

Mr. Galt in manner was a man of more than ordinary refinement, and in size considerably above the average of men. The Doctor was but very little above the average size ; but in manner a man of very different type. Though liberal, kind, and generous at heart, he was gruff and uncouth in manner, and withal was very eccentric. An incident in this connection may perhaps be worth relating :—At early dawn next morning Mr. Galt, in making his way out of the dark shanty, by mistake happened to tread on the Doctor's shins, whereupon he was greatly incensed, and roared out at the top of his voice, "Can ye na keep off folk's shins, ye great muckle brute." On the morning of the 23rd the party proceeded to the spot where stood the Historic Tree ; it was a large bird's-eye or sugar-maple, about two feet in diameter. It was soon cut down by the axe men, Mr. Galt and the Doctor giving it a few blows before falling. On the centre of this stump the surveyor, John McDonald, planted his compass staff, and declared it to be the centre of the city prospective ; but a very serious difficulty presented itself at this juncture. This tree stood near the banks of the River Speed, which formed the extreme eastern limits of the plot or hillock set apart as the site proper for the town ; and how to fix the centre and circumference on one and the same spot was a problem very difficult to solve. The Doctor, however, was quite equal to the emergency, and at once suggested the ladies' fan, to which all present gave hearty consent. The stump was afterwards fenced round, neatly levelled and dressed on the top, and a sun-dial placed on it, which answered as the town clock for several years.

Ready employment and remunerative wages soon brought reinforcements of craftsmen of various kinds to the place, inasmuch that great inconvenience was experienced for a time in finding even temporary accommodation for the workmen and their families. The first three months were mainly occupied in clearing up the land and erecting log houses in different parts of the town. Four of these original structures are still standing. Two of them may be seen on Waterloo street—one opposite the planing-mill of Mercer & Casey, and the other on the premises of F. W. Stone, Esq.

This one was the first blacksmith shop, and was occupied by John Lynch, father of our respected townsman, James Lynch, and who is entitled to the honour of being the first of the old settlers now living in the town. The house at present occupied by Dr. Herod, on Quebec street, was erected the same year by Mr. Prior—intended as a residence for himself, but never was occupied by him. It is still sound and in good condition, and likely to last for one hundred years longer ; unlike the other three buildings it was of squared or hewn logs.

And last, the house occupied by D. Allan, Esq., on the bank of the Speed, known as the Priory. This house is above the average size and quality of log houses.

The main building is about fifty by thirty feet, with a wing or lean-to at each end, which was all finished in first-class style in 1828. It was originally intended as general headquarters for the company's employees, and was also the residence of Mr. Galt for some time previous to his being recalled. The south wing, while in an unfinished state, was set apart as a tavern, and occupied by a Mr. Reid, who also acted as Postmaster *pro tem*.

Early in July an opening celebration was mooted, and finally the King's birthday was fixed upon for the occasion. All hands were soon set to work in making the necessary preparations.

A large frame building to be called a market house was soon in course of erection, and was to be used on the occasion as a place of amusement and festivity. In view of the coming event another tavern was also soon in course of erection.

This building stood on the south side of east Market Square, nearly opposite the Royal Hotel, and was kept by one Philip Jones. Absalom Shade had by this time finished his contract of cutting and clearing what was then called the Broad Road, now Waterloo Road, extending from the

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