

ASBURY FAMILY
LOT # 2 & 3, CONCESSION 8
LOT # 3, CONCESSION 10

Submitted By: A.Asbury

1891 – 1901
 1935 – 1992



James Asbury - Cabinville kept daily diary 1901-03, great information, also was photographer and took many of these pictures of early 1900's.

Charles Asbury with his wife and family of 7 children had settled on Lots 2 & 3, Concession 8, McClintock Twsp in 1891. These lots are located beyond the south end of Oxtongue Lake. He sold this property to his son James, in August 1901. I guess James never lived there, as John Carlton was assessed taxes for this property in 1901. Charles and some of the family went to Pelee Island to live. James and his brother Tom stayed at Dwight.

We have privilege to diaries, written by James Asbury for his daily schedules for 1901, 1902, 1903 and 1904. These little books were a wonderful source of information. In all of his diaries, he tells of making a journey of 2 ? hours to Oxtongue Lake almost daily, and as he doesn't mention a horse, we think he probably walked every day.

In 1901, James writes about building a canoe in August, of helping cut grain in September with William Eakin, (abutting property, Lot 1, Con.8) and helping John Robertson build a barn the week of October 15th, then guiding for 2 weeks for some American "Sports." He also helped cut wood for Mr. Eakin and sold 8 tons of hay to James Robertson for \$8.00, plus 12 bags of potatoes to John Carlton. He writes about him and his brother, Tom, spending the night at Wm. Carlton's (which is now referred to as the "Last House") on his way to Algonquin Park to work for the winter at McNiece logging camp. They stopped and had lunch at Rathbun's Camp, near the Park House located between High Falls and Whiskey Rapids.

James had built a cabin, which sometimes he referred to as his shack, near the south end of Oxtongue Lake, (his son, Arthur, thinks it was on the property purchased by Mr. Chapin, Rochester, NY. In 1904)

James mentions taking logs out of the dam on the river and fishing near the dam. He also did some trapping, some logging, and grew potatoes to sell to the lumber camps and to the tourists. He refers to working for Mr. Chapin and Dr. Lewis. He built canoes and sold a "cedar strip" to Dr. Lewis for \$17.00. In his diary for March 1903, James writes "Winter broke up on March 1st, crows here March 10th and robins seen on March 15th, ice thin in Muskoka."

In 1935, James and Annie Asbury purchased part of Lot 3, Concession 10 from Shier Lumber Co. This location had been cleared and used as a 'camp' for road construction, 1933-1935, Camp # 7. They built a store, restaurant and several small cabins to rent, which they called 'Cabinville'. It was the first Aid Post for 30 years.



Charles & Margaret Asbury - settled lot 2 & 3, concession 8 in 1891, shoemaker.

Unfortunately, the main building of Cabinville, which included the family residence, was burned in 1963. Mrs. Annie Asbury and son, Arthur, lived here then and rebuilt their residence, back further from the road.

In 1972, Hawkins and Eastons purchased Cabinville; later Hawkins became sole owner. Art & his mother moved to Toronto.



*Back Row l-r: Janet, Victor, Nellie
Middle Row l-r: Lorraine, Mary
Front: Arthur
1931*

