

Then, too, was the period of corn mortars formed of burnt-out stump heads; of extemporized fanning mills made of net sieves and fanned with childrens' lungs, or of bed sheets blown by the gentle breeze; of hand mills, the stone age of the settlement. Over these primitive grist mills many a night the over-worked and under-fed settler has spent in grinding sufficient meal to meet his families' needs ere the morning broke revealing in the grey mist the phantom form of another arriving to take his turn. It was, too, the period of foot journeys. To the ordinary settler no other resource was open. To procure the few household necessities he made the journey through the bush to Arnold's or McGregor's mills on the River Thames. It was no rare occurrence that he carried back on his shoulders a bag of flour. As a juryman (as Magnus Crawford will tell) he made the journey to Sandwich Court without breaking fast, much less the journey. To be sure a few of the more able could boast of a horse or a yoke of oxen, and a few perhaps were in possession of an ox cart, that primitive chariot of early days—a vehicle whose prominent characteristics were a pair of wheels formed out of the section of an 18-inch log, bored in the centre for its wooden axle, and to which latter was attached the frame and pole. But these were exceptions; indeed, few roads yet permitted of their use. Trips were occasionally made by water to Port Stanley or Sandwich, but these required a week's time and considerable freightage to be profitable, and were beyond the means of the majority. Markets, there were none, beyond that for home consumption; and all kinds of produce were disposed of by way of truck only. A yard of cotton cost a bushel of wheat; a bushel of salt, 18 to 20 bushels. Ordinary tea cost (in 1820) in produce value, \$2 and Hyson \$3 per lb. Rosin was 62½c., pepper \$1, and pigtail tobacco 75c. per lb. An axe cost \$3.50. Powder sold from 6s. to 10s. and shot at 2s. per lb. Brimstone, a suggestive article and much used, sold at 50c. per lb; a doze of salts for 37½c., and a vomit—take notice, you high-priced and protected medicos—37½c. Money, there was practically none, barely sufficient to pay the trifling taxes. Indeed, so scarce was this vehicle of commerce, and of so little value was land, that 200 acre lots, including the patent, were not worth over \$150 or \$200.

Such was the Talbot settlement ending in the first decade of its history. But slow and satisfactory improvement was already observable. Clearings were gradually extending; crops increased in acreage and yield; shanties were clapboarded and enlarged, and household comforts multiplied. Little nuclei of business and social centres formed.

CLEAR CREEK—HANOVER

At certain periods so called—was one of the first. Its break for individuality, apart from the township, may date from 1825, when D. S. Baldwin's primitive hostelry opened out its welcome accommodation to man and beast, and when the township fathers made it their headquarters. It may better date from the erection of that sign of advanced civilization, the school and meeting house—a simple structure built near the creek, south side of Talbot Road, and which was anticipated in advance by a document under date 12th May, 1827, setting forth: That "half an acre of ground be purchased of Philip Bewry by subscription, one portion of it to be set aside for a school site and the remainder for a cemetery," which latter was to be divided into so many lots or shares at 3s. 7d. per share, or so much as to be sufficient to realize the necessary sum, which was to be paid in merchantable produce at the completion of the school house, the subscribers and their quota of shares being:—Wm. Ridley, 3 shares; William Bewry, 2; Philip Bewry, 3; John D. Bewry, 1; Richard Bewry, 1; John Bewry, 1; D. H. Gesner, 3; Hugh McPhale, 2; Nicholas McPhale, 1; Alex. McTavish, 2; John McTavish, 1; Samuel Burns, 3; George and Robert Bailey, 1 each; Jacob Street, 1; Eliakim Newcomb, 2; and David J. Baldwin, 6 shares. But it more cer-