

roused from his bed at one, two and three o'clock in the morning to assist in getting loaded teams up that terrible hill, which had been stalled in the mud at the bottom.

As the reader has noticed heretofore private letters and Government despatches were carried by half-breed, or Indian, express, so marked on the letter or per favor of some friend journeying that way, only as occasion required or accident made necessary. Hereafter military requirements and public needs were combined to be served at stated periods. Mr. Whalen carried the mail for about three years and was succeeded by two brothers, Edward and Miles McDonald, who did not always have the assistance of a horse, but often carried the mail on foot. They were succeeded after a time by the late Francis Dusome, who rode on horseback and during the winter season used a light sleigh on which he carried other commodities as well. On one occasion he carried a two bushel bag half full of leaden bullets for the Military. Coming through the big woods below Wyebridge on the hill the bullets in some way slipped off the sleigh and spilled in the snow; he gathered them up as best he could but the snow was deep and he was compelled to leave half a bushel or so on the road. The redoubtable Neddy McDonald, as he was called, continued mail-carrying and other jobs around Penetanguishene for many years and ended his days here. He was the embodiment of vigor and energy and is still well remembered by many of the townspeople.

It is curious reading to note that in those days there was no post office nearer than Holland Landing. Judge Boys, in giving some reminiscences of Barrie in 1884, says: "In the early days there used to be no regular post office nearer than Penetanguishene to the north and Holland Landing to the south. Between these two offices a mail carrier passed on foot once a week, and he was afterwards allowed to drop and take up a mail bag on his journey to and fro at Barrie."—A. F. Hunter, *History of Simcoe County*, Vol. I., p. 155. This need not be surprising when we learn from official records that Barrie post office was not commissioned till 1835. The Military road is marked on some maps as Wilberforce Street in honor of the great abolitionist of that name and from a colony of negroes that was located on the road, or near it, in Oro, some years ago by a philanthropic association.