

Mr. Adam Scott a few years afterwards erected a grist and saw mill, both under one roof at this place, and in honor of him the embryo village was named Scott's Plains.

At that time all the houses, which were principally erected of slabs, were south of Charlotte street, a very level place, and thus the soubriquet of the "Plains" was chosen. For some year the place continued to grow, not spreading northward at all, as the land in what is now the heart of the business portion of the town was not regarded as being worth anything at all, or the next thing to it, on account of its swampy nature. In this connection a story is told that a half acre on which perhaps the finest block in town now stands was sold about this time for half a gallon of whiskey,—and those were the days when whiskey was cheap, before the time that the Revenue Officer had penetrated this region, and pried into the number of gallons manufactured, and demanded money for each gallon.

In 1827 the name of the settlement was changed to Peterborough in honor of the Honorable Peter Robinson, who had been identified with the bringing out of numerous parties of immigrants and settling them in the village and neighboring townships. At this time immigration sheds or houses were erected here; they were built wholly of logs, with square gables and shingled roofs. They were five in number, and occupied the site of our present market house.

The first store was opened in 1825 by a Mr. Stewart, but, owing to the rather loose manner in which he conducted his business, giving credit to every person that came along, whether strangers or not, often neglecting to obtain even the names of his customers, but designating them by their personal appearance he was soon forced to retire from mercantile life, a sadder, and, let us hope, a wiser man. His successor was Mr. George Gray Bethune of Cobourg, who largely increased the old stock, and, associating in business with him Messrs Green, McDonald, and Valentine Tupper, he did a large share of the business. The first hotel was started by John Boates on the south side of the market square.

A post office had already been established, with Mr. Tupper as postmaster, but who was shortly afterwards succeeded by Mr. Bethune.

The town was rapidly growing then in importance and population, which it has steadily continued to do ever since, until to-day, Peterborough is the leading town in the Province, if not the Dominion; and at the present rate of progress the day is not far distant when it will be numbered among the cities of Canada.