

It was then that Mr. Snyder, the Government land agent, opened his house to the neighborhood, and it was from Sabbath to Sabbath, and from week to week, a place of gathering together for the people of God. Mr. Snyder, taking some special liking to me, proved a lasting friend.

Later I was invited by the Sheriff of Grey to learn the joiner's trade in Owen Sound, Ont. He had a place where he thought it would serve my interests best, and also serve the man to whom I went. I bundled my belongings in a handkerchief and travelled on foot the forty miles that brought me to Owen Sound, and there, under the direction and care of this christian man, George Snyder, then Sheriff of the county of Grey, I struck out for myself to learn the art of building. I went into indentures for four years with Mr. G. L. Thompson, then of Owen Sound. This was in the year 1854. I remained true to my indentures until the year 1857,—a little more than three years,—when my employer, thought he had not work suitable for my further instruction, and asked me for a settlement, when he would give me my liberty, to which I agreed. The cause of this deficiency in work, was the close of the Crimean War; everything had fallen very flat financially, and difficulties were experienced everywhere in securing labor or money.

Some time previous to this, there was a wedding in my family to which I was cordially invited, and fully purposed to attend. The old family had resolved to change positions, and step into new harness, three of them being married on the one day, on the same floor, in the same house. My employer reluctantly permitted me to go, and presented me with the fabulous sum of one dollar, to cover my expenses. I started from Owen Sound one morning to walk the forty miles to the old home, and after an active day I landed at the old church, just in time for service, within three and a quarter miles of the home. I remained with the congregation until the close of the service, and went home with my family, with somewhat tired limbs and a little sore of foot from the walk. After the ceremony, the handshaking, and the pleasantries and as-