolhouse in the early days. This was established as one of the appointments of a circuit formed by the Methodist church as early as 1830. Services were held once in four weeks, and many members of the congregation came from a considerable distance. About 1829 two acres of land on the southwest corner of Lot 11, concession 4, were purchased and set apart for a cemetery. A great many of the first settlers have been laid to rest here.

Former Wardens.

Among the prominent public men of this section were Randolph Johnson, whose home-stead was partly in this section. He was a member of the Township and County Councils for a number of years and during 1856 and 1857 he occupied the Warden's chair. James Armstrong, also a Councillor for many years, lived in this section and was elected Warden of the County in 1860, being the only Deputy-Reeve ever elected in Elgin, to that position.

The Rebellion.

The residents were deeply interested in the rebellion of 1837. The principal agitator in this district being George Lawton Sr. Of the many who joined him in the struggle for reform, only one survivor remains, Mr. F.E. Johnson, to whom credit is due for valuable assistance in collecting facts for this sketch. He was one of the early pioneers who undertook to hew out a competence in the forests of Elgin. He was born in Ancaster, of Scotch and Irish parent-

age and came with his father to South Yarmouth in 1816, at three years of age. Here his boyhood days were passed amid the hardships of colonial settlement, and he can vividly recall many interesting circumstances in connection with the ante-rebellion days. At the age of twenty-one he went to seek his fortune in the United States but after traversing seventeen of the states and territories he returned to his native land.

When the rebellion broke out in 1837, Mr. Johnson enlisted in the cause of Responsible Government, and joined in the attack upon Toronto. After the defeat of MacKenzie's followers, at Montgomery's Tavern and their subsequent dispersion, he returned to his home. Every man implicated in the affair, was compelled to look to his own safety. (Lawton was eagerly sought after by the officers of the Government and his family suffered greatly from their persecution. At one time the soldiers came to his home, and he secreted himself in the hay-mow. They sought by every means in their power to intimidate his wife and force her to disclose his hiding place, even going so far as to threaten her life. They went to the ^{hay}mow and forced their swords and bayonets into every part of it, but as the fugitive was deep down in the hay, their weapons did not reach him. They ransacked the house from cellar to garret, upsetting and destroying everything that they could but not discovering the object of their search, they resorted to a ruse, some of the men going outside and shouting out that they had found him. They hoped by this means to startle Mrs. Lawton into running out and looking in the direction of his place of concealment but she was not to be trapped in this way and looked steadily at her work and the searchers were again foiled.

Late in December, George Lawton, with a party of twelve, succeeded in reaching the United States, after overcoming many difficulties and enduring great hardships, being at one time, fifty-two hours without food. Mr. Lawton had previously taught school in this section and

some of his comrades in this flight, were old pupils. He had been a very severe master, and would whip them until they said "it sounded through". While on this journey and nearly famished for want of food, they came across some high-bush cranberries and he, being well advanced in years and almost exhausted, asked one of his companions to hand him some berries. The man did so asking him at the same time, if it "sounded through". Lawton replied that it did. About five o'clock one afternoon they found a man to ferry them across the river St. Clair but as the boat would only carry four at a time, it took four trips to transport the party. When the last load reached the middle of the river, their pursuers appeared on the bank. The party reached Detroit and found over six hundred other fugitives there. About the end of December, eighty-two of these men, took possession of the steamer Champlain and crossed over to Windsor. After landing, the boat was taken back, to Detroit, thus cutting off their retreat. They set fire to the barracks and the steamer Thames, and a battle ensued in which the fugitives were defeated. Rewards were offered for prisoners, and Purley, Bedford, and Joshua Doan were captured by the Indians and afterwards hanged at London. Three other young men were taken out and shot without a trial by order of Col. Prince, within sight of their friends across the river. One of the poor fellows was not killed at the first volley and tried to crawl under a hay-stack, but was dragged out and shot. About three years later, Mr. Johnson returned to Yarmouth and worked for a long time on the public works at Port Stanley. In 1865 he became interested in the handle business and was one of the first to manufacture handles by machinery, in the province. This he carried on successfully for several years, after which he retired and now in his eighty-third year, is residing among the scenes of his youth.

(contributed by Mrs. Lloyd Teeple, formerly Grace Hathaway, Union, daughter of Mrs. Jessie Bailey Hathaway, writer of this prize-winning essay.)

EAST

NORTH

SOUTH

Lot 14	IV	Lot 14	Geo. Lawton 1816
Elijah Witt Lot 13 1810	CONCESSION	Lot 13	Isaac Minor 1811
Lot 12	V	Lot 12	Jesse Page 1810
Lot 11	CONCESSION	Lot 11 Zekiel Dennis	Isaac Moore 1811
Moses Doan Lot 10	CONCESSION	Lot 10 Thomas Millard 1811	Squire Johnson 1816
Lot 9		Lot 9 Calvin Witt 1811	Benjamin Horton 1811
Lot 8 Shoaf 1810		Lot 8 Jacob Preffer 1811	Thomas Zavitzy 1812

CREEK
BEAVER
CEMETERY

POND

WEST

School Section 8 Yarmouth, as originally settled.