

ised to the first born in the town. The lot referred to is eighty-five on Quebec street.

A brisk business in building continued during the remaining part of the season. The buildings, however, were for the most part of a somewhat different class from those erected in the early part of the season. A frame store was erected and kept by the firm of Gilkison & Leaden. It stood where the produce store now stands on East Market Square, near the Grand Trunk Station.

A saw-mill was erected by the same firm on the site where the People's Mills now stands. Jenkins & Oliver built a stone store just opposite the first mentioned on the north-west side of the Square.

From some cause or other unknown to the writer the business carried on by this firm was of short duration, lasting only some four or five months. Several frame buildings were erected along the northerly side of the Square. One of these belonged to Mr. James McQuillan, now residing a short distance from town, and father of the enterprising owners of McQuillan's Block on Wyndham street. Early in the spring of 1828 two other stores were opened on the south side of Upper Market Square—one by Thomas McVane, who occupied a log house opposite the drill shed; the other was a frame building a little further eastward, with one Charles McCrae as its proprietor.

The day book, now my property, was the one used in the establishment at the time. By the index it would appear that he had the names of about eighty of his customers in his books, which comprised nearly if not quite all the adult male portion of the inhabitants then in the town.

This book is at the disposal of any who might be curious enough to know what the average price of whiskey in Guelph was fifty years ago. Though the winter of 1827-8 was unusually mild, little was done in the way of building houses.

Quite a number, however, of the company's workmen were retained and employed during the winter in opening and extending the roads leading into the town.

Early in spring the work was resumed under the management of a new foreman—a young Englishman named Strickland, who had been in the country for a few years, and professing to have had some practical experience in new country life.

Mr. Galt first met with him in Toronto, and was so favourably impressed with his abilities, together with some satisfactory recommendations, that he brought him to Guelph on trial, and finally gave him the entire management of the company's works, which consisted mainly for a few months in bridge building and other general improvements.

By this time the town had assumed such proportions that it was deemed desirable to hold semi-annual fairs. So the first Mondays in May and November were the days named.

The first May Fair in Guelph was a day long to be remembered. The show of stock, however, was something very different from what was exhibited at our last Easter Fair. Three cows and two yoke of oxen comprised the entire stock on the ground.

It was a rare thing in those days for gatherings of this sort to pass off without a few fights. On this occasion it was Irishmen pitted against Yankees. Two brothers named Sullivan appear to have been the principal actors on the Yankee side. A row commenced at a newly-opened tavern called the "Horn of Plenty," kept by one Charles McTague, resulting very unfavourably for the poor Yankees. As soon as that affray was over one of the bystanders hurried off up town to Jones' tavern, where a number of Irishmen were collected, and told them that the Yankees had gouged out a bushel of Irishmen's eyes. This, of course, was the signal for a general onslaught upon the perpetrators. The Yankees, only about half a dozen in number, perceiving that the odds were against them, and that they were