



Early Settlers Taping

Presentation

Unknown Date

Length: 41 minutes and 54 seconds

[*George Jackson is by himself presenting information about the early settlers of West Gwillimbury.*] George says that according to an account from the Ontario Historical Society, the ownership of a farm appealed strongly to the Selkirks [*It is assumed that he is referring to the Selkirk settlers*]. They were fond of good horses and livestock. When the rebellion came in 1837, they marched as a body to the tune of a bagpipe to Hog's Hollow in defense of their homes and countrymen. Not many of their descendants are on these farms at the present time. The Stones, Howards, and Wests were United Empire Loyalists who came from Pennsylvania and were of English origin. They settled in the south part of the township [*it is unclear which township he is referring to; most likely West Gwillimbury*] and established the Christian Church. These families were good farmers and liberals. They gave their children Old Testament names like Solomon, Benjamin, David, and Abijah*. They did well, making the best maple syrup, sugar, cheese, and butter. They were experts in curing meat.

Further north into Fisher's Corners, an Irish Palatine group came in 1831 from the county of Limerick. They came originally from the Netherlands with William of Orange. This group included the families of Robert and Thomas Parker, John Lang, Andrew* Herrican, Robert Atkins, and George Sparling. In this story, there is also mention of an Irish Catholic settlement around Coulson's Hill and a chapel on the farm of a man named McGann (George presumes this is the farm west of Coulson's Hill around Lot 7 in Concession 9).

Going south to the 6th Line, on Concession 5, there was John B. Robinson* on Lots 6 and 7. George says he will have to find out if he is connected to the Robinsons on the Penetang





Road. Going along the 6th Line, on the north half of Lot 8 there was Andrew Macbeth*. Lot 9 in Concession 5 was owned by the Rogers family from the first day of settlement until about 1900. The Selkirks were on Lot 10 [inaudible] Lot 11, Concession 5 was owned by Faris in 1854; in the north half, it was John Bannerman. At the end of the 6th Line, there was the Wallace family.

George now speaks about the 7th Line (Highway 88). The most easterly property was owned by the Dissettes who were living there since before the railway came through. To the west of Bradford is Lot 14 which John Goodfellow moved onto in 1839. James Wallace was on the South half of Lot 14, Concession 6 which later became an Armstrong and then Kneeshaw farm. The old Stong* farm was originally owned by Armstrong and then by Stoddart in 1850. Across the road was the farm which [name is inaudible] bought in 1832 and then sold to William Whiteman*. Lot 13 also belonged to [name is inaudible] and he sold it to [name is inaudible]. Middletown is on the 7th Line [inaudible] Going west, Lot 9 and 10 were occupied by James Stoddart's farm [inaudible] On the north half of 10, Concession 6, across the road from that was the Armstrong farm. On the north half of 8 (on the south side of the 7th Line) was James Goodfellow who came there in 1824. Across the road was the Rogers family. Lot 5, Concession 6 was settled by [first name is inaudible] Armson who had a career in the township. The farm was under Armson ownership until the 1880s. Beyond that is Bond Head which is not George's focus right now.

Coming back to Fisher's Corners and going east is the corner of the 9th Line and the 10th Sideroad. The Palatines were also in this area on Concession 7 and 8. Robert Parker was on the north half of 10 on Concession 8 and Thomas Parker was on the south half. Eric [last name is inaudible] was on the north half of 6, Concession 9. [First name is inaudible] Mosley* was on the south half of 5, Concession 9. Atkins was on the south half of 4, Concession [inaudible] and Robert Atkins was on the south half of 5, Concession 8. Lawrence McGann* is shown as the owner of the north half of Lot 12, Concession 8 in 1825. John McGann* became the owner of Lot 12, Concession 9 in 1836. Part of this lot was severed off to establish a small Catholic Church and cemetery in 1937. Lot 11 of Concession 9 was settled by George Bowles in the 1830s. The





east half of Lot 12, Concession 9 was occupied by John Evans who came in the 1820s. Lot 14 on Concession 9 was owned by William Evans in the 1830s.

Going along the 8th Line, there wasn't much settlement from the 10th Sideroad until the top of the hill where Ira Belfry lived. On the corner of the 8th Line were the Robinsons. A little further on the 8th Line was John Sloane who bought Lot 17. Across the road, The Sloanes also bought the south half of Lot 18 which was in their family until 1919.

Going back up to the 10th Line [*inaudible*] the north half of that is part of Scanlon Creek. Mark Scanlon owned practically everything on the north side from Lot 16, Concession 9 until Mount Pleasant. He also owned the south half of 17 across the road. Lot 16 was owned by [*first name is inaudible*] Thorpe. On Lot 14, Concession 10 there was George Evans in the 1920s who bought all 200 acres. In 1830 he sold the west half (100 acres) to his son James Evans. In 1858, it came back to George Evans until he sold it to Robert Wood in 1860. On the south side of the 10th Line on Lot 14, Concession 9 there was a farm that was owned by James, Thomas, and Zachariah Evans. On the northeast corner of Lot 13, Concession 10 there was property owned by the Malloys (Timothy, Charles, and later Garrett). The south half of 11, Concession 10 (on the north side of the 10th Line) was George [*last name is inaudible*]. The farm on the northwest corner of the 10th Sideroad on Lot 10, Concession 10 was bought by James Evans. It later became one of the Bowles' farms. The south half of Lot 7, Concession 10 was originally owned by Alexander Kerr* and this property was in the Kerr family until the 1880s. Closer to Newton Robinson on the 10th Line, the Wardmans* had two or three lots.

Starting on the 11th Line, John Coborn* had the north half of Lot 1, Concession 10. On the north half of Lot 2, there was property originally owned by the Bells (John Bell followed by Richard Bell). Across the road from that was James Lee until around 1900. The Lees also owned the next property on the south half of Lot 3 where John Lee originally settled in 1846. The north half of Lot 6 was owned by Matthew Pinkerton who came in the 1830s. The north half of Lot 9, Concession 10 (on the south side of the 10th Sideroad) was owned by William Stevenson who arrived in the 1830s. On the south side of Lot 9 was the Wardman family [*inaudible*] Robert Wood owned Lot 15, Concession 10 in the 1850s until it passed to Herbert Wood. Across the





road from Coulson's Hill on the south half of Lot 15, Concession 11 was John Coulson who came in the 1840s [*inaudible*] The south half of Lot 18 originally belonged to Michael Moore* in 1849 and Roberts was in the north half of that Lot since the 1830s.

On the 12th Line, John Gibbons owned the north half of Lot 21 and John O'Donnell owned the south half. The south half of Concession 12 and north half of Concession 11 were owned by James Wilson. This is where Wilson's Hill Cemetery is located now [*inaudible*] The north half of Lot 4, Concession 11 (on the south side of the 12th Line) was owned by John Kerr* who came to the area in the 1830s [*inaudible*] The south half of Lot 8, Concession 12 was owned by Nathan Jackson in the 1860s. The Wardmans were involved with Lot 9, Concession 11. The south half of Lot 10, Concession 12 was owned by the Keaney family who also had land across the road. On the 12th (the east side of #11), on the south east corner is John Wood's farm. Across the road from that farm was Handley's* property, in 1843. The north half of 17, Concession 12 belonged to Neilly in 1844. All 200 acres on Lot 19, Concession 12 belonged to Thomas Cronan. Eventually the south half of lot 19 became a Gibbons farm in 1883*. The north half of Lot 21, Concession 11 also became a Gibbons farm in 1869.

On the 13th Line, going east to west, George will start at around Lot 22. John Gibbons owned all of Lot 21, Concession 13. The south half of Lot 20, Concession 13 belonged to James Bell in the 1840s. Across the road from that was the north half of Lot 20, Concession 12 and was bought by Andrew Neilly in the 1840s. On the south half of Lot 18 was John O'Donnell whose farm was in the family until 1954 when [*name is inaudible*] bought it. The north half of 17 (on the south side of the 13th Line) was owned by Robert Duck; the Ducks had this property until 1900. Across the road was James Bell Jr. with the south half of 17, Concession [*inaudible*] The north half of 16 (which is beside the highway) was owned by James Tindall who was involved with the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Lot 16 (on the north side of the 13th) belonged to William Fieghen*. The north half of Lot 15, Concession 12 (the southwest corner of the 12th) was owned by Cronan. Across the road on the northwest corner was Robert Duck. The north half of 14 (the seventh farm in) belonged to William Hambly in the 1840s. The south side of Lot 13 was owned by John Garbutt who also owned the farm across the road. Lot 12, Concession 13 was owned





again by Robert Duck. On the north side of the 13th line, Lot 9 belonged to William Dales and stayed in the family until the 1940s. Next door at Lot 8 was Sam O'Neill. In the north half of Lot 9 was John Hill (in the midst of the Hollows). The east half of Lot 5, Concession 13 belonged to the John Ney family and the west half belonged to Thomas Ney. The south half of Lot 2, Concession 13 belonged to Daniel Kidd. The south quarter of Lot 1 belonged to Ransom* Draper in the 1840s. Lot 1, Concession 13 was Thomas Jebb's around 1840. Going back to Lot 5 (on the south side of the 13th), there was John Crawford in 1862 [*inaudible*]

George will now describe the 14th Line which is at Highway 27, going west to east. The north half of Lot 1 [*inaudible*] On the south side of the 14th, at Lot 2, there was James Drennan who was there from the 1860s to the 1900s. Lot 5 on Concession 14 belonged to Robert Parker Ross in 1870* but was originally owned by the Bantings. John* Jebb was involved with the west half Lot 5, Concession 13 and the east half was owned by the Ney family. The north half of 10, Concession 13 was owned by John Coulson in 1830. Lot 10, Concession 14 belonged to the O'Connells. Going back a little bit, the south side of the 14th, Lot 11 belonged to Nathan Jackson. The Ducks were on Lot 12 and William Mitchell was on Lot 14. George will now be describing the farms going across the 14th Line east to west from Lots 11 to 15. The south half of Lot 11 belonged to Nathan Jackson in 1839. Next door, on the south side of Lot 12, was Robert Duck in 1833. Across the road was Foster and then Blair, but in 1852 James Sturgeon owned the property. James was also involved in Lot 13. On the south side of Lot 13 was Robert Kneeshaw in 1855. William Mitchell was on Lot 14 in 1835. Lot 13 belonged to [*name is inaudible*] in 1820, Wells in 1828, Makel* in 1840, Wildridge McDowell in 1844, and finally by the Sturgeons. In 1837, Robert Sutherland owned Lot 14, Concession 14. The south half of Lot 15 was owned by Robert Kneeshaw in 1839. The northeast quarter of Lot 15 was owned by William Doane and the northwest quarter was owned by Wildridge McDowell. Across the Penetang Road, on the southeast corner, the south half of Lot 14 contained the Joseph Wood farm in 1840. Before that, the property was owned by William Murphy and William Osborne at different times. Across the road on Lot 1 was William Fieghen who owned all 200 acres. Lot 17 was owned by Lawrence McGann. Going back to the north side of the road, the south half of 17 was owned by George





Doolittle and was later owned by Sampson West in 1845. On the south side of 14, Lot 20 was owned by Martin Doane. The south half of Lot 21 was owned by Thomas McArthur in the 1850s [inaudible]

Now George will describe Concession 15 [inaudible] On Lot 1 there was James Kidd. Lot 2 was also owned by the Kidd family. Lot 3 was owned by Murray Ross in 1874. On the north side, Lot 2 was owned by John Ross and Lot 3 was owned by [name is inaudible]. Lot 5 was owned by Robert Parker Ross. The north halves of Lot 8 and 7 were owned by Isaac Rogers. Timothy Rogers was on the north half of 9. Continuing along the 15th, across the highway, on the southeast corner of Penetang Road and Highway 11 [inaudible] [Tape cuts out]

*Note: * Indicates that the word or name is written as it sounded, and therefore may be incorrect.*

