

the United States in the vicinity of Port Ryerse. I have known some of our young ladies of that time pleasantly entertaining the customs officer of an evening, while their friends were very busy unloading goods by small boat at the foot of Lot No. 1 and carrying them up the bank and through the woods to be distributed through the county. Sometimes when the way was clear small boat loads at a time would be brought into the harbor to be met by teams and taken away. This work took place generally about two or three o'clock in the morning. However, when finally store stocks, small and large boats, were seized and sold for this kind of law-breaking, the participants gave way to a tired feeling, and this industry ceased.

The Hotels of Port Ryerse

Four buildings in the Port have been used as hotels. What is known as the Cutting Hotel was erected in 1851, and has been in use continually from that time for hotel purposes. In early days its trade was large and remunerative. The next one to be built was the house one door north of Cutting's Hotel, and known as the Thompson property. This was put up by David M. Foster for the combined purpose of hotel and boarding house for his men, who were engaged in ship-building. The next one to go up was just across the street, southwest of Cutting's, but before it was finished, fire destroyed it one night and it was not rebuilt. This property belonged to Mrs. Green of Windham, and her son-in-law, John Morrow. Number four was the present Collins house, by the harbor, which was used for several years for this purpose. A part of the time the large front room was used as a grocery.

Loss of Buildings.

I have known of a loss of sixty buildings in the Port, all excepting one, viz. my grandfather's mills, in my time. In the fifties the village blacksmith shop was located across the street, directly east of Mr. Buck's barn, and Moses Berry was the blacksmith. These buildings passed out of existence either by fire or removal, but chiefly by removal, and were of various kinds, namely, warehouses,

dwellings and business places. The one building that has stood the test of time is that at present used as a general store. It was built about 1835 and has always been used for the one purpose.

The Village Flower Gardens

We always had a few beautiful flower gardens in the Port. That of James Hooker, in front of the white house on the hill, was very fine. Aunt Patty, the wife of Major Ryerse, had a choice collection in her garden on the west side of her residence. Mrs. Walter Holmwood kept pace with the others, and always had a large display of them about her home on Rolph Street. Other ladies in the village cultivated them also, but these were the leaders. Another flower garden that was very much admired in early days was that of Mrs. Donald Fisher, Sr., in the old homestead garden at Fisher's Glen. It was situated on the banks of the beautiful little stream that ran through their garden. When the Glen was approached by the steep hill on the north side it presented a particularly charming appearance. This kindly, genial and highly esteemed lady was very generous with her flowers, for she always gave every one who visited or called on her a fine bouquet to take home with them.

Visit of Prince Arthur

Among the historical items of interest in connection with the Port is this: In the early seventies our village was honored with a visit by a member of the Royal Family, namely Prince Arthur. After spending a few very pleasant days at Long Point shooting ducks he crossed the bay and landed at Port Ryerse from the steamer Argyle. When the boat drew up to the dock he was greeted by our first citizen of that time, Mr. Walter Holmwood, with three cheers for the Prince of Wales. This came very near spoiling our cheering for the crowd had a very hearty laugh at the mistake.

Port Ryerse Home Guards

At the time of the Fenian Raid of 1866, loyal Port Ryerse had its quota of volunteers called Home Guards, who were drilled by Capt. Machon of Vittoria. We watched the shore at