

SETTELMENT OF SHORE

The mainland of Amabel and Albemarle was opened to settlers about 1855, some of the early ones on the shore being Joseph Bellmore, David Cook, Dan and Matt Wrenshaw. Later came Walter Fernies, William Ayers, Albemaries, William McKenzie, Albert Reid Sr., Vances, Buyers and Dan Stewart of Pike Bay. ¶Rev. Charles Hurlburt, the first minister of the Indians here, opened a station at Saugeen in 1830. Rev. William B. Danard, still living a familiar and respected personage at Oliphant, has too, served well his time as pioneer minister of the district, and sometimes preaches in the Campers' Church. ¶The first Reeve of the townships of Amabel and Albemarle was Mr. Ludwig Kribs, and the first of Amabel township alone was Mr. James Allen. ¶The Oliphant Post Office was established on April 1st, 1875, and like the town-plot was named after the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, who negotiated the treaty of transfer of the Queen's Bush land to the Crown. The first Postmaster was Mr. William McCutcheon.

HISTORY OF WATER HEIGHT

As the height of the water on Lake Huron has much to do with the usefulness of the water in the vicinity of Oliphant, it would be interesting to know something of its history. The rise and fall of the water follows an uncertain cycle of years. The lowest year in the Dominion records of Lake Huron was 1819 when its height above sea-level was 579 feet; other low years were 1866, 1868, 1869, 1879, 1896, and 1911. The highest year on record was 1838 when the height was 584 ft. 8 in.; other high years were 1861, 1870, 1871, 1883, 1884, 1885 and 1886.

The Chicago Drainage Canal completed in 1900 takes 7000 cubic feet of water per second from Lake Huron-Michigan, which, according to the Department of Marine and Fisheries has lowered the lake five and one quarter inches below what it would otherwise have been. Apparently however the lowest ebb of the tide has just passed, and we trust, we are now beginning upon "the seven years of plenty."

