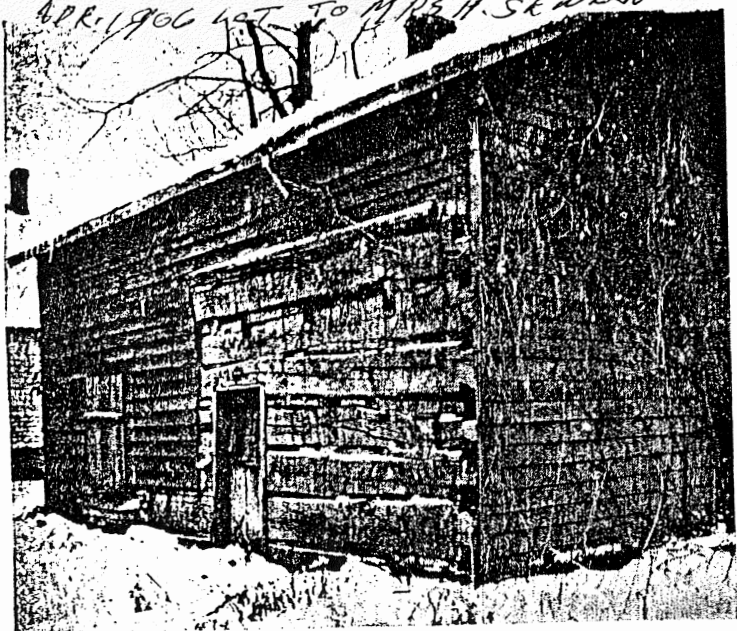


LOT 12, N. RIVER RD EAST
OPPOSITE FOOT PRINCESS

APR. 1906 LOT TO MRS. H. SEWELL



Old Log House in Fort Erie

This loghouse situated—10 to 1009—in Fort Erie, east of Niagara Street, between Forsyth and Princess streets, was the first building erected in Fort Erie. The site is still vacant.

This house, built of black ash logs from trees grown in its immediate vicinity, was an example of the patience and perseverance of the pioneers of this neighborhood, as they had no derricks or teams, but just their muscular strength and primitive skids. From records and dates it is believed this house was erected before the first cabin was built in Buffalo, near the foot of Main Street.

The builder of this cabin was of French extraction and his bride was of the Seneca Indians, located at that time between Buffalo and Hamburg, and the romance was his race across the river in a canoe pursued by members of her tribe. They won the race to the cabin and his successful defense is evidenced by the arrow heads embedded in the logs. Also the 2 oz. bullets, fired from the flint lock muskets of that period, owned—and greatly prized—by a few of the Indians. The builder was killed in 1765 by the Erie Indians—a tribe located in Fort Erie, the rest of the family escaped by a tunnel which led to the river. It is still visible, but is used as a ditch.

The descendants of this family are scattered in the vicinity

of Brantford, and Chief Brant is believed to be related to them. When the cabin was removed several proofs of Indian occupancy were discovered—a battle axe blade embedded in a log, now hardened and black with age, but at that time soft and green.

It has been stated that the level of Lake Erie has fallen considerably of late, but it would appear from the location of this old house that the high water mark of that period is about the same as at the present time.

The surrounding country was dense forest with a predominance of black ash trees, which the log house builders preferred, as it was easier to chop and square. The Indian camp was located on the flats—or present site of the Village of Fort Erie, and the arrow making industry was located on the river front near the junction of Goderich and Garrison roads, as a certain grade of flint suitable for the purpose is found there. A bed of the chippings is still to be seen. Several Indian graves have been discovered on Walnut and Goderich streets, also on the hill property of the Douglas estate.



COTTAGE LIFE AT ERIE BEACH

The house in 1812 was used by sharpshooters of the war, and evidence of hostile intent towards it was proved by a shell—8 inches in diameter and filled with bullets—dug up in 1909 at a depth of 4 feet. After peace was declared the house was occupied by settlers and eventually deserted for more modern dwellings. The logs that composed the house are still in good condition, and public sentiment is strongly in favor of restoring the house to its original condition and site.

It is hoped this will be done as so few villages possess the first log house built on its front street, and contrasting its modest logs, checked with clay, with its pretentious neighbors of painted pine and brick, and bearing its three centuries of storms and sunshine with so few signs of deterioration, that—one drawing comparisons—could but instantly decide on the safest refuge during a heavy wind. Should the efforts of the public to procure the original logs prove futile, a duplicate will be built on the site by experienced log house builders from the neighborhood, and it will be stocked with Indian relics, antiquities and fossils peculiar to the township.

Published 1911

Lake Erie is two hundred and forty-six miles long, and sixty broad at it's widest part. The depth averages from fifteen to eighteen fathoms over it's full extent, and, in consequence of this remarkable shallowness, it becomes rough and boisterous when the wind blows strongly from any point on the compass. At these times a very high and dangerous surf rises and breaks upon the shores, which in many places, resemble the beach of the sea, being strewn with dead fish and shells, and infested with aquatic birds of various kinds.

Often during the storms the Lake is covered with such a thick mist that it is impossible to see to the distance of ten yards from shore. The waves then roll with terrific violence from amidst the cloudy obscurity, and suggest to the imagination the appalling dangers which threaten those vessels that are exposed to the tempest; for navigation on the lake is rendered highly dangerous, by the reefs projecting points of the land, and by the nature of the banks, which towards it's wester extremity, are so bold and precipitous, that when a vessel is driven upon them, shipwreck becomes inevitable. Scarcely a summer passes in which there is not shipping lost on Lake Erie. South-west winds prevail much during a great part of the year, and often for weeks together, prevent vessels from sailing westward; hence steam-boats are the craft best suited for the navigation of this inland sea.

The northern shores of Lake Erie are very differently provided with harbours, although they contain five; but all these except one, are so much exposed to the south-west winds, that few vessels can ride securely during a gale from that quarter, or unload, unless the weather is perfectly calm.