

My destination was the 'Corners' (Sunnidale Corners). On my way I passed a few scattered clearings with surroundings which looked anything but inviting.

I met an old gentleman on the road who stopped me and kindly held out his hand to shake hands. After a number of enquiries about my business, etc., he said to me: "You are no Scotch?"

"No, but I am half Scotch."

"Your father will be a Scotchman."

"No, my father and mother are not Scotch."

"Then how can you be half Scotch?"

"Well you see my wife comes from the Highlands of Scotland which makes me more than half Scotch."

"Has she the gaelic?" was his next enquiry. I told him "no, she did not speak it, but she understood it pretty well as her father and mother spoke it." I then had to shake hands with him again. I afterwards found that being half Scotch gave me a welcome to all the Scotch families of the Settlement. At the post office, kept by Mr. Gillespie in his dwelling house, I learned that the Township was served with a weekly mail. The late John Hunter had the contract of carrying the mail from Barrie to Owen Sound, making one trip a week calling at all the post offices on the route between the two places. He was on the back of his old white charger from Monday morning until Saturday night. The postmaster informed me that once a week was quite often enough to get the mail; even then the mail bag often came empty. Letter postage was expensive and newspapers were almost out of the question. Seldom did outside news reach into this back settlement.

Most of the settlers had a few years previously emigrated from the Island of Islay, Scotland—left their occupation as fishermen and came to Sunnidale to settle on free grants of land from Government. Bringing little or no means with them and being unacquainted with clearing the bush and farming they made slow progress and suffered untold hardships.

From the "Corners" to the River there were a few good farms occupied by good farmers. At the River was a small farm and sawmill occupied and owned by the late George Cathey J.P. As well as being the only Justice of the Peace in the Township, Mr. Cathey held a Captain's Commission in the militia, and every man of proper age in the Township was enrolled in his Company. On a 24th of June I had the privilege of seeing the company muster for drill. Their appearance did not strike me as being very soldier-like. Some were in shirt sleeves, some in