

The History of Rural Mail Delivery in Canada up to 1918

BY GEO. WILCOX.

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"The Toronto Globe" said, "When the history of Rural Mail Delivery in Canada comes to be written the name of George Wilcox will be closely connected with it."

That item suggested to me that perhaps it would be written, and by somebody not well enough informed to bring out all the facts to make it a full and complete record of the campaign that made such history possible. And inasmuch as George Wilcox, according to the evidences not "hid under a bushel" ought to know more as to how it came about than anybody, it seemed to me to be a very proper procedure if such history were written by George Wilcox, himself.

In about the year 1750 three Wilcox brothers emigrated from Great Britain to New England. My father's grandfather was one of these, and was probably one of the first settlers on the Vermont shore of Lake Champlain. His home, the birthplace of my grandfather Amasa Wilcox, was directly opposite Crown Point, N. Y. State. I am seventy-two years old now, but I have vivid recollections of grandfather's narrations, when I was a child, and with the burning logs in the old-time fireplace in my father's home in Oxford County, Ontario, shining in our faces, of the bear-deer-wolf and other wild animal hunting and trapping and fishing experiences in the Lake Champlain country.

One night the family were awakened by a squeal, from the direction of the hog-pen, that was evidently intended to advise the settlers for miles around that a tragedy was being enacted there. The trouble ended, however, when the gun man of the family put a lead bullet into a Mr. Bruin in the act of walking off upright into the adjacent forest with the old sow in his arms. He, however, made a rapid escape into the darkness, and she likewise to her hog-pen quarters.

At the age of about twenty-one years, my grandfather Wilcox married Desdamona Post, daughter of Jordan Post and Abigail Lumes his wife, all of Crown Point.